

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
September 7, 2023 *REVISED*

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on September 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Harrison County Utility Authority Board Room, at 10271 Express Drive in Gulfport, Mississippi. In attendance were:

BOARD AND STAFF:

- Mayor Billy Hewes, City of Gulfport, Director
- Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director
- Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich, City of Biloxi, Director
- Mr. Donald Frazer, representing City of Long Beach – Via Phone
- Mr. Al Gombos, representing the City of D'Iberville
- Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County (1), Director
- Supervisor Connie Rockco, Harrison County (2), Director
- Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
- Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Manager, HCUA
- Ms. Marie Ostrander, Purchasing Coordinator, HCUA
- Mr. Sam Broom, Engineering/ Construction Manager
- Mrs. Cindy Breaux, Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire

ABSENT:

AUDIENCE:

- Tommy Thibodeaux, Pelican Waste & Debris
- Shea McGee, Waste Management
- Makayla Roberts, Pelican Waste & Debris
- Andrea Lott, Pelican Waste
- Jamie Barhanovich, Cypress E&I
- Kevin McCumby, H2O
- Derral Wilson, H2O
- Damon Torricelli, Neel-Schaffer

Letters of Designations are attached hereto as exhibit "A".

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, called the meeting to order. The following proceedings were had and done.

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A. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

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B. Public Comments

Mayor Jimmy Rafferty opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

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C. Approval of the Claims Docket dated September 7, 2023

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated September 7, 2023, seconded by Supervisor Connie Rockco. A vote resulted in the following:

No EXHIBIT 11 BML

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Claims Docket is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated August 17, 2023

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated August 17, 2023, seconded by Mayor Andrew "Fofo" Gilich. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of Board Meeting Minutes dated August 17, 2023, is attached hereto as exhibit "D".

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E. Action Items

E1. Old Business

None

E2. New Business

E2a. Line of Credit Johnson Pump Station Generator

Mr. Jim Simpson explained that all of the original documentation to provide Working Capital for repairs to the Johnson Rd Pump Station was on hand and needed to be signed.

Mr. Marlin Ladner asked if we were anticipating FEMA reimbursement for these repairs and Mr. John Wilson confirmed that the repairs were already scheduled with FEMA for reimbursement.

Mayor Billy Hewes made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Line of Credit Johnson Road Pump Station Generator, seconded by Supervisor Connie Rockco. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

Because this is a Resolution a Roll Call Vote was necessary.

A Roll Call vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	via phone	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of Line of Credit Johnson Pump Station Generator is attached hereto as exhibit "D" ^E



E2b. H2O Contract Amendment

Mr. John Wilson explained that this amendment would add two new Operators to work at the North Gulfport Plant, but also throughout the other plants as needed.

Mr. Marlin Ladner asked for clarification on what the pay rate for two new operators would look like. Mr. Kevin McCumby from H2O confirmed a rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Mr. Al Gombos requested that further consideration be given to increasing coverage at the S20 lift station.

Mayor Billy Hewes made the motion to approve H2O Contract Amendment, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of H2O Contract Amendment is attached hereto as exhibit "F"



E2c. South Gulfport Primary Clarifier #2 – Emergency Declaration

The South Gulfport Primary Clarifier has been in service for 40 years and it's repair is something that must be done as soon as possible as it cannot be out of service for an extended time.

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve South Gulfport Primary Clarifier #2 – Emergency Declaration, beginning 8/31/2023, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of ~~H2O Contract Amendment~~ is attached hereto as exhibit "F" ^G

South Gulfport Primary Clarifier #2 - EMERGENCY DECLARATION

F. Executive Director's Report

Mr. John Wilson gave updates on two current projects. The Clarifier repairs at West Biloxi just about finished and it should be back in service soon. The UV replacement project at North Gulfport is continuing, the plant is currently under bypass and the project should be complete by the end of September. Disinfection is currently being done using chemical bleach until the UV system is up and running.

Mr. Jim Simpson wanted to notify the Board that our appeal with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was successful and everything is closed out and complete.

Mr. Al Gombos brought to the attention of the Board a letter to the Editor that was written in the Sun Herald regarding a recent article and report that listed Harrison County as number four in the state for the highest level of "forever chemicals" in the drinking water. A resident who was mentioned in the article had contacted the Health Department for further information regarding the contamination levels but had not yet received any word from them. They believe that the Health Department and EPA should offer the public a progressive response.

Mr. John Wilson explained that our water system is so regulated that the things being reported about "forever chemicals" and PFAs do not apply to us, or any Public Water system. We test regularly for contaminants, including PFAs, and when they are found they are reported to the public and the EPA. These specific contaminants are very rarely, if ever, found in our systems because our sources of water are wells that are dug so much deeper than private residential wells. The initial article never listed where the samples were collected from or if they had come from any public systems.

Mr. Al Gombos brought this up as an example of the public still not knowing who the Utility Authority is and wants to be out ahead of articles like this and other issues related to water and environmental quality in the county.

Mr. John Wilson said that we would bring the messaging and consumer report card to the next meeting with a bullet point response to this article to the next meeting so that we can address any public concerns.

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G. Executive Session

None

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H. Adjourn – At this time Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Connie Rocko. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion to adjourn passed.

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Harrison County Utility Authority



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