

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
April 3, 2025


4/10/25

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on April 3, 2025 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
Mayor George Bass, City of Long Beach, Director
Mr. Al Gombos, Representing the City of D'Iberville
Ms. Jaclyn Turner, Representing Harrison County (1)
Supervisor Dan Cuevas, Harrison County (2), Director
Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Manager, HCUA
Ms. Cindy Breau, Chief Financial Officer, HCUA
Mr. Sam Broom, Staff Engineer, HCUA
Ms. Marie Ostrander, Office Manager, HCUA

ABSENT:

VIA PHONE: Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire ✓

AUDIENCE:

Jody Spires Seymour Engineering
Shea McGee, Waste Management
Charles Head, H2O
Michelle Oppie Gist, Wolfe, McDuff, & Oppie

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

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mayor George Bass, representing The City of Long Beach, 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 George Bass opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.
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C. Approval of the Claims Docket dated April 3, 2025

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated April 3, 2025, seconded by Mayor Andrew "Fofa" 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 the Claims Docket dated April 3, 2025, is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

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D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated March 20, 2025

Mayor Billy Hewes made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated March 20, 2025, seconded by Mr. Al Gombos. 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 the Board Meeting Minutes dated March 20, 2025 is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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E. Action Items

1. Old Business

E1a. Monopole Cell Antenna Policy – Approval

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to discuss Monopole Cell Antenna Policy - Approval, seconded by Supervisor Dan Cuevas. 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



MAYOR BILLY HEWES: I've got one thing as part of the discussion, and I'm glad we kind of hit the pause button. The relevance of having home-rule or control over these I don't think we need a whole lot of policy on top of that. But a couple things that came to bear in the discussion was let's make sure that if wherever one is cited and utility authority is contacted as the main point that before any action is taken or authorization given that whatever member agency it happens to be in, they have final approval, saying that yes, this does dovetail with what we have on the books or not. The other thing on cost allocation, any revenue generated shouldn't go to the Utility Authority. We fund the Utility Authority. We pay the cost for construction, let's say a water tower. We have to bear that as respective entities. Any revenue generated should return to that entity from that particular tower or deal.

MR. JOHN WILSON: Yes Sir, the policy that we're considering, it has the, well the last thing is the revenue. And wherever the host community is, it goes for this instance, like the contract for West Biloxi, it would come up, it would go to offset expenses in West Biloxi, which Gulfport and Biloxi pay.

MAYOR BILLY HEWES: So as long as there's a direct allocation that goes to offset the expenses that that political subdivision bore in the first place, I think we're skinning the cat, but we're still getting to the same end.

MR. JIM SIMPSON: I think we're saying two different things there. Um, the way the policy is written, let's say it's a wastewater treatment facility that is shared equally between two, the cost of operation or shared equally between two cities, let's say Gulfport and Biloxi. Under the proposed policy, the proposal is that the revenue offset the cost of that facility, which equally benefits Gulfport and Biloxi. What Mr. Mayor is saying, as I understand it, if that facility happened to be located only in Biloxi, regardless of the fact that Gulfport paid half the operating expenses, the revenue would go only to Biloxi. I think we might, I think, we have to decide to be clear in this direction on how we want to go about that, unless I've got it confused.

MAYOR BILLY HEWES: You kind of finished my thought, and you're absolutely right. If we have a definition on how it's allocated for the cost, then whatever revenue on that same allocation percentage, that kind of where you're going Jim? I'm not suggesting it's shared, it needs to be shared with cost shared revenue.

MR. JIM SIMPSON: Yes, sir. The proposal was, as I understood it, that the revenue would directly offset the cost of that facility and reduce that cost. If the cost was reduced, then whatever was left would be allocated to the participants, so everybody would share equally in it.

MAYOR BILLY HEWES: I think we're going to the same place. I appreciate that clarification.

MR. JIM SIMPSON: Yes Sir Mr. Mayor I looked at language trying to say the policy needed to incorporate all the cities and then it got simpler to me to say look, the policy needs to be just more general because if the policy cannot override what the city requires, everybody who locates on these facilities no matter what has to get city approval before they can do it. As long as we got that understood.

MS. JACLYN TURNER: And that's one of the things that we've discussed at length in the tech committee as well, was that the first step needs to be clearing with the host entity before you ever work with the utility authority.

MAOR BILLY HEWES: Excellent, good, thank you.

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to table Monopole Cell Antenna Policy - Approval, seconded by Supervisor Dan Cuevas. 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 the Monopole Cell Antenna Policy - Approval is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

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2. New Business

E2a. Brodie A&B P/S Rehab – Permission to Advertise

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve Brodie A&B P/S Rehab – Permission to Advertise, seconded by Supervisor Dan Cuevas. 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 the Brodie A&B P/S Rehab – Permission to Advertise is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

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E2b. FY24 Audit – Draft – Presentation

Ms. Michelle Oppie Gist with Wolfe, McDuffie, & Oppie presented the FY2024 Audit report, noting that this was the final draft and includes the Audit Report on the Financial Statements as well as Internal Control and Compliance. An unmodified opinion was issued for the Financial Statements, so a clean audit. And there were no significant deficiencies found in the Internal Control and Compliance audit.

A decision was made that, even though this is a final draft, have the Board review the Audit and bring it back before the Board for acceptance at the next Board Meeting.



No action taken . A copy of the FY24 Audit – Draft – Presentation is attached hereto as exhibit "F".

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F. Solid Waste Report

1. FY2026 House Count Process Start

Mr. John Wilson informed the Board that the FY26 House Count has started and is being done using internal numbers that the County and Cities have provided. If it is seen as necessary or is asked for, a physical house count can be done, and we can back things up and do so. ✓

Mr. Alan Lane wanted to let the Board know that HCUA have been awarded a \$808,000.00 grant from the Recycling Partnership to upgrade our recycling carts from the 36 gallon to the 65 gallon. This doesn't cover the entire cost, but it is a big help, and we will continue looking at other options to fully fund the upgrade. This is a reimbursable grant that can only be used towards upgrading all 51,000 carts.

G. Executive Director's Report

Mr. John Wilson wanted the Board to know that we are working on the budget, the house count and salary will be on upcoming meetings. ✓

H. Executive Session

There was no need for an Executive Session

I. Adjourn – At this time Mayor Andrew “Fofo” Gilich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Dan Cuevas. A vote resulted in the following:

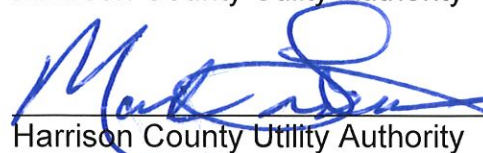
Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

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The motion to adjourn passed.

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Harrison County Utility Authority


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