

WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 30, 2017
Laurel, Maryland

Chair Fausto R. Bayonet (participating by telephone) called the special meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., in the Commissioners' Conference Room, of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (hereinafter "WSSC"), Richard G. Hocevar Building, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, Maryland 20707, with due notice having been given to all members of the Commission and the public. In addition to the Chair; Commissioners Omar M. Boulware, Howard A. Denis, T. Eloise Foster, Chris Lawson, Thomasina V. Rogers and WSSC Corporate Secretary Sheila R. Finlayson (who recorded the minutes), also participated by telephone. General Manager/CEO Carla Reid, General Counsel Amanda Conn and Intergovernmental Relations Office (IRO) Director Karyn Riley, were present in person in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

The Chairman asked the Corporate Secretary to conduct a roll call to confirm the Commissioner attendees by telephone, and following such action, the Corporate Secretary declared the presence of a quorum, with all six Commissioners in attendance.

OPEN SESSION

The Chairman stated the purpose of the special meeting, which is to receive a briefing from the IRO Director on pending legislation affecting the Commission, along with proposed position recommendations from management, for Commission consideration.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Boulware moved to adopt the Agenda for the Special Commission Public Meeting of Monday, January 30, 2017, as drafted. Commissioner Denis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by the Corporate Secretary, resulting in six votes in the affirmative from the following Commissioners: Fausto Bayonet, Omar Boulware, Howard Denis, Eloise Foster, Chris Lawson and Thomasina Rogers.

The motion carried unanimously by a vote of six-to-zero.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Vote on Recommended Positions. IRO Director Karyn Riley provided an update on the following legislation currently moving through the 2017 Maryland General Assembly Session and affecting the Commission with management recommending the Commission take the positions as noted below:

- MC/PG 109-17 - WSSC - Polybutylene Connection Pipe Replacement Loan Program (Support with Amendments); this bill will allow WSSC to create connecting pipe emergency loan program to assist customers who experience water service pipe connection failure and have received "Notice of Repair" from WSSC or can certify that there is a leak in the connecting water service pipe. Program to cover loans up to \$5,000 for customer leak repairs with loan fund capped at \$100,000 per year for 10 years. All work must be done in accordance with adopted plumbing standards by WSSC-licensed plumber.
- MC/PG 110-17 - WSSC and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Office of the Inspector General (Oppose); this bill would require WSSC and MNCPPC to create an Office of the Inspector General to investigate mismanagement, misconduct/fraud, ethics violations, annual audits, etc. (which management explained would substantially duplicate the current functions presently performed by the WSSC Internal Audit and Ethics Offices).
- HB 228 - Environment - Water Service - Shutoff Notice Disclosures and Vulnerable Population Protection (No Position); this bill, as presently drafted and according to WSSC GCO analysis, does not pertain to WSSC (management to monitor to ensure this does not change). The legislation outlines the notice requirements by which a water and/or wastewater provider can shut off service for nonpayment and the conditions that prevent a water provider from disconnecting water service for nonpayment (e.g., medical needs, physical limitations, age, income, meter type).
- SB 18 - Public Ethics - Bicounty Commissions - Financial Disclosure (Support); this bill will codify existing practice followed by the Commission with regard to Commissioners' financial disclosure filings with the State Ethics Commission. The legislation would mandate that Commissioners and applicants for appointment electronically

file financial disclosures with the State Ethics Commission and submit paper copies to the chief administrative officers of the Commissioner's respective county where appointed.

- SB 280 - Environment - Nonwoven Disposable Products - Advertising and Labeling (Support); this bill prohibits advertising and labeling disposable products as flushable unless they disintegrate within 8 seconds of being flushed. Additionally, manufacturers will be required to conspicuously and clearly label nonwoven disposable products that are non-flushable in a manner that alerts purchasers that the product should not be flushed.

Management reported from position memoranda provided in advance materials to Commissioners (incorporated herein by reference), which summarized each bill and management's rationale for the related position recommendations/amendments.

Following discussion and on motion made by Commissioner Boulware and seconded by Commissioner Denis, the Commission voted six-to-zero, to take the following positions on the following proposed legislation for the 2017 Maryland General Assembly Session, as recommended by management:

- MC/PG 109-17 - WSSC - Polybutylene Connection Pipe Replacement Loan Program (Support with Amendments);
- MC/PG 110-17 - WSSC and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Office of the Inspector General (Oppose);
- HB 228 - Environment - Water Service - Shutoff Notice Disclosures and Vulnerable Population Protection (No Position);
- SB 18 - Public Ethics - Bicounty Commissions - Financial Disclosure (Support); and,
- SB 280 - Environment - Nonwoven Disposable Products - Advertising and Labeling (Support).

The motion carried unanimously with the following Commissioners voting in the affirmative: Fausto Bayonet, Omar Boulware, Howard Denis, Eloise Foster, Chris Lawson and Thomasina Rogers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn, whereby, Commissioner Foster moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lawson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted by the Corporate Secretary resulting in six aye votes from the following Commissioners: Fausto Bayonet, Omar Boulware, Howard Denis, Eloise Foster, Chris Lawson and Thomasina Rogers.

At 4:18 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed//

Sheila R. Finlayson, Esq.
Corporate Secretary