

Consent Item 6:

Orange Water and Sewer Authority

Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 13, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) met in a regular meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in OWASA's Community Room, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

Board Members present: Bruce Boehm (Chair), Todd BenDor (Vice Chair), Raymond (Ray) DuBose (Secretary), Jody Eimers, Pedro Garcia, and Kevin Leibel. Board Members absent: Melody Kramer and Elmira Mangum.

OWASA staff present: Roy Blackwood, Mary Darr, Robert Epting, Esq. (Epting and Hackney), Vishnu Gangadharan, Jessica Godreau, Stephanie Glasgow, Carmen Gutierrez, Robin Jacobs (Epting and Hackney), Simon Lobdell, Andre Miller, Andrea Orbich, Ruth Rouse, Allison Spinelli, Todd Taylor, Stephen Winters, and Richard Wyatt.

Public present: Ben Poulson (UNC).

Motions

1. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority adopts the Resolution Awarding a Construction Contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Clarifier Number 4. (Motion by Kevin Leibel, second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved.)
2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority adopts the Resolution Accepting a Low-Interest Loan Offer from the State of North Carolina, and Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute and Administer All Related Loan Offer and Acceptance Documents. (Motion by Kevin Leibel, second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved.)
3. Kevin Leibel made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2023 Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved.
4. Kevin Leibel made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2023 Closed Session of the Board of Directors for the purpose of discussing personnel matters; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved.
5. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority adopts the Resolution Honoring the Service of Roy Blackwood to Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the Carrboro-Chapel Hill-Orange County Community. (Motion by Ray DuBose, second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved.)

6. Todd BenDor made a Motion to that in advance of public hearings scheduled for May 11, 2023, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes staff of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority to publish information about the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget and Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges which includes a nine (9) percent rate increase in monthly water and sewer rates; second by Pedro Garcia and the Motion was unanimously approved.

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Announcements

Chair Boehm asked if any Board Member knew of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda tonight to disclose the same at this time. None were disclosed.

Todd Taylor reintroduced Simon Lobdell, P.E., OWASA's new SCADA Manager.

Petitions and Requests

Chair Boehm said no petitions or requests were received from the public.

Chair Boehm asked for petitions and requests from the Board and staff; none were provided.

Consent Item One: Resolution Awarding a Construction Contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Clarifier Number 4

Kevin Leibel made a Motion to approve the resolution; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved. Please see Motion 1.

Consent Item Two: Resolution Accepting a Low-Interest Loan Offer from the State of North Carolina, and Authorizing Executive Director to Execute and Administer All Related Loan Offer and Acceptance Documents

Kevin Leibel made a Motion to approve the resolution; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved. Please see Motion 2.

Consent Item Three: Minutes

Kevin Leibel made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2023, Meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved. Please see Motion 3.

Consent Item Four: Minutes

Kevin Leibel made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2023, Closed Session of the Board of Directors for the purpose of discussing personnel matters; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved. Please see Motion 4.

Discussion and Action Item One: Resolution Honoring the Service of Roy Blackwood to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the Carrboro-Chapel Hill-Orange County Community

Chair Boehm read aloud the resolution honoring the service of Roy Blackwood and expressed the Board's congratulations and deep appreciation for his dedicated service of 36 years to OWASA.

Ray DuBose made a Motion to approve the resolution; second by Jody Eimers and the Motion was unanimously approved. Please see Motion 5.

Discussion and Action Item Two: Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Authorize Staff to Publish Budget and Rate Information

The Board of Directors received and discussed this item with staff and requested additional information: the number of single-family residents vs. multi-family residents served by OWASA and customer payment method statistics and transaction costs. The Board also suggested that staff use the median single-family residential customer monthly water consumption for estimating the impact of rate increases vs. the average.

Todd BenDor made a Motion to that in advance of public hearings scheduled for May 11, 2023, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes staff of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority to publish information about the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget and Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges which includes a nine (9) percent rate increase in monthly water and sewer rates; second by Pedro Garcia and the Motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion and Action Item Three: Board Members Eligible for Nomination to Election as Board Officers

The Board agreed to begin nominations in sequence for the Office of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. It was also noted that the practice of multiple terms for each Office is desired.

Todd BenDor nominated Bruce Boehm as Chair of the Board.

Pedro Garcia nominated Jody Eimers as Chair of the Board. Ms. Eimers expressed appreciation for the nomination as Chair but respectfully withdrew her name.

Pedro Garcia nominated Kevin Leibel as Chair of the Board. Mr. Leibel expressed appreciation for the nomination as Chair but withdrew his name because his term will end on June 30, 2023.

There were no further nominations for Chair, and the Board agreed the nominee for the Election of Chair of the Board for Fiscal Year 2024 is Bruce Boehm.

Jody Eimers nominated Pedro Garcia as Vice Chair of the Board.

Todd BenDor nominated Mel Kramer as Vice Chair of the Board.

There were no further nominations for Vice Chair, and the nominees for the Election of Vice Chair of the Board for Fiscal Year 2024 are Pedro Garcia and Mel Kramer.

Todd BenDor nominated himself as Secretary of the Board.

Bruce Bohem nominated Elmira Mangum as Secretary of the Board.

There were no further nominations for Secretary, and the Board agreed the nominees for the Election of Secretary of the Board for Fiscal Year 2024 are Todd BenDor and Elmira Mangum.

Mr. Epting reminded the Board of the availability of proxy voting on June 8, 2023.

Discussion and Action Item Four: Decision on Whether to Complete a Board of Directors Self-Assessment

The Board agreed to postpone this topic until the full Board was available to discuss it and it will be rescheduled a future Board meeting.

Information and Reports Item One: Draft System Development Fee Study Report

The Board received and discussed this item. The new System Development Fees will be included in the discussion of rates, fees, and charges at the Board's public hearing on May 11, 2023, and the Board will consider approving the new fees on June 8, 2023.

Information and Reports Item Two: Update on Western Intake Partnership

The Board received this as an information item. Staff continues to work on the development of an Interlocal Agreement with the Western Intake Partnership, and Jody Eimers suggested wildlife protection be considered along the transmission corridor so long as it is a minimal expense.

Information and Reports Item Three: Review Board Work Schedule

It was noted that Bruce Boehm, Todd BenDor and Kevin Leibel would be absent at the May 11, 2023 public hearings and board meeting.

Summary of Board Meeting Items

Todd Taylor noted the following staff action items:

- Provide single family residents vs. multi-family statistics.
- Provide customer payment statistics and associated costs.
- Provide customer projected rate information based on median instead of average.
- Reschedule the discussion on whether to complete a Board Self-Assessment to a future meeting.

Closed Session

There was no further discussion to come before the Board and without objection, the Board of Directors convened in a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a two personnel matters as provided in N.C. General Statutes 143.318.11(6).

Following the Closed Session, the Board reconvened in open session, reported no action was taken in the Closed Session, and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Andrea Orbich
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Attachments