

ATLANTIC CITY
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

TRANSCRIPT OF REMOTE PROCEEDINGS

RE: REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
OPEN SESSION

August 16, 2023

COMMENCING AT 10:01 a.m.

VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY L. HILL, Chairman

MOHAMMED DEDAR, Vice Chairman/Deputy

GLENN BANFIELD, Treasurer

MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, Executive Director

INDIA STILL, Deputy Executive Director

BRUCE WARD, Solicitor

CLIFFORD KEEN, Deputy Executive Director of
Operations

NYNELL LANGFORD

STEPHANIE DAVIES, Alternate #1

SAYED KAUSAR, Alternate #2

ALSO PRESENT:

WASTELLA JOHNSON, Board Secretary

ANITA THAPA

WES SWAIN, City Administrator

REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS

EDWARD DENNIS, JR.

ROBERT SMITH

RYAN HAYES

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:

WENDY L. WALINSKI, RPR, NJ CCR

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1 CHAIRMAN HILL: It's -- good morning,
2 everybody. It's 10:01, I believe, and welcome to
3 the August Atlantic City Municipal Utilities
4 Authority board meeting, and we'll begin with a call
5 to order.

6 I do not have the statement. I'm
7 sorry, Stella.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. I have it.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Can you read it for
10 me, please?

11 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Opening
12 statement. Adequate notice of this meeting has been
13 provided as required by law by mailing to The Press
14 a list of the regularly scheduled meetings, August
15 16th, 2023, at 401 North Virginia Avenue, Conference
16 Room, Atlantic City, New Jersey by Zoom. A copy of
17 said notice was sent to the City Clerk to be posted.
18 All of the aforesaid complies with Chapter 231 of
19 the Laws of 1975 known as the Open Public Meetings
20 Law.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you very much.
22 And we'll do our call to order. Roll
23 call.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

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1 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

2 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

4 MS. LANGFORD: Here.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles is out.

6 Ms. Davies?

7 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

9 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And I believe
11 we are expecting Mr. Banfield when he pops on.

12 Okay. We're going to do our flag
13 salute. Could we lead that, Mr. Dedar, please?

14 (The Pledge of Allegiance is
15 recited.)

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Every -- every year,
17 since this is air show day, it's always sometimes
18 challenging, so we'll hope we'll get through before
19 the -- before all the jets start. Many times we've
20 had to scream over everything, but hopefully we'll
21 get through it.

22 Okay. We're going to move on to the
23 approval of the open session meetings (sic) of July.

24 Could we read the resolution, Ms.
25 Johnson, please?

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1 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Approving open
2 session minutes of July 19th, 2023.

3 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal
4 Utilities Authority held their board meeting on July
5 19th, 2023.

6 Now therefore be it resolved, on the
7 16th day of August 2023, that the board of directors
8 of the Atlantic City MUA hereby approves the
9 transcript of the open session meeting held on July
10 19th, 2023.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. And
12 that's resolution 5 a.

13 Does anybody have any questions,
14 additions, or deletions?

15 Hearing none, we'll entertain a
16 motion to accept.

17 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

19 And a second?

20 MS. LANGFORD: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

22 Roll call.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

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1 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford? Okay.

3 Okay. Ms. Langford?

4 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

6 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

8 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. We'll
10 move on to 5 b, which is the closed session for the
11 July meeting.

12 Can we read the resolution, please?

13 MS. JOHNSON: Approving closed
14 session minutes of July 19th, 2023.

15 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal
16 Utilities Authority held their board meeting on July
17 19th, 2023.

18 Now therefore be it resolved, on this
19 16th day of August 2023, that the board of directors
20 of the Atlantic City MUA hereby approves the
21 transcript of the closed session meeting held on
22 July 19th, 2023.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. I believe all
24 of the people that are eligible to vote for that
25 have reviewed those minutes and signed off.

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1 Correct, Ms. Johnson?

2 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Very good. So
4 we have nothing public for that to change.

5 So we'll do a roll call for the
6 people eligible. Ms. Johnson?

7 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

10 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

12 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

14 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

16 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you very much.

18 Okay. Public -- my only comment -- I
19 wanted to make one comment. Some of you knew very
20 well, some of you might not have, but we have --
21 we're -- we just lost a very good ally of Atlantic
22 City here in New Jersey, the Lieutenant Governor Ms.
23 Sheila Oliver.

24 I've worked with her closely and the
25 City and with Governor Murphy's office, and she's

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1 been an ally of Atlantic City for quite a long time,
2 and I just wanted to extend publicly from the board
3 of directors of the Atlantic City Municipal
4 Utilities Authority deepest condolences and prayers,
5 sympathies to her and her family.

6 Sheila was an amazing, fun lady, and
7 she really, really loved Atlantic City and
8 appreciated what we all did as public employees and
9 public servants. She was a great public servant of
10 the State of New Jersey, in my opinion. And she
11 will be missed. So I just wanted to publicly say
12 that on behalf of the board.

13 Okay. We'll move into committee
14 reports and engineering committee. We did have an
15 engineering committee again this month. We have
16 Remington & Vernick involved with that. I know that
17 Polistina was not on that committee report, but they
18 worked with us on some projects. All of the board
19 members received from Cliff and from Remington &
20 Vernick the -- the reports of the projects, the
21 status, the costs, the issues.

22 Again, I urge everybody to review
23 them. It kind of gives you a really good thumbnail
24 sketch of what we are doing and what we're trying to
25 get done. And I said this to -- I don't know if it

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1 was Cliff or Mr. Armstrong, somebody at the last
2 meeting. I said, it's so nice to see us trying to
3 be proactive in a lot of our things. Some of the
4 things, of course, we area held back because of
5 monies and we don't know about schedules, but we are
6 trying to take a more proactive approach recently
7 with the help of all of our partners, and I think
8 that's great.

9 So we're going to look over the
10 engineering committee in detail a little bit when we
11 get down to the report. I think we'll just go --
12 we'll leave that there. When we get to the report
13 coming up, we can talk about some of the particular
14 programs like the lead replacement system, et
15 cetera.

16 So anybody else want to say anything
17 about that that was on the committee? We'll get to
18 those details.

19 Personnel committee. I believe
20 there's two issues under that.

21 Mr. Dedar, would you like to speak
22 upon that?

23 MR. DEDAR: I think so. Mike is
24 there on the meeting today?

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

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1 MR. DEDAR: I think so, yeah, he can
2 explain.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Mr. Armstrong, in
4 turn?

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: There is -- there's
6 nothing new other than the fact that we have two
7 applicants for our distribution manager position
8 that we're going to be interviewing today and
9 tomorrow. Okay? And after that, then we'll give
10 you an update. Then we'll have -- we'll have, you
11 know, two members of the personnel committee to also
12 interview that -- any individuals that apply.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Are they internal?

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: No.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: No? Okay.

16 And the salary study, I know Ms.
17 Still was working on that a little bit, as well. Do
18 you want to make a comment? Or we can postpone
19 that.

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: No. We can tell you.
21 It's been awarded to the -- I think last meeting we
22 awarded it to the company -- I can't remember the
23 name of the company.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: But it was awarded to

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1 a company, and we're going to try to have them have
2 their initial focus with -- with respect to
3 operators. We did have a -- one operator put in a
4 resignation. I won't mention any names. I'll save
5 it for closed session, but there may be some
6 negotiations where that operator stays on with us
7 part time, you know, and doesn't leave us
8 completely, so -- but we have some contingency plans
9 in place to work with WRM to -- to assist us with
10 the operator shortage.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Okay.

12 MS. THAPA: Just for the information,
13 India is here, though, if you want to --

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Oh, yeah. She's --
15 but she's not going to -- she's just listening.
16 She's not participating.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. No problem.
18 Thank you.

19 Okay. So we're going to talk a
20 little bit about the lead service replacement
21 program.

22 Cliff, do you want to speak on that,
23 how we're doing? I know we're working on some
24 public information, as well, about that.

25 MR. KEEN: That is correct. So

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1 there's a couple pieces to this. Of course, we have
2 prepared some public information, you know, for --
3 for our residents and our customers.

4 And we also have CDM Smith who is
5 attempting to work with the state to have them
6 finance our public outreach program, so we want to
7 make sure we're on the same page with them as we
8 move forward for community outreach and some of the
9 information we're sending out. So that's why
10 there's a small delay there.

11 But we are working with RVE to make
12 sure that our plan is on track. We had some very
13 productive meetings over the last several weeks, and
14 it looks like we're going to have a 10-year plan
15 rolled out very shortly, and we will -- we will make
16 sure that we are on schedule with lead service
17 replacement overall.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very important
19 program, and that's -- that's terrific. And I know
20 some City Council members are concerned about those
21 issues, too, of course, and we're going to do
22 everything we can to keep everything transparent and
23 see our progress and our plan, and I appreciate
24 everything that we're doing on that.

25 Does anybody have a question, board

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1 members, on that issue?

2 As soon as we get the updated public
3 statement, we'll send it to all the board members,
4 please, as well as our -- our City Council and the
5 Mayor's Office; right?

6 Okay. And I -- I apologize. I
7 skipped public participation.

8 So I wanted to ask Ms. Johnson if
9 there was anybody in the public online that we can
10 address?

11 MS. JOHNSON: No, no one.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right. Okay.
13 Fine. Thank you so much.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Operations
16 report. We can go right into -- I guess, Cliff, if
17 you want to continue, into some of the projects
18 we're doing in association with Remington & Vernick,
19 and maybe if Bob needs to speak on those issues, as
20 well.

21 MR. KEEN: Absolutely. As you said,
22 we've been very progressive in the management of
23 some of these projects that we have going on. You
24 know, there are things that are going on at the
25 water treatment plant like the clarifier rehab and

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1 some other portions of that that, you know, we're
2 looking at as a holistic approach to fixing the
3 water treatment plant and spending the money one
4 time on -- on the pieces over there, so it's been
5 very productive so far. We've gotten several
6 different, you know, proposals from Remington &
7 Vernick to begin the engineering work, surveys,
8 and -- and a couple inspections and things like that
9 that we know we need.

10 The staff is holding it down. And --
11 and I do want to say that I am -- you know, it's
12 only been two and a half months, but I am so
13 impressed with this staff and the work that they are
14 doing, and these operators, how committed they are.
15 And I can't say enough good things about the people
16 we have working for us on -- on all levels, but the
17 water treatment plant staff is -- has been going
18 through a lot, and as Mr. Armstrong said, we do
19 have, you know, a resignation, but you know, the
20 employees actually care about this place so much
21 that they're willing to come back and -- and do some
22 things. So I think that's a testament to what --
23 you know, not just employees, but what the board has
24 given over the years, and -- and it's great to see.

25 On the distribution front, the -- the

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1 main, you know, thing we've been talking about is
2 lead and copper -- I'm sorry -- the lead service
3 line change-outs, but we are also looking at some
4 pretty large renovation projects, some pipe
5 reinstallations, Baltic Avenue specifically. So
6 we've been discussing that with Remington & Vernick,
7 and of course, we are working with the City as
8 closely as possible to manage these projects to make
9 sure that we're all on the same page as we start to
10 do road reconstruction. And I know that that hasn't
11 always been the case, but you know, that is
12 definitely one of our priorities, to make sure that
13 we're not wasting time or money in -- in roads as
14 we're going through them.

15 And then on the meter reading front,
16 we are making some serious changes. We have a
17 number of issues that -- that we're starting to work
18 out, and I can't say enough about the staff on that
19 side, too, and the commitment to what they -- they
20 need to do there.

21 So yeah. This is -- you know, we're
22 moving along, and there's a lot of projects. I
23 don't know if there's anything you want to hear
24 about specifically, so I'll leave that up to you.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: I did want to make a

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1 comment about all of these plans that we're talking
2 about and the monies and the big things. We talked
3 at engineering, for the other board members a little
4 bit, Mr. Eccles is not on -- on the meeting,
5 possibly, whenever we have time to come up with some
6 type of a master plan for us and our facilities and
7 what we'd like to do in the future and where we
8 all -- what project fits where, not that that's
9 being done yet, but we talked about that as
10 something like a mission or a goal, so just for the
11 other board members to be aware of that.

12 We've never really had that, and I
13 think it will be a great way to be proactive, as
14 well as kind of futuristic and also looking at
15 monies and -- and labor and everything else.

16 I know Remington & Vernick also
17 brought that up, I believe, and I think they had
18 some very good suggestions.

19 MR. KEEN: Yes. I do -- I do want to
20 say we have a portion of that that has been
21 completed. There was an asset management plan
22 conducted in 2020, but since then, the world has
23 changed an awful lot --

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

25 MR. KEEN: -- and prices have

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1 increased on everything and lead service line
2 change-outs were not a thing then and we weren't
3 moving forward with the water treatment plant
4 upgrades, so there's a lot of changes that need to
5 be made to that plan, and we have some -- some, I
6 think, good management techniques that we're using
7 now and using some of our in-house staff, especially
8 on the GS front, and -- and using their skills to
9 try to help manage that a little bit better, so I
10 would say that, you know, give me a couple months.
11 We will have that overall plan, sort of the basis
12 for it laid out.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

14 MR. KEEN: And be able to tell you
15 where we expect to be in 5 and 10 years pretty -- -
16 you know, pretty well.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Very good. I
18 did want to -- if you could inform, or maybe Bob,
19 the HVA system at the administration building and
20 what we've done for the mold situation so the rest
21 of the board is aware in case they haven't heard.

22 MR. KEEN: Yeah. I mean, absolutely.
23 So there -- there was a mold problem that had
24 started from the HVAC system and the cold water
25 pipes that are in the building. They do not have

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1 enough insulation to prevent the sweating of the
2 pipes, which produces condensation, and then
3 therefore produces mold.

4 So we have engaged with a contractor
5 to remediate what's here, to keep an eye on it for
6 the next several months, and Remington & Vernick is
7 going to do a study of our HVAC system so we will be
8 able to, you know, know whether or not replacing
9 insulation is the most cost-effective measure or if
10 we should move to something else, and then when we
11 do it, they're going to help us make sure that we do
12 it correctly so this is not a long-term issue, we're
13 controlling humidity, we're controlling the -- the
14 piping and the insulation the correct way, and to
15 move forward we fully expect to have a fully
16 functioning HVAC system without the possibility of
17 mold growing from it.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Obviously,
19 it's a safety issue, and we're on top of that, just
20 so everybody's aware of that.

21 Remington, do we know when we're
22 going to be able to start to look at that survey,
23 like soon, I guess, in the fall?

24 MR. HAYES: Bob, you're muted.

25 MR. SMITH: Sorry, Chairman. We're

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1 just waiting for authorization to proceed with the
2 HVAC evaluation proposal. And as Cliff had
3 indicated, the issue that we found based our initial
4 site visit was that the chilled water pipes are
5 improperly insulated, which is what's causing the
6 condensation and what's causing the mold.

7 We have another proposal keyed up to
8 send to you to prepare bid documents for the
9 replacement of the insulation. However, we didn't
10 want to put the cart before the horse. We want to
11 make sure that we're not going to change out the
12 system and not make those chilled water pipes
13 obsolete, so we need to do our evaluation first.

14 We don't anticipate that that's going
15 to being the case, but we want to do it in the -- in
16 the proper progression of steps.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. So, Michael,
18 we do -- we can do the -- can't we give -- in the
19 next engineering meeting, can't we look at that? We
20 don't have to go to the board on that, do we?

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. We can look at
22 it at the next meeting.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's what I
24 thought. Then when we go to go to the bids, that
25 will go to the board.

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1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Exactly.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. All right.
3 Just so we don't hold anything up, is what I'm
4 saying, so...

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Thank you,
7 Bob. Thank you, Remington.

8 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Any questions
10 or concerns from the board members for the
11 engineering group? Always busy. That's a busy
12 group.

13 Okay. Executive director of
14 administration, which is Ms. Still there, but we are
15 going to bypass that unless there's something you
16 want to bring up.

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: No. I -- she only
18 has one item on for later.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: No problem. Okay.

20 We're going to move into Anita's
21 territory, money, paying bills, accounting, cash
22 management, and we'll see how we are right now in
23 August. So we'll go from there.

24 MS. THAPA: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Anita, want to start

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1 with this review?

2 MS. THAPA: Sure. Financial reports
3 are for the month of June. So in -- as of June, we
4 booked about 45 percent of our revenue from our
5 customer user charges, which amounts to about 8.4
6 million. As of June also, year to -- year-to-date
7 operating expenses total about 4.7 million, and our
8 capital expenditure, we spent about 960,000.

9 As for our accounts receivable
10 collection from our customer, we collected 8.5
11 million -- 8.5 million. And in June -- as for the
12 cash management in June, we earned interest rate
13 from 4.7 -- 71 percent to 4.90 percent in our
14 unrestricted investment accounts.

15 Balance adjustments records if there
16 was any adjustments made in our customer accounts
17 and are provided just for information to the board.
18 Shutoffs are still ongoing, and we are also
19 communicating with the City's code enforcement, you
20 know, where necessary. So that's -- that's about it
21 for my report.

22 As usual, if there are any questions,
23 please feel free to reach out to me. That's it.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Is there any
25 questions or -- for Ms. Thapa from the board

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1 members?

2 Hearing none, we'll move on to old
3 business. We're going to be going to 10 a (1),
4 which is our acceptance of request for proposals.

5 Ms. Johnson, could you read that
6 resolution, please?

7 MS. JOHNSON: Appointing
8 professionals and authorizing execution of
9 professional service agreements for court reporting
10 services.

11 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA on
12 August 16th approved the statements of
13 qualifications of professionals;

14 Whereas, pursuant to that process,
15 the MUA Council seeks to appoint the court reporting
16 services for a term of one year beginning August
17 16th, 2023 to August 16th, 2024;

18 Here -- now therefore be it resolved,
19 on this 16th day of August 2023, by the board of
20 directors of the MUA that we hereby appoint the
21 following firms or individuals and authorize the
22 chairman to execute a nonexclusive professional
23 service agreement with the following professionals:
24 Magna Legal Services and Zanaras Reporting & Video.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good.

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1 Anybody have a question on that?

2 That's been going back and forth.

3 Hearing none, I'll accept a motion to
4 accept.

5 MR. BANFIELD: Motion.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

7 And a second?

8 MS. DAVIES: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

10 Roll call.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

14 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

16 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

18 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

20 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Thank you.

22 Thank you, Wendy.

23 Welcome, Glenn. I see you popped in.

24 MR. BANFIELD: Yeah. I'm sorry. I
25 was in a part of the building where I couldn't get

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1 no -- no Wi-Fi, so...

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: No problem. No
3 problem. We need you for new business.

4 Here we go. New business. It's an
5 extension for janitorial services, and this is G.Q.
6 Maintenance Company. We've been working with them
7 for many years.

8 Let's read the resolution first for
9 11 a (1), please.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Extension of janitorial
11 services at the administration and operations
12 facility and water treatment plant - G.Q.
13 Maintenance Company.

14 Whereas, the board of directors of
15 the Atlantic City MUA awarded contracts to G.Q.
16 Maintenance Company pursuant to resolution number
17 22-103 and resolution 22-104 adopted on May 18th of
18 2022;

19 Whereas, the contract term was for a
20 term of one year with an option to extend for one
21 additional year;

22 Whereas, G.Q. Maintenance Company
23 expressed an option to extend each contract for an
24 additional year;

25 Now therefore be it resolved, that

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1 G.Q. Maintenance Company to provide janitorial
2 services at the administration building and the
3 water treatment plant is hereby extended for an
4 additional year with a term beginning June 1, 2023
5 to May 31, 2024 in the amount for the administration
6 building \$15,340 and for the water treatment plant
7 in the amount of \$12,135.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. So this
9 is just an extension. This is not a new contract.
10 Next year we'll -- we'll go out to bid again most
11 likely.

12 So anybody have a question or a
13 comment? Just a reminder, G.Q. is a local business.

14 Okay. I'll move that. Could we have
15 a second, please?

16 MR. DEDAR: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

18 Roll call.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

22 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

24 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

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1 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

3 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

5 11 b, this is rather important. I
6 know we've been working on this trying to get some
7 upgrades, some software services, equipment,
8 networking. It's -- it's not an easy thing, but we
9 really need to move on this one.

10 Can we read the resolution, please?

11 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Overhaul
12 communications equipment, software, and services.

13 Whereas, through the IT shared
14 service agreement with the City of Atlantic City,
15 the IT department inventoried and assessed the
16 authority's current telephone system and determined
17 there exists a need to upgrade the system for
18 improved efficiency and operations;

19 Whereas, the City IT department
20 recommends entering into an agreement with VOIP
21 Network for the Cloud 9 Unified Communications
22 equipment and services and maintenance agreement;

23 Whereas, the one-time cost of the
24 equipment is \$14,491 and the monthly reoccurring
25 charge is \$768.50 for a term of 60 months for a

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1 total contract price of \$60,601;

2 Whereas, pursuant to New Jersey S.A.,
3 the contracts for the supply of the product or
4 service for voice, data, transmission or switching
5 services may be entered into for a term not to
6 exceed five years;

7 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA and
8 VOP Networks (sic) shall enter into agreement, and
9 the total cost of the equipment and services shall
10 not exceed the sum of \$65,601, which includes a
11 contingency of \$5,000 for potential additional
12 equipment needs for a term of 60 months and shall be
13 based upon provisions of the cost proposal included
14 in the agreement.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's a lot of
16 words.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Somebody who has
19 trouble sometimes getting on the right Zoom or
20 finding how I put somebody on hold and -- for cell
21 phones, I'm not that tech-savvy, but I know that we
22 need the upgrades, and we talked a little bit about
23 this in engineering.

24 Could somebody there, maybe Cliff or
25 Mr. Armstrong, why this is vital -- I mean, why -- I

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1 know we've spent a lot of time on it.

2 Could somebody just give us an
3 update?

4 MR. ARMSTRONG: First of all, our
5 phone system that we currently have is dated,
6 extremely dated.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

8 MR. ARMSTRONG: And to bring us in
9 line -- in fact, after the City's IT department
10 reviewed the contract that we have based on the
11 system that we have, that we were -- it was their
12 opinion that we're being grossly overcharged, too,
13 so that this will provide a much better phone
14 system, much more modern, and at a lower cost.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Is there a kind of
16 downtime we need between the two?

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: They haven't stated
18 whether there would be downtime yet, but we probably
19 will -- I'm -- I've experienced some of these
20 transitions before. And oftentimes what they can do
21 is they can cloud your calls and have them go to
22 cell phones until they actually put the equipment
23 in.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: So there's methods to

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1 make sure that, you know, there's ability to still
2 receive calls and make calls in the interim.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Just checking.
4 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong.

5 Any --

6 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Most of the
7 more --

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Go ahead.

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: I was going to say
10 most of the more modern services allow for there to
11 be an app that resides on your cell phone so that it
12 appears that you're making calls from the office and
13 receiving calls to the office from your cell phones
14 because they -- they understand that most people
15 work remote these days.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: So there's going to
18 be some method to do that.

19 MS. STILL: May I add --

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

21 MS. STILL: May I add one additional
22 thing?

23 Good afternoon, everyone. I'm sorry
24 I'm not present.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Hello. That's no

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1 problem.

2 MS. STILL: I'm battling a cold.

3 I just wanted to mention that our
4 current contract is expiring at the end of December,
5 so we would need to do something regardless, and
6 there is a --

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

8 MS. STILL: -- five-year limitation
9 on this type of contract.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: So you're obviously
11 endorsing this, as well, Ms. Still?

12 MS. STILL: Yes. I've been very much
13 involved with the -- the salesperson. This is
14 basically a national contract also, so --

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

16 MS. STILL: And we've put the proper
17 notice in the newspaper stating that it's a national
18 contract award.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Thank you.
20 Take care of yourself.

21 Okay.

22 MS. STILL: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Anybody else have a
24 question?

25 Hearing none, we'll look for a motion

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1 to accept.

2 MR. ARMSTRONG: And one -- if I can,
3 I just had one more thing.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Go ahead.

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: Just with respect to
6 all of these awards moving forward. They're being
7 reviewed by our QPA now via the shared services
8 agreement, and you should be aware of that.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. Okay.

10 Can we have a motion, please, to
11 accept?

12 MR. DEDAR: Motion. Motion.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

14 And a second?

15 MR. BANFIELD: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

17 And roll call.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

21 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

23 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

25 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

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1 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

2 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Moving on is
4 our abatements, and these are unnecessary to appear.
5 Once again, I would urge all board members to look
6 over the names or addresses. If there's anybody you
7 choose to recuse yourself from, please state that
8 when you go to vote, but we can do all the
9 resolutions in one. Just -- we don't need to do the
10 whole thing, but we'll just give the name and
11 addresses.

12 Ms. Johnson, we'll start with the
13 abatements.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Abatement,
15 Haider, Akand & Haider, Mohd located at 102 North
16 Iowa Avenue in the amount of \$962.82.

17 Abatement for IRC 1031 Qualified
18 Intermediary located at 556 North Trenton Avenue in
19 the amount of \$1,004.21.

20 Abatement for Sabina Robbani located
21 at 217 North Chelsea Avenue in the amount of
22 \$446.22.

23 And lastly, Alam Shafiqul located at
24 2425 Arctic Avenue in the amount of \$283.76.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. And this

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1 would be moving resolutions 11 c (1), 11 c (2), 11 c
2 (3), and 11 c (4).

3 Could I have a motion, please?

4 MS. DAVIES: Motion.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

6 And a second?

7 MR. BANFIELD: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

9 Roll call, please.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

13 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

15 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

17 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

19 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Moving
21 forward. Before we go into executive session, the

22 bills, the monthly bills, they should be attached.

23 This is 12 a.

24 Could we please read the resolution?

25 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Approving monthly

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1 bills.

2 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA has
3 indebtedness to the following companies for services
4 rendered in the amount of \$371,206.44.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Questions?

6 MS. THAPA: Stella, that's the wrong
7 amount.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Could you --

10 MS. JOHNSON: What's the correct
11 amount?

12 MS. THAPA: The backup is correct.
13 6 -- 6 -- \$623,341.08.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: 8 cents?

16 MS. THAPA: Yes, 8 cents.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: So that's the new
18 correction. Very good. Thank you with the
19 correction.

20 I'll move that.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Can we have a second?

23 MS. DAVIES: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

25 And roll call.

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1 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

4 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

6 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. I think he's
8 trying to get in.

9 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

11 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: There he is. He said
13 yes.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right.

16 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Langford?

17 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

19 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you very much.

21 Before we go into executive session,
22 I don't think it's going to be that long, unless
23 there's some other matters I'm not aware of, but
24 we'll make a motion to go into executive session.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: We don't -- we don't

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1 have anything.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: We don't? Okay.

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: No, nothing.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: The only thing I want
5 to say, if you're not going to go into it, and
6 that's fine, I did talk to Mr. Reilly and -- before
7 the meeting, so we're -- we're working on finalizing
8 the last labor contract. Correct, Michael?

9 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: And I know Mr. Swain
11 is reviewing that, so we'll have more information at
12 our next meeting for the rest of the board. Okay?

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right. Very
15 good. So not needing to go into executive -- this
16 might be the shortest meeting in date that I can
17 remember in 15 years -- in 15 years -- we'll
18 entertain a motion, unless there's somebody who has
19 something they'd like to add to the agenda? Not?

20 Okay. We'll take a motion to leave.

21 So can I have an exit motion?

22 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

23 MR. BANFIELD: Motion.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

25 A second?

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1 MS. LANGFORD: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

3 Roll call.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

7 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

9 MR. BANFIELD: Yes. Yes.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

11 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

12 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

13 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Great. Thank you all
15 for attending and all your service to the Atlantic
16 City community and the MUA. Have a great day.

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

18 MR. SMITH: Be safe. Take care.

19 Thank you.

20 - - -

21 (Whereupon, the regular monthly
22 meeting concluded at approximately 10:35 a.m.)

23 - - -

24

25

Wendy L. Walinski

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CERTIFICATE

I, WENDY L. WALINSKI, a Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim transcript of the proceedings as taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my ability.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

Wendy L. Walinski

WENDY L. WALINSKI, CCR
Notary Number: 2203614
Notary Expiration: 8/3/27
CCR Number: XI02025
Dated: August 16, 2023

Wendy L. Walinski

LAWYER'S NOTES

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Wendy L. Walinski

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