



Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OPEN SESSION

MAY 1, 2025

**ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
401 N. VIRGINIA AVENUE
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401**

In accordance with the provision of the Open Public Meetings Law, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-10), the Regular Board Meeting of the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman Gary L. Hill at 10:02AM. The Board of Directors held their public meeting as designated below both via Zoom Conference or In-person on May 1, 2025 in the Board Room, located on the first floor of the Administrative Offices, 401 N. Virginia Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

1. CALL TO ORDER – OPMA NOTICE - OPENING STATEMENT

Gary L. Hill read the Opening Statement.

2. ROLL CALL

The Roll was called.

BOARD PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING:

Board Members present at that time were: Gary L. Hill, Chairman (via Zoom); Mohammed Dedar, Vice Chairman/Deputy (via Zoom); Glenn Banfield, Treasurer (Absent); Nynell Langford, Board Member (via Zoom); John Eccles, Jr., Board Member (via Zoom); Stephanie Davies, Board Member, Alternate 1 (via Zoom); and Sayed Kausar, Board Member Alternate 2 (via Zoom).

MUA STAFF PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING:

India Still, Executive Director (Absent); Clifford Keen, Deputy Executive Director, Operations; Anita Thapa, Assistant Director of Accounting & Finance (via Zoom); Karen Upshaw, Director of Administration; G. Bruce Ward, Solicitor (via Zoom); Michael Riley, Labor Counsel (via Zoom); and Stella Johnson, Board Secretary.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

William Swain, representing the State of New Jersey (via Zoom).

3. FLAG OF SALUTE

4. CHAIRMAN – Gary L. Hill, Chairman

Mr. Gary L. Hill expressed that he hopes that the Board completed the Cyber Security course, because this course helps the MUA's insurance rates.

The Board training was scheduled for today, May 1, 2025. However it was postponed until sometime in June, because the participation of the full Board is needed. Therefore, the Board was instructed to please keep their calendars open for this training. Mr. Michael Riley will be conducting the training.

5. AUTHORITY'S SOLICITOR REPORT – Bruce Ward, Esq.

There is nothing to discuss in Open Session, nor Executive Session.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Executive Director – Karen Upshaw, Director of Administration

There was a situation due to an incident that occurred near the MUA's offices that did not involve any MUA employees. The SWAT Team was looking for someone in the area. The US Marshall and the Atlantic City Police had seven (7) vehicles on the MUA's parking lot. They had guns, rifles and had on tactical gear. The MUA's laborers were told to go to the Distribution Yard. The MUA was then put into lock down, and 911 were called. It is not known whether they found the person involved. The MUA asked if they could please be notified if an incident like this occurs again, because of the employees, and the MUA being open for business with customers on the premises. However, the US Marshalls and the Atlantic City Police indicated that they cannot always let the MUA know.

ROLL CALL AGENDA

RESOLUTION #96: DR. MLK JR. BOULEVARD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT - FRED M. SCHIAVONE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Cliff Keen relayed that the MUA has been working on this project for quite some time. MLK has been one of the City's streets that have been marked for paving. The MUA has gone through several different ways to make it as cost effective as possible and make sense for

operations. The cost for Add Alternate is for Caspian Avenue, which is the additional street. Both the main bid and alternate came in well below the estimates. Therefore, the MUA feels comfortable with these numbers.

Mr. Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick indicated that the City is getting ready to do the paving project from Route 30 to Mediterranean Avenue. The goal is to work with the City, so the MUA can get all of its facilities upgrades done in advance. This will avoid disturbing a newly paved road and it saves the MUA funds from doing all of the paving themselves. Remington & Vernick structured it this way to make sure the base bid was completed, and if funding was available, then do the Add Alternate, so if the funding of the bid came in favorably, it could be added to the project.

Mr. Cliff Keen conveyed that the MUA need the MLK completed this year, which was a priority. As long as the Board is okay with this method, the MUA would probably proceed in this way in the future, if the prices come in right.

Mr. Robert Smith stressed that this will be completed this year in advance of the City's paving of MLK. The City wants this project completed by Labor Day. Therefore, once the Board approves the award of the contract today, Remington & Vernick will have a pre-con meeting as quick as possible.

Mr. Robert Smith apologized to the Board for calling the Special Board Meeting. However, with the tight time frame of the City's paving project, the MUA would have lost a whole month and probably overlapped if they did not call a Special Board Meeting.

To authorize to accept the bid proposal from Fred M. Schiavone Construction for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard Water Main Replacement for the Base Bid of \$2,145,735.00, Add Alternate Bid #1 for \$228,103.00, Base Bid, Plus Add Alternate bid #1 for a grand total of \$2,373,838.00.

A motion was made by Mohammed Dedar and seconded by John Eccles, Jr. to approve the resolution. By roll-call Gary L. Hill, Mohammed Dedar, Nynell Langford, John Eccles, Jr. and Stephanie Davies.

Glenn Banfield was absent.

**RESOLUTION #97: REJECTION OF BID FOR THE BOARDWALK VALVE
INVESTIGATION – PHASE 1 AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE**

Mr. Robert Smith relayed that they will be meeting with the contractor to review the scope of work to see what the concerns were and why their cost was so high, and to negotiate a more

favorable contract. In addition, the work will still get completed in order to identify the conditions of the mains and valves underneath the boardwalk.

Mr. Cliff Keen indicated that the City is doing the Boardwalk project. The MUA will negotiate with Arthur Henry to see where the numbers are escalating, as well as getting information on what the support structure is like and know what is under the boardwalk. This project will not hold the City up. This project was not an issue of timing, but because the bid just came in and was over the budgeted amount, it was placed on the agenda.

To authorize to reject the sole bid proposal for Boardwalk Valve Investigation – Phase 1 from Arthur R. Henry, Inc. for \$217,400.00, due to unreasonable pricing that exceeds the allocated funds budgeted for this project and authorization to negotiate the cost of the project.

A motion was made by Gary L. Hill and seconded by John Eccles, Jr. to approve the resolution. By roll-call Gary L. Hill, Mohammed Dedar, Nynell Langford, John Eccles, Jr., Stephanie Davies and Sayed Kausar.

Glenn Banfield was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION #98: EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Gary L. Hill and seconded by Mohammed Dedar. to go into Executive Session at 10:23am. By roll-call Gary L. Hill, Mohammed Dedar, Nynell Langford, John Eccles, Jr. and Stephanie Davies.

Glenn Banfield was absent.

EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Gary L. Hill requested that the Board exit the Executive Session at 10:29am by roll call Gary L. Hill, Mohammed Dedar, Nynell Langford, John Eccles, Jr. and Stephanie Davies.

Glenn Banfield was absent.

DISCUSSION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

In Executive Session the Board discussed the following topics: Update on the abuse and misuse of the MUA's system.

BOARD MEETING AND BOARD TRAINING

Mr. Mohammed Dedar relayed that he will be out of the country on vacation from May 20, 2025 to June 21, 2025. Therefore, he is requesting that the June Board Meeting and the Board Training be scheduled after June 21, 2025 when he returns. The Board agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gary L. Hill requested that the Board Adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:31pm by roll call Gary L. Hill, Mohammed Dedar, Nynell Langford, John Eccles, Jr. and Stephanie Davies.

Glenn Banfield was absent.

Respectfully,

WaStella E. Johnson
Board Secretary