



MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **JULY 5, 2023**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

DATE: Monday, July 5, 2023
TIME: 11:00AM
LOCATION: GSD, Boardroom

TYPE: Regular Meeting
NOTICE PROVIDED IN ADVANCE: YES
QUORUM: YES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel F. Vicari, President
Maurice G. Mabon, Vice President
Ola V. Morris, Secretary
Charles W. Jackson, Jr., Member
Darnail Lyles, Member

ABSENT MEMBERS

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles G. Peller, Jr., Executive Director
Jewell Harris, Jr., Attorney – *Harris Law Firm*

OTHERS ABSENT

Jerome Foster, Finance Manager

I. Call to Order: 11:38AM by Chairman Vicari

Chairman Vicari began the Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Roll-Call. He then stated prior to the start of the July 5, 2023 Board Meeting, there was an Executive Session held and there was nothing discussed in Executive Session that was not indicated on the Posted Notice of the Executive Session; and being in compliance with Indiana Statutes, there were no final votes held during the Executive Session. Chairman Vicari asked if any Board member dissented to the certification. Hearing none, he proceeded with the meeting.

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II. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Vicari asked for Executive Director Peller to give an overview of GSD's Proposed Resolution No.: SD23-09, Amending Garbage Collection Fees for Collection of Trash, Garbage and Refuse within the City of Gary, Indiana.

Executive Director Peller's overview is as follows:

- The District has received a 3% cost increase in collection and disposal of solid waste from its provider, Republic Industries effective January 1, 2023, and is proposing to pass the cost increase onto its customers; and
- The District is currently holding its public hearing as provided by IC 36-9-30-21(f) after due notice thereof was published in accordance with IC 5-3-1, and has received comments from all members of the public wishing to be heard; and
- Garbage collection fee (the "Solid Waste Fees") shall be assessed for each parcel of real estate or building served by the city garbage collection service. The city garbage collection service shall serve each single-family residential unit and each multi-family unit containing no more than four (4) family living units on a single parcel of land. However, garbage will not be picked up from and no fee will be charged to a multi-family residential structure of more than four (4) family living units. The fee is amended for a single-family residential unit and for multi-family units not to exceed four units to a charge of **\$26.42** per month per unit served. The fee shall not be reduced for head of such household that is over the age of 65 years or is disabled.
- Upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners of the District, this Resolution shall be in full force and effect except that the Garbage Collection Fee of **\$26.42** shall only be effective upon adoption of an Ordinance by the Gary Common Council approving same. All prior Resolutions or parts thereof which may be inconsistent with any provision of this Resolution are hereby repealed.
- The Board of Commissioners recommends to the Gary Common Council adopt an Ordinance approving the **\$26.42** Garbage Collection Fee provided for herein and directs the Board's Secretary to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the President of the Gary Common Council and the Gary City Clerk.

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PUBLIC COMMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Vicari called for any Public Comments to be made at this time:

- David Fossett, City of Gary, Indiana 2nd District Councilman, 729 Cleveland Street
Councilman Fossett:
-80% of the residents of the City of Gary are senior citizens and a rate hike for trash collection fees is unacceptable as most rely on pensions to make ends meet
-As a City of Gary, Indiana Councilman, plans not to vote in favor of the rate hike (when this matter comes before the City Council for approval).
- Robert Buggs, 4002 Rhode Island Street:
-Not in favor of trash collection fee rate increase
- Marjorie Kerby, Gary, Indiana Resident
-Not in favor of trash collection fee rate increase as she had been against the contract from the very beginning. Further stated her trash has not been collected since 1998.

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1. MINUTES

As per the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of the June 21, 2023, Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving the minutes.

A motion to accept the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of the June 21, 2023 Meeting, with any/all noted corrections; was given by Commissioner Morris. The motion for approval of the minutes was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and passed without dissent.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 A Motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: May 22, 2023 through June 4, 2023, in the amount of \$263,085.79.

Overview: Executive Director Peller recommended approval of the GSD Payroll Earnings Report submitted as GSD Agenda Item 2.1.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.1. Commissioner Lyles gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: May 22, 2023 through June 4, 2023 was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.2 A Motion to Approve the second reading of GSD Resolution No.: SD23-09, Amending the Garbage Collection Fees for the Collection of Trash, Garbage and Refuse within the City of Gary, Indiana.

Chairman Vicari asked for an overview from Karl Cender, Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors.

Overview: Mr. Cender stated as of January 1, 2023 the District has received a 3% cost increase in the collection and disposal of solid waste from our provider (Republic Services) and it is being proposed to pass the cost increase onto its customers. Current cost is \$25.65 per month. After Resolution approval and adoption of an Ordinance by the City of Gary's Common Council, the new rate will be \$26.42 per month for Single-family residential units and multi-family units not to exceed four (4) units for year 2023 and another 3% increase in year 2024. The 2024 monthly rate will be \$27.21 for Single-family residential units and multi-family units not to exceed four (4) units.

Attorney Harris stated the increases are scheduled increases per the approved/set agreement with Republic Services.



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Question: Commissioner Mabon asked if there were discounts that could be applicable to senior citizens and/or disabled residents.

Response: Attorney Harris stated discounts are not currently built in to the contract.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.2. Commissioner Lyles gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve the second reading of GSD Resolution No.: SD23-09 was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.3 A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD23-10, Amending Section 14.2.1 of the Gary Sanitary District Personnel Policy.

Overview: Attorney Harris stated Section 14.2.1 was reviewed and updated with Human Resource Manager Kara Burns. The revisions relate to GSD's dress code policy and updates were deemed necessary with respect to being gender neutral and addressing safety concerns for staff.

Attorney Harris recommended approval of GSD Resolution No.: SD23-10.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.3. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to approve GSD Resolution No.: SD23-10 was seconded by Commissioner Lyles and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

3. CLAIMS

3.1 GSD Claims Numbers: 1857 through 2055, in the amount of \$1,392,008.84

Overview: Executive Director Peller recommended approval and ratification of the GSD Claims.

Question: Commissioner Lyles asked why was Vendor/Contractor Sweney Electric referenced on the Claims List with over 20 claims/invoices (Claims No. 2011-2035).

Response: Plant Superintendent Rhonda Anderson stated GSD does not have an electrical staff and Sweney Electric provides GSD with all its electrical related needs by way of two (2) certified Gary Residents who work within the plant daily at bringing GSD up to code.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 3.1. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion for approval and ratification of GSD Claims Numbers 1857 – 2055 was seconded by Commissioner Lyles and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No



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4. INFORMATION UPDATES

4.1 Plant Superintendent Updates

Rhonda Anderson, Plant Superintendent, provided the Board with an update:

Major Projects

- Aeration
- Grit Project
- HMI Project

Operations

- May final effluent data was entered into the EPA Central Data Exchange and the MRO and CSO_DMR were uploaded by the June 28th due date.
- The June NWIOA Meeting was hosted by Valparaiso where we heard a technical talk on “How to View Construction Drawings with Operations In Mind”.

Maintenance

- The rebuilt South Ras Pump in the West RAS Building was installed by Pro-Pump and is back in service.
- Hubinger Landscaping added new mulch, removed weeds and pruned plants in GSD flower beds.
- GSD Maintenance staff continues to clean contact chambers and gravity tanks as needed.

4.2 Construction Activity Updates

Eric Tonk, Engineer, was absent. No Construction Activity Updates provided.

4.3 Community Engagement Updates

Todd McCain, Community Engagement Director, provided the Board with updates:

- Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)
 - . Program extended to 7 weeks
 - . Two (2) more students will be sent to GSD - - 1 for Engineering, 1 for Records
 - . Introduction made for SYEP newcomer Nacie Henderson
- Will be meeting with Alex Metz Sewers next week
- Grimmer Construction (Lake Street Reconstruction/Pipe Installation)
Chairman Vicari stated Grimmer Construction has submitted certified payrolls reflecting being in compliance.
- Prison Re-Entry to Society/Work Program
Mr. McCain stated he was disappointed that the City of Gary/GSD efforts were not successful with respect to working with the IKORCC Union as it pertains to the re-entry work program. Plans are underway to work with Rowan Johnson (Indiana Plan) to accomplish success with the re-entry work program.

Comment: Commissioner Lyles asked that the Compliance Reporting contain more detailed information going forward.



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4.4 Human Resources Updates

Kara Burns, Human Resource Manager, provided the Board with updates:

- Open Positions:

As of July 5, 2023, GSD has 13 vacant positions

- Wellness/Bio-Metric Screenings will be held on July 26 (Boardroom)
- Inter-Generation Diversity Workshop, July 19 (Boardroom)

4.5 American Structurepoint, Inc.

Chris Murphy, American Structurepoint, Inc., (ASI) provided the Board with updates:

- Force Main at 27th & Chase Street, Phase 1 is nearing completion, Phase 2 of said project will start as soon as material has been received
- Force Main at Lake Street Bridge, NIPSCO to complete all utility locates first. NTP to be issued shortly after.

4.6 CDM Smith, Inc.

Matthew Bednarski, CDM Smith's Client Service Leader, provided project updates:

- Working with contract on the Bar Screen Preconstruction
- Working on the technical info for the IDEM Response as it pertains to the LTCP

5. DISCUSSION

- Commissioner Mabon asked attendee Councilman David Fossett if City of Gary/Council subsidies were available within the City of Gary to offer discounts to the Senior City Residents with respect to the trash collection fee increase.
- Chairman Vicari mentioned GSD currently pays \$14,000 a month to subsidize the difference in trash collections fees.

6. REQUEST TO SPEAK

- o Robert Buggs:
Asked when will the 504 Broadway Customer Service Center reopen to the public to conduct business face-to-face with staff. Further stated the 504 Customer Service staff is rude on the phones.
- o David Fossett:
Asked if the 504 Broadway Customer Service Center will reopen.

Chairman Vicari responded that further discussion is needed with respect to if/when the billing office will reopen to the public.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51PM.



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ADOPTED BY THE BOARD DURING THE MEETING ON:

07/17/2023

DocuSigned by:

Daniel F. Vicari

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Daniel F. Vicari, President

DocuSigned by:

Ola V. Morris

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Ola V. Morris, Secretary

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- Darnail Lyles, Member