



# Board of Light, Gas and Water Commissioners

220 S. Main Street  
Memphis, TN 38103  
[www.mlgw.com](http://www.mlgw.com)

## Board Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

8:30 AM

Board Room

### CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS:

Chairman Dickson

The meeting was called to order at 8:29 a.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Dickson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### ROLL CALL:

Dana Jeanes

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Pohlman	Vice Chairman	Present	
Cheryl Pesce	Board Member	Present	
Carl Person	Board Member	Present	
Mitch Graves	Board Member	Present	
Leon Dickson	Chairman	Present	
James Lewellen	Advisory Board Member	Present	
John Butler	Advisory Board Member	Present	

### APPROVALS:

Chairman Dickson

**Motion To:** Approve Minutes from the Meeting of November 6, 2024.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michael Pohlman, Vice Chairman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mitch Graves, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Pohlman, Pesce, Person, Graves, Dickson

### CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & UPDATE:

Dana Jeanes

Acknowledged receipt of Certified Copies of City Council Resolutions dated November 12, 2024, Items 22 through 43, with Same Night Minutes approved for Items 23, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43.

### PRESENTATIONS:

#### United Way Golf Tournament Check Presentation - Ryan Groves and Josh Davis

Mr. Ryan Groves along with Mr. Josh Davis, Co-chairs of the United Way Golf Tournament, provided details regarding the success of the 2024 United Way Golf Tournament that took place on Friday, October 18, 2024, at the Glen Eagle Golf Course in Millington, Tennessee. Mr. Groves reported that there were over 120 golfers and 24 sponsors that contributed or participated in the golf tournament. Mr. Groves recognized Mr. Josh Davis and Jasmine Boone and her team for all the work they put in behind the

scene. Mr. Groves recognized Ms. Lisa Pratt of the LGW Credit Union who have been our title sponsor the last 10 years, and always gives us golf bags for the golf tournament and goody bags. Mr. Groves also mentioned our partners at TVA that participated in the event and made a large donation. Mr. Groves thanked Terica Lamb, Jimmy Allen and Mark Creech of TVA for all their support. Mr. Groves also thanked the LGW Credit Union for their support. United Way Representatives Ms. Regina Holland and Jarvis Harris were in attendance. Mr. Groves presented to Ms. Holland and Mr. Harris a check for the funds that were raised in the amount of \$44,000.00.

**GENERAL STATEMENT(S) FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Chairman Dickson read into record the policy and procedures for making public comments before the Board.

Joe B. Kent - 5111 Flamingo - Mr. Kent compared the MLGW Board to the MATA Board as he stated they did not ask question about the exploding Capital Budget for 2025. Mr. Kent made comments about the supposed Capital Underspend that has contributed to the grid under performance. Mr. Kent stated that he believes the tree trimming cost should be coming down and stated that the tree trimming company(s) have been to his home three times. Mr. Kent hopes that the December Monthly Financial Statement won't be held. Mr. Kent stated that he is an Operating Conspiracy Theorist and suggested people check out his blog.

Chet Kibble - 3229 Lakeview Road - Director of the Memphis and Shelby County Lead Safe Collaborative - Mr. Kibble stated that he was excited about all the improvements MLGW is making as far as addressing our lead water lines. Mr. Kibble also apologized for missing a meeting that Mr. McGowen had invited him to. Mr. Kibble said as long as he has been asking for a meeting, and he missed it. He apologized and said that was on him. Mr. Kibble stressed about getting information out to the people that if any work is done or if the lead service lines are disturbed in any way, lead can be released, as well as provide them with precautions that they can take. Mr. Kibble also discussed the work MLGW is doing as far as the filter program, but he noted that wasn't solely the responsibility of MLGW and urged that we get the City Council and Shelby County Government involved in that. Mr. Kibble provided the Board with some letters from him providing additional recommendations. Mr. Kibble stated that the communication with MLGW has improved and he hopes that continues.

Scott Schoefnacker - 2159 Riverdale Road - Science Director of Protect Our Aquifer and the Former Associate Director of Water Resources for the University of Memphis Caesar. Mr. Schoefnacker stated that it has been a year and a half since the beginning of the Aquifer II Study which is a five (5) year \$9.75 million research project that continues the work of the initial aquifer study which should have spent \$3 million by now in ratepayer and Federal ARP Funds. Mr. Schoefnacker stated that we do not have an idea of the ongoing projects, their status or initial findings. Mr. Schoefnacker stated that he was the primary lead in the 1st Aquifer Study and understand the

importance of the data and sensitivity of this information as well. Mr. Schoefernacker applauded the implementation of the Technical Advisory Group, but stated that the public has not heard about any of their meetings, nor recommendations about the direction of the research. Mr. Schoefernacker asked why are status reports not online, how is MLGW using the findings as we begin major capital investments including well placement and depth, how is the information being conveyed to TDEC, how is the Health Department and Groundwater Board being informed so they can make better decisions. Mr. Schoefernacker shared information regarding the current wellfields in Shelby County. Mr. Schoefernacker requested that MLGW continue to push themselves to schedule regular updates on the current aquifer study and reach out and engage with local nonprofits and private firms.

KeShaun Pearson - 3831 Masterson Road - Board Member of Protect Our Aquifer and President of Memphis Community Against Pollution - Mr. Pearson requested more transparency about what MLGW is doing with the data they are collecting from the aquifer study. Mr. Pearson stated that the people in South Memphis are fearful that they are drinking contaminated water, and those fears should be quelled with data driven information and insight from the resource and the folks that provide the water to us which is MLGW. Mr. Pearson stated that Memphis Community Against Pollution is asking for Community Meetings that will assist in providing education and information to our community to quell those fears. Mr. Pearson stated that transparency is required for trust, and that is all our community is asking for.

**Review Consent Agenda – President Doug McGowen**

The original of the resolutions and documents relating to each item is filed in the vault of the fifth floor of the MLGW Administration Building, 220 South Main. The original documents shall control in the event of any conflict between the description and these minutes and the original documents.

(President’s Briefing Continued on Page 149)

**CONSENT AGENDA**  
(Items 1 through 21)

**Motion To:** Approve Consent Agenda Items 1 through 21.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cheryl Pesce, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mitch Graves, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Pohlman, Pesce, Person, Graves, Dickson

Advisory Board Member Lewellen – Concurs

Advisory Board Member Butler – Concurs

Commissioner Person requested that our policy be changed so that the Board does not need to approve Bid Rejections.

1. Resolution appointing Matthew A. Johnson, CPA, as Citizen Member of the Retirement and Pension Board, term beginning December 15, 2024, and term ending on December 14, 2027. (Doug McGowen)
2. Resolution approving Change No. 1 to Contract No. 12405 (solicited under Contract No. 12346), MLGW Utility Relocations for Street Improvement Project (Water) to Gresham Smith to ratify and renew the current contract with no increase in the contract value. (Randy Orsby)
3. Resolution approving Change No. 1 to Contract No. 12404 (solicited under Contract No. 12346), MLGW Utility Relocations for Street Improvement Project (Gas) to Gresham Smith to ratify and renew the current contract with no increase in the contract value. (Randy Orsby)
4. Resolution approving Change No. 1 to Contract No. 12399 (solicited under Contract No. 12346), MLGW Utility Relocations for Street Improvement Project (Electric) to Gresham Smith to ratify and renew the current contract with no increase in the contract value. (Randy Orsby)
5. Resolution approving Change No. 4 to Contract No. 12154, Surveying Services with Ollar Surveying Company, LLC to renew the current contract in the funded amount of \$172,354.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
6. Resolution approving a two-month extension of purchase order number 7008922 with Memphis Ready Mix for concrete until January 31, 2025 or until a new purchase order has been executed. (Randy Orsby)
7. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12513, Water E and O Generator Maintenance and Repair to Thompson Machinery Commerce Corporation in the funded amount of \$437,429.49. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
8. Resolution approving Change No. 2 to Contract No. 12424, Water Well Production Drilling with National Water Services, LLC to renew the current contract in the funded amount of \$13,342,729.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
9. Resolution approving Change No. 11 to Contract No. 11293, Procurement Card Provider with First Horizon Bank to extend the current contract with no annual fees. (Randy Orsby)
10. Resolution approving Change No. 1 to Contract No. 12470 (solicited under Contract No. 12433), Professional Services IS/IT with Vaco to renew the current contract in the

- funded amount of \$2,759,533.20. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
11. Resolution approving Change No. 1 to Contract No. 12469 (solicited under Contract No. 12433), Professional Services IS/IT, with TEKsystems, to renew the current contract with no increase in the contract value. (Randy Orsby)
  12. Resolution approving Change No. 1 to Contract No. 12468 (solicited under Contract No. 12433), Professional Services IS/IT, with Stragistics Technology, Inc., to renew the current contract in the funded amount of \$3,065,318.80. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
  13. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12511, PureStorage Hard-Drives and Support to Thomas Gallaway Corporation dba Technologent in the funded amount of \$969,528.92. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
  14. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12499, Enterprise Unified Computing System (UCS) to Logicalis, Inc. in the funded amount of \$392,806.56. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
  15. Resolution approving the ratification of Purchase Order Number 7062097 to Lonnie Cobb Ford LLC for three-quarter ton trucks with utility beds in the amount of \$578,910.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
  16. Resolution awarding purchase order to Williams Equipment and Supply Company for skid steers with attachments in the amount of \$279,988.66. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
  17. Resolution awarding purchase order to Vermeer Midsouth, Inc. for the purchase of a concrete cutting machine in the amount of \$423,311.18. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
  18. Resolution rejecting bids received up to 4 o'clock p.m., Tuesday, August 13, 2024 for three-fourth ton trucks with service bodies. (Randy Orsby)
  19. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12557, Audit Workpaper Management Solution (solicited under Contract No. C2653) to Wolters Kluwer Financial Services, Inc. in the funded not-to-exceed amount of \$235,000.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
  20. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12485, Group Life Insurance to Unum Life Insurance Company of America in the funded not-to-exceed amount of \$17,966,337.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)

21. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12486, Short and Long-Term Disability to Unum Life Insurance Company of America in the funded not-to-exceed amount of \$21,707,424.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL) .

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****HR Committee 3rd Quarter Report - Bettye Hartwell**

Ms. Bettye Hartwell - VP and Chief People Officer - Ms. Hartwell reported to the Board a 3rd Quarter HR Committee Report. Ms. Hartwell reported that there have been continuous improvements in the HR Arena. Ms. Hartwell reported that Talent Acquisition was challenged to fill 500 jobs this year and to-date, we have filled 577 jobs, and that number will increase as we have one more orientation happening next week. Ms. Hartwell reported that in the LEDI Department, when she first came to MLGW, we had 262 grievances, and we are currently at 50 active grievances. Ms. Hartwell stated that the reduction was due to collaborating with the Union and our HR Business Partners. Ms. Hartwell stated that the HR Business Partners go out in the division and collaborate with the leaders to try and resolve issues before it gets raised to an actual grievance. Ms. Hartwell also reported that Employee Services helps us with our investigations, and we now average 22 days to resolve investigations. Ms. Hartwell stated that as far as our Insurance Department, we have not had a premium increase and we have a new wellness program with 60% participation. Ms. Hartwell stated that we are continuously approving how we get total involvement with our employees. Ms. Hartwell also mentioned our HPPD Department which is our Human Development and in this department we have boots camps, internships, and we have collaborated with high schools and middle schools to develop our community. We are also looking at developing our folks internally to provide training to help recruit and fill our positions.

**PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING****Other - Doug McGowen**

President McGowen thanked the HR Team for the great job they were doing.

President McGowen reported the Budget was not discussed at the last City Council meeting due to the City Council running out of time, so there will be a meeting on Monday, November 25, 2024, at City Council Committee Room from 3- 5 to discuss the Budget.

President McGowen mentioned the Aquifer Study and he did confirm that it is time to provide an update on the findings. President McGowen thanked the speakers for that reminder. President McGowen also stated that the Aquifer II study is equally paid for by the City of Memphis and Memphis Light, Gas & Water.

Commissioner Graves stated that he felt like the request was for an update, but also an action plan. President McGowen stated that we could talk about that some as well.

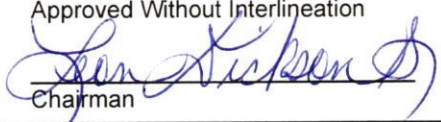
President McGowen reported that as for the new well sites, our team actively investigates areas for potential contamination and moves our well sites to areas where they know there is none known. President McGowen reported that we are not just doing the study and ignoring it, but we are actually utilizing and taking action.

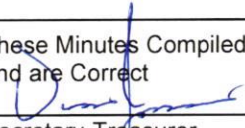
President McGowen stated that public comments noted some concern regarding the safety of the water. President McGowen reported that our water is safe for everybody who receives water from Memphis Light, Gas and Water. President McGowen provided additional information regarding the test and precautions that are taken.

Advisory Board Leader Butler thanked MLGW and the City of Memphis for taking on the cost and being a thought leader in the Aquifer Study.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Approved Without Interlineation  
  
Chairman

These Minutes Compiled by Undersigned  
and are Correct  
  
Secretary-Treasurer