



OUR MISSION is to improve,
modernize and maintain the
street lighting system in Detroit.

PUBLIC LIGHTING AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Special Meeting
Via Uber Conference
October 28, 2020

Board Member(s) in Attendance

Dr. Lorna Thomas, Chair
Patrick Padgett, Secretary
Rod Parker, Treasurer
Ric Preuss
Beau Taylor, Executive Director

Resolution:

Resolution 2020-04
Resolution 2020-05

Motions Carried/Failed:

Resolution 2020-04 Carried
Resolution 2020-05 Carried

Board Member(s) Absent

Melvin Butch Hollowell

Legal Representative(s)

George Pitchford

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Board Meeting of the Public Lighting Authority (PLA) was held on October 28, 2020 via Uber Conference. Dr. Lorna Thomas, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

MEETING UPDATE

George Pitchford, Legal Representative begins by stating that we were made aware that members of the public may have had a problem with participating at the last meeting due to the technology piece. As the Board Members know, it has been a priority to ensure during this time of COVID, these virtual meetings are conducted in such a way the public still has access to participation and to hear the meeting. So with that in mind the focus of today's meeting will be a discussion and affirmation of what took place at the October 21, 2020 Special Meeting, so that the public who may want to participate can do so. In addition, with the current state with the law and what is going on, one of our recommendations for this meeting is that when we do the roll call, all Board members identify that they are participating in this meeting virtually and that they confirm what City and State they are calling from, and that the same be recorded in the meeting minutes. George Pitchford then turns the meeting back over to Dr. Thomas.

Due to technology issues, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting until 2:20 p.m.

Motion By: Patrick Padgett

Seconded By: Ric Preuss

Motion Carried

Motion to reconvene meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Motion By: Rod Parker

Seconded By: Ric Preuss

Motion carried.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members confirm they were participating virtually at this meeting:

Patrick Padgett, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Lorna Thomas, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Ric Preuss, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Rod Parker, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

Melvin Butch Hollowell, Absent

Others in attendance included Beau Taylor, Executive Director and Legal Representative George Pitchford.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve agenda by: Ric Preuss.

Motion seconded by: Rod Parker.

Motion Carried

DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEM(S)

- a. Discussion regarding the August 21, 2020 and October 5, 2020 Board Meeting minutes.

Dr. Thomas states the Board will affirm the vote for discussion items taken on October 5th. She then asks George Pitchford for procedural direction with this matter. George suggests we go through each discussion item on the agenda or ask for further discussion and then take action.

Dr. Thomas then asks if there are any discussion regarding this item. Hearing none, Dr. Thomas asks for a motion to affirm October 5, 2020 vote to approve.

Motion made to affirm votes by: Patrick Padgett

Motion seconded by: Rod Parker

Motion carried.

- b. Discussion regarding the affirmation of adoption of Resolution 2020-04 (Acceptance of Audit)

Dr. Thomas asks if there is any discussion regarding this Resolution. Hearing none, Dr. Thomas asks for a motion to affirm October 5, 2020 vote to approve.

Motion made to affirm vote by: Patrick Padgett

Motion seconded by: Ric Preuss

Motion carried.

- c. Discussion regarding the affirmation of adoption of Resolution 2020-05 (Approval of Contract for Operations & Maintenance Services with Harlan Electric Company and Universal Contracting Services)

Dr. Thomas asks if there is any discussion regarding this Resolution.

George Pitchford states there was an amendment to the motion to include the requirement of selected vendors to provide audited financial statements annually to the Board.

Dr. Thomas agrees the motion was made by Mr. Parker and approved on October 5, 2020 and asks if there is any further discussion. Hearing none, Dr. Thomas asks for the affirmation of the adoption of Resolution 2020-05 as amended to include audited financial statements.

George Pitchford reminds Dr. Thomas that these should have been roll call votes. Dr. Thomas then asks for a roll call vote on this motion:

Motion to affirm adoption of Resolution 2020-05 as amended by: Patrick Padgett.

Motion seconded by: Rod Parker.

Patrick Padgett – Aye

Rod Parker – Aye

Ric Preuss – Aye

Lorna Thomas – Aye

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Adams, Attorney for Stateline Construction and Maintenance participating virtually, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, states this meeting is procedurally defective. He states he has formally submitted to the Board a bid protest sent more than 3 weeks ago and would like to understand from the Authority's perspective what is the process for a bid protest. He states PLA counsel indicated there was none, which he asserts is violation of state law. He also states that in reviewing the Authority's audited financial statements, it indicated the lighting system had been performing almost at 99%. He noted that his client, a minority, Detroit-based company, with a substantial Detroit workforce presence, had been performing maintenance on PLA's system for the past 3 years. He finds it interesting under PLA's own policy, Detroit based companies that employ substantial minorities and Detroit based residents would be given some level of preference but appears that no preference was given to his client. Without access to scoring matrix used by the Authority, he believes there is some level of chicanery going on. He also states that after 3 attempts to pass this contract, PLA still failed to meet the requirements of state law with respect to approving a contract and believes given these repeated instances to "get it right", that you have not gotten it right; and asks for a meeting with the Authority to discuss the issues laid out in their bid protest and awaits PLA's response.

Dr. Thomas then asks if anyone else would like to give public comment. George Pitchford then asks is there any indication that anyone else is waiting to make public comment. Marie Brown indicates there is no one else waiting to make a comment.

Dr. Thomas asks for the Board's indulgence regarding the accusation of impropriety. Then she polls the Board members if they are satisfied with these proceedings of this meeting. All individual Board members affirm they are satisfied with the proceedings and had an adequate opportunity to ask questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by: Patrick Padgett

Seconded by: Rod Parker

Motion Carried

Dr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

