

**PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

**127 Roosevelt Avenue  
Plainfield, New Jersey**

**I. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW (STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE)**

Commissioner Edghill, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. by reading the Statement of Compliance.

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**III. ROLL CALL**

**Present**

Commissioner Robin Bright  
Commissioner Miguel Edghill  
Commissioner Michelle Graham-Lyons  
Commissioner Henry V. Robinson  
Alt. #2 Commissioner Ron Scott Bey

**Also Present**

Mr. Eric E. Jackson, Executive Director  
Ms. Beverly Morris-Gill, Deputy Director/ CFO  
Mr. Kevin Conti, Board Attorney  
Mrs. Roslyn Mathis, Recording Secretary  
Staff and Public

Commissioner Pedro Estevez  
Alt. #1 Commissioner Marleen Powell

Excused  
Excused

Chairman Edghill advised tomorrow will be a day of recognition of those who lost their lives on 9/11 and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who gave their lives.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 18, 2019, Joint Committee/Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Session.** Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the August 18, 2019 Joint Committee/Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Session, seconded by Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE**

**August 18, 2019 Combined Committee/Regular Meeting  
Minutes and Executive Session**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

Executive Director Jackson advised communications will be addressed in the Executive Director’s Report.

**VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

- Finance Committee

Ms. Beverly Morris-Gill, Deputy Director/ CFO, reported the Finance Committee met briefly today and discussed expenses for the League of Municipalities, waste composition analysis, and an efficiency study. The Committee also discussed the formulation of the budget, which will be starting in about two weeks, and the second quarterly compilation that was distributed last week. Ms. Morris-Gill pointed out that, despite the rising disposal costs, PMUA ended the quarter in a positive position for both sewer and solid waste operations, but indicated the third quarter results might be a little bit more reflective of the rising costs. Deputy Director Morris-Gill reported there still is no update regarding the State Comptroller’s Office; however, they did advise the report was submitted for Quality Control review.

- Personnel Committee

Executive Director Jackson reported the Personnel Committee met on September 5<sup>th</sup> and discussed the Board of Commissioners’ Retreat that is to be held on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. More details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Executive Director Jackson reported the Committee also discussed the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local 97, personnel actions by way of new hires and terminations during the second quarter, and other staffing concerns.

- Buildings & Operations Committee

Executive Director Jackson reported the Buildings & Operations Committee did not meet this month but will meet in October.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Jackson reported he received a request from Plainfield City Council President, Ms. Joylette Mills-Ransome, to provide an update on the status of PMUA to the Council on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. He recommended that all members of the Board attend together with the administration. Executive Director Jackson advised the Board he will discuss issues he plans to address in the status update as well as topics the Council President suggested be reviewed, and he would also entertain suggestions from the Board.

Executive Director Jackson reported under new business that PMUA staff has partnered with the Mayor and staff of City Hall to donate and send water to the City of Newark. They delivered a couple of pallets of water from PMUA staff and vendors.

Executive Director Jackson reported he has had discussions regarding operational concerns: the first pertaining to co-mingling of recycling and missed stops, and, secondly, frequent delayed route collections -- that were picked up the next day. These issues have been addressed and the administration has a resolution in place.

Executive Director Jackson reported Michael Minor, Fleet Maintenance Manager, gave a presentation on PMUA's preventive maintenance program for the fleet that will help address concerns expressed by the Board and the community.

Commissioner Bright mentioned that Commissioner Robinson had suggested in reference to the fleet, that they have a night crew that would do maintenance, and asked whether that is being considered. Executive Director Jackson responded the administration is studying how the suggestion can be implemented within the budget.

Commissioner Bright also asked when the City has a special event -- who is responsible for the cleanup afterwards. Executive Director Jackson responded that the Plainfield Department of Public Works is responsible for clean-up. If it's a community event, the City will ask PMUA to partner with it. Commissioner Bright advised there is a misconception that after a special event in the City the onus is on PMUA to perform the clean-up. Executive Director Jackson reiterated the clean-up is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works.

Commissioner Robinson asked with regard to missed and delayed pickups how many drivers does PMUA have for the packer trucks. Executive Director Jackson responded PMUA hired two additional drivers and four laborers for a total of six; that subject was discussed at the Personnel Committee, and he will make the information available to the Board. Commissioner Robinson inquired how many trucks are on the street on a given day and Executive Director Jackson responded that varies.

Commissioner Graham-Lyons inquired as to what has contributed to the fleet's reliability. Executive Director Jackson responded one reason is having more dialogue with PMUA's vendors resulting in the turn-around for repairs being on a more aggressive schedule. Michael Minor, at the Committee Meeting, talked about what his department is doing proactively regarding their maintenance schedule.

Commissioner Robinson emphasized the pre- and post- inspection checks are important. When they are in an accident on the road, the first question is going to be whether pre- and post-inspections were performed.

Commissioner Bright inquired whether the contract with the Plainfield School Board has been renewed. Executive Director Jackson responded the contract has not expired. He indicated the relationship with the School Board is solid and the parties are looking to continue the partnership. He is scheduled to meet with the Superintendent on the 18<sup>th</sup> to see how PMUA can enhance the services to the School Board.

Executive Director Jackson advised the Board that PMUA received a letter from the Association of Environmental Authorities requesting a call to action on legislative bills S3870 and A5391 that would change the impact in public involvement and ratepayer rates associated with the sale of sanitary sewer systems. Resolutions were distributed in the Board packets and letters were also sent to Mayor Mapp, Assemblywoman Carter and Senator Scutari.

Executive Director Jackson reported there was an update presentation on the Material Recovery Facility given by CME Associates that resulted in a proposal that was sent to the Commissioners today. He advised Commissioner Robinson had asked, for comparison purposes, that the Plexus proposal be also redistributed.

Executive Director Jackson remarked on the NJDEP Notice of Violation and assessed penalty for the Transfer Station; indicating PMUA is still awaiting a response to its hearing request.

The Executive Director also indicated regarding the Muhlenberg Development Project that he anticipates having an update to the Board later this month. In addition the PMUA Board had a comprehensive update from Raj Patel and David Ervin on the status of the GIS project at last week's Committee meeting.

Lastly, on the Environmental Fair, the Executive Director thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support as it was a huge success, and also publicly thanked the public, Darius Griffin, and all of the staff who made the event such an outstanding success. The Chairman and the Commissioners concurred with the Executive Director’s comments and shared their own views regarding the event. Executive Director Jackson shared a letter of thanks he wrote to PMUA staff and indicated the Commissioners will be sent a copy. The Chairman advised how proud he was that the Environmental Fair Committee did such an outstanding job securing the funds for the event without coming to the Board.

**A. Attorney’s Report**

Mr. Conti, Board Attorney, advised he had nothing in addition to report beyond what was discussed in closed session at last week’s meeting. He added that the DEP had indicated to him that it is going to be reaching out to PMUA to set up a dispute resolution on another matter, which will most likely yield a similar outcome as to the despite resolution being ratified this evening.

**B. Administration**

Mr. Conti presented **Resolution No. 75-2019 in opposition to Senate Bill 3870 and Assembly Bill 5391 on the Sale of Publicly-Owned Sanitary Sewer Systems**. Commissioner Robinson moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE**

**Resolution #75-2019 Bills 3870 and 5391**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

Mr. Conti presented **Resolution No. 81-2019, approving terms of settlement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**, moved by Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey, and seconded by Commissioner Bright. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE****Resolution #81-2019 Settlement with NJDEP**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

**C. Finance Report**

Mr. Conti presented **Resolution No. 76-2019 authorizing approval of bills list**, moved by Commissioner Robinson, and seconded by Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE****Resolution #76-2019 Bills List**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

**D. Purchasing Department**

Mr. Conti presented **Resolution No. 77-2019, authorizing the award of a contract to National Auto Fleet Group for the purchase of one new Mack Tractor through the Sourcewell National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement**, moved by Commissioner Robinson, and seconded by Commissioner Bright. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE                      Resolution #77-2019 National Auto Fleet Group**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

Mr. Conti presented **Resolution No. 78-2019, authorizing financing through a lease/purchase arrangement with Signature Public Funding Corp. for one tractor from National Auto Fleet**, moved by Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey, and seconded by Commissioner Bright, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE                      Resolution #78-2019 Signature Bank**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

Mr. Conti presented **Resolution No. 79-2019, authorizing a lease/purchase financing with Leasing 2, Inc. for two 28-yard Rear Loaders procured through a National Cooperative Purchasing contract.** Commissioner Bright asked if the question the Commissioners expressed at the Committee Meeting had been answered and Mr. Conti responded that an e-mail had been sent to the administration today addressing the question. After discussion, Commissioner Robinson moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE Resolution #79-2019 Leasing 2, Inc.**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

Mr. Conti presented **Resolution No. 80-2019, authorizing the award and execution of a contract for towing services,** moved by Commissioner Robinson for approval of the resolution, seconded by Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

**RECORDED VOTE Resolution #80-2019 Tumino's Towing**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Robin Bright	X				
Miguel Edghill	X				
Pedro Estevez					X
Michelle Graham-Lyons	X				
Henry V. Robinson	X				
<b><u>Alternate #1</u></b> Marleen Powell					X
<b><u>Alternate #2</u></b> Ron Scott Bey	X				

Chairman Edghill advised the Commissioners and the administration have had conversations about the fleet and the availability of the fleet that affects pickups. These resolutions today show PMUA is serious about resolving these issues and he commended the administration and Buildings & Operations Committee for addressing this serious situation. Executive Director Jackson responded they will see it get better and better.

### **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Bright advised the Board in public comment that, at a City Council Meeting she attended, someone spoke about when new residents move into town they often don't know to come to PMUA to secure service and obtain garbage carts. Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey advised part of the issue was they may stop by the PMUA, but if don't have their property deed on them as proof of home ownership, they cannot enroll. PMUA currently is not included in a property closing, and maybe that can be changed so that residents don't have to present a deed. Commissioner Bright said that was one of the highlighted problems, but the main concern was they don't know to come to PMUA, in the same way they go to PSEG. Sometimes the cans are left at the property and they just use them. Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey advised the old owner continues to get the bill. Commissioner Bright said they don't realize they have to come to PMUA and put it in their name until a sewer bill is sent to them. The person with the concern asked that the City, when they get the certificate of occupancy, put a notice pertaining to PMUA, and Commissioner Bright advised PMUA needs to provide the City with a form of notice. Executive Director Jackson advised PMUA could provide information in the development package for when the certificate of occupancy is issued. Deputy Executive Director Morris-Gill agreed with including information with the certificate of occupancy and explained what PMUA's process is when a house is sold and how the billing is handled.

### **X. PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Edghill advised they have come to the Public Hearing segment of the meeting; members of the public are encouraged to address the Board; please stand, give your name and address and you will be given three minutes to do so.

Sabine Sabio, 1443 Francis Lane. Ms. Sabio expressed a concern regarding garbage pickup and recycling pickup on her block. Why is she recycling if everything is going in the same truck. She also complained about her neighbors not using the correct cans. Executive Director Jackson stated that Ms. Sabio had expressed these concerns with him previously and he had encouraged her to share them with the Board. He also reassured her that new procedures had been put in place and these issues will be resolved.

Chairman Edghill thanked Ms. Sabio on behalf of the Board for her feedback.

There wasn't a need for an Executive Session, so the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alternate Commissioner Scott Bey moved, seconded by Commissioner Robinson and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Recorded by:

Roslyn Mathis, Recording Secretary



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**COMMISSIONER ROBIN C. BRIGHT**  
**BOARD SECRETARY**

**SEAL**