



# 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, September 6, 2023

8:30 AM

Board Room

### CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS:

Vice Chairman Pohlman

The meeting was called to order at 8:21 a.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chairman Pohlman

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	Absent	

Advisory Board Member - James Lewellen - Present

Advisory Board Member - John Butler - Present

### APPROVALS:

Motion To: Approve Minutes from the Meeting of August 16, 2023.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Mitch Graves, Board Member  
**SECONDER:** Cheryl Pesce, Board Member  
**AYES:** Michael Pohlman, Cheryl Pesce, Carl Person, Mitch Graves  
**ABSENT:** Leon Dickson

### CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & UPDATE:

Dana Jeanes

Receipt of Certified Copies of City Council Resolutions dated August 22, 2023, Items 13 through 18 with Same Night Minutes on Item #14. (See Minutes File No. 1485)

### PRESENTATIONS:

Weather Patterns in Shelby County - Daron Jones, Meteorologist-In-Charge, National Weather Service

Daron Jones of the National Weather Service presented to the Board the 2023 Severe Weather Highlights in Shelby County, Tennessee. Mr. Jones noted all the weather events that have taken place between June and August 2023. Mr. Jones discussed why we have had these weather events, including explanation of El Nino and La Nina weather patterns. He stated that the transition from a La Nina to a strong El Nino weather pattern happened this summer thus the reason for all the storms. Mr. Jones provided weather radar from the summer storms provided detailed information associated with each. Mr. Jones says to prepare for some ice storms this winter.

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

(None)

**PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING**

**Review of 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 87)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(Items 1 through 4)

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

**VP of CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE and ENERGY SERVICES**

(None)

**CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

(None)

**COMMUNITY & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

(None)

**DESIGN CONSTRUCTION & DELIVERY**

(None)

**ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS**

1. Resolution approving it ratify the emergency award of Contract No. 12422, 115 KV Transmission Pipeline Corrosion and Leak Repair (Emergency) to W.A. Chester, LLC based on agreed upon rates in the not-to-exceed amount of \$350,000.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)

**PRESIDENT**

2. Resolution rescinding the current approval process for unbudgeted positions and grant the President flexibility in making position adjustments as needed to the Division complement, within the context of the approved Budget. (Doug McGowen)

**SVP, CFO & CAO, FINANCE**

(None)

**SVP, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

(None)

**SHARED SERVICES**

(None)

**VP & GENERAL COUNSEL**

(None)

**CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER**

3. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12418, Combined Medical and Pharmacy to Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, in the funded amount of \$279,847,772.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
4. Resolution awarding Contract No. 12427, Dental Insurance Coverage to Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company in the funded amount of \$8,176,110.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)

**PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING CONTINUED****5. 2nd Quarter Insurance Report - Marcus Tate**

Marcus Tate, Manager of Benefits and Pension, presented to the Board the 2nd Quarter Insurance Report. Mr. Tate discussed the 2nd Quarter Annual Medical Cost, Annual Prescription Claim Cost, Medical Claims Experience, Prescription Claims Experience, Enrollment History, and Key Performance Indicators. Mr. Tate stated our enrollment is down, but that the Human Resources Department is working diligently to fill open positions. Mr. Tate also mentioned that our onsite biometrics screening increased to fifty-five percent due to overhauling the wellness benefit platform making it easier to enroll and participate.

**6. Other - Doug McGowen**

President McGowen called Mrs. Jackie Jones to the podium to give an update on the bootcamp program and dual enrollment program that we are now offering to high school students.

Mrs. Jackie Jones stated that we had 21 students participate in the bootcamp over the Summer. 11 out of those 21 students passed our entry level testing so all they would need to do once they graduate is to go through the Utility Worker Program at Southwest Community College. We are working with Southwest Community College to save some spots for the Seniors that completed that program. Mrs. Jones also reported that we have also started the dual enrollment program. 16 students at Whitehaven High School are enrolled in the program, three of which are females, so we are excited about that. They are taking their first class which is Introduction to Electrical/Electronic technology.

President McGowen mentioned that these programs were developed quickly. They were first talked about in April and by June we had a bootcamp program in place and a dual enrollment program in place in August. We are now looking into programs for mechanics as we are having issues hiring qualified mechanics. The Transportation Department is working with the schools to develop some programs for mechanics.

**7. Tree Trimming Update - Doug McGowen**

President McGowen stated that we are focused on reliability and resilience, are committed to making our system more reliable and resilient by a three-part approach, trimming trees, replacing outdated infrastructure bringing it to a modern construction standard, and modernizing distribution grid. President McGowen stated that today he wanted to talk about tree trimming.

President McGowen stated that back in January we did an assessment on our previous tree trimming vendor. It was discovered that they had not come close to their goal, so a decision was made to terminate that agreement and get an RFP out to bid some more contractors. We now have three new contractors and they have double the number of crews that the previous contractor had. President McGowen stated that trees are our number one source of outages. President McGowen confirmed that the previous contractor was only paid for the work they completed and we still have the balance of those funds to pay our new contractors. President McGowen discussed the new vendors, what areas they have been assigned to and why. President McGowen stated that our next goal will be to work on scheduling so we can let the community know when we are coming to their area. There may be times that power may need to be cut to trim the trees, and our team is working to ensure information is provided to customers regarding tree trimming and power outages ahead of time. President McGowen provided information as to the areas and goals they are working on next, and also stated that we will be tracking their progress similar to how we are tracking our LED street light conversion so people can track online. President McGowen assured the Board that we are working to get communication to our customers about when we are coming to their area and precautions they may want to take. President McGowen

stated that our workers will also be going door-to-door to notify our customers especially when we will need to cut power.


President McGowen stated that we have route clearance limits and guidance. We are still working on the Dangerous Tree Ordinance such that we can order a homeowner to remove a damaged or compromised tree and a program that will assist people that cannot afford to have it removed. President McGowen stated that he is working to get that to City Council this year and has been working with Public Works as to how they might help us enforce that ordinance.


**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

(None)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m. (See Minute File No. 1486)

Approved Without Interlineation  
  
Chairman

These Minutes Compiled by Undersigned  
and are Correct  
  
Secretary-Treasurer

