

# Board of Light, Gas and Water Commissioners 220 S. Main Street Memphis, TN 38103

# **Board Meeting**

www.mlgw.com

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

8:30 AM

**Board Room** 

For a recording of this meeting visit: <a href="https://mlgw.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx">https://mlgw.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx</a>

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS:

Chairman Pohlman

The Meeting was called to order 8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Pohlman

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL:** 

Rodney Cleek

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Pohlman	Chairman	Present	
Cheryl Pesce	Board Member	Present	
Carl Person	Vice Chairman	Present	
Mitch Graves	Board Member	Present	
Leon Dickson	Board Member	Present	
James Lewellen	Advisory Board Member	Present	
John Butler	Advisory Board Member	Late	8:34 AM

APPROVALS: Chairman Pohlman

Motion To: Approve Minutes from the Meeting of September 3, 2025.

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Mitch Graves, Board Member SECONDER: Leon Dickson, Board Member

AYES: Pohlman, Pesce, Person, Graves, Dickson

CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & UPDATE:

Rodney Cleek

Acknowledged receipt of Certified Copies of City Council Resolutions dated September 9, 2025, Items 12 through 21, with Same Night Minutes approved for Item 20. (See Minute File No. 1509)

PRESENTATIONS:

(None)

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

<u>Chairman Pohlman</u> read into record the policies and procedures for making public comments.

Sarah Houston - 200 Wagner Place - Protect Our Aquifer - Mrs. Houston shared with the Board that MLGW's Kimberly Griswold is now the Chair of the Shelby County Groundwater Board and that the well fees, permit fees, and application fees have officially been updated. Ms. Houston spoke of the long process it has been to get those fees update and noted potential increase of revenue for the Health Department because of these updated fees. Mrs. Houston discussed water rate fees that are charged by MLGW for both commercial and residential customers. Ms. Houston also mentioned what other local municipalities are charging, specifically those charged to residential customers. Mrs. Houston asked the Board to look into these water fees before the approval of the 2026 Budget.

<u>Chairman Pohlman</u> recognized City Councilman Spinoza for being in attendance of the Board Meeting.

Glenda Hicks - 608 Gilleas - Co-Founder of 21st Century Memphis or Bust - Ms. Hicks appeared before the Board to express her concerns regarding Item #1 on the Agenda. Ms. Hick stated that there are still major billing issues, and thought that correcting those billing issues should be the main concern of MLGW and not purchasing a new building. Ms. Hick stated most of the people her group speaks with feel like they don't have a choice when it comes to billing issues with MLGW. Ms. Hicks stated that since we are a publicly owned utility company that we should want to take care of the billing issues the public is experiencing.

# Review Regular and 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 92)

## REGULAR AGENDA

(Item 1)

Motion To: Approve Regular Agenda Item 1.

**RESULT:** 

APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Cheryl Pesce, Board Member

SECONDER: Carl Person, Vice Chairman

AYES:

Pohlman, Pesce, Person, Graves, Dickson

Advisory Board Member James Lewellen - Concurs

Advisory Board Member John Butler - Concurs

Motion To: Approve Same Day Minutes for Regular Agenda Item 1

**RESULT:** 

APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Mitch Graves, Board Member

SECONDER: Cheryl Pesce, Board Memeber

AYES:

Pohlman, Pesce, Person, Graves, Dickson

Resolution recommending and authorizing the purchase of 7135 Goodlett Farms Parkway, Cordova, Shelby County, Tennessee, to establish a multi-functional Control Room, for and in consideration of an amount not to exceed \$31,400,000.00. (Doug McGowen) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

(Items 2 through 14)

Motion To: Amend Item #9 - Bank Account Authorized Signers

RESULT:

ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Mitch Graves. Board Member

SECONDER: Cheryl Pesce, Board Member

AYES:

Pohlman, Pesce, Person, Graves, Dickson

Motion To: Approve Consent Agenda Items 2 through 14

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Mitch Graves, Board Member

SECONDER: Carl Person, Vice Chairman

AYES: Pohlman, Pesce, Person, Graves, Dickson

Advisory Board Member James Lewellen - Concurs

Advisory Board Member John Butler - Concurs

Commissioners had opportunity to ask questions.

- Resolution awarding Contract No. 12562, In-Service Wood Pole Truss Restoration System to Osmose, Inc. Utility Services in the funded amount of \$7,006,398.86. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- 3. Resolution awarding purchase order for fiber optic material to ATG Supply, LLC in the amount of \$352,945.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- 4. Resolution awarding sixty-month purchase order for batteries, racks, and chargers to Saft America, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,500,000.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- Resolution awarding sixty-month purchase orders for power transformers to Prolec-GE Waukesha, Inc. and Hitachi Energy as primary partners, and to Pennsylvania Transformer Technology as an emergency partner in an amount not-to-exceed \$112,000,000.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- Resolution approving Change No. 4 to Contract No. 12247, Gas Transmission Rightsof-Way (ROW) Mowing and Tree Trimming with ABC Professional Tree Services, Inc. to ratify and renew the current contract with no increase in the contract value. (Randy Orsby)
- Resolution approving Ratification and Renewal (Change No. 3) to Contract No. 12568 (formerly Contract No. C2569), Aerial Patrol Survey Gas Transmission Right of Way with Tennessee Helicopter Services to ratify and renew the current contract in the funded amount of \$140,400.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- 8. Resolution approving Increase (Change No. 4) to Contract No. 12288, Gas Matrix Utility Landscaping with Enlightenment, Inc. dba APS Facility Maintenance, to increase the current contract in the funded amount of\$267,411.85. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)

- 9. Resolution approving adding and removing Authorized Signers for several MLGW Bank Accounts due to personnel changes. (Rodney Cleek)
- Resolution approving Renewal (Change No. 4) to Contract No. 12286, MLGW Utility Payment Centers with FirsTech, Incorporated to renew the current contract in the funded amount of \$250,338.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- 11. Resolution awarding purchase order for one-ton service trucks to AutoNation Ford Memphis in the amount of \$364,766.56. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- 12. Resolution approving an annual salary in the amount of \$127,279.80 for a new hire to fill the vacant position of Supervisor Internal Audit, Internal Audit Compliance and Data Analytics (Alonzo Weaver) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- 13. Resolution approving Change No. 5 to Contract No. 12103, Workers' Compensation Stop Loss Brokering with Willis Towers Watson of Tennessee, Inc. to ratify and extend the current contract in the funded amount of \$60,000.00. (Randy Orsby) (REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL)
- 14. Resolution approving Extension (Change No. 1) to Contract No. 12250, Arc Flash Hazard Systems and Facilities Assessment with Burns and McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc. to extend the current contract with no increase in the contract value. (Randy Orsby)

## PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

## Other - Doug McGowen

<u>President McGowen</u> stated that he appreciates the public coming to our meetings and making comments. President McGowen also stated that he appreciates the Board asking questions as this helps us ensure we have the best processes and procedures in place.

<u>President McGowen</u> reported to the Board that yesterday, around 2:00 p.m. there was an outage was reported the Substation 49 in the Midtown/Crosstown/Rhodes College/Zoo Area. President McGowen explained that there was an issue with one of the breakers at the substation which caused the fire. President McGowen provided some information about what took place and showed a few pictures. President McGowen asked Mr. Alonzo Weaver discuss the on-going investigation and restoration efforts.

Mr. Alonzo Weaver, SVP and COO, explained that there was a fault and then a breaker did not work properly which ultimately caused the fire. Mr. Weaver reported that this substation was built in the 1970s. Mr. Weaver stated that during the fire, transformer, breakers and switches melted and will need to be replaced which will take three to five

months to replace. Mr. Weaver stated that crews immediately tried to separate and transfer customers to another circuit. Mr. Weaver stated that we received calls around 3:30 and they had power restored to everyone by 6:42 a.m. Mr. Weaver recognized and thanked several members of our team for their hard work. The great work of Corporate Communications was also recognized in getting information out to the customers regarding the outage and the fire.

<u>President McGowen</u> reiterated that the equipment in the substation was original equipment from 1973, which is over 30 years old and thus why we are investing to upgrade infrastructure to under 30 years of service. President McGowen also recognized the Safety Team that was on the scene immediately along with the Memphis Fire Department.

<u>President McGowen</u> thanked Mrs. Houston for the information she provided and stated that he will look at the information. President McGown discussed our water rates and why our rates are the way they are. President McGowen stated that residential rates are higher because of the massive amount of infrastructure that is needed to service residential customers. President McGowen stated that he appreciated the dialogue and that we will certainly look into this as it is important to maintain competitive water rates.

<u>President McGowen</u> provided an update on our process for the issuance of debt. President McGowen reported that our rating has been received and the next step is bond issuance.

Commissioners had opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

(None)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m. (See Minute File No. 1510)

Approved Without Interlineation

Chairman

These Minutes Compiled by Understaned

are Correct

Secretary-Treasure