

HOME GARDENS SANITARY DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 24, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Home Gardens Sanitary District was called to order by the President, Miguel Serrato, at 7:30 p.m. at the office of the District, 13538 Magnolia Ave., Corona, CA 92879.

Directors present were: Serrato, Cacho, Barajas, Garrison and Samson Runion. Also present were: Alan Burns, District Counsel; Tracey LaBonte, General Manager and Tania Duarte, Administrative Assistant.

Minutes of the regular meeting of April 26, 2022 were presented For approval. Motion was made by Director Barajas, seconded by Director Cacho and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented.

Expenditures for the month of May 2022 were presented and discussed. Motion was made by Director Samson Runion, seconded by Director Garrison and unanimously carried to approve the expenditures as presented.

— President Serrato moved to Item X number 2 on the agenda.

HGSD Items for Discussion and Consideration:

4. The Board discussed Modesto Avila's request for a refund. After a presentation by Mr. Avila, the Board considered District Counsel's presentation on the statute of limitations and the parameters of the Constitutional gift of public funds prohibition. After duly considering the matter, a motion was made by Director Cacho, seconded by Director Garrison and unanimously carried to approve a refund of \$216.00 as being within the claim statute, but the Board determined that it could not go beyond the statute of limitations specifically set forth in the Government Code.

— President Serrato moved back to Item II on the agenda.

Public Comment:

There were no persons making general public comment.

Hearing for Delinquent Accounts:

The Meeting was called to public hearing at 8:00 p.m. District Counsel, Alan Burns, presented an overview of the hearing, which was presided over by the President, Miguel Serrato. The hearing was being

held pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 6523.2. No persons notified of this hearing appeared to present evidence of why they should not be disconnected from the public sewer system. The General Manager was called to present the status of the accounts. Manager LaBonte testified that the status of accounts as presented in the attached "Notice of Hearing" was accurate and that all persons on the list had been duly notified of the hearing. Motion was made by Director Barajas, seconded by Director Garrison, and unanimously carried to disconnect those properties in the "Notice of Hearing" from the sewer system on or after June 15, 2022. This hearing concluded at 8:02 p.m.

Manager LaBonte presented the Budget Efficiency and Income/Revenue reports. Discussion followed.

Staff Report:

1. On April 28, 2022, Paychex called with an update, and staff did further research regarding the new CA law, where businesses with 5 employees or more will have to offer a retirement plan to all employees. The new CA law does not apply to the District and no action is required.
2. We received an e-mail from Riverside County Transportation Department letting us know that we should be receiving bids for the Lincoln Project in the beginning of June.

WRCRWA Committee Report:

The WRCRWA Board of Directors Meeting on May 26, 2022.

**3A Virtual Meetings**

The Board of Directors approved the adoption of a Resolution 22-005 extending virtual meetings through May 17, 2022, in the name of COVID.

**5A Appointment of Audit Firm**

The Board of Directors authorized the Administrator to execute a professional services agreement for audit services with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP for Fiscal Years 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 with option to extend services for two additional years (Fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026) at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The proposed fees are \$14,870 and \$15,315 for Fiscal Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. That is approximately a three percent annual increase.

## **5B Recycled Water Program Policy Framework**

The Board of Directors approved a Consulting Services Contract with Dopudja & Wells Consulting for the Development and Implementation of a Policy Framework for the Authority's Recycled Water Program in the amount of \$95,445.

They also approved to Disband the Recycled Water Subcommittee therefore the Consultant will now work directly with the Executive Committee going forward.

## **6 Update**

Administrator Miller gave an update on the WCE/SCE matter. They are still waiting on the re-entry fee amounts, but they estimate them to be around \$2500-\$3000 a month for 12 months. The current rate structure has changed to the "Time of Use" structure which has increased the electricity cost to around \$6000 more each month. They do anticipate more rate increases.

HGSD Items for Discussion and Consideration:

1. The Board discussed April's Monthly Status Report by G & G Environmental Compliance, Inc.

3. After consideration for Roselyn Gomez's request to waive a one-time late fee in the amount of \$7.16, a motion was made by Director Cacho, seconded by Director Samson Runion, and unanimously carried to approve waiving the late fee one time.

A. After consideration for Eva Cisneros's request to waive a one-time late fee in the amount of \$107.81, a motion was made by Director Garrison, seconded by Director Barajas, and unanimously carried to deny waiving the late fee.

B. After consideration for Huda Yahya's request to waive a one-time late fee in the amount of \$108.00, a motion was made by Director Garrison, seconded by Director Cacho, and unanimously carried to deny waiving the late fee.

5. A motion was made by Director Garrison, seconded by Director Barajas, and unanimously carried to adopt WRCRWA's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022/2023.

6. A motion was made by Director Samson Runion, seconded by Director Cacho, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 510 approving and ratifying the budget of the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority.

7. After discussion of the District's Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023, a motion was made by Director Garrison, seconded by Director Samson Runion, and unanimously carried to approve the Home Gardens Sanitary District Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

President Serrato moved back to Item X number 4 on the agenda.

4. After considering the proposals received by the District to do a Rate Study, a motion was made by Director Barajas, seconded by Director Cacho, and unanimously carried to approve Bartle Wells Associates's proposal to do the Rate Study.

Closed Session:

1. The Board adjourned to closed session with Manager LaBonte present pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 and 54957.6 to discuss the performance of District staff and possible increase in compensation. Upon a vote of 5-0, the Board directed Manager LaBonte to negotiate with the employees and reconvened to open session. Manager LaBonte announced that she had negotiated and reported that Tania Duarte would be provided a \$.71 increase to \$24.75 per hour and Silvia Flores would be provided with a \$.25 increase to \$17.25 per hour.
2. The Board then adjourned to closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 and 54957.6 to discuss the performance and compensation of the District Manager. After hearing from the District Manager, she was excused, and upon a vote of 5-0 the Board authorized the President to negotiate with the District Manager, and set the matter for an oral

report and formal approval at the next Board Meeting (pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(c)(3).)


Directors Comments: None.

There being no further business, President Miguel Serrato adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

  
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Salvador Cacho, Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Board of Directors of the Home Gardens Sanitary District at the regularly scheduled meeting of said Board June 28, 2022.

Signed:   
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Miguel Serrato, President

  
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Salvador Cacho, Secretary