

**ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday August 9, 2018, at 10:00 am
Chief Warren McDaniels Board Room
118 City Park Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119

A. CALL TO ORDER

Newly appointed Member-at-Large Michael Tidwell called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

B. ROLL CALL

Ms. Kathrine Cargo called the roll. The following Board members were present:

Dr. Jim Aiken (proxy for Mr. William Masterton); Col. Daniel Bordelon (proxy for Major Glenn H. Curtis); CAO Gilbert Mantaño; Chief Roman Nelson (proxy for NOFD Supt. Timothy McConnell); NOPD Supt. Michael Harrison; NOEMS Director Dr. Emily Nichols; NOHSEP Director Colin Arnold; NOHD Director Jennifer Avegno, and Mayor's Office Communications Director Michael Tidwell were present.

Vice Chair Brobson Lutz and Capt. Donovan Archote were absent.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Nomination for Vice Chairman

Newly appointed at-large member Michael Tidwell chaired the meeting in the absence of Vice Chair Brobson Lutz.

Mr. Tidwell announced the election of a new Vice Chair and called for nominations from the floor. Mr. Tidwell nominated Director Colin Arnold. There were no additional nominations. Mr. Tidwell called for the Board members to mark their ballots. Mr. Arnold was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

2. Nomination for Chairman

Mr. Tidwell then announced the election of a new Board Chairman. Supt. Harrison nominated Mr. Tidwell; it was seconded by Dr. Nichols. Mr. Tidwell called for the Board members to mark their ballots. Mr. Tidwell was unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

D. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

1. Resolution 18-06: Removing Current Executive Director

Board Chair Tidwell called for a motion on Resolution 18-06. Executive Director Stephen Gordon called attention to the need to amend the resolution. Ms. Cargo read aloud Resolution 18-06, which authorized the Board to immediately terminate Stephen Gordon's employment as the Executive Director of OPCD.

Board Chair Tidwell called for the discussion. He told the Board that this decision was made at the strong recommendation of Mayor Latoya Cantrell, stating that it is a new administration and the Mayor wanted a new change immediately. Board Chair Tidwell stated that the Mayor was grateful for Stephen Gordon's service to the District but it was time to make a change. There were no additional comments.

Board Chair Tidwell called for public comment. Mr. Charles Maldonado from *The Lens* newspaper stated that this Board meeting was not noted properly. Mr. Maldonado added that the meeting agenda was not reasonably specific as the law requires. He observed that the meeting notice and agenda were posted on the Board Room door only twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the meeting instead of 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting as required by law. Mr. Maldonado stated that he was making a formal objection to the vote. He requested to hear an opinion on his objections from the OPCD General Counsel present at the meeting. Board Chair Tidwell thanked Mr. Maldonado for his comments and advised that they would be noted.

There were no further public comments.

Board Chair Tidwell called for the motion to adopt Resolution 18-06; the motion was unanimously adopted.

2. Resolution 18-07: Resolution to Appoint New Executive Director

Board Chair Tidwell called for the adoption of Resolution 18-07. Ms. Cargo read aloud Resolution 18-06 which authorized the Board to appoint Mr. Tyrell Morris as the new Executive Director of OPCD and to offer him a formal letter of employment. Board Chair Tidwell called for a discussion; there were no comments.

Board Chair Tidwell called for public comment. Mr. Maldonado stated that the posted agenda indicated that there was only one personnel action to be discussed and acted upon. Mr. Maldonado stated that it was his belief that the Board of Directors for OPCD was in violation of the Open Meetings Law. Chair Tidwell advised that Mr. Maldonado's comments would be noted.

David Hammer, WWL TV, asked if there was a process to select Mr. Morris and what is his background. Board Chair Tidwell stated that Mr. Morris was currently serving as the OPCD Operations Director, and the decision was made that he would be the best person to take on the role of Executive Director. Mr. Hammer continued to question the process for vetting candidates, what candidates had been interviewed, and where had the position been advertised. Board Chair Tidwell stated for the immediate time it was a matter of finding the best

person to take on the role right away and a long term decision would be forthcoming. Board Chair Tidwell continued by stating that at the conclusion of the meeting he would speak to Mr. Hammer and go into further detail.

Board Chair Tidwell called for all in favor of adopting Resolution 18-07; the resolution was unanimously adopted.

E. ADJOURN

Board Chair Tidwell called for a motion to adjourn; it was moved by Mr. Montaño and seconded Supt. Harrison. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tyrell Morris
Executive Director