

**MINUTES OF THE UTILITES WORKGROUP MEETING**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**ST. TAMMANY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX**

**21490 KOOP DRIVE, MANDEVILLE, LA.**

**Call to Order by Honorable Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Chairman**

**Roll Call: Marty Dean – absent  
Michael R. Lorino, Jr. – present  
James “Jimmie” Davis, III – present  
Christopher Canulette – present  
Michael “Mike” Maxwell Smith – present  
Jerry Binder – present**

**Also Present: Rykert Toledano (until ~6:15 pm), Ashley Gonzales, Emily Couvillon, Karlin Riles, Gina Hayes, Chris Tissue (at beginning of meeting)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: a three (3) minute time limit is established for each member of the public wishing to speak (for or against) an item on the Agenda.**

**1. Discussion of Tammany Utilities Operations**

- a. Discussion re: Owen and White report. Chairman Lorino questioned CAO Hayes re: process of Owen and White report. Ms. Hayes provided report on report and recommendations. Memo provided by Ms. Hayes re: Department of Utilities response to 35 recommendations. Ms. Hayes committed to conducting a chlorine burn. Discussion re: timing of chlorine burn. Councilman Smith wants to stop using chloramines. Councilman Binder wants to make budget amendment this year. Councilman Davis wants pipes to be mapped because nothing can get done until we know where everything is.
- b. Public Comment:
  - a. Philip Lynch: Cross Gates HOA President
  - b. Ashley Schenk: Read October 4, 2021 email re: loss of pressure + no boil water advisory; got sick at Easter
  - c. Stephen Leech: concerned about lack of certifications
  - d. Gene Bellisario: “Hatred of Tammany Utilities leadership is beyond the pale”; wants Ms. Riles to get the list of operator certifications. We don’t pay our TU employees enough. Calls for Tim Brown to be fired.
  - e. David Binder: Asks for elevated tanks and a chlorine burn, and a conversion to free chlorine.

- f. Jake Groby: Does consulting work now. Discussed Owen and White report and suggested we implement those recommendations. Would like the parish to hire him as TU Director.
  - g. Representative Bob Owens: Trying to get Capital Outlay money from the state for this. Wants to do anything he can to help this, because this system is bad.
- c. Council discussed report and operations further. Discussed hiring Inframark to operate TU. Want more transparency from TU, more information online and to Council members. Chairman Lorino suggests that we meet again in about a month.