

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PUBLIC PARKING AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH  
THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2021**

Having been duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Act No. 84 of 1986, a virtual meeting of the Public Parking Authority of Pittsburgh was held at 10:02 a.m. on June 17, 2021. The following Board members were present at the start of the meeting: Jeff Cohen, Matt Barron, Karina Rick, Bobby Wilson and Liz Fishback. Present from staff were David Onorato, Mark DiNatale, David Perry, Scott McNaugher and Pat Konesky. Tracy Sowinski, JoAnn Williams, Gwen Bolden and Chris Holt joined late. Also present were Jason Wrona of Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney; Bill Stewart of Strategic Communications; Olivia Pistella; Alison Keating and an unidentified caller from 412-324-1501.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Cohen asked for approval of the minutes from the May 19, 2021 meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Fishback the minutes were approved as follows: Mr. Barron, yes; Mr. Wilson, yes; Ms. Ricks, yes; Ms. Fishback, yes; Mr. Cohen, yes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any public comments.

Ms. Keating introduced herself and stated that she would like to reiterate her desire for transparency of Parking Authority activities, noting that she attempted to participate in last month's meeting but its date was changed and she stated she feels that there should have been some notification of the change. She also stated that it would be helpful if meeting agendas were release prior to this occurrence.

Mr. Cohen asked if meeting information and agendas are posted on the Authority's website.

Mr. Onorato confirmed that Board Meeting information, such as date, time and virtual participation information is posted on the website, including any changes may be required. He said meeting agendas are not posted.

Mr. Cohen asked if website posting of agendas prior to meetings was possible.

Mr. Wrona advised that the agendas are fluid up until the start of the meetings but said information could be mailed following the meeting.

Mr. Cohen suggested that members of the public reach out to the Authority's Administrative Assistant who would gladly forward copies of the agendas upon request.

Mr. Wilson stated that we should absolutely look into making sure that the Authority's information be available and increasingly transparent transparency, noting that the City uses Legistar to upload its Council agendas.

Mr. Cohen suggested that we look at a few other City Authorities to examine their policies.

Ms. Ricks asked if there was a public notice requirement obliging the Authority to notify the public whenever a meeting date or time is changed.

Mr. Onorato responded that the Authority does follow the Sunshine Act requirements and posts notices at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting. He also noted that we did post the last Board Meeting date and time change in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as well as on our website and physical here at the main office location. He noted that our Board Meetings seldom change or are cancelled but said we do follow the proper notification procedures when they are.

Mr. Wilson asked if Mr. Onorato would look into making sure that our Board Meeting agendas are posted prior to the meeting dates.

Mr. Cohen stated that there has been very little public participation during his years on the Board.

Mr. Onorato advised that he will reach out to other Authorities to review their procedures and will advise the Board of his findings and recommendations.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Onorato shared the news with the Board that the Parking Authority's designation as being accredited with distinction was renewed for three additional years and said that we met or exceeded the industry standard on approximately 96 measurements of performance.

Mr. Onorato advised that the Authority and Desman Associates was recognized in the Best Rehabilitation of a Facility category of a national construction award program for the rehab work completed at the Ft. Duquesne and Sixth Garage. He congratulated the Project Management Department and Desman Associates on its first-place award on the project.

Mr. Onorato advised that our Finance Department has been working over the past year with PNC over the past year to negotiate a lower credit card fee and said it recently negotiated lower interchange rate fees which should yield significant savings in the Authority's annual service costs.

Mr. DiNatale added that he has been working with PNC since November and noted that the bank

needed to create a special merchant product to change our interchange rate, which will really help on meters. He said to put the change into perspective, if it would have been implemented in a normal pre-covid year, we would have saved approximately \$300,000. He said in the covid year the savings would be about \$150,000. He advised that we anticipate an implementation date of April 1 and said the credits are going to be applied retroactively to that time. He reminded the Board that PNC is still building this product but said that this year we are anticipating a savings from \$15,000 to 18,000 per month.

Mr. Onorato advised that the Authority is always looking for different ways to reduce expenses.

Mr. Onorato advised the Board that he has had conversation with the Port Authority to determine any level of interest in working with the Authority on the Flowbird Meter Door Upgrade, specifically to equip the meters to accept the Port Authority's connect card. He stated that they did express interest in joining us in this venture and he noted he is expecting the appropriate data from them to proceed. He advised that Flowbird and Port Authority have connected and are discussing compatibility in the software to be employed.

Ms. Ricks stated that she had a chance to join in those discussions and advised that she is very excited to get this moving. She advised that she is not aware of any other cities that have done this and believes that it would represent a huge convenience to public transit patrons. She stated that she believes that it is not very difficult to make this happen and that we would be a great public model should we be able to pull this off.

Mr. Onorato noted that this is a time-sensitive project and said that Port Authority is aware of our required timeframe.

Mr. Onorato reported that the Authority's cost on the project was reduced substantially by renegotiating the price of the new meter doors. He advised that we were able to realize a savings of approximately \$225.00 per door, which equates to approximately \$135,000 to \$140,000 in total. He advised that this purchase will also include the upgrade of the modems at no additional costs.

Mr. Onorato advised that we are working with PWSA on its request for 55 leases in our Grant Street Transportation Garage to accommodate the return of its workers to their downtown location.

Mr. Onorato discussed the Finance Report, which shows revenues of \$5.2 million prior to the pandemic, a drop-off in 2020 to \$1.9 million and \$2.6 million for the current month. He noted that while we are ahead of last year's revenue results, increases are at a slower pace than anticipated.

Ms. Ricks asked why we believe the meters have not come back stronger than they have and asked if meter revenue is typically driven by the downtown meters. She stated that she feels that the neighborhood business districts have returned to a somewhat normal level of activity.

Mr. Onorato responded that prior to the pandemic, meter revenues ranged from \$60,000 to \$62,000 per month, while we are currently averaging \$45,000 to \$47,000 per month. He stated that the neighborhood meters are doing well but the Downtown, Oakland and North Shore sectors, our higher-priced areas, are seeing a bigger decrease in meter revenue both because of the increased cost per parking stay and a sharp reduction in evening and other off-peak events in those locations.

Mr. Speers added that we are seeing that garage lease revenue have not returned at all because we lost 1450 of those leases and not many of their former holders have yet to return on a full-time basis. He said we are seeing our daily transit revenue increase because a number of those original lease customers are coming into the office on some days and find garage parking on those occasions a better value than at on-street meters. He stated that until the office workers return downtown on a full-time basis, he does not believe we are going to see much change in our current numbers except for the incremental increase in daily parkers as remote working arrangements continue to decline.

Mr. Onorato discussed the Finance Report, which shows 2019 as the base year and said while it shows an incremental increase in revenues from January through May 2021 we are currently at approximately 50 per cent of revenues compared to May 2019.

Ms. Fishback asked if there has been continued communications with the downtown business regarding their plans for office re-openings whether on a full-time, part-time or flex basis.

Mr. Onorato responded that we originally thought workers would come back in April or May and have since talked to a few larger employers who have now adopted returns on a voluntary basis. He said we are not seeing much of an increase to date, adding that his understanding is that some of the larger companies may mandate the employees return to in-office work in September. He stated that we have seen some increase with the returns of events such as the Pirates games and anticipate that once theaters and cultural venues resume operations, they will generate an increase in utilization as well.

Mr. Onorato discussed the Facilities Report, which he described as a little deceiving because the 2021 numbers are compared to last year's. He advised that we are still on target with year-to-date 2021 projections.

Mr. Onorato discussed the Enforcement Report, reminding the Board that there is no revenue resulting from street cleaning enforcement this year, adding that he does not anticipate the return of street sweeping enforcement until 2022. He advised that meter violations represent 50 percent of the 14,800 tickets issued this month. He advised that street-meter revenues are significantly higher than last year but are still at just 50 percent of 2019's base. He said that despite the decline from that more traditional level, meter performance is still trending in the right direction.

Mr. Onorato discussed the Parking Court Report, noting that fines are continuing to increase due to the steady increase in tickets being issued. He said the \$681,000 being collected this month keeps us on target to exceed last year's numbers but again are significantly down from 2019's revenue results.

**RESOLUTION NO. 9 OF JUNE 2021, “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE TWO NEW FLEET VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT FROM TRI-STAR COMMERCIAL SALES.** was read by Mr. Cohen and considered by the Board.

Mr. Onorato advised that, in accordance with our Capital Improvements plan, we are requesting to replace two Enforcement Division vehicles, explaining that there are currently 17 vehicles used by that division and seven of those are equipped with a License Plate Recognition (LPR) system. He said the two that we are replacing have these units installed and will be transferred to the new vehicles. He advised that we were able to piggy-back the purchase on the Westmoreland County COG contract at a not-to-exceed cost of \$21,000 for each plus \$2,000 for incidentals such as sticker and plates.

Ms. Ricks asked if these vehicles were electric models and if the Parking Authority had any plans to electrify of our fleet. She also asked the number of vehicles owned by the Authority.

Mr. Onorato replied that these are not electric vehicles, and said their choice was based on manufacturers advise that installation of the LPR units on electrical vehicles would void any warranty coverage. He advised that there are 35 vehicles in our fleet, 17 being assigned to the Enforcement Division.

Ms. Ricks stated that she would like to see a plan for the electrification of the Parking Authority’s fleet.

Mr. Onorato responded that a plan can be developed and provided to the Board.

Mr. Wilson asked if most of the Authority’s fleet is housed at the Second Avenue Parking Plaza where there are electric vehicle charging stations.

Mr. Onorato responded that the majority of our fleet is housed at the Wood Allies and First Avenue garages and the maintenance vehicles are at the Ft. Duquesne and Sixth Garage.

Mr. Barron observed that we would need to install charging infrastructure in those garages having portions of an electric fleet.

Mr. Onorato advised that we currently have EV charging at First Avenue, Grant Street Transportation Center, Third Avenue and Smithfield/Liberty, and said we are currently working with the City to accommodate its electrical vehicles at the Second Avenue Parking Plaza. He advised that the City is currently in the process of moving the lots electrical service to accommodate its use.

Ms. Fishback suggested a conversion to hybrid could be a step in the right direction. She stated that not only would that choice address the warranty issue, but that Enforcement Department

personnel would be able to do their job effectively without concern that the camera battery pull could require the need for recharging every few hours. She stated that with hybrid we would be moving in that direction to achieve complete an all-electric fleet.

Mr. Cohen responded that hybrid may be the answer at this time. He asked if the Authority had done any research on the upfront cost differences and gas price savings for operating in the hybrid mode.

Ms. Rick advised that there is a wide array of electrical vehicles available at various prices.

Mr. Onorato responded that we had not done any research on the cost of electric vehicles but would do so going forward.

Mr. Barron advised that the City has done some great analysis of this option as well and suggested that it might be beneficial to meet with its representatives gain some of their insights.

Mr. Wilson stated that he liked the direction of this conversation and had questions regarding the vehicles that are slated to be replaced. He stated he was quite surprised on the low amount of mileage of all the vehicles, noting that he is perhaps overlooking how the miles do not accumulate if the vehicle is not used for highway driving.

Mr. Onorato advised that these two vehicles were the last two assigned in recognition of the amount of vehicle maintenance issues they had undergone. He advised that they are both over seven years old and have been driven within the city and not on highways. He advised that we work well with the City's fleet management team and will reach out to them regarding moving in this direction.

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

There were none.

Upon motion by Ms. Ricks and seconded by Mr. Barron, Resolution No. 9 of 2021 was approved as follows: Mr. Barron, yes; Mr. Wilson, yes; Ms. Ricks, yes; Ms. Fishback, yes; Mr. Cohen, yes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10 OF JUNE 2021, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXPEDITE AN EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT FOR CONTRACTING SERVICES NEEDED TO REPAIR THE EXISTING DETERIORATED EXTERIOR ELECTRICAL CABINET AT THE SECOND AVENUE PARKING PLAZA,** was read by Mr. Barron and considered by the Board.

Mr. Onorato advised that the memo attached to the resolution documents that this is an emergency procurement to upgrade to the Authority's electrical cabinet which during an update

the City's electrical fleet, was found to be in need of substantial repair. He shared photos of the existing cabinet's current condition of disrepair with the Board and advised that the process includes pouring an entire new pad and installing new boxes and then transferring power from the existing cabinets to their replacement units. He noted that this electrical box controls the supply of power for lighting, revenue control equipment and the cashier's booth. Mr. Onorato advised that Allegheny City Electric, the Authority's contract supplier of electrical services, will oversee and complete the work.

Mr. Cohen asked if there was any questions or comments.

There were none.

Upon motion by Ms. Fishback and seconded by Mr. Wilson, Resolution No. 10 of 2021 was approved as follows: Mr. Barron, yes; Mr. Wilson, yes; Ms. Ricks, yes; Ms. Fishback, yes; Mr. Cohen, yes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF JUNE 2021, "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXPEDITE AN EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT FOR CONTRACTING SERVICES NEEDED TO REMEDIATE/REHABILITATE THE DETERIORATED FLOOR SLAB OF THE EXIT SPEED RAMP AT THE FORBES/SEMPLE GARAGE,** was read by Ms. Fishback and considered by the Board.

Mr. Onorato advised that this work was identified in our 2019 annual inspection but was not viewed as requiring emergency attention. He advised that 2020's streamlined capital budget reflected the belief that repairs could be delayed an additional year or so but it was determined that deterioration was occurring at a pace requiring that it be inspected more closely. He advised that Desman confirmed that repairs were needed immediately and said Carl Walker Construction was retained to complete them repairs and also install support beams to further ensure the ramp's stability. He reminded the Board that this is our only garage facility in the area and its continued operation is central to the health of the Oakland business community.

Ms. Ricks asked if Carl Walker Construction was an on-call firm with the Authority, noting that the City has an on-call list of firms for various types of work. She also asked if the Authority followed its standard procurement process.

Mr. Onorato responded that we do not have an approved on-call arrangements for work of this nature and said Carl Walker was selected as they are well-experienced in these projects and we have been pleased with work it performed for the Authority in the past. He noted that the firm is local and repeated his earlier comment that it had won national recognition for its role in the rehabilitation of our Ft. Duquesne and Sixth Garage. He noted that garage repairs of this nature are specialty projects that normally result in just a few firms bidding for the work.

Mr. Onorato also advised that we do have a procurement process and under normal conditions would have followed it but said emergency situations require prioritizing procedures to complete

the work immediately. He stated that if the Board directs a change, we could reach out to two additional firms to obtain additional quotes.

Ms. Ricks stated that her intent was not to delay an emergency repair by requesting additional quotes but said that she just wanted to be certain that there are established procedures to ensure adequate levels of competition.

Mr. Speers added that this speed ramp basically supports the exit of vehicles from eight levels of the garage and noting that this facility is operating at over 60 percent of capacity, he expressed that time would be of the essence to get this repair completed. He stated that shutting down the facility completely will create some significant challenges and said he wanted to have the work completed before occupancy volume increases.

Mr. Cohen reminded the Board of COVID's effect on the current state of construction activity, noting that firms' employee reductions increase the difficulty of completing projects on time. He said we just have to have confidence in the leadership at the Authority to do their jobs effectively, especially when it comes to patrons safety.

Mr. Cohen asked if this was an issue for months or did this problem just occur, the anticipated time for completion and if the selected firm would be able to begin the work immediately.

Mr. Onorato responded that this concern was identified in both the 2019 and 2020 annual inspection reports but said its severity had not reached today's level of disrepair. He also explained that it deteriorated more quickly than we anticipated and noted that the garage manager and attendants actually brought the depth of the problem to management's attention. Mr. Onorato advised that Carl Walker Construction would be able to begin repairs immediately and said the work would take approximately two to three weeks to complete.

Mr. Wilson stated that Ms. Ricks brought up a great point regarding safety but said it is also important to maintain a strong commitment to transparency. He asked if it was possible to have multiple quotes received for proposed work.

Mr. Onorato replied that our procurement policy does have monetary thresholds in place but they are set aside in matters of true emergencies. He stated that our current policy provides that any work under \$11,000 can be completed with just one call and \$11,000 to \$28,500 requires three written phone quotes. He said any amount higher than that requires public advertising and implementation of our full RFP process.

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

There were none.

Upon motion by Ms. Ricks and seconded by Mr. Barron, Resolution No. 11 of 2021 was approved as follows: Mr. Barron, yes; Mr. Wilson, yes; Ms. Ricks, yes; Ms. Fishback, yes; Mr. Cohen, yes.



**RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF JUNE 2021, “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CARL WALKER CONTRUCTION INC. FOR REHABILITATION AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE AT THE SMITHFIELD/LIBERTY GARAGE,** was read by Mr. Wilson and considered by the Board.

Mr. Onorato advised that the Authority received four bids from this RFP with the lowest being from Carl Walker in the amount of \$191,192.61. He said the total was under the amount we budgeted for this work and reported that Carl Walker Construction and Nathan Contracting, the two firms that we’ve used in the past for this type of work, submitted the most attractive pricing options.

Mr. Wilson asked if the Carl Walker company is based in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Onorato confirmed that the firm is located in Pittsburgh and advised that staff did contact Walker to ensure that it understood the scope of work involved because its bid price was considerably lower than the others. He advised that Walker confirmed that it understood the scope and would complete the work at the bid price.

Ms. Ricks commented that while Carl Walker is a national company but that they do have a local presence in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

There were none.

Upon motion by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Ricks, Resolution No. 12 of 2021 was approved as follows: Mr. Barron, yes; Mr. Wilson, yes; Ms. Ricks, yes; Ms. Fishback, yes; Mr. Cohen, yes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 13 OF JUNE 2021, “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO NATHAN CONTRACTING, LP FOR MODERNIZATION OF EXHAUST SSTEM FOR SMITHFIELD/LIBERTY GARAGE,** was read by Ms. Ricks and considered by the Board.

Mr. Onorato advised that we issued an RFP for this project and received one bid from Nathan Contracting in the amount of \$176,881. He noted that we reached out to other firms that had completed this type of work for the Authority in the past but was advised that none decided to submit a bid. He said some replies cited too busy schedules and others specified a need to partner with other companies but could not due to time constraints so we therefore are recommending awarding the contract to Nathan Contracting. Mr. Onorato noted that this was a project planned for in our 2021 Capital Budget and the bid received was below the amount we had budgeted.

Mr. Holt advised that a significant savings would result from accepting the bid Nathan Contracting submitted and said he believes we should take advantage of this opportunity.

Ms. Ricks stated that it's impressive that bids are being received below budget noting that right now construction is booming and the City is seeing a rising cost for both labor and material. She stated that it is a little troubling that there was only one bidder but the volume of available work that is out there does provide some explanation for the limited response .

Mr. Barron stated that he agreed with Ms. Ricks and noted that he appreciated that the Authority staff reached out to the other vendors to inquire why they did not bid. He stated that he does feel comfortable with proceeding with awarding this contract.

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

There were none.

Upon motion by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Fishback, Resolution No. 13 of 2021 was approved as follows: Mr. Barron, yes; Mr. Wilson, yes; Ms. Ricks, yes; Ms. Fishback, yes; Mr. Cohen, yes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14 OF JUNE 2021, "A RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC PARKING AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION FILED BY GIOVANNI'S MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE, LLC (GIOVANNI'S),** was read by Mr. Cohen and considered by the Board.

Mr. Onorato advised that Giovanni filed a lawsuit against the Authority in 2019 alleging a loss of approximately \$100,000 in revenues due to the Authority's 2017 construction work in the Ft. Duquesne and Sixth Street Garage. He advised that their current lease expires the end of June and noted that it missed the required deadline to inform the Authority of their intent to renew. He advised that we worked out some details that are listed in this resolution and said would like to have them remain in this space as they have been a good tenant, paying their rent on-time and in a climate that has proven difficult to get commercial tenants. He advised that the contract will be for 39 months and said we are offering free rent for the first three months and half-price for the three months after that in exchange for the dropping of the lawsuit.

Mr. Barron asked the cumulative cost to the Authority for the rent-adjusted months and other items.

Mr. Onorato advised that the rental agreement is \$3,200 per month so its approximately \$10,000 for the first three months and approximately \$4,500 to \$5,000 for the three half-priced months.

Ms. Ricks asked the Authority had any other retail tenants in that garage.

Mr. Holt responded that the other tenants there are Christos Mediterranean Grill and Pittsburgh News.

Ms. Ricks asked if we anticipate any legal action from either of those operations as a result of this settlement.

Mr. Onorato responded that he did not believe there would be any reactions of that nature, noting that we worked cooperatively with those tenants during the pandemic in the form of rent relief.

Mr. Barron asked if there were any adjustments we should be making to our lease agreements to indemnify us against something like this in the future. He said construction activity is a necessary reality in our facilities and said he would not want to see this become a pattern.

Mr. Wrona responded that our lease agreements with tenants does give us the right to maintain our facilities but that doesn't mean someone can't file a lawsuit against us. He said this is viewed as a nuisance lawsuit.

Mr. Wilson asked if the official name Giovanni's or Alihan's.

Mr. Holt responded that the official name is Alihan's but said it is owned by Giovanni's.

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

There were none.

Upon motion by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Fishback, Resolution No. 14 of 2021 was approved as follows: Mr. Barron, yes; Mr. Wilson, yes; Ms. Ricks, yes; Ms. Fishback, yes; Mr. Cohen, yes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any new or old matters to discuss.

Mr. Cohen commented that he is really pleased with the Authority and how it has functioned throughout this pandemic. He stated that this has been a tough year with revenues and he stated that with the refinancing and other changes that have been made, the Authority staff should be proud of itself and should be commended for a job well done.

Mr. Wilson said he wanted again express his concern for having the Board agenda posted on the website prior to our meetings as he feels we should be following the Sunshine Act in all respects. He stated he would like to see this procedure implemented.

Mr. Wrona replied that what he heard earlier was that, going forward, the agendas will be posted prior to the meeting.

Mr. Onorato stated that the meeting minutes have been posted on our website for the last 10 years or so and said we will add the posting of agendas moving forward.

Ms. Ricks stated that the Board would be remiss if it did not at least address the conflict surrounding the Juneteenth Holiday with the AFSCME Union.

Mr. Onorato responded that he does not agree with the press release issued by AFSCME and stated that we were contacted two weeks ago by its representatives asking to honor Juneteenth as an Authority holiday. He said that request would basically require reopening the contract and also provide an opportunity for discussion of issues of concern to the Authority. Mr. Onorato reported that AFSCME refused that proposal and said its only interest was in Juneteenth being recognized as a holiday. He said our offer to add the date to the holiday schedule both this year and in the future remained contingent on discussion of grievances as well and said the union was advised both of our positions and that it would be on the table until 12:00 noon on June 18th. He told the Board that the offer and deadline was the Authority's last communication with the union, which then closed the discussion and issued the news describing its positions.

Mr. Wilson asked what efforts we might take to make this right for both union and non-union employees since this holiday is now recognized by the City of Pittsburgh and the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Onorato responded that as he already discussed with Mr. Wilson, the reality that both the AFSCME and Teamsters contracts expire December 31, 2021 and said that negotiations for renewal for both contracts will be scheduled. He advised that he envisions having the Juneteenth holiday in the new contracts but noted that the Teamsters have not reached out to the Authority to discuss this topic although both unions have let us know they would like to begin the renegotiation process. He stated that if the unions negotiate this additional holiday into their contracts the Authority will extend it to non-union employees as well.

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Onorato and stated that he hoped that others on the Board would help to support this as a paid holiday.

Ms. Ricks asked Mr. Wrona for confirmation that the Board approves contracts that are brought to it under the collective bargaining process and the Board has approval of the final contract. She also asked if the Board Chairman was included in those negotiations or at the least was kept abreast of the process if issues arise with the bargaining units.

Mr. Wrona responded that her understanding was correct in that the Board does approve the contracts and deferred the second question to Mr. Onorato for his response.

Mr. Onorato responded that the Board Chairman is kept abreast of any major union-related issues, advising that the Authority has a good relationship with its bargaining units. He stated that there are currently seven outstanding grievances with the AFSCME Union and that normally the Authority handles the grievances and advises the Board Chairman if any of them moves to arbitration. He also advised that past practice has been to have staff and legal counsel present at

the negotiations along with union representatives and the assigned mediator and said that the Board Chairman is briefed as the negotiations proceed. He stated that Board members are not usually part of the negotiation meetings and said that if there is something a Board member would like to see implemented in the contract he or she can alert staff for discussion prior to negotiations. He advised that we normally have the Authority's needs identified ahead of the negotiation meetings and if a Board member would like to see something addressed in the contract it can be included it in our discussions. He advised that the current contract allows 11 paid holidays, which is one more than the City offers. He said with the City recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday, its total now matches the number of holidays currently offered by the Parking Authority.

Ms. Ricks stated that as a newer Board member she was trying to understand to what degree the Board is usually involved in union issues. She thanked Mr. Onorato for his explanation.

Mr. Cohen asked if there were any additional new or old matters to discuss.

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m. with all Board members in approval.

**APPROVED TO CONTENT**

  
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**Chairman**

**ACCEPTED FOR FILING IN THE AUTHORITY'S BOOK OF  
MINUTES**

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**Approval**

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