

Mid City Security District Minutes
Board Meeting of **December 14, 2023**, 6:00 P.M.
Pel Hughes, 3801 Toulouse Street, New Orleans LA

Chairwoman Wendy Laker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with a roll call of participants which established a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members present: Wendy Laker; Alvin Williams, Jr.; Robert Rivard; and Darby Shields. Charley Richard was present via telephone but not eligible to vote. Absent were Brett Emmanuel and Richard Lorusso.

Presenter: Sudie Joint, CPA, MCSD accountant.

➤ BOARD MINUTES

- R. Rivard moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023, meeting. D. Shields seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

➤ FINANCIAL REPORT

- The November 2023 Bank Statement was approved and initialed by all Board members present.
- S. Joint requested Board approval of November monthly bills and payments: Pinnacle Security - \$19,869.46, Adams & Reese - \$787.50, Capital City Press LLC - \$7.80, Graphix Matter - \$1,223.80, Lawrence J. Jacobi CPA LLC - \$770.00, Verizon Wireless - ACH - \$74.80. All payments were approved with a motion by W. Laker which was seconded by R. Rivard and approved unanimously. It was noted that no invoices were received from the city of New Orleans for police patrols since mid-October.
- S. Joint presented the Financial Statements. Discussed were the Profit and Loss for January through November 2023 versus same period 2022; Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2023, versus same period 2022; Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for January through November 2023; and the millage figures 2020 through 2023.
- S. Joint presented the Mid City Security District Amended Budget for 2023 (attached to these minutes). Following discussion of items within the budget, R. Rivard moved to approve the amended version. A. Williams seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- S. Joint then presented the Mid City Security District proposed budget for 2024 (attached to these minutes). The 2024 values were compared to the 2022 budget, the 2022 actual, the 2023 budget, the 2023 YTD (through October) values, and the 2023 projected values. Also provided was a board resolution containing all of the details of the 2024 proposed budget (attached to these minutes). Following discussion of items within the budget, W. Laker moved for adoption of the budget and approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded by R. Rivard and approved unanimously. S. Joint noted the resolution would be sent to the city since it is different from the version sent in September.
- The Verizon contract was briefly discussed since the company was offering a different plan that should lower the monthly phone bill. R. Rivard moved and W. Laker seconded a motion to discuss these changes with Verizon. The motion passed unanimously.

➤ ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA: NEW BUSINESS

- A lengthy discussion was held concerning the failure of the November ballot proposition. Board members provided their thoughts on reasons why the proposition didn't receive the needed votes. R. Rivard questioned whether changes could be made to the fee structure without new legislation being required, especially if only units less than 40 were considered.

This would need legal counsel to determine and it was ultimately decided that the board would work with any determinations on what changes could be made without legislation and then decide if any additional legislation other than a simple renewal would be required during 2024. It was further noted that legal counsel needs to be present at future meetings to answer questions from the entire board regarding this matter rather than simply responding to emails or phone calls.

- With an increasing number of “porch pirate” issues, a plan to increase awareness of MCSD to residents and businesses in the district was discussed. It was noted that the app (to be available in January) would hopefully assist with this problem. It was also noted that continued outreach to the neighborhood groups would continue.
- It was noted that originally, MCSD meetings were on Thursday nights rather than Wednesday. This was changed to a conflict with the library where meetings were originally held. However, meeting at the Cannery or Pel Hughes would not offer a conflict and since there were other neighborhood meetings on Wednesday nights it was suggested that meetings be moved to a Thursday. D. Shields moved that meeting dates for MCSD be held on the third Thursday of the month in the future. The motion was seconded by R. Rivard and approved unanimously. It was noted that the next meeting would be January 18, 2024.

➤ ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA: OLD BUSINESS

- It was noted that Board completion of mandatory ethics training and preventing sexual harassment was required before the end of 2023.
 - D. Shields reviewed his detailed study of the camera situation with Lumana Surveillance Camera offering the best option. After considerable discussion on details of a proposed contract, it was noted by several board members that the MCSD should not enter into a long-term contract without a guarantee that the district would continue without passage of renewal ballot initiative. It was suggested that any contract include an escape clause in the event that the MCSD renewal proposition is not successful. It was also questioned as to the optimum number of cameras to be effective at tracking a perpetrator across the district. It was decided that any action would be postponed until these issues were clarified.
- Since no guests were present there were no public comments.
- At 8:03pm, W. Laker offered a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by A. Williams. There was no opposition.

CERTIFICATE As Secretary of the Mid-City Security District, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes duly and legally adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mid-City Security District, after due notice, and that said minutes have not been rescinded. WITNESS, my signature, this 18th day of January 2024.



Charley Richard, Secretary