

**JOURNAL
OF
THE COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
OF
THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
COMMISSION**

**FOR THE YEAR
2024**

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Office of the District Clerk

Membership of the District is made up of the City of Hartford and
The Towns of Bloomfield, Newington, Wethersfield, Windsor,
East Hartford, Rocky Hill and West Hartford

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MEMBERSHIP
OF
THE COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
2024

JOHN BAZZANO Chairman, Committee on MDC Government

AVERY BUELL Vice Chairman, Committee on MDC Government

KYLE ANDERSON

JEAN HOLLOWAY

JOHN AVEDISIAN

MAUREEN MAGNAN

JOHN BAZZANO

JON PETOSKEY

AVERY BUELL

CALIXTO TORRES

PETER GARDOW

JAMES WOULFE

JAMES HEALY

MINUTES
OF
MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
HELD IN 2024

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT**SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Present: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Jean Holloway, Calixto Torres and District Chairman Donald Currey (9)

Absent: Commissioner Maureen Magnan (1)

Also

Present: Commissioner Allen Hoffman
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Commissioner Alvin Taylor
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer (Remote Attendance)
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant (Remote Attendance)
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

District Counsel Christopher Stone called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*On motion made by Commissioner Buell and duly seconded,
the meeting minutes of December 4, 2023 were approved.
Commissioner Torres abstained.*

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

District Counsel Christopher Stone called for the election of the Chairperson. Commissioner Woulfe placed Commissioner John Bazzano's name in nomination, the nomination was duly seconded.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Commissioner Bazzano was elected Chairperson of the Committee on MDC Government for 2024 and 2025 by unanimous vote of those present. Chairperson Bazzano assumed the Chair and thanked the Committee on MDC Government.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Bazzano called for the election of the Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Healy placed commissioner Avery Buell's name in nomination and the nomination was duly seconded.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Commissioner Avery Buell was elected Vice Chairperson of the Committee on MDC Government for 2024 and 2025.

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 31, 2024

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), SJB Strategies, LLC (Attorney Steve Bonafonte), and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC on the federal level. On the federal level, we have been working with our Congressional delegation on an amendment to federal infrastructure legislation that would terminate our agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers relating to the Colebrook River Reservoir, consistent with the granting of source abandonment application by the State Department of Public Health. The importance of this federal initiative cannot be understated, and staff suggest that SJB Strategies, LLC devote its time exclusively to its federal lobbying effort, and that another firm, namely Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, be added during the state legislative session to assist at the state level. Based upon this suggestion, and in recognition of the past performance of our existing lobbyist, District staff recommends the reappointment of each of our existing firms for the 2024 state and federal legislative consultants, and addition of Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC. The term of the appointments of existing firms would be from January 1, 2024 through December 31,

2024, and as to Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, from February 6, 2024 to May, 2024, all subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. receive \$69,000.00, (2) Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC receive \$14,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$66,000.00.

On the Federal level, District staff recommends the reappointment of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies LLC as federal legislative consultants. In the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for federal legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Squire Patton Boggs receive \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$95,000.00.

It is therefore recommended that it be:

Voted: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

Resolved: That the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC shall be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and the firm of Levin, Paolino, and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, shall be retained for the period from February 6, 2024 through May, 2024. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC will receive \$14,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, all subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel, may specify.

Further

Resolved: That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2024 and terminating on December 31, 2024. Squire Patton Boggs will receive \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$95,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present. District Chairman Currey abstained due to a potential conflict of interest.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 PM

ATTEST:



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

April 1, 2024

Date of Approval

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT**SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, April 1, 2024

Present: Commissioners John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Esther Clarke, Peter Gardow, Jean Holloway, Calixto Torres, James Woulfe and District Chairman Donald Currey (9)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioner James Healy (1)

Absent: Commissioner Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian and Maureen Magnan (3)

Also

Present: Commissioner William DiBella
Commissioner Allen Hoffman
Commissioner Joan Gentile
Commissioner Dominic Pane
Commissioner Alvin Taylor
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Commissioner Pasquale Salemi
Commissioner Jacqueline Mandyck (Remote Attendance)
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems
Jeff King, Construction Manager
Rita Kelley, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer/Whistleblower Coordinator
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Amanda Litvak, IT Professional Level Associate (Remote Attendance)
Matthew McAulliffe, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bazzano called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*On motion made by Commissioner Buell and duly seconded,
the meeting minutes of January 31, 2024 were approved.*

Commissioner Wolfe entered the meeting at 5:11 PM

**DISCUSSION RE: HOUSE BILL 5444 “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEST BED
TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM**

District Counsel Christopher Stone and Assistant District Counsel Brendan Fox reported on House Bill 5444.

Without objection, Chairman Bazzano postponed the discussion to a future agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM

ATTEST:



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

July 10, 2024

Date of Approval

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC HEARING**
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Present: Commissioners John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Allen Hoffman, Calixto Torres and District Chairman Donald Currey

Remote

Attendance: Commissioners Peter Gardow and Bhupen Patel

Also

Present: John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ORDINANCES

The public hearing was called to order by Commissioner Bazzano at 4:30 PM

Commissioner Bazzano read the following statement:

“This is a public hearing by The Metropolitan District’s Committee on MDC Government. The Committee on MDC Government will receive public input on the proposed revisions and additions to Water Ordinances § W5e and W5K.”

John Mirtle, District Clerk, read the following into the record:

The following hearing notices were published in the Hartford Courant on June 1, 2024 and June 7, 2024; and the notice and the complete text of the proposed ordinance addition and revisions was filed, for public inspection, in the office of the town clerk in each municipality that is a member town of The Metropolitan District.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
PROPOSED REVISIONS & ADDITIONS TO WATER ORDINANCES**

**The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut**

Pursuant to Special Act 01-3, as adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, and Section 2-14 of the Charter of The Metropolitan District, The

Metropolitan District Committee on MDC Government will hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to The District's Water Ordinances. The hearing will be held at The Metropolitan District Board Room, 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on Tuesday, June 11th at 4:30 P.M. Remote attendance is available via phone (415-655-0001; Access code: 2306 456 9653#) or [Meeting Video Link](#).

Proposed changes to the following sections of the Water Ordinances will be considered:

SEC. W5e METER SETTINGS

SEC. W5k LEAD & COPPER RULE SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT (NEW ORDINANCE)

The proposed ordinance revisions are available for inspection at the Office of the District Clerk of The Metropolitan District, 555 Main Street, Hartford and www.themdc.org.

All interested parties from The Metropolitan District's member municipalities may appear to be heard.

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Commissioner Bazzano read the public hearing guidelines.

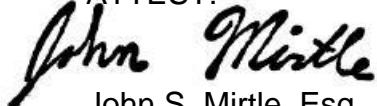
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, spoke in support of the ordinance revisions and additions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM

ATTEST:



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

July 10, 2024
Date of Approval

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT**SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Present: Commissioners John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Peter Gardow, Jean Holloway, and District Chairman Donald Currey (5)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioners James Healy, Maureen Magnan and Calixto Torres (3)

Absent: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, Clifford Avery Buell, Esther Clarke and James Woulfe (4)

Also**Present:**

Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Commissioner Joan Gentile (Remote Attendance)
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bazzano called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Elizabeth Bryden, of West Hartford, submitted the following written comments:

**Comments for the Committee on MDC Government re: Agenda Item 6 DISCUSSION RE: POTENTIAL
ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER**

July 10, 2024

Good afternoon,

My name is Elizabeth Bryden and I am an MDC customer and home owner in West Hartford.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on agenda item #6 regarding retroactive reimbursement for customer sewer repairs.

As some of you are aware, I have attended many different MDC committee meetings for over a year now and I continue to share my comments in an attempt to get reimbursed for an issue I had that began in January 2023. I had a sewage back-up into my home that resulted in a bill for over \$12,000 that I paid to replace a sewer pipe in the woods on someone else's property to which I had no access. In my case, the sewer lateral comes out of the back of my house, down a hill, off my property behind my neighbor's house into the woods on someone else's property and that is where a portion needed to be replaced. The lateral on my property was completely clear when a camera checked it when the back-up occurred. This issue has been passed from committee to committee for a long time now and I am really hoping to get a positive resolution soon.

I believe you already have the details about this issue in the minutes from previous meetings so I won't repeat them all but I am advocating to allow retroactive reimbursement as part of the House Sewer Connection program. When the new sewer ordinances were approved in July 2023, they provided financial relief to homeowners who need to make repairs to the sewer laterals on their property but, up until now, they have not addressed the issue of retroactive reimbursement for repairs that have already been made out of necessity. In my case, had the sewage back up in our house happened just a few months later, it likely would have been covered. Given that the Sewer House Connection program now provides homeowners with financial support for repairs to their laterals, I believe retroactive reimbursements for repairs should also be allowed for a reasonable time period prior to the implementation of the new program. In addition, the Sewer House Connection program should allow for partial replacement of sewer laterals and not just full replacements of the lateral if a partial replacement solves the problem.

In support of this, I would also reference the new Hartford Sewerage System Repair and Improvement Fund which, as I understand it, allows homeowners who have been impacted by damage on or after January 1, 2021 to apply for reimbursement. This program allows for reimbursement for some MDC customers and, in fairness, I believe the Sewer House Connection program should, too.

To summarize, given that there is precedence for the MDC paying for repairs to homeowners' laterals as well as precedence for retroactive reimbursement for homeowners affected by sewer issues and repairs, I am again advocating that the ordinance be revised to allow for retroactive reimbursement for

repairs under the Sewer House Connection program and that partial lateral replacements be covered and eligible for retroactive reimbursement as well.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts again today and hope you take them into consideration.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Bryden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Gardow and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of April 1, 2024 and Public Hearing of June 11, 2024 were approved.

WATER ORDINANCE REVISION

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration July 10, 2024

District staff, through the Office of District Counsel, submits the following ordinance revision to the Ordinances of The Metropolitan District Relating to Water Supply for consideration by the Committee on MDC Government. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance revision was held on June 11, 2024.

Therefore, it is **RECOMMENDED** that it be

VOTED: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the following revisions to Ordinances of The Metropolitan District Relating to Water Supply be adopted as follows:

SEC. W5e METER SETTING

Plumbers shall install a meter setting, furnished by the Water Bureau, in a horizontal position within a District approved meter box or meter pit, after the service shut-off where the meter will be accessible for reading and repairing. For meters permitted to be installed inside a building, the property owner shall furnish and maintain an approved location in the house piping immediately after the main shut-off and as near to where the service pipe enters the building as practicable.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Gardow and duly seconded,
the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous
vote of those present.***

NEW WATER ORDINANCE

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration July 10, 2024

District staff, through the Office of District Counsel, submits the following addition to the Ordinances of The Metropolitan District Relating to Water Supply for consideration by the Committee on MDC Government. A public hearing on the proposed new ordinance was held on June 11, 2024.

Therefore, it is **RECOMMENDED** that it be

VOTED: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the following ordinance be adopted and added to the Ordinances of The Metropolitan District Relating to Water Supply as follows:

SEC. W5k LEAD & COPPER RULE SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

The District, upon written permission of the property owner, shall replace, at the District's cost, any existing water service pipe discovered to contain lead, lead lining or galvanized piping installed downstream of lead pipes, including the private property portion of the service pipe, as prescribed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 1991 Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the 2023 Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) or any subsequent amendments, revisions or improvements. The District's replacement of the private portion of the service pipe shall not include replacement of internal plumbing except it may include replacement through the foundation wall with reconnection to piping immediately inside the foundation wall and shall not extend beyond the meter setting or further than three feet from the foundation pipe penetration.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Gardow and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

POTENTIAL ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER REPAIRS

District Clerk John Mirtle and CFO Bob Barron spoke regarding the previous discussions on the potential retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs that occurred at Bureau of Public Works and District Board meetings.

Chairman Bazzano moved to send the item to staff to develop an ordinance and bring it back to the Committee on MDC Government for further consideration and discussion. The motion was duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote of those present.

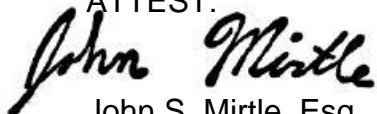
OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, stated that on May 1, 2023 the District Board passed a resolution to pass on to the Committee on Government recommendations from the Internal Audit Committee, including annual Commissioner training. As a customer she is concerned that the Commissioners have the information they need to avoid future problems. She also stated, separately, that money from the legislature for the North End sewer projects was money that the residents had to apply for. She was wondering if that is possibly an idea that the MDC could look into, specifically the potential for creating a fund that customers could apply for relating to the retractive reimbursement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 PM

ATTEST:



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

September 30, 2024
Date of Approval

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT**SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, September 30, 2024

Present: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Jean Holloway, and District Chairman Donald Currey (5)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioners C. Avery Buell and Maureen Magnan (2)

Absent: Commissioners Esther Clarke, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (5)

Also

Present: Commissioner Allen Hoffman
Commissioner Dominic Pane
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
Steven Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Michael Mohr, Controller
Shereese Rodgers, Assistant Manager of Budget & Analysis
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Amanda Litvak, IT Profession Level Associate (Remote Attendance)
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bazzano called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Elizabeth Bryden, of West Hartford, submitted the following written comments:

Comments for the Committee on MDC Government re: Agenda Item 5 DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: POTENTIAL ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER REPAIRS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Good afternoon,

My name is Elizabeth Bryden and I am an MDC customer and home owner in West Hartford.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment today on agenda item #5 regarding retroactive reimbursement for customer sewer repairs.

As many of you know, I have attended numerous MDC committee meetings for about a year and a half now and I have followed the MDC process, including using an MDC recommended contractor and following permitting and inspection requirements, in an attempt to resolve an issue at my home regarding a sewer lateral repair in January 2023. To briefly recap the issue, I had a sewage back up into my home and I had to pay over \$12,000 to replace a sewer pipe in the woods on someone else's property to which I had no access. In my case, the sewer lateral comes out of the back of my house, down a hill, off my property behind my neighbor's house into the woods on someone else's property and that is where a portion needed to be replaced.

At the July 10, 2024 Committee on MDC Government meeting, which I attended, the committee voted to develop a draft ordinance for consideration that would allow the Sewer House Connection Program to provide retroactive reimbursement for replacement and /or partial repairs to sewer laterals for some time period, to be determined, prior to the implementation of the program on July 12, 2023. I really appreciate the committee discussing the potential new ordinance today that would address situations like mine as this issue has been passed from committee to committee for a long time now.

In terms of retroactive reimbursement, I would like to note that the Hartford Sewerage System Repair Fund allows homeowners who have been impacted by damage on or after January 1, 2021 to apply for reimbursement so there is a precedent for retroactive reimbursement. In addition, I am advocating for the Sewer House Connection program to allow for partial replacement of sewer laterals and not just full replacements if a partial replacement solves the problem, as it did in my case.

To summarize, I respectfully request that the committee approve this new ordinance, with a reasonable time period for retroactive reimbursements, given that there is a precedent for the MDC paying for repairs to homeowners' laterals as well as a precedent for retroactive reimbursement for homeowners affected by sewer issues. I believe the approval of this ordinance will allow homeowners affected by costly sewer lateral replacements and/or repairs to seek fair reimbursement. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts again today and hope you take them into consideration.

Thank you.
Elizabeth Bryden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by District Chairman Currey and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of July 10, 2024 were approved.

NEW BYLAW § B6j “TRAINING”

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration September 30, 2024

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be

VOTED: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the following addition to The Metropolitan District's Bylaws be adopted as follows:

B6j TRAINING

Commissioners and Citizen Members shall be required to complete annual training (virtual, in-person, or a combination thereof) which, subject to modification or expansion by the District Chairman, will include selected sessions from the following topics: Ethics/Conflicts of Interest; Workplace Violence Awareness and Prevention; Cybersecurity; and the District Whistleblower Complaint Policy. To the extent feasible, Commissioners and Citizen Members will receive the same training provided to District employees as administered by District staff.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

*On motion made by Commissioner Anderson and duly seconded,
the resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.*

POTENTIAL ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER REPAIRS

The Committee discussed a potential ordinance for retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs.

Without objection, Chairman Bazzano tabled the potential ordinance for retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elizabeth Bryden, of West Hartford, spoke regarding the retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs and stated that she understands that it is not an easy decision but hoped the information needed will be available in order to make a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Mirtle".

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

December 4, 2024
Date of Approval

COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING
555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Present: Commissioners John Bazzano, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Calixto Torres and District Chairman Donald Currey (5)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioners Avery Buell, Esther Clarke and Maureen Magnan (3)

Absent: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, Jean Holloway, and James Woulfe (4)

Also

Present: Commissioner Joan Gentile (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Christopher Stone, District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems (Remote Attendance)
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Amanda Litvak, IT Profession Level Associate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bazzano called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Elizabeth Bryden, of West Hartford, submitted the following written comments:

Comments for the Committee on MDC Government re: Agenda Item 7 DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: POTENTIAL ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER REPAIRS

DECEMBER 4, 2024

Good afternoon,

My name is Elizabeth Bryden and I am an MDC customer and homeowner in West Hartford.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on agenda item #7 regarding retroactive reimbursement for customer sewer repairs. I am here today to again recommend the approval of the revised sewer ordinance that would allow for the retroactive reimbursement for homeowners for partial repairs and replacements to sewer laterals. The revised sewer ordinance was discussed at the meeting on September 30th but the issue was tabled during the meeting. As this issue has been passed from committee to committee for a long time now, I sincerely hope that today a decision will be made to approve the revised ordinance and provide a mechanism for MDC customers to be reimbursed for these costly lateral repairs and/or replacement.

I would note that there is already a precedent for retroactive reimbursement in that the Hartford Sewerage System Repair Fund allows homeowners who have been impacted by damage on or after January 1, 2021 to apply for reimbursement. In addition, I am advocating for the Sewer House Connection program to allow for partial replacement of sewer laterals and not just full replacements if a partial replacement solves the problem, as it did in my case.

As many of you know, I have been attending numerous MDC committee meetings for over a year and a half now. When I had a sewage back up at my home in January 2023, I followed the MDC process, including using an MDC recommended contractor and following permitting and inspection requirements, and resolved the issue with a partial lateral replacement. However, I had to pay over \$12,000 to replace a sewer pipe in the woods on someone else's property to which I had no access. In my case, the sewer lateral comes out of the back of my house, down a hill, off my property behind my neighbor's house into the woods on someone else's property and that is where a portion needed to be replaced. This revised ordinance would help homeowners who experience a situation like mine and I think it is fair and reasonable.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts again today and hope you take them into consideration by passing the revised ordinance.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Bryden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of September 30, 2024 were approved.

Without objection, Chairman Bazzano made a motion to consolidate agenda items #4 “Revision to Water Supply Ordinances”, #5 “Revision to Sewer Ordinances” and #6 “Revision to General Ordinances

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
WATER ORDINANCE REVISIONS**

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration on December 4, 2024

District staff through the Office of District Counsel submits the following ordinance revisions to The Metropolitan District Water Ordinances for consideration by the District Board.

WATER SUPPLY ORDINANCES:

§ W1a	WATER USED CHARGE (TREATED WATER)
§ W1f	SURCHARGE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
§ W2d	ALL WATER METERED
§ W2f	ONE METER FOR EACH SERVICE
§ W2I	FIRE SERVICE METERING (NEW)
§ W4h	INSTALLATION OF MAINS BY DEVELOPER'S METHOD
§ W5a	CHARGES FOR SERVICE PIPE

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

VOTED: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the following Metropolitan District's Water Ordinances be revised and adopted as follows:

SEC. W1a WATER USED CHARGE (TREATED WATER)

For customers which do not resell treated water, the WATER USED CHARGE is the quantity of water used as read at the meter, as follows:

<u>BILLS RENDERED</u>	<u>RATE</u>
<u>MONTHLY</u>	\$3.80 \$3.91 per 100 Cubic Feet

The WATER USED CHARGE for such customers subject to § S12x of The Metropolitan District Sewer Ordinances who purchase more than 802ccf of water per day, as averaged over a monthly billing period, as follows:

For each of the first 802ccf of water used per day:

<u>BILLS RENDERED</u>	<u>RATE</u>
<u>MONTHLY</u>	\$3.80 \$3.91 per 100 Cubic Feet

For each ccf of water used per day in excess of 802ccf:

<u>BILLS RENDERED</u>	<u>RATE</u>

<u>MONTHLY</u>	<u>\$3.05</u> \$3.16 per 100 Cubic Feet
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For customers which, by agreement with the District or otherwise, resell treated water, the WATER USED CHARGE is the quantity of water used as read at the meter, as follows:

<u>BILLS RENDERED</u>	<u>RATE</u>
<u>MONTHLY</u>	\$3.80 \$3.91 per 100 Cubic Feet

SEC. W1f SURCHARGE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In towns outside the limits of The Metropolitan District for which capital improvements or layout and assessment projects are constructed, in addition to the charges set forth in SEC. W1a, W1b and W1c, there shall be a surcharge on the water rates determined from the size of the meter installed on the premises, as follows:

1. On or before the end of each fiscal year, The Metropolitan District shall determine the actual cost of each capital improvement constructed for each non-member town and the net cost (cost less assessments) of layout and assessment projects constructed for each non-member town. The costs and/or net costs, as applicable, shall be allocated to the towns for which the work was performed and shall be a surcharge on the water rates of the users located in such towns.
2. The annual surcharge to be added to each user's water rate shall equal the total amount of the costs and/or net costs, as applicable, allocated to the town in which such user is located [excluding costs which the town has paid as set forth in Section W1f(3)] amortized over a twenty year period using an interest rate computed by the District which approximates the District's long-term cost of funds for its General Obligation Bond portfolio-multiplied by the percentage of hydraulic capacity of each user's meter size (based on the American Water Works Association meter size capacity) of the aggregate hydraulic capacity of all meters in such town. The surcharge shall be billed in either quarterly or monthly installments, as applicable, commencing with the first bill sent out in the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year in which the work was performed and continuing over the twenty year period.
3. The District shall, as soon as possible after the completion of each capital improvement project or separate phase thereof, provide to the non-member towns for which a capital improvement was constructed a compilation of the costs associated with the construction of such project(s). If, on or before the end of the District's fiscal year in which such construction was completed, a non-member town agrees to pay and does in fact pay all or a portion of the cost of a capital improvement constructed for such town, then the amount paid by such town shall be deducted from the total amount of costs and/or net costs allocated to such town as described in Section W1f(1) and used to calculate the individual surcharges as set forth in Section W1f(2).

MONTHLY BILLING

METER SIZE	Farmington		Glastonbury		South Windsor		Manchester	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
5/8"	\$1.97	\$1.88	\$1.60	\$1.50	\$1.31	\$1.18	\$2.73	\$2.68
3/4"	-	-	\$2.39	\$2.25	\$1.97	\$1.78	-	-
1"	\$3.93	\$3.76	\$3.19	\$3.00	\$2.63	\$2.37	\$5.47	\$5.36
1 1/2"	\$7.87	\$7.53	\$6.39	\$6.00	\$5.25	\$4.74	-	-
2"			\$119.7	\$112.50		\$88.86	-	-
	\$147.53	\$141.13	4		\$98.50			
3"	\$344.23	\$329.29	\$279.3	\$262.49	\$229.8	\$207.34		\$469.05
4"	\$590.10	\$564.51	\$478.9	\$449.99	\$394.0	\$355.44	\$478.29	-
6"	\$786.80	\$752.67	6		2		-	-
8"	\$1,967.01	\$1,881.6	4		6		4	0
		8	-	-	-	-	-	-

SEC. W2d ALL WATER METERED

All Metropolitan District water, including certain fire protection services required by the Director of Engineering and Planning **in accordance with W2I**, is supplied through meters and the charge for all water passing through such meters will be billed to the owner of record of the property supplied whether the water is used or wasted. If, from any cause, the meter fails to register, the consumption of water will be estimated and the charge made will be based on the registration of the meter when in order, or upon the registration for a corresponding prior period.

SEC. W2f ONE METER FOR EACH SERVICE

One meter, and one meter only, shall be allowed on a service pipe, except that battery meter settings may be installed on large services at the discretion of the Water Bureau. The customer service charge for battery settings shall be the sum of the customer service charges for the size of meters making up the battery. All water supplied to the premises through that pipe, **except that including** used for fire protection only **in accordance with W2I**, shall pass through that meter, or battery of meters, and shall be billed at the regular rates.

SEC. W2I FIRE SERVICE METERING

All new or modified fire service installation plans will be analyzed and approved by the Director of Engineering and Planning for the installation of a meter on the service. Fire services that meet the following criteria will be metered under the regular water rates and service charges:

- Maximum Planned Total Fire Flow – 1,500 gpm or greater;

- b. A Fire Pump that draws directly from the District's water distribution system;
- c. A Fire Storage Tank supplied directly by the District's water distribution system;
- d. Early Suppression Fire Response (ESFR), Dry Type or Deluge Sprinkler Systems;
- e. Private Fire Hydrants installed 100 feet or more beyond the property line or when required by the Director of Engineering and Planning;
- f. Any fire service that in the sole discretion of the Director of Engineering and Planning warrants metering due to potential impact on the District's distribution system.

The property owner shall be responsible for all installation and equipment costs including the meter, meter pits, piping and valves to provide the approved installation.

SEC. W4h INSTALLATION OF MAINS BY DEVELOPER'S METHOD

In lieu of the installation of a Class II main or mains and appurtenances and the assessment therefore, the Water Bureau may, by agreement with the developer or owner, require the construction of, such main or mains and appurtenances at the expense of said developer or owner. The Water Bureau is empowered to authorize the District Clerk to enter into agreements on behalf of the developer's contractors or Water Bureau forces, or combinations thereof, as mutually determined and agreed upon. Such agreements shall provide for assumption of liability by the developer or owner in connection with such construction and adequate insurance shall be required. In cases where, in staff's opinion, special circumstances are involved, the Administration must bring the matter to The Water Bureau for approval. The Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Water Bureau is authorized to sign all such agreements on behalf of The Metropolitan District. The Chairman of the Water Bureau may, at his or her discretion, authorize the District Clerk to sign all such agreements on behalf of The Metropolitan District.

The Water Bureau is empowered at its discretion to include in agreements with developers or other owners for the construction of water mains by and at the expense of such developers or owners, as now provided by ordinance, provisions for reimbursement of said developers or owners from connection charges collected, or to be collected, immediately following execution of the agreement with the land owner, for the cost of water mains constructed by them in sections of highways on which lands owned by them do not abut, such reimbursement not to exceed the cost of construction within such sections of highways, and limiting the time within which such reimbursement may occur to such time as the said Bureau may deem expedient for the particular case, but no reimbursement shall be made after ten years from the date of incorporation of the particular water main into the public system. Expiration of the time for reimbursement to the developer shall not release subsequent permittees from paying a connection charge to the District.

SEC. W5a CHARGES FOR SERVICE PIPE

New service pipes shall be installed ~~at the cost of by, or on behalf of,~~ the property owner from the distribution main to the property to be served. ~~The full length of the service pipe is owned by the property owner and maintenance and repair shall be the responsibility of the property owner.~~ The charges for service taps of the several sizes shall be determined by the Water Bureau for each calendar year and, in determining the charges, said Bureau shall give consideration to actual costs of service taps of the several sizes constructed in recent years and to the estimated cost of making such taps in the ensuing calendar year, and such charges shall be reported to the District Board at the next meeting thereof. Old service pipes that break between the main and ~~street line a meter pit or shutoff valve/curb stop on the property owner's side shall will~~ be repaired or replaced by the District at no charge to the property owner. Old service pipes that are inadequate due to corrosion and clogging shall be replaced or relined by the District between the main and ~~street line a meter pit or shutoff valve/curb stop on the property owner's side,~~ at no charge to the property owner, provided the property owner has already renewed ~~his the~~ service from the ~~street line meter pit or shutoff valve/curb stop on the property owner's side~~ to the building, and the District determines, through flow tests or other means, that the service is still inadequate.

When a water service pipe is in need of replacement, or a new water service pipe is to be installed for connection to the District's water distribution system, the property owner may at his or her election request to participate in the District's Water Service Installation Program as established by the Water Bureau, as may be modified or amended from time to time.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SEWER ORDINANCE REVISIONS**

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration on December 4, 2024

District staff through the Office of District Counsel submits the following ordinance revisions to The Metropolitan District Sewer Ordinances for consideration by the District Board.

SEWER ORDINANCES**§ S2I USE OF SANITARY SEWERS**

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

VOTED: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the following Metropolitan District's Sewer Ordinances be revised and adopted as follows:

SEC. S2I USE OF SANITARY SEWERS

In addition to the restrictions on use of the District's sanitary sewers set forth elsewhere in the District Charter and ordinances, and ~~E~~xcept as may be specifically otherwise permitted ~~provided with reference to~~ for some particular sewer, sanitary sewers shall be used only for the conveyance and disposal of sanitary sewage as defined in Section S1b(2) of this ordinance and for diluted, water-carried industrial wastes which are not objectionable as provided hereinafter. Except as specifically provided for some particular sewer or location, no sanitary sewer shall be used to receive and convey or dispose of other substance(s), including but not limited to ~~any~~ storm or surface water, subsoil drainage, ~~any~~ flows of water seeping into buildings or excavations from soils or other underground sources, flows of natural springs, or ground waters, surplus from flowing wells, the discharge from roofs, roof conductors, yard drains, street or highway drains.

New connections, or increases in dry weather flow discharge resulting from development or redevelopment of a property, to a separated sanitary sewer shall be subject to the findings within an availability and capacity analysis performed by the District. If the District's separated sewer system's capacity in the vicinity of the connection is limited due to existing illegal wet weather inflow(s) of the type described above in the District's sewer, the District shall either: (a) exclude such discharge or connection to the District's sewer; or (b) require removal of an equivalent volume per day of inflow from the subject sewershed at the cost of the property owner or developer seeking connection or discharge to the District's sewers.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
GENERAL ORDINANCE REVISIONS**

To: Committee on MDC Government for consideration on December 4, 2024

District staff through the Office of District Counsel submits the following ordinance revisions to The Metropolitan District General Ordinances for consideration by the District Board.

GENERAL ORDINANCES

§ G9a INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE
§ G9b REPORTS

It is **RECOMMENDED** that it be:

VOTED: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the following Metropolitan District's General Ordinances be revised and adopted as follows:

SEC. G9a INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE

The State of Connecticut Consumer Counsel ("Consumer Counsel") will appoint an Independent Consumer Advocate ("Consumer Advocate") who shall be a member of the Connecticut bar and shall have ~~private~~ legal experience in ~~municipal, environmental or~~ public utility law and policy. The Consumer Advocate shall act as an independent advocate for consumer interests in all matters which may affect District consumers, including, but not limited to, rates, water quality, water supply and wastewater service quality. The Consumer Counsel ~~will appoint shall select~~ the Independent Consumer Advocate ~~prior to November 1, 2017 and then in each odd numbered year thereafter~~ to serve for a two-year term commencing on the ~~following~~ first day of January ~~in each odd-numbered year, except that the length of any term and the dates of commencement and expiration of any term may be altered at the discretion of the Consumer Counsel in the event of a vacancy or in the best interests of the District's consumers.~~ The Consumer Advocate shall be independent of the District Board and may not be removed by the District Board for any reason. The District Board shall not direct or oversee the activities of the Consumer Advocate. The District Board shall cooperate with reasonable requests of the Consumer Advocate to enable the Consumer Advocate to effectively perform his or her duties and functions. The Consumer Advocate may be terminated by the Consumer Counsel prior to the completion of a two-year term only for misconduct, material neglect of duty or incompetence. Costs related to the Consumer Advocate, including, but not limited to, hourly fees and necessary expenses shall be paid for by the District. The

annual amount of such costs shall not exceed seventy thousand dollars ~~for the period from November 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 and fifty thousand dollars for each year thereafter~~, unless there is a demonstration of substantial need made by the Consumer Advocate and approved by the District Board. ~~From November 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, the Consumer Advocate shall not perform any of his or her official functions as set forth herein, but rather perform those duties reasonably necessary to enable him or her to commence performing the official functions of the Consumer Advocate as of January 1, 2018.~~

The Consumer Advocate may appear and participate in District matters or any other federal or state regulatory or judicial proceeding in which consumers generally of the District are or may be involved. The Consumer Advocate, in carrying out his or her duties, shall: (1) ~~H~~ave access to the records of the District, (2) have the right to make a reasonable number of copies of District records, (3) be entitled to call upon the assistance of the District's technical and legal experts, and (4) have the benefit of all other information of the District, except for employment records and other internal documents that are not relevant to the duties of the Consumer Advocate. Prior to January 1, 2018, the Consumer Advocate and representatives of the District shall determine those District records that may be publicly disclosed without prior consent of the District. Requests for public disclosure of any other records shall be forwarded to the District Clerk and processed in accordance with the State of Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any party interested in any proceeding or action of the District from appearing in person or from being represented by counsel therein.

SEC. G9b REPORTS

The Consumer Advocate shall prepare reports of his or her activities and submit such reports at the end of each calendar quarter to the District, the chief elected official of each ~~town-municipality~~ receiving service from the District and to the Consumer Counsel. Such quarterly reports shall be posted on the Internet web sites of the District and the Consumer Counsel. The Consumer Advocate shall hold an annual public forum on the second Wednesday of October each year at a location where the District holds hearings, for the purpose of describing the recent activities of the Consumer Advocate and receiving feedback from consumers. The District shall publicize the public forum through an announcement at the preceding scheduled meeting of the District, on its Internet web site and in a notice on or attached to its consumer bills. The Consumer Advocate may hold additional public forums as he or she deems necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the resolutions for agenda items #4 “Revision to Water Supply Ordinances”, #5 “Revision to Sewer Ordinances” and #6 “Revision to General Ordinances were adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

Commissioner Peter Gardow entered the meeting at 4:06 PM.

POTENTIAL ORDINANCE FOR RETROACTIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF CUSTOMER SEWER REPAIRS

District Chairman Currey made the following motion:

The Committee on MDC Government does not approve making a referral to the District Board for their approval for any retroactive reimbursement of customer sewer repairs.

The motion was duly seconded and adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

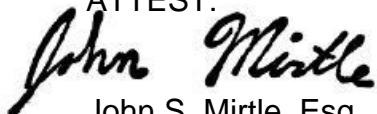
COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Patel asked to define the role of Commissioners and chairpersons, and their relationship with administration. He also asked for clarification on how and when they can intervene

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM

ATTEST:



John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

January 6, 2025
Date of Approval

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To

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT

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