

**WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES - MAY 24, 2021**

**11:45 AM - WMU AUDITORIUM**

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 11:45 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Justin Mattern, Nathan Weber, Bruce DeBlieck, Ross Magnuson, and Kerry Johnson. Absent were Commissioners Abdirizak Mahboub and Cole Erickson.

Others present at the meeting were: General Manager John Harren, Compliance/HR Manager Janell Johnson, Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, IS Coordinator Mike Sangren, Executive Secretary Beth Mattheisen, City Attorney Robert Scott, and City Council Liaison Michael O'Brien.

The meeting was opened by reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to the absence of Commission Secretary Mahboub, Commission President Mattern appointed Commissioner DeBlieck to serve as Acting Secretary. Following the appointment, newly established CDC guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals were presented. Notably, fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations. If unvaccinated, masking and social distancing requirements are to remain in place. Following discussion, it was consensus of the Commission to concur with the guidelines as established and recommended by the CDC.

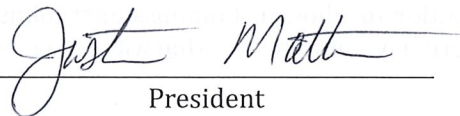
Commission President Mattern next inquired if any revisions were needed to the agenda presented. There being none, a resolution was requested to approve the Consent Agenda. Following review and discussion, Commissioner DeBlieck offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Magnuson seconded.

**RESOLUTION NO. 30**


"BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented which includes:

- ❖ Minutes from the May 10, 2021 Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20210541 to No. 20210617 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$1,086,375.77.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Secretary

The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of five ayes and zero nays.

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker along with General Manager Harren informed the Commission that North Risk Partners submitted two options regarding insurance renewal. Option A includes actual cash value on the plant and replacement costs for the SCADA/switchgear/batteries. Option B relinquishes the actual cash value on the plant and adds \$5,000,000 for plant debris removal and clean up along with replacement cost coverage for the SCADA/switchgear/batteries. Following discussion, Commissioner Mattern offered a motion to select Option B. By selecting this option, WMU

would see an annual premium savings of \$57,218. Commissioner Magnuson seconded the motion which carried by a vote of five ayes and zero nays.

At this time, the Commission viewed the MRES 2020 Year-in-Review video. Last year was marked by uncertainty and change (i.e. COVID-19) but the commitment by Missouri River Energy Services made to deliver affordable, reliable energy and energy services was a constant on which their members such as Willmar could rely on. The video recapped how MRES maintained strong relationships with its members and kept power flowing and the lights on in spite of evolving conditions caused by the pandemic. Highlights of services provided by MRES along with what to anticipate in the future were presented. Among the topics covered were: creating cleaner energy sources; maintaining financial stability; advocating for legislative issues; delivering value to its members (services); adapting to changes (i.e. retirements of long-standing officials); and, awards/recognition for 2020. General Manager Harren added the following points of interest directly related to WMU:

- 1) Due to MRES's strong financial position, they refunding over \$17 million to its members in December 2020. Willmar's share was \$316,975.25;
- 2) By participating in the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) program, Willmar is designated as a 100% clean, carbon-free energy community; and,
- 3) Former Commissioner Carol Laumer was named as recipient of the Maurice A. TePaske Public Official Award by MRES. This award is presented for distinguished service in support of public power.

General Manager Harren reminded the Commission that a meeting of the WMU Labor Committee is scheduled for Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> (12:00 pm). Agenda items will include: 1) review the final draft of the updated WMU Strategic Plan, clothing policy, succession/interim planning, and pay equity/compensation (exempt employees).

General Manager Harren further noted that a meeting of the WMU Planning Committee will be forthcoming. Tentative agenda topics for this meeting will include: employee survey, pay equity, NISC software, and Water Treatment Plant 90% review.

For information: Upcoming meetings/events to note include:

- 2021 APPA National Conference (June 20-23 in-person; July 13-14 virtual)
- 2021 MMUA Summer Conference – August 16-18 (Cragun's Resort, Brainerd)

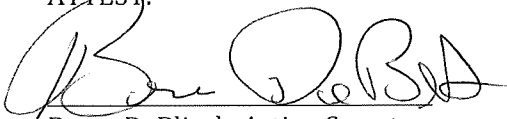
There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner DeBlieck offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion which carried by a vote of five ayes and zero nays, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

  
Beth Mattheisen  
Executive Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Bruce DeBlieck, Acting Secretary