

**WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 25, 2022**  
**11:45 AM - WMU AUDITORIUM**

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022, Bruce DeBlieck, Kerry Johnson, Shawn Mueske, Carol Laumer and Kadar Abdi. Absent were Commissioners Cole Erickson and Dave Baumgart.

Others present at the meeting were: General Manager John Harren, Director of Administration Janell Johnson, Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, IS Coordinator Mike Sangren, Executive Secretary Beth Mattheisen, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti, City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference), and WC Tribune Journalists Shelby Lindrud and Jennifer Kotila.

The meeting was opened by reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Commissioner DeBlieck (President) asking if any revisions were needed to the presented agenda. There being none, a resolution was requested to approve the consent agenda. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Mueske offered a resolution to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16**

“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 April 11, 2022, Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20220470 to No. 20220561 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$1,624,298.79.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.

  
President

Attest:

  
Secretary

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

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker informed the Commission of the need to determine the amount of liability limits to be set regarding the League of Minnesota Liability Insurance renewal. Staff was recommending that Willmar Municipal Utilities does not waive the limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04. If WMU does not waive the statutory tort limits, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total which all claimants would be able to recover in a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. If WMU waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total which all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants. Following discussion, Commissioner Laumer offered a resolution to not waive the limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04. Commission Kadar seconded.

**RESOLUTION NO. 17**

“BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the Willmar Municipal Utilities does not waive the limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes 466.04.”

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.



President

Attest:



Secretary

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

General Manager Harren summarized for the Commission the April 21<sup>st</sup> meetings held with our state legislators regarding submitted funding requests for the NE Water Treatment Plant project (\$21 million requested). Our lobbyists (Reid LeBeau and staff from the Jacobson Law Firm) provided a strong and collaborated effort in organizing the valuable meetings. The legislators were all familiar with the project with Rep. Baker and Sen. Lang being strong advocates in support of the project. The continued support and optimism for a positive outcome of funding of this vital project is crucial for WMU and the citizens of Willmar.

General Manager Harren continued by providing a brief update of the funding efforts requested at the federal level. While Sen. Klobuchar and Smith are both supportive of the NEWTP project, Rep. Fischbach is not taking any project requests from her constituents this year. This is the second year the request for federal funding of the NEWTP has been submitted (\$3.5 million requested).

General Manager Harren informed the Commission of several upcoming meetings:

- WMU Recognition & Awards Luncheon including Q Marketing customer satisfaction survey results presentation: May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 am (prior to WMU LC meeting)
- WMU LC Mtg.: May 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 12:00 pm. Agenda items: customer survey, community events, new logo
- Next regular (rescheduled) MUC Mtg.: Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 11:45 am
- Special MUC Mtg. (MRES transmission presentation): Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:00 am

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that additional meetings of both the WMU Labor and Planning Committees would be forthcoming (dates TBD). Tentative future Labor Committee agenda item(s) will include software options for accounting & billing and rate study. Tentative future Planning Committee agenda items will include water modeling & water treatment plant, agreement with David Turch & Associates (DTA), and new building.

For information: Upcoming events to note include:

- MRES Annual Meeting (Sioux Falls, SD): May 11-12 (DeBlieck/Laumer)
- APPA National Conference (Nashville, TN): June 10-15 (DeBlieck/Laumer)
- MMUA Summer Conference (Madden's Resort): August 22-24 (DeBlieck)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Laumer offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mueske seconded the motion which carried by a vote of five ayes and zero nays, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Beth Mattheisen  
Executive Secretary

ATTEST:



Carol Laumer, Secretary