

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 13, 2022
11:45 AM - WMU AUDITORIUM

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 11:45 am in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Cole Erickson, Kerry Johnson, Dave Baumgart, and Kadar Abdi. Absent were Commissioners Bruce DeBlieck, Carol Laumer, and Shawn Mueske.

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 Councilman Michael O'Brien, City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference), and WC Tribune Journalist Jennifer Kotila.

Due to the absence of Secretary Laumer, Commissioner Erickson (Vice President) opened the meeting by appointing Commissioner Baumgart to serve as Acting Secretary. Following the appointment, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioner Erickson continued by 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 Kadar offered a resolution to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Baumgart seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 21

"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 23, 2022, Commission meeting;
- ❖ Minutes from the June 3, 2022 Special Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20220730 to No. 20220819 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$669,648.69.

Dated this 13th day of June 2022.

Attest:



Acting Secretary



Vice President

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

At this time, Commissioner Johnson departed the meeting.

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker presented the Commission with the April 2022 Financial Reports along with a recap of the April 30, 2022 Investment Portfolio, and the April 2022 Cost of Power Report. The data presented included analyses of the Electric, Water, and Combined Divisions. Information contained in the reports reflect operating revenues & expenses, operating income, and retained earnings. Graphs depicting the 2021/2022 monthly year-to-date revenues, expenses, and retained earnings were also included with the financial data.

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker reviewed with the Commission the APPA Benchmarking and AE2S Water Rate Comparisons. APPA's Performance Indicators Survey is completed annually. Data is collected from public power utilities with at least 100,000 MWh in total sales and at least 50% retail sales (WMU's sales are approximately 300,000 MWh). Financial and operating ratios represent data for 144 of the largest publicly owned utilities in the USA. WMU's ratios are included in the Management's Discussion & Analysis section of the annual audit. APPA benchmarking standards and comparisons were reviewed. It was noted that WMU has not implemented an electric rate increase since 2015.

Regarding the AE2S Water Rate Comparisons, WMU's water rates are currently ranked 14th out of 29 comparable-sized utilities in Minnesota, excluding the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. The water rates ranged from \$17.25 to \$76.14 with WMU at \$32.24.

Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Marti presented the Commission with the May 2022 Wind Turbine Report. Turbine availabilities for the month of May were at 94.3% (Unit #3) and 90.7% (Unit #4) with a total monthly production of 680,683 kilowatt hours. A combination of recent storms along with a breaker issue on WTG #4 (which has been repaired by WMU Staff) resulted in a decrease in production compared to April's record-breaking numbers.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that meetings of both the WMU Labor and Planning Committees would be forthcoming. The Planning Committee will be meeting on June 20th at 12:00 pm with agenda items to include NEWTP (Carollo Task Order #4), NEWTP funding/bonding, and emergency generation. Tentative future Labor Committee agenda items will include new logo, software options for accounting & billing, and rate study. Tentative future Planning Committee agenda items will include water treatment plant, agreement with David Turch & Associates (DTA), and new building.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) has served notice to its member utilities that the region could face an electricity shortage this summer. With the anticipated shortage of generation, members will be asked to develop an emergency plan to prepare for the anticipated power shortfall. MISO will continue to closely monitor the challenges this summer season and coordinate with its members to maintain grid reliability.

For information: Upcoming events to note include:

- MRES member tours of Red Rock Hydroelectric Project (Pella, IA): June 23rd, July 20th, and August 18th
- MMUA Summer Conference (Madden's Resort): August 22-24 (DeBlieck/Laumer)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Kadar offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baumgart seconded the motion which carried by a vote of three ayes and zero nays, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES


Beth Mattheisen
Executive Secretary

ATTEST:


Dave Baumgart, Acting Secretary