

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 21, 2022
11:45 AM - WMU AUDITORIUM

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 11:45 am in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Cole Erickson, Carol Laumer, Dave Baumgart, Shawn Mueske, and John Kennedy. Absent were Commissioners Bruce DeBlieck and Kadar Abdi.

Others present at the meeting were: General Manager John Harren, Director of Administration Janell Johnson, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti, Staff Electrical Engineer Jeron Smith, IS Coordinator Mike Sangren, Executive Secretary Beth Mattheisen, and City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference).

The meeting opened by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Commission Vice President Erickson 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 Kennedy seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 53

“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 December 12, 2022, Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20221947 to No. 20221999 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$2,182,193.23.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2022.



Vice President

Attest:



Secretary

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

Staff Electrical Engineer Smith informed the Commission of several reporting requirements for Distributed Generation. One such report requires that it be filed with the WMU Commission by January 2, 2023. Per state requirements, WMU is required to report on energy generation, tariffs, and interconnection status for our customer-owned distributed generation facilities. The purpose of the report is to ensure WMU has updated rates on file for customers who have distributed generation resources (rates are published on the WMU website). Smith provided additional data regarding the reporting requirements for the 2023 Electric Distributed Generation Reporting.

General Manager Harren requested the Commission to consider extending the current Government Relations Contract with the Jacobson Law Group to procure funding to assist in financing of the Northeast Water Treatment Plant Project (NEWTP). A proposal in the amount of \$20,000 (flat -fee retainer) was received from Attorney R. Reid LeBeau II to provide the additional state lobbying services. The original contract with the Jacobson Law Group was approved on November 22, 2021, in the amount of \$20,000. Following discussion regarding the proposal, Commissioner Laumer offered a resolution to direct staff to negotiate the contract at a reduced rate and to request weekly updates on the lobbying efforts. Commissioner Baumgart seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 54

“BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the proposal from R. Reid LeBeau II of the Jacobson Law Group to provide lobbying services to secure funding assistance

through State bonding efforts be approved dependent on an acceptable negotiated amount and to provide detailed weekly updates including exemptions to the bill. This funding assistance would be for the NEWTP Project currently underway.”

Dated this 21st day of December, 2022.



Vice President

Attest:



Secretary

The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of four ayes and one nay (Commissioner Mueske).

Commissioner Erickson reviewed the 2022 Commission meeting attendance record. Erickson noted that to remain well-informed of all issues concerning the Willmar Municipal Utilities, it is important to make meeting attendance a priority. He continued by expressing his appreciation to his fellow Commissioners for their time and efforts involved in serving not only on the Commission but also as members of the Labor and Planning Committees.

At this time, Commissioner Laumer presented Commissioner Erickson with a commemorative plaque to honor his years of service and dedication while serving as a member of the WMU Commission (2020-2022). His years of involvement and service are to be commended. At this time, Commissioner Erickson accepted the honor and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Commissioner. Congratulations and best wishes, Cole!

With the impending departure of Commissioner Erickson, General Manager Harren requested any input regarding potential replacements for Commission appointments. Please contact either General Manager Harren or the City of Willmar with any possible candidates to fill the upcoming vacancies.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that a WMU Planning Committee meeting will be forthcoming (TBD) with tentative agenda items to include Sprint agreement, new building, and water treatment plant.

For information: Upcoming events to note include:

- 2023 MMUA Legislative Conference: January 24-25 (St. Paul)
- 2023 APPA Legislative Conference: February 27th through March 1st (Washington DC)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Laumer offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baumgart seconded the motion which carried by a vote of five ayes and zero nays, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

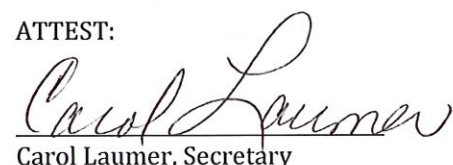
Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Beth Mattheisen
Executive Secretary

ATTEST:



Carol Laumer, Secretary