

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 24, 2023
11:45 AM - WMU AUDITORIUM

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 11:45 am in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Shawn Mueske, Carol Laumer, John Kennedy, Patricia Elizondo, and Terrill Sieck. Absent were Commissioners Bruce DeBlieck 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, Energy/Safety Outreach Coordinator Amber Dale, City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference), and WC Tribune Journalist Jennifer Kotila.

Due to the absence of Commission Secretary Baumgart, Commission Vice President Mueske opened the meeting by appointing Commissioner Laumer to serve as Acting Secretary. Following the appointment, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioner Mueske 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 Kennedy offered a resolution to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Sieck seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 15

“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 10, 2023, Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20230463 to No. 20230528 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$1,852,245.42.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2023.


Vice President

Attest:


Acting Secretary

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

Energy/Safety Outreach Coordinator Dale provided the Commission with an overview of electric vehicles (EV) and electric chargers specifically how they relate to WMU and the Willmar area. Currently the total number of EV in Kandiyohi County is estimated at 90 (includes both plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles). A brief explanation of the three types of EV charging units was presented along with the increasing sites in our community. Public chargers are located at Goodwill (Level 2 charger – completed); Mills Toyota (Level 2 charger – completed; Mills Ford (Level 2 charger – completed; Cub Foods (8 – Level 3 Tesla super chargers – summer completion); and, additional units in the early stages of development. WMU staff will continue to monitor the number of EV in the area, promote rebates through Bright Energy Solutions (MRES), market programs designed to promote desired charging habits through discounted charging programs, and to familiarize WMU customers with electric vehicles and chargers.

As a member of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), the WMU is provided a monthly update of the MRES and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA) Boards of Directors meeting. The March 2023 monthly update provides a brief overview of the topics discussed by the Boards and the actions taken.

General Manager Harren recapped for the Commission the April 14th weekly update provided by Jacobson Law Group on their continued legislative efforts to secure financial assistance for the NE Water Treatment Plant Project.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that meetings of both the WMU Labor and Planning Committees will also be forthcoming. Tentative future Labor Committee agenda item(s) will include union negotiations. Tentative future Planning Committee agenda items will include generation, new building, water treatment plant funding, and SunRay Water System.

For information: Upcoming 2023 events to note include:

- MRES Annual Meeting: May 10-11 (Sioux Falls, SD)
- APPA National Conference: June 18-21 (Seattle, WA)
- MMUA Summer Conference: August 21-23 (Duluth)

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

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Beth Mattheisen
Executive Secretary

ATTEST:



Carol Laumer, Acting Secretary