

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - MAY 8, 2023
11:45 AM - WMU AUDITORIUM

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 11:45 am in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Bruce DeBlieck, Shawn Mueske, Dave Baumgart, Carol Laumer, John Kennedy, Patricia Elizondo, and Terrill Sieck.

Others present at the meeting were: General Manager John Harren, Director of Administration Janell Johnson, Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti, Staff Electrical Engineer Jeron Smith, Information Systems Coordinator Mike Sangren, Executive Secretary Beth Mattheisen, City Councilman Michael O'Brien, and WC Tribune Journalist Jennifer Kotila.

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

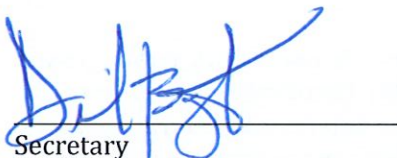
- ❖ Minutes from the April 24, 2023, Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20230529 to No. 20230595 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$1,163,273.35.

Dated this 8th day of May, 2023.



President

Attest:


Secretary

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

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker reviewed with the Commission the March 2023 Financial Reports along with a recap of the March 31, 2023 Investment Portfolio, and March 2023 Cost of Power Report. The data presented included analyses of the Electric, Water, and Combined Divisions. Information contained in the reports reflects operating revenues & expenses, operating income, and retained earnings. Graphs depicting the 2022/2023 monthly year-to-date revenues, expenses, and retained earnings were also included with the financial data.

Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Marti presented the Commission with the March 2023 Wind Turbine Report. Turbine availability for the month of March was at 64.5% for Unit #4 with Unit #3 currently being inoperative due to a breaker failure. The monthly production total for Unit #4 was 326,944 kilowatt hours. Technicians continue to work on the units while anticipating delivery of new breakers in mid-June (current estimate). Delivery of the essential equipment and/or parts continues to be a major challenge. The 2023 total production through April is 652,994 kilowatt hours.

Director of Administration Johnson was pleased to inform the Commission that Willmar Municipal Utilities has once again been named recipient of the prestigious Reliable Public Power Provider (RP₃) Diamond-level designation (100% proficiency) from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service. The RP₃ designation recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Criteria include sound business practices and utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. This prestigious award consists of 3 levels for recognized achievement: Gold; Platinum; and, Diamond (highest). The RP₃ designation is awarded every 3 years, and this is the third consecutive time that WMU has received the Diamond-level recognition over the past 9 years (2017-2020, 2020-2023, and 2023-2026). Johnson noted that this year, a total of only 271 of the more than 2,000 public power utilities nationwide received the RP₃ designation (total of all three levels). Johnson thanked the Commission, General Manager Harren, and the entire WMU Staff for their commitment and efforts required to obtain this high honor. On behalf of the entire Commission, Commissioner DeBlieck expressed their appreciation for the time and effort required to earn this prestigious designation. Congratulations to all!

Director of Administration Johnson informed the Commission of the winning entries submitted for the Willmar Municipal Utilities Scholarship Awards for 2023. Three (3) \$1,000 WMU Scholarships will be awarded to area seniors who are customers (their immediate families) of the Willmar Municipal Utilities. The applicants are required to submit a 500-750 word essay on one or more of the following topics:

- What is the benefit of a city maintaining local control of its utilities?
- How does your hometown provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable utility service?
- How does your municipal utility make life easier for its customers?

Participation in this program helps to increase awareness of public power while giving back to the community it serves. The selected top essay will be submitted to Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association for entry in their Tom Bovitz Memorial Scholarship program and a chance for additional scholarship award. The top three entries and \$1,000 WMU Scholarship recipients for 2023 are: Alexis Flaten, Cecilia Buzzeo, and Will Chapin. The entry submitted by Alexis Flaten has been forwarded to MMUA for additional scholarship consideration. Congratulations and best wishes on a bright and rewarding future, Alexis, Cecilia and Will!

Staff Electrical Engineer Smith announced that Willmar Municipal Utilities is one of 219 public power utilities to be awarded the American Public Power Association (APPA) Certificate of Excellence in Reliability for 2022. To earn this certificate, a utility's System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) must fall in the top quarter of all utilities' SAIDI numbers averaged from the past five years based on Energy Information Administration (EIA) data. The average electric utility customer experiences 140 minutes of interrupted electric service per year without any major events. For WMU, this number is just 24 minutes per year! This certificate recognizes WMU for providing exceptionally reliable service and power to their community. Recognition from APPA reflects the commitment of WMU Staff to ensure that we keep our community powered.

General Manager Harren recapped for the Commission two weekly updates provided by Jacobson Law Group on their continued legislative efforts to secure financial assistance for the NE Water Treatment Plant Project (April 27th and May 5th).

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 items will include a purchase agreement for the sale of WMU property and 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 Baumgart seconded the motion which carried by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Beth Mattheisen
Executive Secretary

ATTEST:



Dave Baumgart, Secretary

