

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 11:45 am in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Shawn Mueske, Dave Baumgart, John Kennedy, Terrill Sieck, Bruce DeBlicek, Carol Laumer, and Patricia Elizondo.

Others present at the meeting were: Interim General Manager Janell Johnson, Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, Staff Electrical Engineer Jeron Smith, Systems Information Coordinator Mike Sangren, Executive Secretary Beth Mattheisen, City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference), City Councilman Michael O'Brien, and WC Tribune Journalist Jennifer Kotila.

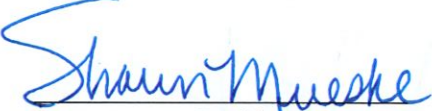
The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Commission President Mueske asked if any changes to the agenda were necessary. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Laumer offered a resolution to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Baumgart seconded.

**RESOLUTION NO. 40**


“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 October 14, 2024 MUC Meeting;
- ❖ Minutes from October 21, 2024 Special MUC Meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20241529 to No. 20241583 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$1,490,015.54.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.

  
President

Attest:

  
Secretary

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

Commissioner Mueske presented the latest developments in the search for a new General Manager. After careful consideration, Rick Wicklund from Sun Prairie Utilities in Wisconsin had been offered the position but informed the Commission declined the offer for the position, on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The Negotiating Committee, in collaboration with Liza Donabauer from David Drown Associates, will convene this week to evaluate the remaining candidates and proceed with filling the vacancy. Further updates will be provided as the process advances.

Interim General Manager Johnson and Staff Electrical Engineer Smith recapped for the Commission their recent attendance at the MRES Area Meeting held in Alexandria, October 23<sup>rd</sup> (Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker also attended). Topics of discussion included: MRES Strategic Plan, legislative and regulatory updates, carbon-free standards and renewable energy docket, Renewal Energy Credit program (REC), rate adjustments, membership survey results, resource planning, generation, and future transmission projects. Johnson, Smith and Prekker expressed their appreciation to the Commission for the opportunity to attend the meeting, noting the value of the information shared. They encouraged others to consider attending future meetings as well, given the importance of the topics discussed.

Interim General Manager Johnson informed the Commission of several items of interest:

- MUC Terms for Reappointment in 2025: Commissioners Mueske and Laumer are up for reappointment, and City Officials will be contacting them shortly regarding this.
- Mon., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>: There will be a meeting at 2:00 pm with Rep. Dave Baker, Sen. Andrew Lang, and Deb Birgen of MRES.
- Mon., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>: City Council to conduct a public hearing as part of the ordinance amendment process to adjust electric rates (effective January 1, 2025).
- Next MUC Meeting: Due to the Veterans Day holiday, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Future meetings of both the WMU Labor and Planning Committees will be forthcoming. Tentative future Labor Committee agenda items include new building land acquisition for the new building and the MUC Self-Survey. Tentative Planning Committee agenda items include the new building, new generation, and CMPAS transmission investment.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Kennedy offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baumgart seconded, and the motion which carried by a vote of seven 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, Secretary