

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular meeting scheduled Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 11:45 am in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: John Kennedy, Dave Baumgart, Terrill Sieck, Bruce DeBlieck, and Carol Laumer. Absent were Commissioners Shawn Mueske 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, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti, Line Distribution Supervisor Ed Zurn, City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference), City Councilman Michael O'Brien, and WC Tribune Journalist Jennifer Kotila.

The meeting opened with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to the absence of Commission President Mueske, Commission Vice President Kennedy inquired if any changes to the agenda were needed. Commissioner DeBlieck offered a motion to remove item #4 (General Manager update/action) from the agenda. Commissioner Laumer seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote. Following further review and discussion, Commissioner DeBlieck offered a resolution to approve the consent agenda with the deletion of agenda item #4 item. Commissioner Sieck seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 41

"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 28, 2024 MUC Meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20241585 to No. 20241689 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$442,853.00

Dated this 12th day of November, 2024.



Vice President

Attest:


Secretary

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

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker reviewed the September 2024 Financial Reports, which included a recap of the August Investment Portfolio and the September Cost of Power Report. The financial information presented reflects operating revenues, expenses, retained earnings, and fund comparisons for both the Electric and Water Divisions.

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker presented an Energy Acquisition Adjustment (EAA) update. As a reminder, the EAA acts as a mechanism to adjust rates for uncontrollable charges associated with power supply costs. Prekker provided background data regarding the EAA and noted that it has not been utilized since 2017. Based on actual data through September and forecasts for the remainder of the year, staff has determined

that implementation of an EAA is not required. WMU's energy costs are predicted to remain below the established threshold of \$66/MWh. Staff will continue monitoring future data for potential implementation.

Electrical Engineer Smith presented an update of the CMPAS Transmission Investment Project. In 2007, WMU entered into a Brookings-Twin Cities Project Agreement with the Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (CMMMPA) to invest in the CAPX2020 transmission expansion. CMMMPA has restructured and is now known as Central Municipal Power Agency/Services (CMPAS). In 2007, WMU invested \$550,000 in the CAPX2020 (now Grid North Partners) transmission expansion. The final payment was made in 2012, and to date, WMU has realized a net gain of over \$101,000. This investment is reflected in WMU's monthly Investment Portfolio.

Interim General Manager Johnson provided the following additional updates:

- Interim GM Johnson along with Staff Electrical Engineer Smith, met with Deb Birgen of MRES, Senator Andrew Lang, Representative Dave Baker, and Commissioner Laumer to discuss current legislative issues impacting electric utilities.
- On November 4th, the City of Willmar held a public hearing to continue the process of amending the current electric rate ordinance. Johnson attended and reported no opposition, with rate adjustments to proceed, effective January 1, 2025.
- The three-year Revenue Recapture Audit (2021–2023) has been completed.
- WMU will participate in the annual Festival of Trees, hosted at the Barn Theater this holiday season.

Interim General Manager Johnson noted tentative future Labor Committee agenda items will include the new building land acquisition and the MUC Self-Survey. Tentative future Planning Committee agenda items include new building and new generation.

Upcoming events to note:

- MMUA Legislative Conference: Jan. 28-29, 2025 (St. Paul)
- APPA Legislative Rally: Feb. 24-26, 2025 (Washington, DC)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner DeBlieck offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Baumgart seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of five ayes and zero nays. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Andrea Prekker, Finance & Office Services Supv.

ATTEST:



Dave Baumgart, Secretary