



WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2025

11:45 – WMU Auditorium

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) convened its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium. Commissioners present were Shawn Mueske, John Kennedy, Patricia Elizondo, and Terrill Sieck. Commissioners Carol Laumer, Dave Baumgart, and Bruce DeBlieck were absent.

Also present: General Manager Jeron Smith, Director of Administration Janell Johnson, Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti, Information Systems Coordinator Mike Sangren, City Council Liaison Tom Gilbertson, Executive Secretary Abby Ahrendt, City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference), and West Central Tribune journalist Jennifer Kotila.

The meeting was called to order by Commission President Mueske, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. President Mueske indicated that two commissioners were absent due to their attendance at the APPA National Conference in New Orleans. He then asked if there were any changes or additions to the presented agenda. General Manager Smith provided clarification regarding the highlighted line items on the bill payment list. Following review and discussion, President Mueske requested a resolution on the consent agenda. Commissioner Sieck made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy.

RESOLUTION NO. 20

“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 May 27, 2025, MUC Meeting; and
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20250833 to No. 20250960, including associated wire transfers, totaling \$655,794.47.”

Dated this 9th day of June 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary

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

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker presented the April 2025 Financial Reports, which featured a summary of the Investment Portfolio as of April 30, 2025. The report included an overview of operating revenues, expenses, retained earnings, and comparative data for both the Electric and Water Divisions.

General Manager Smith recapped the May 27 Governance Committee meeting, noting that Articles 9–12 of the bylaws were reviewed and Articles 1–8 were revisited. He will complete the revisions and distribute them to the committee for review. He provided a brief update on ongoing utility projects, noting steady progress across multiple areas. Smith went on to inform the Commission of Bremer Bank's merger with Old National Bank, clarifying that the only notable difference would be updated branding under the Old National Bank in place of Bremer Bank. He also noted that the APPA Benchmarking Survey was not completed this year due to staffing transitions. Finally, he reported that Great River Energy (GRE), in coordination with the cities of Litchfield and Hutchinson, is proposing a 70-mile, 115 kV transmission line connecting Willmar, Litchfield, Forest City, and Hutchinson. Open houses are scheduled for June 18 in Litchfield and June 19 in Hutchinson, respectively.

President Mueske asked if there were any other matters for discussion. City Council Liaison Tom Gilbertson inquired about updates on potential sites for land acquisition. General Manager Smith responded that there are sites under consideration, but they are currently awaiting further details to ensure the locations meet site criteria. Once that information is received, discussions will take place with City staff.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Labor Committee Meeting June 16, 2025
- ❖ Willmar Fest Block Party – June 19, 2025 4 p.m.
- ❖ MMUA Summer Conference (Rochester, MN) August 18-20, 2025
- ❖ MRES Municipal Power Leadership Academy (Sioux Falls, SD) September 17-18, 2025

There being no further business, Commissioner Kennedy moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sieck seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously with a vote of four ayes and zero nays. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:04 p.m. by President Mueske to appoint an acting secretary in Commissioner Baumgart's absence. He nominated Commissioner Sieck to serve as acting secretary, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES


Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:


Secretary