



## WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2025

11:45 – WMU Auditorium

The Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025, beginning at 11:44 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium. Commissioners present were Shawn Mueske, John Kennedy, Terrill Sieck, Dave Baumgart, Carol Laumer, Bruce DeBleck, and Patricia Elizondo.

Staff and guests present included General Manager Jeron Smith; Director of Administration Janell Johnson; Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti; Finance and Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker; City Council Liaison Tom Gilbertson; Executive Secretary Abby Ahrendt; City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference); and *West Central Tribune* journalist Jennifer Kotila.

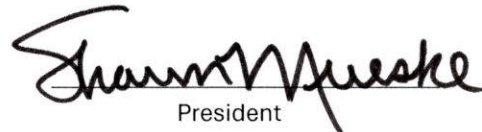
President Shawn Mueske called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. With no changes to the agenda, he proceeded to the Consent Agenda. General Manager Smith reviewed highlighted bill payment items. Following review and discussion, Commissioner DeBleck moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sieck.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 30**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented, including:

- ❖ Minutes from the July 28, 2025, MUC Meeting
- ❖ Minutes from the August 7, 2025, Labor Committee Meeting
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20251178 through No. 20251270, including associated wire transfers, totaling \$248,144.12.

Dated this 11th day of August, 2025.

  
President

Attest:

  
Secretary

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

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker presented the June 2025 Financial Report, which included a summary of the Income Statement, Investment Portfolio and the Cost of Power Report, along with an overview of operating revenues, expenses, retained earnings, and comparative data for both the Electric and Water Divisions.


General Manager Smith presented bids for the 230 kV & 69 kV Transmission Structure Replacement Project. Four bids were received, with the low bid of \$320,373.88 submitted by Watts Electric Company. Staff recommended awarding the contract to Watts Electric, citing their history of satisfactory project performance. Motion by DeBleck, seconded by Laumer, to award the contract to Watts Electric Company in

the amount of \$320,373.88.

**RESOLUTION NO. 31**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission hereby awards the 230 kV & 69 kV Transmission Structure Replacement Project to Watts Electric Company in the amount of \$320,373.88, and authorizes General Manager Smith to execute the necessary contract documents.

Dated this 11th day of August, 2025.

  
President

Attest:

  
Secretary

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

Director of Administration Johnson presented an amendment to Ordinance No. 1531 to correct 2026 electric rates for Large Power and Industrial Primary service, aligning them with the Commission-approved rate study. Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sieck, to introduce the amendment and hold a public hearing in conjunction with the regular MUC meeting on Monday August 25, 2025. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

General Manager Smith noted WMU's recent *West Central Tribune* feature for 50 years of membership with the Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. He announced the WMU Facilities Tour for August 25, 2025 (City staff and Council invited) and requested a planning committee meeting the week of August 18 to discuss the 2026 budget.

**Upcoming Events:**

- ❖ Marshall Solar Plus Tour – August 14 & September 11, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ MMUA Summer Conference (Rochester, MN) – August 18–20, 2025
- ❖ Planning Committee Meeting – August 22, 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ MRES Municipal Power Leadership Academy (Sioux Falls, SD) – September 17–18, 2025

President Mueske asked for any additional discussion. Hearing none, Commissioner DeBleck moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

  
Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:

  
Secretary