



WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2025

11:45 – WMU Auditorium

The Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 25, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium. Present were Commissioners Shawn Mueske, John Kennedy, Terrill Sieck, Dave Baumgart, Carol Laumer, and Bruce DeBlieck. Commissioner Patricia Elizondo was absent.

Staff present included General Manager Jeron Smith; Director of Administration Janell Johnson; Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti; Finance and Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker; Information Systems Coordinator Mike Sangren; and Executive Secretary Abby Ahrendt.

Guests included City Administrator Leslie Valiant; City Operations Director Kyle Box; City Council Members Rick Fagerlie and Audrey Nelson; City Attorney Robert Scott, by teleconference; and Jennifer Kotila of the *West Central Tribune*.

President Mueske called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. With no changes to the agenda, he proceeded to the Consent Agenda and asked for questions or comments. Hearing none, Laumer moved to approve, and Sieck seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 32

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

- ❖ Minutes of the August 11, 2025, MUC Meeting.
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20251171 through No. 20251318, including associated wire transfers, totaling \$2,856,144.08.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary

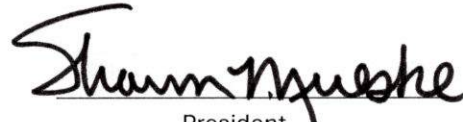
The foregoing resolution was adopted by a vote of six ayes and zero nays.

Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor Marti reported that Braun Intertec submitted a proposal to continue environmental investigation at the former WMU Power Plant site, following an MPCA letter dated May 15, 2025. The work will address potential exceedances and include an MPCA-approved work plan, borings, lab analysis, and submittal of results. Field work is scheduled for November at a cost of \$24,676. Braun has been the lead environmental firm throughout the decommissioning and related site work, and staff recommended approval. Baumgart moved to accept the proposal, and Sieck seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 33

BE IT RESOLVED that the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission approves the Braun Intertec proposal in the amount of \$24,676 to perform additional environmental investigation at the former Power Plant site as requested by the MPCA, and authorizes staff to proceed with the work.

Dated this 25th day of August, 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary


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

Commission President Mueske opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 1531, amending the 2026 electric rates to correct discrepancies in the Large Power and Industrial classifications. Hearing no public comments, Laumer moved to approve the amendment, and Baumgart seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 34

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 1531 be amended to correct the 2026 electric rates as follows: Large Power-Primary Demand Charge \$17.90/kW (Summer), Large Power-Primary Demand Charge \$15.45/kW (Non-Summer); Large Power-Secondary Demand Charge \$18.25/kW (Summer), Large Power-Secondary Demand Charge \$15.75/kW (Non-Summer); Industrial-Primary Demand Charge \$17.90/kW (Summer), Industrial-Primary Demand Charge \$15.45/kW (Non-Summer).

Dated this 25th day of August, 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary

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

General Manager Smith noted the value of public utilities, highlighting over \$5 million in annual community benefits, RP3 Diamond reliability recognition, long-term financial planning, and shared local services. He added that WMU customers benefit from lower rates and shorter outage times compared to neighboring utilities.

After discussion, President Mueske suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee, named *Advantage of Municipal Power*. He requested three members. Laumer moved to form the committee, and Baumgart

seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioners Baumgart, Kennedy, and DeBlieck volunteered to serve. The date and time of the first meeting will be determined.

The Commission, along with attending City staff and City Council members, including Councilmember Vicki Davis, participated in a facility tour led by Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Marti. Sites visited included:

- New Diesel Generation Project Site
- East Substation
- Northeast Water Treatment Plant
- Potential Building Site on Civic Center Drive
- 2nd Street SE Overhead to Underground Conversion Project
- 4th Street SW Watermain Project area
- Potential Building Site in the Industrial Park

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Marshall Solar Plus Tour – September 11, 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ MRES Municipal Power Leadership Academy (Sioux Falls, SD) – September 17–18, 2025

President Mueske asked for any additional discussion. Hearing none, Baumgart moved to adjourn, and Sieck seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES


Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:


Secretary