



WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2025

11:45 a.m. – WMU Auditorium

The Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 11:45 a.m. in the WMU Auditorium. Commissioners present included Shawn Mueske (President), John Kennedy, Terrill Sieck, Dave Baumgart, Carol Laumer, Bruce DeBlieck, and Patricia Elizondo.

Staff present included Jeron Smith, General Manager; Janell Johnson, Director of Administration; Kevin Marti, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor; Andrea Prekker, Finance & Office Services Supervisor; Mike Sangren, Information Systems Coordinator; Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary; and Tom Gilbertson, City Council Liaison. City Attorney Robert Scott attended via teleconference. Jennifer Kotila of the *West Central Tribune* was also present.

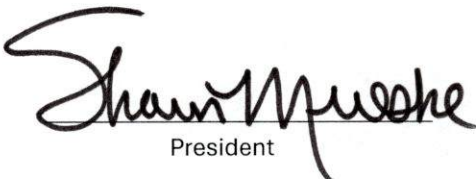
President Mueske called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. With no changes to the agenda, he proceeded to the Consent Agenda. General Manager Smith highlighted items within the payment of bills. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Sieck moved, and Commissioner Baumgart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

RESOLUTION NO. 39


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

- ❖ Minutes from the September 8, 2025, MUC Meeting
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20251416 through No. 20251475, including associated wire transfers, totaling \$2,539,262.98.

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2025.


President

Attest:


Secretary

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

President Mueske introduced Resolution No. 40, designating October 5–11, 2025 as Public Power Week in appreciation of Willmar Municipal Utilities. The resolution recognized the value of local, community-owned electric service and WMU's contributions to reliable, cost-effective electricity, energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness. Commissioner DeBlieck seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 40

WHEREAS, we, the citizens of Willmar, place high value on local control over community services and therefore have chosen to operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit electric utility and, as consumers and owners of our electric utility, have a direct say in utility operations and policies;

WHEREAS, Willmar Municipal Utilities provides our homes, businesses, schools, social services, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates;

WHEREAS, Willmar Municipal Utilities is a valuable community asset that contributes to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness;

WHEREAS, Willmar Municipal Utilities is a dependable and trustworthy institution whose local operation provides many consumer protections and continues to make our community a better place to live and work, and contributes to protecting the global environment;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Willmar Municipal Utilities will continue to work to bring low-cost, safe, reliable electricity to community homes and businesses just as it has since 1891, the year when the utility was created to serve all the citizens of Willmar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the week of October 5–11, 2025 be designated Public Power Week to recognize Willmar Municipal Utilities for its contributions to the community and to educate consumer-owners, policy makers, and employees on the benefits of public power;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that our community joins hands with more than 2,000 other public power systems in the United States in this celebration of public power, which is best for consumers, business, the community, and the nation.

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

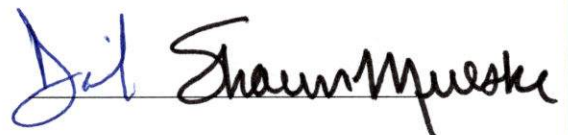
Commissioner Laumer moved to request that the City issue a mayoral proclamation recognizing Public Power Week. Commissioner Baumgart seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti presented Task Order No. 15 with DGR Engineering regarding the decommissioning of two wind turbines. Following discussion, Commissioner Baumgart moved to approve Task Order No. 15 with DGR Engineering for professional services associated with wind turbine decommissioning in the amount of \$47,500, and Commissioner Laumer seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 41

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Utilities Commission of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, that Task Order No. 15 with DGR Engineering for professional services associated with decommissioning of two wind turbines located north of the senior high school is hereby approved in the amount of \$47,500.

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joel Shann Mueske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

President

Attest:


Secretary

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

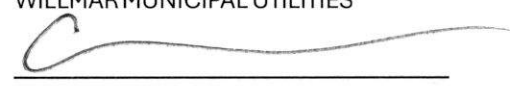
General Manager Smith informed the Commission that Willmar Municipal Utilities is conducting a customer survey to gather input on ways WMU can better serve its customers. He also provided an update on the Old National Bank acquisition of Bremer Bank and noted that the August MRES Board Meeting Summary is available for review. In addition, Smith gave an overview of action taken by the City Council at their September 15th meeting, explaining that City Administrator Valiant proposed a joint work session between the City Council and the Utility Commission. City Administrator Valiant was directed to work with General Manager Smith to present a list of potential facilitators and associated costs to the City Council and Utility Commission. Following discussion, Commissioner Kennedy moved, and Commissioner Baumgart seconded, to hold an ad hoc "Advantage of Public Power" committee meeting to further discuss the joint work session. The motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Employee Recognition Luncheon – October 8 at 12:00 p.m.
- ❖ MRES Area Meeting (Alexandria, MN) – October 22

President Mueske asked for any additional discussion. Hearing none, Baumgart moved to adjourn, and Laumer seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES


Abby Ahrendt, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:


Secretary