

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES MINUTES
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUDITORIUM
JUNE 24, 2019

The Municipal Utilities Commission met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 11:45 a.m. in the Municipal Utilities Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Carol Laumer, Justin Mattern, Nathan Weber, Bruce DeBlieck and Brendan MacDonald. Absent were Commissioners Abdirizak Mahboub and Ross Magnuson.

Others present at the meeting were: General Manager John Harren, Director of Finance Denise Runge, Water & Heating Supervisor Joel Braegelman, SI Coordinator Mike Sangren, Administrative Secretary Beth Mattheisen, City Councilman Shawn Mueske, and City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference).

Due to the absence of Commission Secretary Mahboub, Commission President Laumer opened the meeting by appointing Commissioner Mattern to serve as Acting Secretary. Following the appointment, Commissioner Laumer asked if any revisions were needed to the presented agenda. There being none, Commissioner Laumer continued by requesting a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner MacDonald offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Weber seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 23

"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 June 10, 2019 Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 190874 to No. 190942 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$3,348,172.30.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2019.


President

Attest:


Acting Secretary

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

Director of Finance Denise Runge presented the Commission with the May 2019 Financial Reports along with a recap of the May 31, 2019 Investment Portfolio. The data presented included analyses of the Electric, Water, Heating and Combined Divisions. Information contained in the reports reflect operating revenues & expenses, operating income, and retained earnings. The Investment Portfolio presented a summary of WMU's securities and associated brokerage firms/agencies to date.

Commissioner DeBlieck provided the Commission with a recap of his recent attendance at the 2019 APPA National Conference held in Austin, Texas. Among the informative topics addressed were: 1) renewable energy; 2) artificial intelligence; 3) refreshing tomorrow's customers (informing the public); 4) technological advancements (i.e. battery storage, electric vehicles, etc.); 5) cybersecurity; and, 5) "Board #101" (review of best practices and understanding roles/responsibilities of governing boards). Following the review, DeBlieck expressed his appreciation to the Commission for allowing him the opportunity to attend the informative conference and encouraged others to do so in the future.

As a member of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), the Utility is provided a monthly update from the MRES and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA) Board of Directors meeting. The update provides a brief overview of the topics discussed by the Boards and the actions taken. At this time, the May/June 2019 MRES and WMMPA Board of Directors Meeting video update was presented.

General Manager Harren presented the Committee with a six-month progress report (June 2019) of the previously established General Manager Goals for 2019. The progress report provided status updates of various goals and projects, along with additional noteworthy tasks which have been completed. Harren provided a step-by-step review of each of the listed goals. One goal to note was the completion of the Priam Substation which is due to be operational shortly (possibly by the end of this week). On behalf of the Commission, Commissioner Laumer expressed her appreciation to General Manager Harren and the Utility Staff for their diligent work and efforts in meeting (& exceeding) the goals which have been set before them.

General Manager Harren provided the Commission with a brief status update of an ongoing grievance (#7452) between the Utility and IBEW (union). This grievance concerns the hiring process as it relates to seniority in the Water Dept. This was for information only.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that two meetings of the WMU Labor Committee have been scheduled. The first meeting will be held on July 1st at 12:00 p.m. This meeting will address the Renewable & Carbon-Free Energy Program offered by MRES. The second meeting of the Labor Committee will be held August 1st at 12:00 p.m. At this meeting, Dave Berg (consultant) will be in attendance to review the Electric & Water Rate Study (currently being conducted). Harren further stated that Staff is near completion of the new WMU Strategic Plan and will be scheduling a future Labor Committee meeting to review the timelines and tasks associated with the Strategic Initiatives previously approved.

General Manager Harren reminded the Commission that a meeting of the WMU Planning Committee has been scheduled for August 7th beginning at 11:30 a.m. The main topic of discussion will focus on the 2020 WMU Budget.

General Manager Harren stated that additional WMU Committee meetings will be forth coming. Agenda item(s) for a future Planning Committee meeting will include: generation study analysis. Agenda item(s) for a future Labor Committee meeting will include: succession planning for the General Manager position; and, Strategic Plan.

For information: Upcoming meetings/events to note include:

- WMU Annual Open House – Thurs., August 15th (4:00-6:30 pm)
- MRES Laramie River Station and Grayrocks Dam & Reservoir Tour (August 27-28)
- MMUA Summer Conference – August 19-21 (Breezy Point)
- MRES Legal Seminar “*Staying Current: Emerging Issues for Utilities*” – Oct. 4th (Sioux Falls, SD)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Laumer declared the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES



Beth Mattheisen
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:


Justin Mattern, Acting Secretary