

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 11:45 am in the WMU Auditorium with the following Commissioners present: Bruce DeBlieck, Shawn Mueske, Carol Laumer, John Kennedy, Patricia Elizondo, and Terrill Sieck. Absent was Commissioner Dave Baumgart.

Others present at the meeting were: General Manager John Harren, Director of Administration Janell Johnson, Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, Information Systems Coordinator Mike Sangren, Executive Secretary Beth Mattheisen, City Councilmember Michael O'Brien, City Attorney Robert Scott (via teleconference), and WC Tribune Journalist Jennifer Kotila.


The meeting opened by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Commission President DeBlieck continued by appointing Commissioner Mueske to serve as Acting Secretary. Following the appointment, Commissioner DeBlieck asked if there were any changes to the presented agenda. There being none, a resolution to approve the consent agenda was requested. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Mueske offered a resolution to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Laumer seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 29

"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 August 14, 2023, MUC Meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20231303 to No. 20231394 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$3,040,943.41.

Dated this 25th day of September, 2023.


President

Attest:


Acting Secretary

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

Commissioner DeBlieck informed the Commission that Willmar Municipal Utilities will be commemorating Public Power Week, October 1-7, along with more than 2,000 other community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities that provide electricity in the United States. Public power puts the people of Willmar first, and Public Power Week gives us the chance to emphasize the advantages of locally owned power to our citizens and remind them of the reliable and safe services WMU provides. Commissioner DeBlieck recited the proposed resolution and requested approval of the resolution designating Public Power Week. Commissioner Laumer offered a motion to amend the proposed verbiage. Commissioner Mueske seconded the motion which carried by a vote of six ayes and zero nays.

Following approval of the revised verbiage, Commissioner Laumer offered a resolution to approve the amended resolution designating October 1-7, 2023, as Public Power Week. Commissioner Elizondo seconded.

RESOLUTION NO. 30

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

Commissioner DeBlieck requested the Commission to conduct a Public Hearing to proceed with the rate ordinance amendment process. Following discussion on the narrative and process involved, Commissioner Mueske offered a motion to set a Public Hearing in conjunction with the regular MUC meeting on Monday, October 9th at 11:50 am. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion which carried by a vote of six ayes and zero nays.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that Staff and IBEW #160 reps met on September 20th and reached a tentative agreement and that a Labor Committee meeting will be scheduled to review the proposed union contract. In addition to this meeting, WMU Labor and Planning Committees meetings will be forthcoming. Tentative future Labor Committee agenda item(s) will include new building land acquisition and union negotiations. Tentative future Planning Committee agenda items will include new building, water treatment plant funding, new generation, and water system model.

Commissioner DeBlieck reminded Commissioners of upcoming events/dates to note:

- WMU Office lobby will be closed October 9th & 10th to allow for Staff training (software conversation).
- Renville-Sibley new facility tour (Danube): Tuesday, October 24th @ 1:00 pm
- MRES Area Meeting (Alexandria): Wednesday, October 25th @ 9:00 am

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Mueske offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion which carried by a vote of six ayes and zero nays, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES


Beth Mattheisen, Executive Secretary

ATTEST:


Shawn Mueske, Acting Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 30

2023 PUBLIC POWER WEEK
IN APPRECIATION OF WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES,
OUR HOMETOWN ELECTRIC UTILITY

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 cost-effective, 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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the week of October 1-7 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; and,

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.

Dated this 25th day of September 2023.


President

ATTEST:


Acting Secretary

