

**WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2020**

The Municipal Utilities Commission (MUC) met in its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 11:45 a.m. with the following Commissioners present: Justin Mattern, Carol Laumer, Abdirizak Mahboub, Nathan Weber, Bruce DeBlicek, Ross Magnuson and Cole Erickson.

Others present at the meeting were: General Manager John Harren, Compliance/HR Manager Janell Johnson, Finance & Office Services Supervisor Andrea Prekker, Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Marti, IS Coordinator Mike Sangren, Administrative Secretary Beth Mattheisen, and City Attorney Robert Scott.

Commissioner Mattern opened the meeting by asking if any revisions were needed to the agenda presented. There being none, Commissioner Mattern requested a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Laumer offered a resolution to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner DeBlicek seconded.

**RESOLUTION NO. 35**

“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 September 28, 2020 Commission meeting; and,
- ❖ Bills represented by vouchers No. 20201422 to No. 20201486 and associated wire transfers inclusive in the amount of \$422,763.44.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker presented the Commission with the August 2020 Financial Reports along with a recap of the August 31, 2020 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. Graphs depicting the 2019/2020 monthly year-to-date revenues, expenses, and retained earnings were also included with the financial data.

Finance & Office Services Supervisor Prekker continued by reviewing with the Commission the WMU Cost of Power Report for August 2020. This report is illustrated using a rolling year-to-date format and provides the overall cost of power for the year (.069 per kWh twelve-month rolling average). Additional data reflecting the month-to-date cost (.079 per kWh) was also presented for review.

Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Marti presented the Commission with the September 2020 Wind Turbine Report. Turbine availabilities for the month of September were at 95.2% (Unit #3) and 96.1% (Unit #4) with a total monthly production of 531,071 kilowatt hours. The total generation year-to-date for 2020 is 5,246,596 kilowatt hours. In conjunction with the report, Marti presented the Commission

with photos of blade damage discovered while conducting recent maintenance on the units. (The Commission had been informed of the damage at their Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> mtg.) Following discussion, the Commission directed staff to conduct additional inspections of the units to determine if any additional damage has been caused to the blades and/or plates (i.e. metal fatigue). Following completion of the investigation, the findings will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

As part of the Silent Impact Resolution Workshop presented by Joe Schmit, Compliance/HR Manager Johnson presented the Commission with the September video update entitled "*Fear*". The topics presented continue to be relevant, timely and thought provoking for all. At this time, the informational video was viewed.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that a meeting of the WMU Labor Committee has been scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 a.m. The main topic of discussion will be related to labor contract negotiations.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that due to the continued concerns regarding COVID-19, the 2020 MRES Area Meetings will be held via four short webinars on four separate days. Each webinar will cover a different set of topics and are anticipated to last no longer than 1.5 hours. The webinars will all begin at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: Wed., October 28<sup>th</sup>; Thurs., October 29<sup>th</sup>; Wed., November 4<sup>th</sup>; and Thurs., November 5<sup>th</sup>. While all four webinars are informative, the following is a prioritization of the four dates felt to be most advantageous for Commission(er) participation: #1 October 29<sup>th</sup>; #2 November 5<sup>th</sup>; #3 October 28<sup>th</sup>; and, #4 November 4<sup>th</sup>. If any Commissioner would like to participate in any or all of the webinars, please contact Beth to make the necessary arrangements.

General Manager Harren informed the Commission that meetings of both the WMU Labor and Planning Committees would be forthcoming (TBD). Tentative Labor Committee agenda items would include labor negotiations and Renewable Energy Program review. Tentative Planning Committee agenda item(s) will include: Power Plant Phases I & II Environmental Studies, Willmar/Priam Ownership & Construction Agreement; and, Power Plant Substation Control Building.

For information: 2020 Upcoming meetings/events to note include:

- WMU Labor Committee Mtg.: October 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 a.m. (WMU Office)
- Accounting Clerk Gwen Lipinski retiring October 14<sup>th</sup> (34+ yrs. of service)
- MRES Area Meeting Webinars (4) @ 9:00 a.m. Oct. 28 & 29 and Nov. 4 & 5

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Mahboub offered a motion to adjourn. Commissioner DeBlieck seconded the motion which carried by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

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Beth Mattheisen  
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

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Abdirizak Mahboub, Secretary