

# AUSTIN UTILITIES

## MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, April 19th, 2022  
Date

Regular Meeting

Jeanne Sheehan  
President

### Members Present:

Jeanne Sheehan, President  
Steve Greenman, Commissioner  
Jay Lutz, Commissioner  
Tom Baudler, Commissioner  
Kristin Johnson, Commissioner

### Others Present:

Mark Nibaur, General Manager  
Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director  
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director  
Tom Tylutki, Electric Operations Director  
Melissa Swenson, Customer Service Supervisor  
Kelly Lady, Marketing & Energy Services Manager  
Ann Christianson, Finance Manager

### Members Absent:

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President Jeanne Sheehan called the meeting to order.

Moved by Tom Baudler, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve the meeting agenda. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 15th, 2022. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Tom Baudler, to approve the disbursements summary, accounts payable list, additional bills and expenses, and authorize warrants to be drawn for their payment. Approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, and Shawn McAlister, Mark Bliese, Taylor Bliese, and Mary Anne Duren of Austin Entertainment Group, presented a request for a donation to Austin's Freedom Fest celebration. The new group is taking over the July 4th planning and is preparing for a 2-day celebration with fireworks and community events. Commissioners listened to the presentation and tabled any action until later in the meeting.

Melissa Swenson, Customer Service Supervisor, presented the 1st Quarter charge-offs. Due to a last minute payment, the total charge-off was adjusted to \$28,298.27. Staff noted that disconnects will resume in May after the cold weather rule expires and disconnect and reconnect fees will be charged again after two years without them. Customer service staff will also have a training session focused on dealing with threatening customer situations this week. Moved by Tom Baudler, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approved the 1st Quarter charge-offs. Approved unanimously.

Ann Christianson, Finance Manager, and Craig Popenhagen, CliftonLarsonAllen, presented the 2021 Annual AU Audit. Staff was commended for another clean audit with an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Steve Greenman, to approve the 2021 Annual Financial Audit and Internal Annual Report and forward to the Austin City Council as presented.

Tom Tylutki, Electric Operations Director, presented the proposed Murphy Creek Distribution and Substation Project. A system study by DGR Engineers found improvements would be needed to AU's electric distribution in the future. The first phase is the Murphy Creek Substation and three feeder extension projects. The new substation and feeders help reduce line lengths and improve the voltage conditions on the system. This substation allows the system to handle emergency scenarios such as transformer loss at NE or SW substation. Staff requests approval of \$373,000 for engineering and design for the Murphy Creek project. The design and bidding portion of work will be split between years 2022 and 2023 to better place early ordering of equipment, long lead delivery times, and meet AU's current budget of \$186,500 dollars. Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Steve Greenman, to approve \$373,000 is design costs for the Murphy Creek Substation. Approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, also updated the Board on the following:

- SMMPA
- Safety committee minutes
- Commissioner election filing period starts May 17th.
- Federal Economic Development Administration 50-50 matching grant for Creekside was approved.

The proposed donation to Freedom Fest was revisited. It was noted that \$5,000 was included in the 2022 budget for a Freedom Fest sponsorship. After a brief discussion, Commissioners requested a sponsorship level be created by AEG for \$5,000 - \$10,000 amounts. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approved a \$5,000 donation to Freedom Fest. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Greenman asked staff for clarification on the Natural Gas Survey customers have been receiving phone calls about. Staff explained it is a required for all natural gas suppliers and that the initial issue with the caller ID reporting AU as spam has been corrected.

The next regular Board meeting was scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, May 17th, 2022.

Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Jay Lutz, to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned 5:44 pm.

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President

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Secretary