

# AUSTIN UTILITIES

## MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, February 20th, 2024  
Date

Regular Meeting

Jay Lutz  
President

### Members Present:

Jay Lutz, President  
Steve Greenman, Commissioner  
Tyler Hulsebus, Commissioner  
Kristin Johnson, Commissioner  
Jeanne Sheehan, Commissioner

### Others Present:

Mark Nibaur, General Manager  
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director  
Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director  
Marc Oleson, IT Director  
Kory Robinson, Finance & Customer Care Director  
Melissa Swenson, Communications & Energy Services Manager

### Members Absent:

Vice President Jay Lutz called the meeting to order.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approve the meeting agenda. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 16th, 2024. Approved unanimously.

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

Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director, presented the proposed Affirmative Action Policy for AU. AU's application for a 4 million IJA grant requires a current Affirmative Action Policy which AU did not previously have. This policy was drafted to meet the grant requirements. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to approved the Affirmative Action Policy as presented. Approved unanimously.

Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, presented the Distributed Generation rate tariff and Qualifying Facilities report. The tariff outlines rates for AU's renewable customers and is brought to the Board for approval annually. Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the Distributed Generation rate tariff and Qualifying Facilities report as presented. Approved unanimously.

Kory Robinson, Finance & Customer Director, presented the Raymond James resolution for designating AU's Corporate Officers. The resolution removes Ann Christianson as Finance Officer and replaces her with Kory Robinson. Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approve the Raymond James resolution as presented. Approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented the Economic Development Incentive grant to Nu-Tek. Nu-Tek's demand is running in the 500KW to 1 MW capacity, \$500 per job. The number of qualifying jobs noted by Nu-Tek and the Development Corporation of Austin is 26. The rebate would be 26 jobs multiplied by \$500 equating to a rebate of \$13,000. Nu-Tek meets the remaining AU EDI criteria as defined by the board. The company started operations in September 2022. Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve Nu-Tek's Economic Development Grant of \$13,000. Approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, provided an update on AU's scholarship programs. Questions about the workforce development program's "public purpose" in relation to MN law's for government entities, were raised. The city attorney reviewed both AU's workforce development scholarship and AU's local scholarship award related to MMUA's Tom Bovitz memorial scholarship. The city attorney was unable to find any clear statutory authority for AU to use public funds for such expenditures and advised to suspend both scholarships.

Melissa Swenson, Communications & Energy Services Manager, presented AU's customer satisfaction survey results from 3rd Quarter 2023. AU's Net Provider Score dropped to an historic low of 21.6. Negative feedback was primarily based on rates and service availability charges. Overall satisfaction has also dropped but remains high at 84.2%. In response to the survey staff will increase communication about its value to customers and utilize the planned 2024 rate study as a customer educational piece. The 2024 rate study will also explore more rate offerings for customers.

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

- SMMPA meeting minutes
- Safety committee minutes
- AU Employee Kick-Off meeting Thursday, February 22nd
- Engineer candidate searches

The next regular board meeting was scheduled for 4:00 pm, March 19th, 2024.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 5:28 pm.

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President

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Secretary