

AUSTIN UTILITIES

MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, November 21st, 2023

Date

Regular Meeting

Kristin Johnson

President

Members Present:

Jay Lutz, Commissioner - VP
Steve Greenman, Commissioner
Tom Baudler, Commissioner
Jeanne Sheehan, Commissioner

Others Present:

Mark Nibaur, General Manager
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director
Marc Oleson, IT Director
Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director
Ann Christianson, Finance Manager
Kory Robinson, Finance & Customer Care Director
Melissa Swenson, Communications & Energy Services Manager
Tyler Hulsebus, Commissioner appointed for Baudler replacement

Members Absent:

Kristin Johnson, President

Vice President Jay Lutz called the meeting to order. President Johnson was absent.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tom Baudler, to approve the meeting agenda. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Tom Baudler, to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 17th, 2023. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Tom Baudler, 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.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, introduced new AU employee Kory Robinson to the Commissioners. He is the new Finance & Customer Care Director, replacing Ann Christianson after her retirement in early 2024. Tyler Hulsebus, newly appointed Commissioner to replace Tom Baudler, was also welcomed. He was appointed by the Austin City Council and will be sworn in at the December Board of Commissioners meeting.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, and Ann Christianson, Finance Manager presented the proposed 2024 budget as reviewed by the Budget Committee. Staff reviewed increases for the personnel budget, capital budget, and operating budgets of all three electric, water and gas departments. To meet AU's target operating income electric rates would need to see an approximately 2-4% increase. Water rates would be increased by 4.5% in the summer months. The gas budget has a positive PGA of \$0.125 calculated in it for the entire year and this amount could fluctuate during the year. The proposed PGA has an impact of approximately 4% to our customers based off the average 2023 winter PGA of \$0.09085. After further discussion and review the matter was tabled until the December board meeting.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, reviewed proposed changes to AU's existing Recruitment and Selection Policy. The corrections recommended by President Johnson at the September meeting and Commissioner Baudler at the October meeting were made and presented. Moved by Tom Baudler, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to approve the policy as presented. Approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented the finalized service territory agreement with Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative. The Kehret/Murphy area purchase includes eight customers, costs for purchasing and integrating existing FMEC facilities, and ten years of lost revenue. Staff will take the agreement to the City of Austin for approval at their next council meeting. Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tom Baudler, to approve the agreement as presented. Approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented Resolution No. 328 - Extending a vote of thanks to Thomas C. Baudler. Commissioner Baudler has served on the utility board since October 12th, 1999. He is resigning his position effective November 21st, 2023. AU staff and fellow commissioners thanked him for his many years of service. The Austin City Council appointed former commissioner Tyler Hulsebus to fill his remaining term through December, 2024.

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

- SMMPA meeting minutes
- Safety committee minutes
- AU Angel tree in the lobby
- Large Customer meeting on Dec. 7th

A brief discussion on a replacement for Tom Baudler on the Personnel Committee was held. Commissioners agreed Jay Lutz should be appointed to fill the seat.

The next regular board meeting was scheduled for 4:00 pm, December 12th, 2023. This is one week earlier than the regular monthly meeting time due to schedule conflicts and the Christmas holiday.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Steve Greenman, to move to a Closed Meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.05 Subd. 3(a) for a performance evaluation of the General Manager. Approved unanimously. Closed session begins at 5:20 pm.

Return to open meeting at 5:52 pm. Moved by Tom Baudler, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned 5:53 pm.

President

Secretary