

AUSTIN UTILITIES
MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, February 18th, 2025 Regular Meeting Steve Greenman
Date President

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Mark Nibaur, General Manager
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director
Kory Robinson, Finance & Customer Care Director
Marc Oleson, Information Technology Director
Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director
Keven Maxa - Engineering Supervisor

Members Absent:

President Steve Greenman called the meeting to order.
Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to approve the meeting agenda. Approved unanimously.
Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 21st, 2005. Approved unanimously.
Moved by Tyler Hulsebus, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approve the disbursements summary, accounts payable list, additional bills and expenses, and authorize warrants to be drawn for their payment. Approved unanimously.
Keven Maxa, Engineering Supervisor, presented petitions for development for Nature Ridge 4. The area will contain 30 residential lots needing Electric, Water, and Gas extensions. The developer will pay the cost to AU prior to installation. Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to approved the petitions for Nature Ridge 4 as presented. Approved unanimously.
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, presented the Distributed Generation tariff and the annual Qualifying Facilities report. The tariff includes the calculation of the average retail utility energy rates and the estimated average incremental energy costs by seasonal, peak and off-peak periods and annual avoided capacity costs from Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency. Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the tariff and report as presented. Approved unanimously.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, and Kory Robinson, Finance and Customer Care Director, reviewed year end 2024 financials. Full year financials for 2024 currently show annual sales of \$62.6m and total operating expenses of \$59.2m for an operating income of \$3.4m. These figures remain unaudited; however all audit entries have been recorded, and no further adjustments are expected.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented Resolution No. 335 - General Manager Delegation of Authority & Relationship with Management. AU has received requests from agencies and regulatory bodies needing a resolution demonstrating that the GM has board authority to approve various permits, agreements, and operational communication requirements. This resolution was modeled after a Rochester Public Utilities resolution and has been reviewed by the Austin City Attorney. Commissioner Johnson suggested bringing the resolution before the board yearly for review. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus to approve Resolution No. 335 as written with a yearly review by the AU Board of Commissioners. Roll call vote taken and approved 5 yeas to 0 nays.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented AU’s Volunteer Program for renewal. The program started in 2023 on a two year trial. It is utilized by 29 AU employees logging nearly 200 hours of volunteer work to date. The program awards one hour of vacation time, eight hours per year limit, for every two hours employees spend volunteering for AU sponsored charities or events. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve AU’s Volunteer Program as permanent and ongoing. Approved unanimously.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented Resolution No. 336 - Accepting Commissioner Resignation and Declaring a Vacancy. Commissioner Jeanne Sheehan has submitted her written resignation from the AU Board of Commissioners effective February 18th, 2025. Her position will need to be filled by mayoral appointment with city council approval, to serve the remainder of her term which expires December 31st, 2026. Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve Resolution No. 336 as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved 5 yeas to 0 nays.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented Resolution No. 337 - Recognition of Jeanne Sheehan. Commissioner Sheehan has served as an Austin Utilities Commissioner since September 9, 2003. All commissioners and AU staff thanked her for her service and all the work she has done representing AU’s customers and staff. Her knowledge, community involvement, and expertise in the utility industry will be missed. Moved by Tyler Hulsebus, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve Resolution No. 337 as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved 5 yeas to 0 nays.

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

- SMMPA meeting minutes
- Safety committee minutes
- Hjelmén resignation - Light Equipment Operator
- Gerstner retirement - Line Worker
- Jay Lutz attended MMUA Legislative Rally

Commissioners discussed committee assignments in response to Commissioner Sheehan’s departure from the Personnel Committee. Any changes will be decided when a new Commissioner is appointed. Discussion was had on possible candidates. Mark Nibaur will contact former Commissioner Geoff Baker to gauge his interest.

The next regular board meeting was set for 4:00 pm, March 18th, 2025.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to adjourn. Approved unanimously at 5:16 pm.

President

Secretary