

AUSTIN UTILITIES

MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm July 12th, 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
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:

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 Kristin Johnson, seconded by Steve Greenman, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 16th, 2022. Approved unanimously.

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

Commissioner Jeanne Sheehan stated she had tried to connect with a customer that was unhappy with a disconnection notice, but did not get a return call from him. The customer was not satisfied with the responses from AU staff and was making threats. Staff contacted law enforcement and no other communication was received.

Melissa Swenson, Customer Service Supervisor, presented the 2nd quarter charge offs. Total amount was \$60,008.02 which was significantly less than 2021. AU is also working with the state of MN on a program to assist in distributing extra funds to pay delinquent utility bills. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Steve Greenman, to approved the charge offs as presented. Approved unanimously.

Melissa Swenson, Customer Service Supervisor, presented the amount collected for Heatshare over the past six months. Customers are able to donate by rounding up their monthly bill to the nearest whole dollar or pledging a specific amount each month. AU currently has 60 residential customers participating in the program, 21 of those contribute a set amount each month. Since the start of the program in January, AU has collected \$903.94 in donations which will be distributed to the Salvation Army. Moved by Tom Baudler, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approve the amount collected and to be distributed to the Salvation Army. Approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, and Tom Tylutki, Electric Operations Director, presented AU's Electric Energy Emergency Load Shedding plan. The plan is in response to MISO's notice that the electric grid could be overwhelmed during a peak this summer, and rolling blackouts may be required. If this level of the emergency is reached, SMMPA, AU's electric provider, will require their member cities to reduce their load. AU has developed a plan to address this by creating three sections of AU's coverage area that can rotate through blackouts. AU has created a FAQ sheet and has included more information about the possibility of rolling blackouts in the customer newsletter. Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Tom Baudler, to approve the Electric Energy Emergency Load Shedding plan as presented. Approved unanimously.

Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, updated the impact of the City of Austin's Right of Way ordinance. The 2021 cost to build a temporary water system was approximately \$84,000, less than anticipated. Street projects have also averaged about a week of extra time to completion under the new ordinance. Additional coordination with customers has been required as well. Overall the impact has been manageable and less costly than originally estimated.

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

- SMMPA board meeting minutes
- Safety committee minutes
- Retiree breakfast Aug. 3rd
- APGA conference in Minneapolis
- Jay Lutz attending APPA meeting in Washington D.C.

The next regular Board meeting was scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, August 16th, 2022.

Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned 5:28 pm.

President

Secretary