

AUSTIN UTILITIES

MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, November 17th, 2020
Date

Regular Meeting

Tom Baudler
President

Members Present:

Tom Baudler, President (via video call)
Steve Greenman, Commissioner (via video call)
Kristin Johnson, Commissioner (via video call)
Jeanne Sheehan, Commissioner (via video call)
Tyler Hulsebus, Commissioner (via video call)

Others Present:

Mark Nibaur, General Manager
Ann Christianson, Finance Manager (via video call)
Kim Duncomb, Employee Relations Director (via video call)
Tom Tylutki, Electric Operations Director (via video call)
Kelly Lady, Marketing and Energy Services Manager (via video call)
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director (via video call)
Todd Jorgenson, Gas & Water Operations Director (via video call)
Willie Granholm, Light Equipment Operator (via video call)

Members Absent:

President Tom Baudler called the meeting to order. Due to COVID-19 limitations, all Commissioners participated through video call.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approve the meeting agenda. Roll call vote taken and approved unanimously.

Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 13th, 2020. Roll call vote taken and approved unanimously.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, 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. Roll call vote taken and approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, and Ann Christianson, Finance Manager, presented the proposed 2021 AU Budget. Some notable increases in the personnel budget were attributed to three new positions, and further step increases for staff still progressing on the BPS scale. The proposed budget also includes a scheduled refund from SMMPA, a reduced electric PCA and a 1.9% increase in water rates. The budget subcommittee recommended accepting the proposed budget with the water rate increase. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to approve the 2021 AU budget as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, updated the Board on the status of the City's Right of Way and Electric Undergrounding ordinances. Staff and some Commissioners attended the City Council work session November 16 to explain AU's concerns with the abandoned infrastructure language within the Right of Way ordinance. Additionally concerns were shared to the council regarding the undergrounding ordinance. Council agreed to hold off on the undergrounding portion for six months until a study can be performed but voted unanimously to send the Right of Way ordinance to the December 7th council meeting for approval. Willie Granholm, light equipment operator at AU, shared his concerns about the added cost and work load for crews. No further AU action was determined.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, provided an update on Covid-19 related customer arrears and financial impact on AU. Customer arrears have double since this time last year due to Covid-19.

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

- SMMPA minutes
- Safety minutes
- Employee Relations Director retirement moved to January 2021
- Large Customer Meeting scheduled for December 10th

The next regular Board meeting was scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, December 15th, 2020.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to adjourn. Roll call vote taken and approved unanimously.

Adjourn 5:03 pm.

President

Secretary