

AUSTIN UTILITIES

MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, October 13th, 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)

Members Absent:

Others Present:

Mark Nibaur, General Manager
Ann Christianson, Finance Manager (via video call)
Kim Duncomb, Employee Relations Director (via video call)
Melissa Swenson, Customer Service Supervisor (via video call)
Tom Tylutki, Electric Operations Director (via video call)
Keven Maxa, Engineering Supervisor (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)
Craig Byram, City Attorney & Steven Lang, City Engineer

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

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

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 8th, 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.

Melissa Swenson, Customer Service Supervisor, presented the 3rd quarter charge-offs. Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the charge-offs as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, provided information on the City of Austin's proposed Right of Way ordinance and its effect on Austin Utilities. The ordinance would require AU to get permits, remove abandoned utilities, and underground all utilities. Steven Lang, City Engineer, explained the City has been considering the ordinance for some time. AU staff outlined concerns and cost increases anticipated for AU and its customers. The City will convene a working group along with AU representatives to address the issues in more detail. Commissioner Hulsebus volunteered to join the group.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, and Todd Jorgenson, Gas & Water Operations Director, updated the board on the responses from the residents of Turtle Creek 2. Residents responding in favor were 23, residents against were 13, and residents not responding were 4. This does not meet the 75% participation AU required. Commissioners requested staff look at a financial scenario at 65% participation, continue to talk with residents and report back to the board.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented Resolution No. 312 - New by-laws for Austin Utilities. The current by-laws had not been updated since created in 1904. The new by-laws more accurately reflect the current AU staffing and procedures. Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to approve Resolution No. 312 as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved 5 yeas to 0 nays. Resolution is adopted.

Discussion was held on moving the date of the monthly meetings to the third Tuesday instead of the second Tuesday. Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to change the monthly meeting date of the Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners to the third Tuesday of each month. Roll call vote taken and approved unanimously.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, provided an update on Covid-19 related customer arrears and financial impact on AU.

Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, provided an overview of AU's load management program. The program saves customers and AU money by reducing peak electric load, which is used by SMMPA to determine AU's bill. Load control units are being upgraded at customers' homes and should be completed by 2023.

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

- SMMPA minutes
- Todd Jorgenson retirement notice
- Kim Duncomb retirement notice

The next regular Board meeting was scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, November 17th, 2020.

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

Adjourn 5:29 pm.

President

Secretary