

AUSTIN UTILITIES
MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, September 16th, 2025 Regular Meeting Steve Greenman
Date President

Members Present: Steve Greenman, President Jay Lutz, Commissioner Geoff Baker, Commissioner Tyler Hulsebus, Commissioner Kristin Johnson, Commissioner
Others Present: Mark Nibaur, General Manager Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director Kory Robinson, Finance & Customer Care Director Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director Sarah Douty, Administrative Coordinator

Members Absent:

President Steve Greenman called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to amend and approve the agenda with an additional action item to appoint Tom Dankert as Secretary of the AU Board of Commissioners. Approved unanimously.
Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 13th, 2025, and the Special Meeting minutes of August 19th, 2025. Approved unanimously.
Moved by Geoff Baker, 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.
Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to appoint Tom Dankert as Secretary of the Austin Utilities Board of Commissioners and approve him as official signer on all Austin Utilities checking accounts effective October 6th, 2025. Approved unanimously.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented Resolution No. 341 - Designating AU’s official representative to SMMPA. Mark Nibaur will be removed and replaced by Tom Dankert. Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve Resolution No. 341 as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved 5 yeas to 0 nays.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented the easement donation agreement to Southern Minnesota Bicycling Club. The trail utilizes part of the NE Plant property for a nature bike trail. The trail is completed and runs along the Cedar River. The bike trail is located on Hormel’s property, just south of the NE Plant site. The agreement shifts liability concerns from AU to the city. The city liability immunity for operating park systems generally falls under the doctrine of governmental immunity. AU continues to own the property; this is just an easement to the city to “operate” the bike trail. The city is supporting the agreement. Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve the easement as presented. Approved unanimously.
Discussion was held on customer concerns regarding compaction issues after a street project at 401 7th St. SW near the Groh property. The project was completed in 2011 and the site and customer were visited by Mark Nibaur and Steve Greenman who shared the customer’s concerns with the Board.
Mark Nibaur, General Manager, also updated the Board on the following:
• SMMPA meeting minutes
• Safety committee minutes
• Customer issue and yellow alert
• Large past due business account
• SMMPA Annual meeting Oct. 16-17
The Finance Committee reported they met to start preparations for the 2026 budget and another meeting is planned in two weeks.
The next regular board meeting was set for October 21st, 2025 at 4pm.
Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Geoff Baker, to enter a Closed Meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.03 Subd. 1(b) for strategy relating to labor negotiations with AFSCME, UAW, and UFCW unions. Approved unanimously. Closed portion entered at 4:32 pm.
Return to open meeting at 4:52 pm.
Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to adjourn. Approved unanimously at 4:52 pm.

President
Secretary