

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA WAS HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 AT 3:30 P.M.

Item 1. - Commission President Raplinger called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Present: Commissioners Culbert, Johnson, Marks, Marwick and Raplinger

Absent: None

Also Present: Greg French – General Manager; Bill Hafdahl – Finance Director; Nancee Strgar – HR & Safety Director; Representative – Virginia Public Access TV

Approved

Item 2 – Motion to approve the agenda by Culbert, supported by Marks, Motion Carried.

Item 3 – No Appearances

Item 4 - Notice of LEA Meeting on Tuesday, October 24th at 4:30 pm in Hibbing.

Item 5 – (a) and (b) A motion was made by Marks and supported by Johnson that financial resolution No. 5247 - Authorizing the payroll dated August 31, 2017 in the amount of \$101,268.81, checks #49082 through #49087 and direct deposits #27384 through #27447; and the payroll dated September 14, 2017 in the amount of \$111,073.05 checks #49088 through #49091 and direct deposits #27448 through #27511; and the bills dated August 28, 2017 through September 25, 2017 in the amount of \$1,451,670.26, checks #99897 through #100084 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$1,159,347.65 be adopted and to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from the August 28, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6 – No injuries were reported during the month of September. The employees and safety committee were commended for their concern and attention to safety.

Item 7 (a) - Mr. French reported that the electric charging station project is proceeding. The charging stations will be placed near Veterans Memorial and City Center Park. The location will be readily accessible. The project may be completed this fall; if not, spring of 2018. Commissioner Raplinger added that he hopes there will be future signage and maps to mark the location for residents and visitors.

Item 7 (b) - Mr. French referenced the “red-line” versions of the customer service policies that were distributed to the Commissioners. Specific policies were in need of revision and clarification. Mr. Hafdahl, Mr. French, Commissioner Raplinger, and Commissioner Marwick have reviewed the applicable policies. The Steam Service policy was edited, and shortened with more specific language. The Water Service Policy has been updated to follow the charter language. All other policies reviewed had language changes. Mr. French noted that the Utility Trip Charge was \$20.00 and has now been increased to \$30.00. Final approval to the policy changes will take place at the October meeting. Mr. French asked the Commissioners to contact him or Mr. Hafdahl with any questions regarding the policy updates and changes as they review.

Item 8 – No New Business

Item 9 (a) - Mr. French stated that the Power Plant was operating at 14 megawatts, utilizing the wood and coal boilers. Mr. French noted that the substantial amount of rain has caused a negative effect on the wood supply. The Steam District has also been affected by the major rain events, causing issues. There have been concerns about the Utility leaving open trenches in town. Unfortunately, other issues have occurred causing the need for immediate attention (there have been three (3) emergency water breaks). In most cases, dry weather is necessary to complete most of the projects.

Item 9 (b) - Mr. Hafdahl reported that an invoice has been received from Energy Insights. A large amount of time was spent working on Spectrum Health. Mr. Hafdahl also reported that the AEOA is working on residential program.

Item 9 (c) - Commissioner Marks asked about the trouble with the mall waterline. Mr. French stated that the mall infrastructure is not that of the Utility, and is owned by the mall. Additionally Commissioner Johnson asked if the Utility is feeding Midway. Mr. French explained that there have been issues with the water main expansion joints. Mr. French added that engineers are working on the issues. Midway customers have been calling, but there is nothing we can do since the repairs are the contractor's responsibility to remedy and is out of VPU control.

Item 10 – A motion to adjourn at 4:00 was made by Marks and supported by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Bill Culbert, Secretary

Rob Raplinger, President