

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, FEBRUARY 27, 2017 AT 3:30 P.M.

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

Approved

Present: Commissioners Johnson, Marwick and Raplinger
Absent: Commissioners Culbert and Marks
Also Present: Bill Hafdahl – Finance Director; Mary Johnson – Supervisor – Customer Relations; Charlie Baribeau – Virginia City Council; Representative – Virginia Public Access TV

Item 1 – Motion was made by Marwick to table the election of officers to the March meeting since two commissioners were not present. Supported by Johnson. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Motion to approve the agenda by Johnson and supported by Marwick, motion carried.

Item 3 – No appearances.

Item 4 – Commissioner Raplinger stated the next scheduled LEA meeting was March 28, 2017, in Hibbing at 4:30 PM.

Item 5 – (a) and (b) – A motion was made by Johnson and supported by Marwick that financial resolution No. 5237 – Authorizing the payroll dated February 2, 2017 in the amount of \$115,435.32 checks #49010 through #49013 and direct deposits #26367 through #26437; and the payroll dated February 16, 2017 in the amount of \$106,604.56 checks #49014 through #49017 and direct deposits #26438 through #26508; and the bills dated January 23, 2017 through February 27, 2017 in the amount of \$2,519,754.32, checks #98340 through #98610 and wire and electronic transfers in the amount of \$2,800,270.52 be adopted. The same motion approved the Regular Commission Meeting Minutes for the January 23, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

Item 6 (a) – Mr. Hafdahl stated there were no injuries reported for the month.

Item 7 (a) – Mr. Hafdahl gave an Electric Charging Station update informing the Commission that we are still in the process of finding a location. He indicated inquiries have been made of a private party as well as with City staff. He further stated that Minnesota Power wants to install a solar canopy over the charging station.

Item 8 (a) – A motion to approve the travel request for the Director – Plant Maintenance to attend the SME Conference scheduled for April 18-19, 2017 in Duluth, MN was made by Marwick and supported by Johnson. Motion carried.

Item 8 (b) – Mr. Hafdahl discussed the purchase of a Digger Derrick and Vac-Truck indicating both were a part of the approved 2017 budget and that a lease arrangement will be put together to purchase these items. Commissioner Raplinger questioned why we couldn't share the City's Vac-Truck and Mr. Hafdahl explained this equipment will be more suitable for winter use and the Vac-Truck is also used in the plant. He further explained this equipment is designed for water digging to which Councilor Baribeau stated the City truck is not.

Item 8 (c) – Mr. Hafdahl indicated Dave Kure has been with the Utility for 25+ years working as a meter reader and more recently a meter technician. He stated he's been a good employee and will be missed. Commissioner Raplinger, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Dave for his years of service. A motion to accept the Retirement Notice was made by Johnson and supported by Marwick. Motion carried.

Item 8 (d) – Commissioner Raplinger indicated that Nancy Graham, Director – Outside Distribution has accepted employment with a different agency and inquired about plans to fill her position. Mr. Hafdahl indicated he was unsure of long-term plans, but that Mr. French held that position in the past and can fill in along with Crew Lead, Ken LeBlanc in the interim. Commissioner Raplinger, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Nancy for her service to the Utility. A motion to accept the resignation notice was made by Marwick and supported by Johnson. Motion carried.

Item 9 (a) – Mr. Hafdahl gave an operations update indicating things have been running smoothly and that we've been running 18 megawatts from both turbine generators with coal and wood boilers. He stated the LEA is trying to get legislation passed to adjust the biomass percentage and possibly extend the PPA. He further stated discussions with Excel Energy are in the very early stages.

9 (b) – Mr. Hafdahl commented on sales for the months of January and February and how that might impact the budget.

A motion to adjourn at 4:00 was made by Johnson and supported by Marwick. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Bill Culbert, Secretary

Rob Raplinger, President