

REGULAR SESSION –WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

STATE OF KANSAS     )  
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CITY OF KANSAS CITY )

The Board of Public Utilities of Kansas City, Kansas (aka BPU, We, Us, Our) met remotely in Regular Session on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. The following Board Members were on the teleconference: Mr. Eidson, President; Robert L. Milan, Vice President; Mary Gonzales, Secretary; Jeff Bryant, Rose Mulvany Henry and Thomas Groneman.

Also on teleconference: William Johnson, General Manager; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Jim Epp, Executive Director Water Operations; Johnetta Hinson, Executive Director Customer Service; Jeremy Ash, Executive Director Electric Operations; Dong Quach, Executive Director Electric Production; Jerry Ohmes, Executive Director Electric Supply; Robert Kamp, IT Project Manager; Jody Franchett, Director Administrative Services; Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources; and Sperlynn Byers, Acting Director of Information Technology.

A tape of this meeting is on file at the Board of Public Utilities.

Mr. Eidson called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He welcomed all that were listening or viewing the meeting. He stated the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in a State of Emergency disaster declared by the Governor which made it necessary to conduct the meeting using technology instead of in person. Those wishing to offer comments during the Visitors Comments section could click on the raised hand feature at the bottom of the application or window or press Star 9 and be connected by phone. As always, the public could email or call the BPU with any concerns. The Agenda could be found on the BPU website. If they were using Zoom, it would appear on their screen. Mr. Eidson introduced himself and the other Board Members along with the GM, and Legal Counsel.

Roll call was taken and all Board Members were present via teleconference.

**Item #3 – Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the Agenda by Ms. Gonzales, seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

**Item #4 – Approval of the Work Session Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Work Session of November 4, 2020 by Ms. Mulvany Henry, seconded by Ms. Gonzales and unanimously carried.

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**Item #5 – Approval of the Regular Session Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session of November 4, 2020 by Ms. Mulvany Henry, seconded by Mr. Bryant and unanimously carried.

Mr. Eidson turned the meeting over to Mr. Bill Johnson, General Manager.

Mr. Johnson asked for there to be an amendment to the Agenda, to include a Visitor comment item.

A motion was made to approve the amended Agenda, to include a Visitor comment item by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Mulvany Henry and unanimously carried

**Item #6 – Visitors**

Mr. Robert Kamp, IT Project Manager, said that there were visitors wishing to speak.

Mr. Christopher Dusil, 3124 N. 67<sup>th</sup> Terrace. Mr. Dusil wanted to express his desire to help with community outreach to assist those with financial difficulties.

Mr. Ty Gorman, 7824 Canterbury. Mr. Gorman wanted to state his displeasure with the disconnect policy during a pandemic, during the winter, and for those using DME equipment.

Ms. Louise Lynch, 737 Miami Avenue. Ms. Lynch wanted to comment on her experience with United Way, and the length of time it took for a person to receive assistance.

**Item #7 – General Manager’s Reports**

- i. *COVID-19 Update:* Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources, gave an update on company COVID -19 matters.
- ii. *Utility Bill Print Update:* Bill Johnson, General Manager, and Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, gave an update on the new bill print design. Ms. Austin reported that proposals had been received, and the committee was in the process of reviewing them. They would begin the interview process after Thanksgiving. The target at this time was for the new bill to be in by the end of the

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iii. first quarter of 2021. Mr. Johnson had reached out to the Unified Government Public Works department so that they could have input as to what was included on their page. The payment stub would include the total of BPU and UG charges. He would continue to keep the Board updated.

Ms. Austin and Mr. Johnson answered questions from the board.

iv. *United Way Campaign Drive:* Mr. Johnson updated the Board on how this year’s United Way campaign message was circulated due to the absence of in person gatherings because of the pandemic. He also reported that even though the United Way of Wyandotte County and United Way of Greater Kansas City had merged, the same levels of support would be committed to Wyandotte County as before.

v. *Miscellaneous Comments:* Mr. Johnson wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and be as safe as possible. He also wished Board Member, Tom Groneman, a happy birthday.

**Item #7 – Board Comments**

Mr. Eidson wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He also reminded everyone to be safe and wear a mask. He also wished Board Member, Mr. Groneman, a happy birthday.

Mr. Groneman thanked all for the birthday wishes and echoed Mr. Eidson’s comments of safety.

Mr. Milan wished everyone a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bryant wanted to wish Mr. Groneman a happy birthday and thanked the staff again for all the work put into preparing the 2021 budget.

Ms. Gonzales wished Mr. Groneman a happy birthday and thanked Rob Kamp for the terrific job he did keeping all the different meetings going.

Ms. Mulvany Henry echoed well wishes for Tom’s birthday and for all to have a happy Thanksgiving. She also wanted to thank those who came and spoke from and on behalf of the Community Health Council at the Work Session and the Regular Session. She looked forward to further discussions.

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Item #9 – Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 P.M. by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Mulvany Henry and carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

  
Secretary

APPROVED:

  
President