

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION

March 27, 2024

Commission President Allwardt called the Regular Meeting of the Water and Light Commission to order at 8:00 a.m., with Commissioners Roy Kordus, Don Merkes, Antoine Tines, and Gary Turchan present on roll call. Also present were Melanie Krause, General Manager; Kristin Hubertus, Finance Manager; Steve Grenell, Engineering Manager; Adam Smith, Water Utility Manager-telephonically; Paula Maurer, Customer Service Manager; Kurt Melchert, Electric Manager; and Tammy Phillips, Accounting and Administrative Assistant.

Those excused were:

Item II. No one from the Gallery requested to be heard on any topic of public concern to the Utility.

Item III. Motion made by Comm. Allwardt, seconded by Comm. Kordus, was unanimous on roll call to approve the following:

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 28, 2024.
- B. Approve and warrant the following payments dated February 29-March 27, 2024 in the amount of \$1,186,536.85.
- C. Correspondence as listed:
  - Copy of MU Large Customer Breakfast Information
  - Copy of Winter Moratorium End Notice
  - Copy of 2024 Regional Power Dinners for Member Utilities
  - Copy of MU Spring Donation Drive
  - Copy of MU Bill Insert: RE: Paperless Billing
  - Copy of MU Home Energy Report
  - Copy of MU March Newsletter

Item IV. Claims Against the Utility – There were no claims discussed at this meeting.

Item V. Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00 issued since the last Commission meeting were presented for informational purposes.

Item VI. Unfinished Business, Water Rate Case. The application filed on 11/3/23 has been reviewed by the PSC staff and they are recommending a 6.25% rate of return and 90 days working capital. This would equal a 21.2% rate increase.

The motion made by Comm. Merkes, seconded by Comm. Kordus, was unanimous on roll call to have management send a letter to the PSC requesting a lower water rate increase.

Item VII. New Business, Donald Merkes Resolution of Appreciation – The motion by Comm. Allwardt, seconded by Comm. Turchan, was unanimous to approve the following:

## RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, members of the Menasha Utilities Commission and Utility Management desire to record the recognition of Donald Merkes as a member of this Commission and for his sixteen years of service.

WHEREAS, Donald Merkes has, for sixteen years, faithfully carried out the duties and responsibilities as Commissioner.

RESOLVED that the members of the Menasha Utilities Commission and Utility Management give formal expression of their appreciation to Commissioner Merkes, who was held in esteem and respected by his associates for the services he rendered while a member of said Commission and do hereby note in the records such recognition.

RESOLVED FURTHER, by the Menasha Utilities Commission and Utility Management that a copy of this resolution be tendered to Donald Merkes in recognition of his services and as a tribute to him.

Passed and approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Comm. Allwardt thanked Don for his service to the Utility Commission.

Workforce and Succession Plan – Staff presented a plan to operate effectively when individuals are either unable to work or leave the Utility.

Out of State Travel, Adam Smith asked for permission to travel to the AWWA ACE 24 Conference in Anaheim, CA from June 10<sup>th</sup>-June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The motion made by Comm. Allwardt, seconded by Comm. Turchan was unanimous on roll call to approve travel to the AWWA 2024 Conference for Adam Smith.

Lisa Miotke, WPPI Senior Energy Services Manager, presented the 2023 Annual Focus on Energy Participation Report.

Item VIII. Strategic Reports, Monthly Strategic Initiative Update – The February report was discussed.

February Financial and Project Status Reports – Electric consumption was lower than budget by 1.6%, cost of power was lower by 7.4%, and net operating income was lower than budget due to the difference between revenues and purchased power costs.

Water usage was higher than budget by 10.1%, chemical and administrative costs were lower than budget, and net operating income was higher due to higher revenues and lower expenses.

After discussion, the Commission accepted the February Financial and Project Status Reports as presented.

Project Reports, Electric Projects – Crews worked on new service installs, setting new poles on Water Street for the upcoming City project, and transformer bushing replacement at Northside substation. The new forklift was received, and work continues on the water plant SCADA network.

Water Projects – Work continues on the 2024 water main replacement project, AMI meter exchanges, maintenance projects, and the SCADA upgrade.

Item IX. No one from the Gallery requested to be heard on any topic of public concern to the Utility.

Item X. The motion by Comm. Merkes, seconded by Comm. Allwardt, was unanimously approved on roll call to adjourn at 9:10 a.m.

By: MARK L. ALLWARDT  
President

GARY TURCHAN  
Secretary