

## MARSHALL MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

75 East Morgan  
Marshall, MO 65340

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September 17, 2021

The Board of Public Works convened in regular session in the MMU Service Center Conference Room at 8:30 a.m. Board members present were Wick Jacobi, President; Ken Bryant, Vice President; Steve Mills, Secretary and Spencer Fricke, Member. Also in attendance was City Council Member Dewey Hendrix.

The agenda was approved on a motion made by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Mills, with a vote of 3-0. The minutes of the August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved as printed on a motion by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Mills, with a vote of 3-0. The minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved as printed on a motion by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Mills, with a vote of 3-0.

Electric Distribution Director Doug Root requested approval to get proposals for the general installation material needed for the Southeast Substation. He is hoping to get a package price for all materials needed with installation to be done using in-house labor. Mr. Bryant made a motion to request proposals for general installation material for the Southeast Substation upgrades. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fricke and passed with a vote of 3-0.

Director Root also stated that the tree trimming company continues to trim and remove trees; to date they have trimmed 501 and removed 470 trees. The overhead to underground conversion is complete, except for yard repairs to be done.

Controller Tony Bersano presented a proposal for a wastewater rate increase. He stated there hasn't been an increase since 2013, and that it is needed to assist in financing the improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated the minimum sewer volume increase is \$0.15 per 100 gallons. It would increase the average residential customer's monthly sewer bill by \$5.25. He would like it to go into effect for October billing which would be reflected on customers' bills due in November. Mr. Mills made a motion to approve a \$0.15 increase in the Wastewater usage rate from \$0.235 per 100 gallons to \$0.385 per 100 gallons beginning with October 2021 billing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fricke and passed with a vote of 3-0.

Controller Bersano then went over the financial comparisons for the month of July.

Electric Production Director Carl Crawford reported the battery bank in the building of unit #10 and #11 has been replaced under their warranty, and thermostat controls were installed on the exhaust fans for that building. He stated the bucket truck has been repaired and the painting of the intakes at unit #10 and #11 is almost done. Units #6, #10 and #11 have been called to run several days this month. The semi-annual Part 70 operating permit compliance and monitoring report has been submitted. The fence for the perimeter of the Electric Production grounds will be installed in a few weeks.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Nolan Townsend stated he received DNR's inspection letter. The department received three letters of warning; they are working on getting everything corrected. He is working with KimHEC on the NPDES permit renewal.

Underground Facilities Director Grant Piper stated he also received an inspection letter from DNR. The department is correcting their one unsatisfactory deviation. The Jefferson Street sewer main replacement was slowed due to a storm drain running over the top of the sewer main; it had to be removed to replace the sewer main.

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IT & Broadband Director Jim Widel presented a memo outlining the bids received for the 25-ton trailer. Two bids were received and opened on September 14<sup>th</sup>; Highway Trailer Sales – KC, MO - \$34,065.00 and Holden Industries – Southwest City MO - \$34,721.00. Bids came in higher than expected, but due to the bidding process the trailers he had seen on the lots during research were gone. Mr. Bryant made a motion to accept the low bid from Highway Trailer Sales – KC, MO - \$34,065.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mills and passed with a vote of 3-0.

Director Widel then noted the construction for the first broadband grant has begun; they have finished Lark Avenue and have 1,000 feet installed on Ladder Avenue. The MMU crew is working on Highway YY at Atchison Avenue, which is not part of the grant.

Human Resources Manager Megan Baldrige stated quotes are being obtained from other medical and ancillary carriers. She stated interviews are being scheduled for Underground Facilities General Maintenance Meter Reader. Manager Baldrige then provided the COVID-19 Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy for Board members to refresh their memory and ask questions. It will be expiring September 30<sup>th</sup>, unless renewed. She will be making a recommendation to extend it until December 31<sup>st</sup> at the next Board meeting.

General Manager Jeff Bergstrom presented the Board with the Natural Gas Operation and Transportation Agreement with Mid-Missouri Energy (MME). Since the agreement was made in 2004, there has been no increase. As operation and maintenance costs increase, it is time to renegotiate it. He has been working with MME and they are in agreement with the increase and terms. Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the fixed monthly, transportation reservation and transportation commodity charges for natural gas transportation to Mid-Missouri Energy as presented for a term of five years beginning with the October, 2021 billing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mills and passed with a vote of 3-0.

General Manager Bergstrom then updated the Board on the MPUA meetings he attended earlier this week. He is setting up a peer review through MPUA to evaluate the operations and finances. He continues to work with staff to execute the Burns & McDonnell contract and Notice to Proceed.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve and issue warrants from the following funds for cash disbursements to accounts payable.

WATER OPERATING FUND	\$ 176,098.56
ELECTRIC OPERATING FUND	\$ 1,271,163.99
SEWER REVENUE FUND	\$ 138,830.48
INTERNET OPERATING FUND	\$ 49,311.17
NATURAL GAS OPERATING FUND	\$ 675.71
ELECTRIC CONSUMER DEPOSIT FUND	\$ 7,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,643,179.91</b>

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fricke and passed with a vote of 3-0.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Following a motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Bryant, the Board adjourned the regular meeting at 9:39 a.m. The motion passed by a vote of 2-0.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
/s/ Steve Mills, Secretary