

MINUTES OF THE
SHAKOPEE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
March 1, 2021

1. Call to Order. President Amundson called the March 1, 2021 meeting of the Shakopee Public Utilities Commission to order at the SPU meeting room at 5:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call. President Amundson, Vice President Mocol, Commissioner Brennan, Commissioner Fox, and Commissioner Meyer were present.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda. Motion by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Mocol, to approve the consent agenda, namely: February 16, 2021 Minutes, March 1, 2021 Agenda, March 1, 2021 Warrant List, Water Capacity Charge (WCC) Fee Refunds, and 2021 MMPA Transmission Transformed Rate. Ayes: Amundson, Mocol, Brennan, Fox, and Meyer. Nays: None. Motion carried.
4. Liaison Report. Commissioner Brennan noted that the City Council approved the 2021 Street and Utilities Reconstruction Project on 1st Avenue between Atwood and Fuller and Scott Avenue and 1st and 2nd.
5. General Manager Report. Greg Drent, Interim General Manager, noted that the City Council on March 2, 2021 will appoint two new Commissioners. Mr. Drent also provided an update on the Investment Advisor selection process. The informal working group interviewed three candidates and plans to make a recommendation to the Commission at the next meeting. The electric department employees began the process of considering a union; Mr. Drent is consulting with an attorney who specialized in labor-management practices, Richard Pins. The results of the employee survey will be presented at the next meeting. The West Shakopee Substation site rezoning petition will be presented to the City Council at its March 2nd meeting.
6. Water Report. Lon Schemel, Water Superintendent, noted that the water department is working with Shakopee Fire Safety to identify private fire hydrants. SPU does not flush or maintain private hydrants. SPU has launched the customer survey concerning enhanced water treatment options, on the SPU website and social media, and with a link in bills. Customers are encouraged to complete the survey through the end of March.
7. Electric Report. Brad Carlson, Assistant Electric Superintendent, noted two outages since the last Commission meeting. He also gave an update on electric projects.
8. General. Greg Johnson and Pat Corrigan from Katama Technologies, Inc. presented Phase 1 of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project and proposed next steps.

Motion by Commissioner Brennan, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve Katama Technologies, Inc. to proceed with Phase 2 and Phase 3 as set forth in the existing agreement. Ayes: Amundson, Mocol, Brennan, Fox, and Meyer. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Sharon Walsh, Director of Customer Relation/Marketing discussed the impact of COVID-19 policies, including suspending disconnections, fees for late payments, and fees for on-line payments. Ms. Walsh noted a significant increase in past-due balances for a subgroup of customers. She also noted the lower-than-expected participation in the SPU Support Fund, with 17 approved payments to date in the total amount of \$3,629. After discussion, Ms. Walsh will extend and further advertise the SPU Support Fund, seek input from MMUA as to practices by other utilities, and prepare policy recommendations for Commission review and approval.

Mr. Drent provided an overview of the request for SPU to participate in the 2021 Flower Baskets project to hang flowers from street lights in downtown Shakopee. He noted that SPU maintains street lights. The proposed project would be performed by both SPU and the City of Shakopee. Vice President Mocol moved that the Commission find that the project assists in the marketing of utility services, arises from the maintenance of street lights, find that the project supports a public purpose designed to benefit the community as a whole, and direct staff to work with the City. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. Ayes: Amundson, Mocol, Brennan, Fox, and Meyer. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mr. Drent presented the potential purchase of an electric vehicle for SPU, as an alternative for previously-approved CIP funds. He noted that the purchase would replace a monthly car allowance for the general manager. Mr. Drent also discussed the opportunity to provide further information to customers concerning electric vehicles. Motion by Vice President Mocol, seconded by Commission Brennan, to modify the 2021 CIP Budget to include the purchase of an electric vehicle. Ayes: Amundson, Mocol, Brennan, Fox, and Meyer. Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Adjourn. Motion by Commissioner Meyer, seconded by Commissioner Fox, to adjourn to the March 15, 2021 regular meeting. Ayes: Amundson, Mocol, Brennan, Fox, and Meyer. Nays: None. Motion carried.



Greg Drent, Commission Secretary