

MINUTES OF THE
SHAKOPEE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
July 6, 2021
Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order. President Mocol called the July 6, 2021 meeting of the Shakopee Public Utilities Commission to order at 5:00 P.M. President Mocol, Vice President Fox, Commissioner Brennan, and Commissioner Letourneau were present. Commissioner Krieg arrived at 5:03.
2. Approval of Consent Agenda. Vice President Fox moved approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Letourneau seconded the motion. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried. The approved items were: June 21, 2021 Minutes; July 6, 2021 Agenda; July 6, 2021 Warrant List; MMPA June Meeting Minutes; Quarterly Nitrate Report; Private Hydrants Project; Res#2021-12 Resolution Setting the Amount of the Trunk Water Charge, Approving of Its Collection and Authorizing Water Service to Certain Property in Whispering Waters 1st Addition; Res#2021-13 Resolution Approving of the Estimated Cost of Pipe Oversizing on the Water Main Project for Whispering Waters 1st Addition; and Scott Street Water Main Crossing UPRR Tracks Update.
4. Liaison Report. Commissioner Brennan reported that the City Council took a tour of the City of Shakopee, including recent development, and saw the on-going utility projects.
5. Public Comment Period. No public comments were offered.
6. General Manager Report. Greg Drent, General Manager, gave an update on pending projects, including internal equity reporting and job descriptions, electric vehicle charger discussions with the City and MMPA, an upcoming rate study by Dave Berg Consulting in November, live-streaming of Commission meetings, and the billing system upgrade. Mr. Drent reported that the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services certified the union election results as follows: by a vote of 17 to 10, the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49, Minneapolis Minnesota is not the exclusive representative of the unit of applicable employees. Mr. Drent stated that the certification will be included in the next meeting packet. He discussed a potential tour of SPU facilities in the fall.
7. Water Report. Mr. Drent noted that the required Consumer Confidence Report, which addresses water quality, has been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health. Mr. Drent provided an update of pending projects.

CR 83 County Project 83-24-and SPU 18-inch Water Main Replacement. Joseph Adams, Director of Planning and Engineering, noted that SPU staff proposed modifying the initial plans of replacing the water main. He noted that County staff expressed reluctance to modify the bids or to keep the water main in place, but that he is waiting for a further response from County staff.

Mr. Adams described the expected life of the existing water main as over 100 years, and noted that the 47-year old water main has not experienced any breaks. He discussed the expected costs for a repair, including restoring the road, as significantly less than the rejected bid responses for this project. Mr. Adams also noted that during the planning for this project, dating back to June 2018, the County presented the replacement option as a choice for SPU. Commissioners discussed concerns with the costs and the potential impact on ratepayers, as well as the change in position by the County. Commissioner Brennan moved to pursue revising the project scope to keep the water main in place or seeking an amicable resolution with the County staff, and if those efforts are unsuccessful, then authorizing the General Manager to provide notice to Scott County that SPU is terminating the Construction Cooperative Agreement, and that President Mocol and Commissioner Brennan contact County Commissioners to convey the concerns of the Commission. Vice President Fox seconded the motion. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Electric Report. Brad Carlson, Assistant Electric Superintendent, described six outages since the last Commission meeting. He provided an update of other projects, including Canterbury Park primary service for irrigation pumps, adding streetlights, underground inspections, and duct bank work at Levee Drive.

9. Human Resources. President Mocol presented the proposed Employment Agreement for the General Manager. Vice President Fox moved approval of the Employment Agreement as presented. Commissioner Krieg seconded the motion. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Marketing/Customer Service Report. Sharon Walsh, Marketing/Customer Relations Director, provided an update as to 177 recent disconnections due to nonpayment. She noted that 43% paid their balance in full, 47% chose the payment options, and 10% have moved and may require further collections efforts. Ms. Walsh also reported on Rhythm of the Rails, noting that the Chamber of Commerce is using the SPU past video to create a 30-second spot for the SPU sponsorship. Ms. Walsh discussed the revised water survey with the Commission, and the consensus was that if people say “no” to first question, they should be able to complete the rest of the survey.

11. Security and Data Protections Overview. Bob Romansky, Information Technology Coordinator, provided a high-level overview of cyber protections. He described the results of the assessment conducted by FRSecure in 2018. Mr. Romansky noted that an audit is anticipated in 2022 or 2023. President Mocol noted that if Commissioners wish to discuss specific topics in the future as to cybersecurity, the Commission should evaluate whether to close the meeting, depending on the nature of the subject matter. Mr. Drent will report back as to cybersecurity insurance coverage. Commissioner Brennan departed the meeting to attend a City Council meeting.

12. Water Tower Logo. Mr. Drent discussed the past practice of placing names and logos of the City of Shakopee and SPU on water towers and tanks. The consensus was to continue this practice as to names and logos.

13. Items for Future Agendas. Vice President Fox suggested a potential joint meeting with Scott County, the City of Shakopee, and SPU to improve working relationships and facilitate discussion.

14. Adjourn. Motion by Vice President Fox, seconded by Commissioner Letourneau, to adjourn to the July 19, 2021 meeting. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.



Greg Drent, Commission Secretary