

MINUTES OF THE
SHAKOPEE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OCTOBER 4, 2021
Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order. President Mocol called the October 4, 2021 meeting of the Shakopee Public Utilities Commission to order at 7:11 pm, after a staff-led tour of water and electric facilities, including pump house #20, water tower #3, Dean Lake substation, and MMPA’s Shakopee Energy Park. President Mocol, Vice President Fox, Commissioner Brennan, Commissioner Krieg, and Commissioner Letourneau were present.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda. Items 3a and 3e were removed from the Consent Agenda. Vice President Fox moved approved of the Consent Agenda: (3b) September 20, 2021 Minutes; (3c) October 4, 2020 Agenda; (3d) October 4, 2021 Warrant List; (3f) Well Head Protection – Status; (3g) MMPA September Meeting Updates. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion.

September 7, 2021 Minutes. Commissioner Brennan moved to reconsider the September 7, 2021 minutes, seconded by Vice President Fox. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, and Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried. Commissioner Brennan moved to revise the September 7, 2021 minutes as indicated. Commissioner Letourneau seconded the motion. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, and Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Quarterly Nitrate Report. Commissioner Brennan asked about increased nitrate levels in wells 17 and 21. Water Superintendent Lon Schemel explained that the wells were re-sampled and the results showed that levels had returned to normal range. Mr. Schemel noted that if nitrate levels ever exceed 8.5 then SPU stops pumping from that well to investigate. Commissioner Brennan moved approval of the quarterly nitrate report, seconded by Vice President Fox. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, and Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.

3. Liaison Report. Commissioner Brennan noted that the City Council had approved the 2022- 2026 CIP as well as the preliminary tax levy of \$22,486,000, which is an increase of approximately 6.99%. She noted that at its meeting on October 5th, the City Council will declare October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Commission expressed support for the Declaration and will post this on SPU’s website.

4. Public Comment Period. No public comments were offered.

5. General Manager Report. Greg Drent, General Manager, provided an update on current projects, including discussions with the compensation and benefits informal working group, 2022 – 2026 CIP preparation, proposing a joint meeting with the City Council, and a scheduled meeting with Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative representatives.

6. Water Report. Mr. Schemel noted that flushing should be done in the Southbridge area shortly and then SPU will be done for the season. He reported that SPU received the results of the thorough Minnesota Department of Health sanitary survey, which showed zero problems. Mr. Schemel also reported that ten plastic services were installed before SPU prepared the final specifications for tracer wire. He noted that the topic was discussed with City staff and they will hold on issuing these permits until the specification is finalized.

7. Electric Report. Mr. Drent described four outages since the last Commission meeting. He also provided an update on Electric Department projects, including an estimated mid-November completion for SPU EV Chargers.

8. Human Resources: COVID Vaccine Incentives. Mr. Drent reported that 70% of SPU employees are fully vaccinated. The Commission discussed potential vaccination incentives for employees, including a policy recently adopted by the City of Bloomington. Vice President Fox moved approval of an incentives policy similar to the City of Bloomington, with a deadline for employee completion by December 31, 2021. Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, and Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Customer Service/Marketing Update. Sharon Walsh, Marketing/Customer Relations Director, reported that SPU attended the Big Vehicle Fair and she thanked Jordan and Jack who did a great job on behalf of the Electric Department. Ms. Walsh noted that SPU posted penalties this month, affecting almost 2,500 accounts, and totaling \$31,492.39. She reported that over 700 customers with good credit history will receive a return of their security deposits. Ms. Walsh noted an increase in late delivery of SPU bills by mail. She spoke with the post office and plans to promote paperless billing to help customers get their bill faster. Ms. Walsh also noted that she is applying for a CERTs Seed Grant to help pay for the labor, installation, and material expenses related to the EV charging station.

10. 2022 Wage and Compensation Planning Assumptions. Jean McGann, AEM, presented an overview of the 2022 budget process as well as the specific issues of employee COLA increases and health insurance renewal options. Ms. McGann explained that the informal working group recommended a 3% COLA increase and the 2-year health insurance renewal option, with a cap on the cost increase in the second year of a maximum of 7%. Commissioner Brennan moved approval of a 3% COLA increase for 2022, and the health insurance 2-year contract renewal option. Commissioner Krieg seconded the motion. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, and Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.

11. Electric Service Territory Discussions. Commissioner Letourneau moved, seconded by Vice President Fox, that the Commission go into closed session under Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(c) to develop or consider offers for the purchase of electric service territory rights and facilities of Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg,

and Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried. In open session, President Mocol noted that the Commissioners gave direction to staff to proceed with the meeting with MVEC representatives.

12. Adjourn. Motion by Commissioner Brennan, seconded by Vice President Fox, to adjourn to the October 18, 2021 meeting. Ayes: Mocol, Fox, Brennan, Krieg, and Letourneau. Nays: None. Motion carried.



Greg Drent, Commission Secretary