

**WORK SESSION MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022**

STATE OF KANSAS        )  
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CITY OF KANSAS CITY    )

The Board of Public Utilities of Kansas City, Kansas (aka BPU. We, Us, Our) met in Work Session on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. The following Board Members were present: Mary Gonzales, President; Rose Mulvany Henry, Vice President; Thomas Groneman, Secretary; Robert L. Milan, Jeff Bryant, and David Haley.

Also present: William Johnson, General Manager; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Johnetta Hinson, Executive Director Customer Service; Jeremy Ash, Executive Director Electric Operations; Jerin Purtee, Executive Director Electric Supply; Steve Green, Executive Director Water Operations; Dong Quach, Executive Director Electric Production; Jerry Sullivan, Chief Information Officer; David Mehlhaff, Chief Communications Officer; Robert Kamp, IT Project Manager, and Dennis Dumovich, Director Human Resources.

A tape of this meeting is on file at the Board of Public Utilities.

Ms. Gonzales called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Roll call was taken, all Board Members were present, except Mr. Haley, who arrived at 5:08 P.M.

**Item #3 – Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the Agenda by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Milan, and unanimously carried.

**Item #4 – Board Update/GM Update**

Ms. Mulvany Henry spoke about the Fairfax Industrial Association (FIA) luncheon held the previous week. A presentation was given by two members of the Mayor’s committee, on Government Efficiency, Chris Steineger and Doug Spangler, with emphasis on the PILOT fee. She received calls from some in attendance which concerned her that misinformation was given about BPU’s role and responsibility with respect to the PILOT fee. She emphasized that our role was solely to collect the PILOT fee and remit that fee to the Unified Government (UG). She suggested that we get messaging out so that the public understood the value that BPU brought to this community.

The Board discussed the current situation and made suggestions which included:

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- Having a joint meeting with the UG staff and Commissioners.
- Attending neighbor meetings in order to correct misinformation.
- Possibly having a Town Hall. However, it was stated that it was the UG that needed to have this conversation because it is their fee and their responsibility to explain to the public what they do with the funds that BPU collected on their behalf.
- Misinformation about the PILOT needed to be corrected.
- Information to counter misinformation of the PILOT needed to be at the ready.

Mr. Johnson talked about conversations he had on the topic and that the bottom line was that BPU was only responsible collecting the PILOT. The misinformation that he was hearing was that it was a BPU PILOT. He clarified that it was the UG’s PILOT on the BPU bill. The other misunderstanding was that BPU set the rate, which was also false. He explained that as the UG went through their annual budget cycle they communicated to the BPU what the PILOT was going to be set at. It was a certain percentage of our gross revenue, it went on the bill, we collect it, and it went into the Unified Government General Operating fund. The Unified Government used the dollars as they saw fit.

In regards to the Edwardsville and Bonner Springs question about the PILOT, all we could do was to tell what we were doing in collecting and what we were delivering. The state statute said that cities had the ability to collect a PILOT from those utilities that had water and electric facilities in their cities.

After further discussion, Mr. Johnson said he would reach out to Ms. Gonzales, Board President, to begin working on a joint meeting with the UG. He would also reach out to Ms. Melissa Clark, FIA Executive Director, about speaking to their board. He said he had spoken to David Mehlhaff, Chief Communications Officer, about increasing communications.

Mr. Johnson also announced that he had been appointed Co-Chair of the UG Government Efficiency task force.

**Item #5 – BPU Strategic Plan Review**

Mr. Johnson began a review a draft of the new Corporate Strategic Plan being developed. He went over what the core strategies for the company and what the entire utility needed to keep on its radar in terms of meeting the objectives of the BPU Strategic Plan. (See

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attached PowerPoint.)

In the area of Governance, after Mr. Johnson reviewed possible Strategic Goals and Performance Measures and asked the Board for their input. Some input included:

- That there should be something specific about Board communication with staff.
  - Customer requests via Board members should funnel through the Executive Assistant. This would keep the General manager in the loop so that in the event the Board member felt it necessary to include him, he would have knowledge.
  - When a Board member is at a community event, they should respectfully correct misinformation.
  - Ethics in performing duties without regard to personal interests.

It was decided to continue the discussion at the next Work Session meeting.

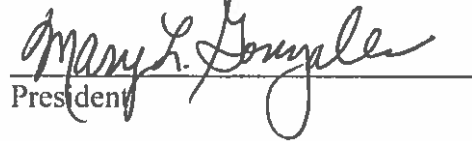
**Item #6 – Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the Work Session at 6:00 P.M. by Ms. Mulvany Henry, seconded by Mr. Bryant, and unanimously carried.

ATTEST:

  
Secretary

APPROVED:

  
President