

**REGULAR SESSION –WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021**

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 remotely in Regular Session on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. The following Board Members were on the teleconference: Robert L. Milan, President; Mary Gonzales, Vice President; Rose Mulvany Henry, Secretary; Jeff Bryant, and Thomas Groneman, and Ryan Eidson.

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

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

Mr. Milan called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. He welcomed all that were listening or viewing the meeting. He stated the COVID-19 pandemic had made it necessary to conduct the meeting using technology for staff as well as for the general public. Those wishing to offer comments during the Visitors Comments section could click on the raised hand feature at the bottom of the application or window or press Star 9 and be connected by phone. As always, the public could email or call the BPU with any concerns. The Agenda could be found on the BPU website. If they were using Zoom, it would appear on their screen. Mr. Milan introduced himself and the other Board Members along with the General Manager, and Legal Counsel.

Roll call was taken and all Board Members were present via teleconference.

**Item #3 – Approval of Agenda**

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

**Item #4 – Approval of Work Session Minutes**

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A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Work Session of April 7, 2021 by Mr. Groneman, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, and unanimously carried.

**Item #5 – Approval of Regular Session Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of April 7, 2021 by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, and unanimously carried.

**Item #6 – Public Comments**

Mr. Ty Gorman, 2843 Parkwood Blvd., commented about the dangers of shut-offs for non-payment during a pandemic, in addition to the cold temperatures of the last few nights. He also commented on the issue of not having a policy for shut-offs when a medical device was dependent on electricity.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Gorman if he had received the email sent about discussing issues that had been raised.

Mr. Gorman said that the Build Power Moka group, which he was a part of, had received the email and would be in touch to set a meeting.

Louise Lynch, 737 Miami Ave. Ms. Lynch said she had been given contact information for Catholic Charities by a Board member. She had contacted them for assistance, however, that was only a one-time solution which was not enough. She also requested an update on the medical device dependency matter.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Lynch if she had reached out to the United Way as a possible applicant for the hardship program as well as other utility assistance programs provided through them. He also spoke about the KERA program through the State of Kansas as they had monies available for utility assistance.

Ms. Lynch was currently working with the administrators at the KERA program to submit her application. Technology issues were preventing her application from going through. She was concerned that the situation with KERA would not stop her utilities from being shut off.

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Mr. Johnson told Ms. Lynch that someone would be contacting her the following day.

Emily Wolfe, 4449 Booth Street, wanted to express her support for the previous callers and the issues that were being raised.

Dustin Hare, WyCo Mutual Aid, 7800 W. 60 Ter., (comment came later) wanted to inform the Board that he was helping customers attempting to obtain assistance through the KERA program as well as local service providers who were still being disconnected.

**Item #7 – General Manager / Staff Reports**

- i. *COVID-19 Update:* Mr. Johnson gave an update on company COVID-19 matters. He also spoke about the work continuing on the Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) program, as a portion of that program included utility assistance. Ms. Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer had communicated with the administrators of the program and let them know we had put an extension in place for customers who provided acknowledgements from KERA stating they had applied for the program.

Mr. Johnson addressed comments from the Board. He asked Mr. David Mehlhaff, Chief Communications Officer to inform the public about the grace period.

- ii. *Leavenworth Road Association Update:* Ms. Lou Braswell, Executive Director thanked BPU and gave an update to the Board which included:
  - The Summer Youth program; local businesses became mentors to those in the youth program and gave insight on what being an employee was. Also, Team Teen, where kids from different states came in for a week and accomplished great things. In 2019 they accomplished major repairs to 40 houses in four days.
  - They were going to start a program “Dine in the Dotte”, which would help local restaurants.
  - Due to welcomed construction, the Leavenworth Road parade would not take place. Hopefully the Fishing Derby would be back this year.

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- Every first and third Friday of the month they had been working with Harvesters and Sunset Christian Church and community policing to provide food for 60-65 cars each time. They were hoping to increase those numbers with the end of winter.
- iii. *Turner Community Connection Update:* Ms. Chandra Ward thanked BPU and gave a recap and a look at what was ahead for the Turner Community Youth Program. They had about 20 kids that they worked with in the summer on a community garden, at the recreation center, the library, etc. They would be navigating through COVID protocols to place those kids this summer. The placement sites were looking forward to having the kids.
- iv. *Miscellaneous Comments:* Mr. Johnson reminded that there would be a joint BPU/UG meeting for the Board President and Vice-President. He also introduced a new staff member, Ms. Becky Aldinger, Director Purchasing/Supply Chain.

Ms. Aldinger was excited to be a part of BPU and spoke about her background.

Mr. Johnson added that Mr. Mehlhaff was working on the website to develop a page specifically designed around supply chains and contracts.

**Item #8 – Board Comments**

Mr. Groneman thanked all who presented. He also wanted to make sure that those who had been affected by COVID-19 got the information they needed to get through this time.

Mr. Eidson echoed Mr. Groneman and welcomed Ms. Aldinger to the team.

Mr. Bryant was glad to hear that the neighborhood groups would be planning youth programs this year. He welcomed both Ms. Aldinger and Mr. Sullivan to the team.

Ms. Gonzales wanted to emphasize the importance of reaching out to the people who needed help. She also thanked the neighbor groups for their work. She also welcomed the new teammates.

Ms. Mulvany Henry echoed Mr. Groneman’s and Ms. Gonzales’s comments. Communicating early and often on the ongoing assistance programs and their updates was very

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important. She welcomed Ms. Aldinger and thanked Mr. Sullivan for his Work Session presentation. She asked Mr. Dumovich for an update on employee vaccinations.

Mr. Dumovich reported that approximately two thirds of the employees had been vaccinated.

Ms. Mulvany Henry encouraged all to get the vaccine.

Mr. Milan echoed all of the Board’s comments. He also wanted to remind that the youth programs were not just for the summer but all year around.

**Item #9 – Executive Session**

Ms. Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel proposed a motion for adoption as follows:

“After taking a five minute break, I move that the Board go into Executive Session in the first floor Conference room and by phone session to discuss confidential matters related to evaluation of the General Manager, a personnel matter of nonelected personnel as justified under the open meetings, matters of a nonelected employee exception, in the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that the General Manager, William Johnson, Deputy Chief Counsel, Angela Lawson, be present to participate in the discussion and that all other be dismissed from the room and public electronic and telephonic transmissions cease and that we would reconvene in open session returning to both electronic and telephonic broadcasting at 7:55 PM in the board room to either to take action in an open session or to adjourn.”

A motion was made by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Gonzales and carried unanimously.

At 7:55 P.M. the meeting was opened.

A motion was made to return to Executive Session until complete and that no further action would be taken by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Gonzales and carried unanimously.

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**Item #10 – Adjourn**

At 9:27 P.M. the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

*Rose Mulvany Henry*

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Secretary

APPROVED:

*Robert Milander*

President