

WORK SESSION MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023

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, January 4, 2023 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; Jeremy Ash, Interim Chief Operating Officer; Johnetta Hinson, Executive Director Customer Service; Steve Green, Executive Director Water Operations; Glen Brendel, Executive Director Electric Production; Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources; Dustin Miller, Director of Applications: and Robert Kamp, IT Project Manager.

A video of this meeting is on file at the Board of Public Utilities and can be found on the BPU website, www.bpu.com.

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

Roll call was taken, all Board Members were present.

Item #3 –Approval of Agenda

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

Item #4 –Board Update/GM Update

Mr. Johnson said he had attended a Unified Government (UG) Economic Development meeting. The city wanted to update old master plans and come up with a city-wide comprehensive master plan that incorporated all of the different area plans.

Item #5 – Board Governance Discussion

Ms. Gonzales wanted to review the Self Assessment’s that each of the Board members had completed. (See attached.) She reminded everyone that the intended purpose was to take a look at how they governed and was there a way to be better.

The discussion included:

1. Public Accountability and Involvement –

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- Based on the public participation at the last couple of Board meetings, it was an area that needed improvement.
 - To make sure that the public knew the value of the utility.
 - There were also comments about what progress had been made to involve the public, such as the audio-visual capabilities being used to have the meetings accessible on Zoom and then on the website.
 - They needed to look at how to gain insight.
 - Communication on what the utility was doing was currently sent out via the flyer that went out quarterly, the BPU Connection.
 - Board member participation at neighborhood meetings. It was hard to gain that interaction but making the effort as much as the Board could was necessary.
 - Some of the Board committees needed to be revamped, possibly adding a Community Engagement Committee.
 - There was no one solution.
 - Also, possibly developing a quarterly Work Session calendar that was Board driven, but keeping in mind that there could be other discussions that could arise and on occasion replace or be included on the Agenda.
 - BPU needed to simplify some of the information presented to be understandable by lay people, particularly when speaking about the value the utility brought to the community.
 - BPU could have more information for the public presented at Board meetings especially now that the public had the opportunity to watch the meetings.
2. Strategic Direction and Goals –
- The Home Town Connections sessions had helped the Board make huge strides in dealing with Strategic Planning. The Board had to follow-up, do the work and get things implemented on matters discovered during the sessions.
3. Monitor Achievement of Strategic Goals and Organization Efficiency -
- Items in the “Parking Lot”, things outlined during the sessions should be used throughout the year to address in checking in on the strategic plan.
4. Board Relationship with CEO –
- No comments given.

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5. Board Meetings –

- Support one another when members of the community are speaking after public comment section is over.
- Work on how to handle people who are not happy with decisions the Board had made.
- It was noted that the Chair held the meetings with decorum.
- Hear what the other Board members points of view are, not meaning that one should change their position, but understand other Board member concerns.
- The Board should take more responsibility of the Work Session agenda. More technical items should be in the Work Sessions and presentations in the Regular Sessions be in laymen terms.
- Listen to comments and refer to proper staff. The Board could not know what someone is going to say until they come to the podium or what other possible situations they had.

6. Board Self-evaluation –

- In the coming year, the Board members should go outside of the utility; to one of the conferences, a webinar, etc. and each member should bring something learned back to the Board.

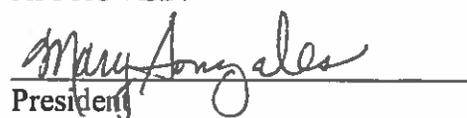
Item #7 – Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the Work Session at 5:48 P.M. by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Milan and unanimously carried.

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED:


President