

REGULAR SESSION –WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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 Regular Session on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The following Board Members were present: Rose Mulvany Henry, President; Thomas Groneman, Vice President; Jeff Bryant and David Haley. Robert L. Milan, Secretary (connected via Zoom but unable to participate); and Mary Gonzales were absent.

Also present: William Johnson, General Manager; Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel; Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Jeremy Ash, Chief Operating Officer; Johnetta Hinson, Executive Director Customer Service; Darrin McNew, Executive Director Electric Operations; Jerin Purtee, Executive Director Electric Supply; Steve Green, Executive Director Water Operations; David Mehlhaff, Chief Communications Officer; Andrew Ferris, Director Financial Planning; Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources; Douglas Bowen, Director Electric Production Operations & Maintenance; Dustin Miller, Director of Applications; Ashley Culp, HR Manager; Michael Oldehoeft, Superintendent Operations WO; Steve Hargis, Supervisor Water Distribution Meters; Karen Johnson Phillips, HR Spec-Employee Relations; and Rick Hardman, 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. Mulvany Henry called the Board meeting to order at 6:01 PM. She welcomed all that were listening to or viewing the meeting. She informed all that the meeting was being recorded including video and audio. During the public comment section, those attending in person, wishing to speak, should use the sign-up sheet at the entry and provide their name and address. Public comments were limited to five minutes and should be addressed to the Board. Members of the public who wished to speak to the Board using Zoom needed to use the Raise Hand feature at the bottom of the application or window to signal that they wish to address the board during the public comment section. Members of the public connected by phone only, needed to press *9 to indicate they wished to address the Board in the public comment section. No confidential information should be shared, including, account information. Staff would not provide individual account information during an open meeting. As always, the public could also email or call the BPU with any concerns. She informed that all participants were to act respectfully to each other. Personal attacks or accusations would not be tolerated. All concerns would be directed to the Board only, they would then determine staff involvement. If side discussion was necessary, it was to be conducted outside of the Board room to avoid interfering with presenters or other attendees. If any rules are breached during this meeting, the attendee was subject to removal. Ms. Mulvany Henry introduced herself and the other Board Members along with the General Manager, and Legal Counsel.

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Roll call was taken and all Board members were present except for Mr. Milan (who was connected via Zoom but unable to participate) and Ms. Gonzales.

Item #3 – Approval of Agenda

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

Item #4 – Approval of Work Session Minutes of October 4, 2023

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Work Session of October 4, 2023, by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Groneman, and unanimously carried.

Item #5 – Approval of Regular Session Minutes of October 4, 2023

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of October 4, 2023, by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Groneman, and unanimously carried.

Item #6– Public Comments

Sister Therese Bangert, 8301 Wood Ave., expressed her thoughts regarding her recent experience with Customer Service, and on having an in-person option for customer assistance.

Mr. Johnson advised Sister Therese that he would continue to research the issues she brought forth and would follow back up with her.

Item #7– General Manager / Staff Reports

- i. *HR Personnel Code-Resolution #5290*: Mr. Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources, presented Resolution 5290 for the Boards consideration. (See attached PowerPoint.)

A motion was made to approve Resolution 5290, regarding the Personnel Code, by Mr. Groneman, seconded by Mr. Haley, and unanimously carried.

- ii. *Utility Rebate Program Update*: Mr. Andrew Ferris, Director of Financial Planning, provided the Board an update on the Utility Rebate Program. He gave a recap of the

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current program and presented potential options for BPU to execute an independent program. (See attached PowerPoint.)

The discussion included:

- The ability to use the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) data for eligibility purposes.
- Creating a BPU specific verification program.
- Utilizing the Unified Government’s (UG) new Low-Income Elderly and Disabled Utility Rebate Program.
- A program intended to assist residential customers in taking advantage of eligible Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds and if it would coincide with BPU’s current rebate options.
- A budget cap of \$150,000 for all options discussed.

Mr. Ferris responded to questions and comments from the Board.

- iii. *Miscellaneous Comments:* Mr. Johnson asked the Board to provide their availability to himself and Ms. Patrice Townsend, Director Utility Services, as she will be reaching out to the Ambassadors of the Community Engagement Program to set up a meeting.

Mr. Johnson wished Mr. Haley a Happy Birthday.

Item #8 – Board Comments

Mr. Haley thanked staff for their presentations. He stated he would continue to seek answers from the State regarding additional weatherization funds. He also inquired about the current BPU facilities RFP and thanked Sister Therese for her comments.

Ms. Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel, instructed the potential proposer to follow the formal RFP process.

Mr. Groneman thanked Sister Therese for speaking to the Board. He also thanked Mr. Ferris for his presentation.

Mr. Bryant wished Mr. Haley a Happy Birthday and asked that he continue to monitor State funding as it would benefit Wyandotte County residents. He also thanked staff for their presentations.

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Ms. Mulvany Henry said that she looked forward to reviewing and revising the Customer Service policies to help improve customer’s experience with BPU. She also wished Mr. Haley a Happy Birthday.

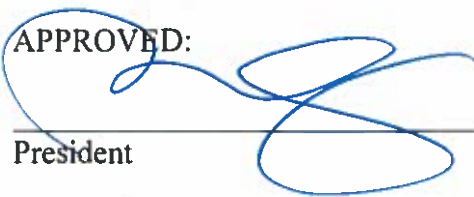
Item #9 – Adjourn

At 7:06 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Haley and unanimously carried.

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED:


President