

## MARSHALL MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

75 East Morgan  
Marshall, MO 65340

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June 30, 2022

The Board of Public Works convened in regular session in the MMU Service Center Conference Room at 8:30 a.m. Board members present were Ken Bryant, President; Steve Mills, Vice President; Spencer Fricke, Secretary and Chuck Hines, Member. Also present was City Council Member Tim Reeder.

The agenda was amended to include an action item for General Manager Jeff Bergstrom then approved on a motion made by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Fricke, with a vote of 3-0. The minutes of the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Fricke, with a vote of 3-0.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Lab Technician Eric Perkins presented the bid received to remodel the plant's breakroom and bathroom. This is part of the FEMA project and will be reimbursed at 90%. Bids were sent out to twenty-nine area vendors with only one responding: Septagon Construction, Sedalia MO in the amount of \$42,025. Mr. Mills made a motion to approve the bid from Septagon Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant's breakroom and bathroom remodel in the amount of \$42,025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hines, and approved by a vote of 3-0.

Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Travis Boss updated the Board that the correct weigh belt feeder will arrive July 1<sup>st</sup>, the belt scrapper is being constructed and will ship next week and the company will be onsite the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to do training. He also reported the containers for the lead and copper sampling have been sent to area customers; some have already been returned.

Underground Facilities Chief Engineering Technician Cody Boston reported that Underground Facilities Director Grant Piper had received and is reviewing the quote from Landis+Gyr for software and programming of AMI water meters; it came in at approximately \$712,000.

IT & Broadband Director Jim Widel reported that Coleman's is done in the southeast part of town and is working in the Shackelford area. MMU crews have almost completed splicing in the Lime Avenue area and have started pulling fiber in Wildcat Road area.

Electric Distribution Director Doug Root reported that he is waiting on materials for the Southeast Substation new transformer and 15kV switchgear. The gang-operated switches have been installed and are in service; crews should finish installing ground wire today. All transformers are installed for the overhead to underground conversion, conductors have been terminated, new underground line has been energized and crews will start connecting services today.

Electric Production Director Carl Crawford stated the Electricians are working on the lighting upgrade for the unit #10 and #11 building. The construction for the building housing the RO and fogger for unit #6 is moving along. Unit #6, #10 and #11 have been dispatched several times in the month of June.

Human Resources Manager Megan Baldrige updated the Board on vacancies; two conditional offers have been made for the Underground Facilities General Maintenance/Meter Reader positions, Emilee Hall will be transferring to the Utility Billing Associate position, and Shannon Fraenhoffer will be transferring to the Apprentice Meter Technician/Lineman position. She added that she is reviewing available options for the voluntary worksite coverage and expects to have a recommendation regarding ancillary benefits at the next meeting.

Controller Tony Bersano presented the May financials.

General Manager Jeff Bergstrom reported the "table-top" inspection with FEMA is being finalized. He has been participating in several calls and meetings with Burns & McDonnell discussing ARPA funding and is working with staff to identify projects and submit applications; the applications are due mid-July. He also participated in the MPUA quarterly meetings and noted the financing to purchase all 10 solar farms had been approved. He was

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notified the Iatan II Power Plant went offline June 29<sup>th</sup>.

General Manager Bergstrom then went over the items from the Peer Review and answered Mr. Hines inquiry regarding MMU’s utility costs. He replied that since MMU is a non-profit, there is no mark-up and everything sold is at-cost. He added that staff is working on developing an enhanced communications plan; Manager Baldrige has developed a schedule for social media posts and is working on getting the website updated.

General Manager Bergstrom then presented a memo establishing an Economic Development Fund within MMU to support the growth of the City of Marshall. Mr. Bryant started the discussion saying he had received a letter from the mayor and had worked with General Manager Bergstrom on this memo as a response to that letter showing “good faith” to the Mayor and City Council that the Board is working towards the common goal of the city’s growth. Mr. Mills added he feels the subcommittee has not met enough to come up with an answer to the City’s request after just one meeting. He feels it is taxing the citizens on their utility usage only to be deposited into the general fund. He feels the Board is being pressured by the city by issuing an ordinance that requires the utility to pay a set amount regardless of the utilities financial position. He wants time to establish the fund, set it up correctly, have control over it, and allow the Board to do their job or dismantle it. He believes this is just not the right time to do this without hurting the rate payers or utility.

General Manager explained that the recommendation outlined in the memo would make a commitment in a way that benefits MMU’s rate payers; otherwise, if the ordinance is passed as written, it would burden two departments already having financial difficulties - water and wastewater. At least this way, the Board retains control and continues its ability to reinvest into the utility’s infrastructure and protect rate payers from market volatility.

Mr. Hines asked to table this action item so the Board can have a work session to discuss the subcommittee meeting. He would also like to present the memo to the subcommittee for discussion and let the other members of the subcommittee report back to the City Council and Mayor. Mr. Hines made a motion to table the memorandum establishing an Economic Development Fund and schedule a Board work session to discuss economic development. The Board scheduled a work session for July 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Service Center Conference Room. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mills, and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Mills made a motion to approve and issue warrants from the following funds for cash disbursements to accounts payable.

WATER OPERATING FUND	\$ 292,962.35
ELECTRIC OPERATING FUND	\$ 1,200,223.11
SEWER REVENUE FUND	\$ 93,452.68
INTERNET OPERATING FUND	\$ 131,474.93
NATURAL GAS OPERATING FUND	\$ 2,271.40
ELECTRIC CONSUMER DEPOSIT	\$ 1,200.00
SEWER EQUIPMENT FUND	\$ 74,240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,795,824.47</b>

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fricke and passed with a vote of 3-0.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Following a motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Fricke, the Board adjourned the regular meeting at 9:34 a.m. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
/s/Spencer Fricke, Secretary