

# AUSTIN UTILITIES

## MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, August 15th, 2023  
Date

Regular Meeting

Kristin Johnson  
President

### Members Present:

Kristin Johnson, President  
Jeanne Sheehan, Commissioner  
Jay Lutz, Commissioner  
Steve Greenman, Commissioner  
Tom Baudler, Commissioner

### Others Present:

Mark Nibaur, General Manager  
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director  
Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director  
Marc Oleson, Information Technology Director  
Ann Christianson, Finance Manager  
Melissa Swenson, Communications & Energy Services Manager

### Members Absent:

---

President Kristin Johnson called the meeting to order.

Moved by Jeanne Sheehan, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve the meeting agenda. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Tom Baudler, seconded by Steve Greenman, to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 11th, 2023. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Tom Baudler, to approve the disbursements summary, accounts payable list, additional bills and expenses, and authorize warrants to be drawn for their payment. Approved unanimously.

Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, presented the Murphy Creek substation equipment bids. Bids were approximately 11% higher than anticipated. AU's consulting Engineer, DGR, and staff recommended approving the following bids: 15 kV Metalclad Switchgear - \$396,000 to Harold K. Scholz Company; 69 kV Control Panel - \$49,770 to Electrical Power Products, Inc. and Control Enclosure - \$450,011 to Trachte LLC. Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to approve the bid awards as presented. Approved unanimously.

Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, updated the Commissioners on the results of the Northern Natural Gas rate case. AU will receive a refund of approximately \$487,000 in 2023. Staff recommends reducing the PGA for the remaining months of the year to reflect the portion of the refund due to customers. The Finance Manager will run the calculations to present at the September meeting.

Ann Christianson, Finance Manager, presented a mid-year review of the 2023 operating budget and capital budget. Variances of revenues and expenses were discussed and explained. Capital budget variances were also reviewed and discussed.

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, also updated the Board on the following:

- SMMPA meeting minutes
- Safety committee minutes
- Dar Duholm retirement in early 2024
- Duane McGonigle retirement in early 2024
- Employee picnic Sept. 15th

Mark Nibaur, General Manager, presented a memo outlining a proposed addition to staffing within the Communications and Customer Service departments. A full time position would be created by combining a part-time Customer Service position with a part-time Communications assistant. Commissioners discussed the need for the position, the extra cost of providing benefits and the timing of the request. After further discussion consensus was not obtained. Staff will wait for job classification results before the Commissioners revisit the request.

The finance committee discussed scheduling the start of 2024 budget meetings the week of September 25th.

The next regular Board meeting was scheduled for 4:00 pm, September 19th, 2023.

Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Jeanne Sheehan, to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned 5:20 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary