

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, Commissioner Ardner called to order the regular meeting of the Mora Public Utilities Commission at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 in the city hall council chambers.

1. **Roll Call:** Present: Commissioners Greg Ardner, Brett Baldwin, and Ryan Christianson
Absent: none
Staff Present: Utilities General Manager Crawford, Public Works Director Kohlgraf, Utility Billing Clerk Bliss, and Deputy City Clerk Yoder

2. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION made by Christianson, seconded by Baldwin, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda: Discussion ensued regarding consideration for an RFP for weed control and sprinkler system services. MOTION made by Christianson, seconded by Baldwin, and unanimously carried to amend the consent agenda, item 4c. to correct the final payment amount payable to Anderson Underground, Inc. for services to be \$56,677.49.

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2021
 - b. January 2021 Claims
 - c. Transmission & Distribution Pole Replacement – Hwy 65/ Mora Lake Final Project Payment
3. **Open Forum:** No one spoke at open forum.
 4. **Special Business:** There were no special business items to discuss.
 5. **Public Hearings:** There were no public hearings.
 6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Electric Usage Economic Development Incentive:** The PUC reviewed a wholesale economic development incentive program created by Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) that was aimed at providing incentives to attract new businesses to SMMPA communities like Mora. At the February 2, 2021 City Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting, the EDA reviewed and unanimously supported the implementation of the program and encouraged the PUC to also support the incentive. MOTION made by Christianson, seconded by Baldwin, and unanimously carried to make a recommendation to the City Council to consider the economic development incentive program developed by SMMPA.
 - b. **FR/Safety Clothing Policy Statement:** The PUC reviewed a personnel policy statement for the electric department employees for employer provided FR/safety clothing (fire resistant/retardant), due to increased “hot work” conducted by electric staff in which safety clothing was required. MOTION made by Baldwin, seconded by Christianson, and unanimously carried to approve the amendment to the personnel policy Section 1830.5 Safety Equipment to include the FR/Safety clothing for the electric department policy as amended.
 7. **Old Business:** There were no old business items to discuss.
 8. **Communications:**
 - a. Utility Billing Monthly Report – January 2021: Bliss reported solar account balances for residential and commercial were paid out to the respective accounts.

- b. Utility Billing Adjustments Report – January 2021: Bliss reported progress in the collection of outstanding balances.

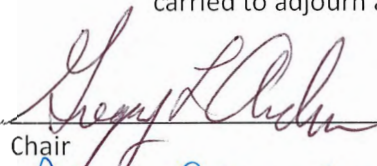
9. Reports:

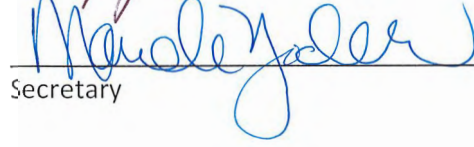
- a. Public Utilities General Manager: Nothing new to report.
- b. Public Works Director: Kohlgraf reported the power plant had been generating due to the cost of natural gas and the power outages in Texas during the extreme cold temperatures. Kohlgraf stated two of the three culverts had been installed as part of the Highway 65 transmission electric project; Phase 1 would begin next Monday and the power plant would generate continuously to power the City independently as a test run, the following week the transmission lines along Highway 65 would be disconnected and new ones installed, during this time the plant would be scheduled to generate power for approximately 36 hours continuously to supply the City with power; electric staff was scheduled for work shifts of 12 hours on and a break of six (6) hours off and would remain at the plant for the duration of the run. Kohlgraf also reported Mattson was performing well in the newly promoted position as was Holmes with cross-training in the same department.

Discussion ensued regarding notifying the public of the project and a possible interruption of electric service and Kohlgraf reported notifying the major electric customers and suggested not to publicize the event to avoid unnecessary residential fears. It was reported the Kanabec Times had inquired of the process and Crawford would reach out to SMMPA for more details before responding with answers to the Kanabec Times reporter's questions.

- c. Commissioner Baldwin: Nothing new to report.
- d. Commissioner Christianson: Nothing new to report.
- e. Chairperson Ardner: Nothing new to report.

10. Adjournment: MOTION made by Christianson, seconded by Baldwin, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 3:25 PM.


Chair


Secretary