

WORK SESSION MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 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, February 15, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. The following Board Members were present: Rose Mulvany Henry, President; Thomas Groneman, Vice President; Robert L. Milan, Secretary; Jeff Bryant, Mary Gonzales. David Haley attended via Zoom.

Also present: William Johnson, General Manager; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Wendy Green, Senior 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; David Mehlhaff, Chief Communications Officer; Jerry Sullivan, Chief Information Officer; Dennis Dumovich, Director of Human Resources; 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. Mulvany Henry 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. Groneman, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, and unanimously carried.

Item #4 –Board Update/GM Update

Mr. Groneman attended the Unified Government (UG) Public Works and Safety Standing Committee and had nothing to report pertaining to BPU.

Mr. Haley attended the Economic Development & Finance Standing Committee and spoke about the Monarch’s ownership requesting dollars to replace their turf with grass. He also spoke about a bio-solids project presentation given by Jeff Fisher, UG staff.

Mr. Johnson said that several years ago the UG had talked about doing a project at the Wastewater facility. The UG inquired if BPU would purchase power created by their gas recycling.

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Item #5 –BPU/UG Billing

Ms. Mulvany Henry reported on the PILOT Taskforce meeting she attended. There was discussion on recommendations that the taskforce planned on bringing forward. She asked if the UG had ever looked at collecting the PILOT the same way property taxes were collected, at two intervals during the year. She also told Commissioner Bynum of the BPU Board’s desire to have the full BPU Board and UG Board of Commissioners meet. She also spoke to the taskforce about having the BPU charges and UG charges be due at separate times in the month.

There was Board discussion about how other cities might collect their fees and also the need to have both full boards meet and collaborate. There was also continued discussion about separating bills and penalties that could be incurred.

Mr. Milan passed out to the Board regarding earlier PILOT documents and articles and the Board discussed previous PILOT amounts.

Item #6 – Board Community Advisory Group

The Board discussed how to move forward on forming a Board/Community advisory group. Brainstorming included:

- Define what they will do.
- Who was going to be part of the group?
- A subcommittee of three Board members could be formed to meet with the public. The subcommittee could work toward:
 - Determining what was to be accomplished.
 - To set ground rules and processes.
 - They could find the community participants.
 - Work on how to determine who would be the spokespersons for the community groups.
- Possibly an outside facilitator
- Identifying best practices amongst utilities that do what we do.
- Define what is a “want” and what is a “need”.
- Is it cost effective?
- It has to be fair to all ratepayers.

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- Community engagement could help sculpt future Board presentations on topics the committee gets questions about. Communications could make it known what presentations would be upcoming when putting out the Board meeting announcement.

The Board decided to create a committee whose purpose would be to create a set of ground rules and then engage with the community advisory groups.

Mr. Bryant, Ms. Mulvany Henry and Ms. Gonzales all offered to be on this committee.

Mr. Bryant also wanted to make sure that all of the upcoming designated committees met this year.

Mr. Johnson agreed that forming a committee was a good idea. He suggested looking at other advisory committees to find out why they existed. It would be good to hear where people were at and see what BPU could do to help inform to close the gap. It was very important for both Board and management to carry the same message.

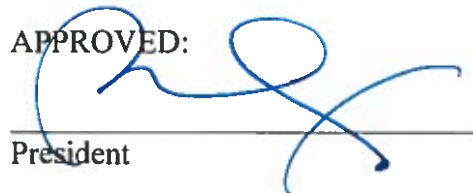
Item #7 – Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the Work Session at 5:58 P.M. by Mr. Groneman, seconded by Mr. Milan and unanimously carried.

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED:


President