

PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD MINUTES
JULY 25, 2022

The Public Utility Board met in regular session on Monday, July 25, 2022, at 1:03 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room located on the Upper Level of City Hall. Roll call was taken, and members of the Board present were: John Bell, Richard Vaughn, and Charles Williams. Absent was member Whit McCoskrie. Also present were: Lauren EH Nelson, Council Liaison; Courtney L. Doyle, Asst. Deputy Director of Administration/City Clerk; Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities; and Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 27, 2022 Board meeting were presented for approval.

Motion was offered by John Bell and seconded by Charles Williams to approve the minutes of June 27, 2022, as presented. Motion carried with three members of the Board voting in favor, and one member (McCoskrie) absent.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Utility Financial Report for June 2022 was presented to the Board for review and discussion. Kathy Holschlag, Chief Financial Officer, offered to answer any questions.

Holschlag stated sales tax collections are up 3.7% in comparison to this period of time in 2022 and noted this rate is not keeping up with the current rate of inflation. Holschlag also reported use tax collections are up 23%, approximately \$45,000.

Holschlag noted the Electric fund experienced an operational loss month-to-date due to increased invoices from TEA (The Energy Authority); this fund is down approximately \$700,000 year-to-date. The Gas fund experienced a loss of approximately \$325,000 month-to-date due to increased costs; the fund is down roughly \$34,000 year-to-date. In regards to the Gas fund, Darrell Dunlap, Superintendent of Utilities, stated the June gas costs were higher than anticipated.

The Water fund was profitable both month-to-date and year-to-date; the Sewer fund experienced a \$71,000 month-to-date but remains in the black for the year. Lastly, the Solid Waste fund has been profitable both month-to-date and year-to-date.

Dunlap also reported the city is having difficulties securing vital items. There will be a resolution for consideration at the upcoming Council meeting to allow a deviation from the city's purchasing policy due to volatility and inability to secure the purchase of vital items needed to allow the city to function and pursue expansion.

After some review and discussion, motion was offered by Charles Williams and seconded by Richard Vaughn to accept the Financial Report for June 2022, as presented. Motion carried with three members of the Board voting in favor, and one member (McCoskrie) absent.

SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION:

- a. SPA/Sikeston/Prairie States physical asset update.

Dunlap showed the Board a video relating to coal energy and efforts to maintain clean facilities and reduce carbon emissions. Dunlap followed this video with a video regarding hydro power and another

providing an overview of the Sikeston plant.

b. Grant updates.

Dunlap stated the applications were filed for state ARPA grants and the federal PHMSA gas grant. Recipients will be notified later this year.

c. Board Elections:

- i. President
- ii. Vice-President

The floor was opened for nominations. Motion was offered by Richard Vaughn and seconded by Charles Williams to nominate John Bell as President. Motion carried with three members of the Board voting in favor, and one member (McCoskrie) absent.

Motion was offered by John Bell and seconded by Richard Vaughn to nominate Charles Williams as Vice-President. Motion carried with three members of the Board voting in favor, and one member (McCoskrie) absent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The city is awaiting a final opinion from the City Counselor regarding the Board's recommendation to implement a fine for individuals who fail to remove their trash receptacles from the curb. More information will be available at a future meeting.

Dunlap noted the city is trying to hold off on implementing a water rate increase, but the situation will have to be addressed in order to avoid further financial loss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no need for an executive session at this Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Board, motion was offered by Charles Williams and seconded by Richard Vaughn to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with three members of the Board voting in favor, and one member (McCoskrie) absent. The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney L. Doyle, CMC/MRCC
Asst. Deputy Director of Administration /
City Clerk