

REGULAR SESSION –WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

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 remotely in Regular Session on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. The following Board Members were on the teleconference: Robert L. Milan, President; Mary Gonzales, Vice President; Rose Mulvany Henry, Secretary; Jeff Bryant, Thomas Groneman, and Ryan Eidson.

Also on teleconference: William Johnson, General Manager; Wendy Green, Senior Counsel; Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer; Johnetta Hinson, Executive Director Customer Service; Jeremy Ash, Executive Director Electric Operations; Jerry Ohmes, Executive Director Electric Supply; Steve Green, Executive Director Water Operations; David Mehlhaff, Chief Communications Officer; Jerry Sullivan, Chief Information Officer; Randy Otting, Director Accounting; Tung Nguyen, Director Engineer Production; Jody Franchett, Director Administrative Services; Robert Kamp, IT Project Manager; Dennis Dumovich, Director Human Resources; Patrice Townsend, Director Utility Services; and Phillip Brown, Senior Civil Engineer.

A tape of this meeting is on file at the Board of Public Utilities.

Mr. Milan called the Board Meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. He welcomed all that were listening to or viewing the meeting. He stated that the Board felt it was necessary to offer the use of technology for staff as well as for the general public. Those wishing to offer comments during the Public Comments section could click on the raised hand feature at the bottom of the application or window or press Star 9 and be connected by phone. As always, the public could email or call the BPU with any concerns. The agenda could be found on the BPU website. If they were using Zoom, it would appear on their screen. Mr. Milan introduced himself and the other Board Members along with the General Manager, and Legal Counsel.

Roll call was taken and all Board Members were present via teleconference.

Item #3 – Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the Agenda by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Eidson, and unanimously carried.

Item #4 – Approval of Special Session Minutes of October 28, 2021

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Special Session of October 28, 2021 by Ms. Gonzales, seconded by Ms. Mulvany Henry, and unanimously carried.

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Item #5 – Approval of Work Session Minutes of November 3, 2021

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Work Session of November 3, 2021 by Mr. Eidson, seconded by Mr. Groneman, and unanimously carried.

Item #6 – Approval of Regular Session Minutes of November 3, 2021

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of November 3, 2021 by Ms. Gonzales, seconded by Mr. Bryant, and unanimously carried.

Item #7– Public Comments

Ms. Louise Lynch, 737 Miami Ave., asked for clarification on items from the Work Session in regards to what Urban Outfitters was receiving from the utility, and expressed her concerns. She also inquired about concessions and asked for enlightenment.

Mr. Johnson explained that it was the utility’s practice to support economic development in Kansas City, Kansas and that Urban Outfitters was no different. He explained how existing infrastructure was looked at to make sure it could support loads being introduced and making sure it was available for backup purposes to prevent infrastructure failure.

Mr. Johnson also said BPU was not giving concessions and that Urban Outfitters would be on a normal rate based on their load.

Item #8 – General Manager / Staff Reports

- i. *Potential BPU Wellness Program:* Dennis Dumovich, Director Human Resources, gave a presentation to the Board about potential wellness and wellbeing programs that would benefit the employees of BPU. (See attached)

Mr. Dumovich answered questions from the Board.

- ii. *KCKCC Economic Development Fund Approval:* Mr. Johnson spoke about the process to date and there was further discussion regarding what depth of electric would be used for the project.

A motion was made to approve the request for \$250K for the KCKCC Economic Development Fund based on the fulfillment of the requirements within the BPU

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Economic Development Fund policy, by Mr. Milan, seconded by Mr. Bryant, and carried unanimously.

Ms. Patrice Townsend, Director Utility Services, gave an update on future Economic Development Fund requests.

Mr. Johnson answered questions from the Board.

- iii. *Water Operations Quarterly Report:* Mr. Steve Green, Executive Director Water Operations and Mr. Phillip Brown, Senior Civil Engineer gave a Water Operations Update, discussing the details of a benchmarking study conducted by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Mr. Brown was put in charge of this project and he outlined the course that was undertaken. He also provided an update of the rehabilitation of the Oakland Elevated Tank, located at 40th Street and Oakland Avenue.

Mr. Green and Mr. Brown addressed questions and comments from the Board.

- iv. *Miscellaneous Comments:* Mr. Johnson spoke about the upcoming Budget meeting. He also wished Mr. Groneman the best on his upcoming birthday.

Item #9 – Board Comments

Mr. Eidson wished Mr. Groneman a Happy Birthday. He also thanked the Water Department for their presentation. He also asked Mr. Johnson to provide the Board a report of the free services that BPU gave the UG specific to what type of structure it was. His concern was that a for profit business in a UG building could be receiving free services.

Mr. Johnson said that he had discussed this with the UG.

Mr. Jeremy Ash, Executive Director Electric Operations, gave an update on a project underway to split service that a for profit business was using in a community center.

Ms. Mulvany Henry provided information from August 2020 and expressed her concern that it had been over a year.

Mr. Johnson would request that information from the UG and asked Mr. Eidson to provide any information he could.

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Mr. Groneman thanked the presenters for the information given. He appreciated hearing the candid information provided by the benchmarking study.

Mr. Bryant thanked staff for the good reports. He commented on the earlier discussion about Economic Development projects, that just because a project has the name of one association to the development, the infrastructure put in place was to boost the entire system for subsequent growth. He also requested staff to look into how the Board could return to meeting in person.


Ms. Gonzales wished Mr. Groneman a Happy Birthday. She thanked Mr. Dumovich for his presentation. Wellness and wellbeing was more important than ever. She thanked Capital Project presenters on their project information. She thanked Mr. Brown for the detail and the explanations given during his presentation.

Ms. Mulvany Henry also wished Mr. Groneman a Happy Birthday. She also echoed the other comments about the presentations of the evening. She appreciated those who participated in the Capital Projects update. It was helpful to have that information going into upcoming budget discussions. She thanked Mr. Green and Mr. Brown for going to such depths on the benchmarking study. She thanked Mr. Bryant on his comments about Economic Development. She also thanked Mr. Dumovich on the Wellness presentation.


Mr. Milan wished Mr. Groneman a Happy Birthday and echoed all of the comments made about the evening’s presentations as well as the comments about meeting in person. He said he was hopeful for upcoming travel so that the Board could learn more by attending the AWWA and APPA conference. He mentioned the need for a Cost of Service study. It had been nine years since there had been an increase in the water rates. He also commented on the UG determining what facilities would receive free utility service.

Item #10 – Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:51 P.M. by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, and unanimously carried.

ATTEST: 

Secretary

APPROVED:


President