

REGULAR SESSION –WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024

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 Regular Session on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM. The following Board Members were present: Thomas Groneman, President; David Haley, Vice President; Stevie A. Wakes Sr., Secretary; Mary Gonzales, Brett Parker, and Rose Mulvany Henry.

Also present: William Johnson, General Manager; Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel; Lori Austin, Chief Financial Officer; Jeremy Ash, Chief Operating Officer; Abbey Frye, Chief Administrative Officer; Leigh Mulholland, Chief Compliance Officer; Jerry Sullivan, Chief Information Officer; Darrin McNew, Executive Director Electric Operations; Donald Stahl, Executive Director Electric Production; Steve Green, Executive Director Water Operations; Jerin Purtee, Executive Director Electric Supply; Amber Oetting; Director Communications & Marketing; Dustin Miller, Director of Applications; Michael Oldehoeft, Superintendent Operations WO; Steve Hargis, Supervisor Water Operations; Al Garcia, Key Account Utility Specialist; Maurice Coleman, Supervisor Water Distribution; Rhonda Burgin, Systems Programmer Analyst III; 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.

Mr. Groneman called the Board meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He welcomed all that were listening to or viewing the meeting. He informed all that the meeting was being recorded including video and audio. This being the last meeting of the year, and to allow time to bid our General Manager farewell, there would be no visitor comments or public comments on agenda items during this meeting. As always, the public could email or call the BPU with any concerns. He informed all participants this was a business meeting and would be conducted accordingly.

Mr. Groneman 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.

Item #3 – Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the Agenda, by Ms. Mulvany Henry, seconded by Mr. Wakes, and unanimously carried.

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Item #4– Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Session of December 4, 2024

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of December 4, 2024, by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, and unanimously carried.

Item #5– General Manager / Staff Reports

- i. *Western Fuels Board Appointment – Resolution #5308:* Mr. Jeremy Ash, Chief Operating Officer, presented Resolution #5308, which would approve the Western Fuels Board Appointments.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #5308, by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Wakes, and unanimously carried.

- ii. *Miscellaneous Comments:* Mr. Johnson took a moment to reflect over his 45-year career at BPU and offered thanks to the many people who helped him throughout, including: current and past Board members and employees, the community for their support and interactions, and his family who helped him find work-life balance.

He shared memories regarding the progression of the power plants, the flood of 1993, the completion of the Nearman Water Treatment Plant, and the many improvements to technology that had helped BPU advance over the years. He went on to share history of how the BPU leadership had evolved since it’s start in 1929. BPU got its first General Manager (GM) in 1983; Mr. Johnson had worked for every prior GM and would finish his career as the fifth permanent GM and first African American to hold this position.

Throughout his time as GM, he was able to meet with a number of youths in the community to offer inspiration and shared that if they worked hard, they could achieve their goals and dreams. He specifically thanked the Board for their approval of the scholarship program, which directly impacted the youths in our community wishing to further their utility-related education.

He shared a message with the community that BPU staff did their best to efficiently provide safe and reliable power and water to the community and will continue to do so with the community in mind.

He lastly offered a few words of encouragement and advice to the incoming GM and acknowledged former Board member, Bob Milan, who was present for the meeting. He

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thanked him for his service to the community and for his continued support throughout his career.

Mr. Groneman wished Mr. Johnson a Happy Birthday on December 22nd.

Item #6– Board Comments

Mr. Haley thanked Mr. Johnson for his service to BPU and the community and wished him Godspeed on his future endeavors. He also wished everyone well during the holiday season.

Mr. Wakes thanked Mr. Johnson for his leadership and contributions to BPU and the community. He also thanked Mr. Bob Milan for his perspective as he stepped into his role as a Board member.

Mr. Parker thanked Mr. Johnson for his nearly 45 years of service to BPU and the community of Kansas City, KS. He said he appreciated his patience, leadership, and guidance during his time on the Board and wished him well in his retirement.

Ms. Gonzales said she enjoyed her time serving on the Board and seeing Mr. Johnson progress in his various roles at BPU. She thanked him for his service to BPU and the community and wished him a happy retirement.

Ms. Mulvany Henry made note that she would entertain a motion to move the January meeting dates before the meeting adjourned. She acknowledged that she and Mr. Johnson may not always agree, but always found common ground in caring for BPU and the community. She wished him the best in his retirement and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Mr. Groneman took a moment to acknowledge Mr. Johnson for his 45-year career with BPU; Mr. Johnson started at an entry-level position and after demonstrating a relentless drive to grow and learn, he earned his MBA from Ottawa University and in 2019 was hired as General Manger. Under Mr. Johnson’s leadership, BPU has maintained it’s position as one of the top municipal utility companies in the country. Mr. Johnson’s focus on fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and community engagement had left a lasting mark on the organization and the community. Mr. Johnson served on the Board of the Greater Kansas City United Way and the Boys and Girls Club. He was recognized nationally when he received the Mark Crisson Leadership and Managerial Excellence Award from the American Public Power Association (APPA). Mr. Johnson also served as President of Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) and was selected for the Edgar P. Schowalter Award, which is the highest recognition given by KMU. He stated Mr. Johnson’s legacy was one of innovation, foresight, and a deep

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connection to the community he served. He wished him the best in his next chapter and congratulated him on his retirement.

A motion was made to move the January meeting dates to January 8th and January 22nd, at the regular scheduled times, by Ms. Mulvany Henry, seconded by Mr. Parker, and unanimously carried.


Item 7 – Adjourn

At 6:39 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Gonzales, and unanimously carried.

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED:


President