

MINUTES  
LAKE CRYSTAL UTILITIES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023  
8:00 A.M.

The following Commissioners were present:  
Commissioners McCoy, Ahrenstorff, Richards.

Staff Present:

Todd Wiens, Mayor; Jeremy Hutchens, Water/Wastewater Superintendent; Madison Allen, Electric Superintendent; Sara Raisbeck, Administrative Assistant; Angie Grafstrom, City Administrator; Lisa Jacoby, Utility Billing Clerk.

Others Present:

Gary Winters, Minnesota Solar Store; Kelly Dybdahl, Heartland Energy.

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by Chairman McCoy.

Commissioner Ahrenstorff moved, and Commissioner Richards seconded the motion to approve the October 3, 2023, regular meeting minutes. The following vote was had and taken,

Ayes: McCoy, Ahrenstorff, Richards.

Nays: None.

Commissioner McCoy moved and Commissioner Ahrenstorff seconded the motion to approve utility bills totaling \$1,105,803.11. The following vote was had and taken,

Ayes: McCoy, Ahrenstorff, Richards.

Nays: None.

Commissioner Ahrenstorff moved, and Commissioner Richards seconded the motion to approve updating the Personnel Manual in regard to definition of family and the new "Employee Sick and Safe Time Leave" to comply with new laws. The following vote was had and taken,

Ayes: McCoy, Ahrenstorff, Richards.

Nays: None.

Commissioner Richards moved and Commissioner Ahrenstorff seconded the motion to accept the bid by Rubin Construction for media replacement at a cost of \$126,200.00. The following vote was had and taken,

Ayes: McCoy, Ahrenstorff, Richards.

Nays: None.

Commissioner McCoy moved and Commissioner Richards seconded the motion to recommend Resolution 2324 – A Resolution Certifying Unpaid Charges be approved by the City Council.

The following vote was had and taken,

Ayes: McCoy, Ahrenstorff, Richards.

Nays: None.

Commissioner Ahrenstorff moved, and Commissioner Richards seconded the motion to approve exterior water tower cleaning in 2024 by Hartung Xcoatings at a cost of \$7,600.00. The following vote was had and taken,

Ayes: McCoy, Ahrenstorff, Richards.

Nays: None.

Gary Winters, Minnesota Solar came before the Commission questioning the Distributed Energy (DG) Rate in place for residential customers. He has a customer that is putting in a solar array with a name plate of 9.5 kW but is planning on limiting the export to 3.5 kW so they would not have to pay the Grid Access Charge as set up in the DG rate schedule. It was determined by the Commission that the Grid Access Charge be in place as stated. The Commission directed staff to work with DGR Engineering to determine if we needed a different Access Charge when storage is involved.

Superintendent Hutchens updated the Commission on the following:

- Leak detection survey completed. Working on 2 leaks out in Crystal Creek Subdivision.
- Biosolids hauling is complete. Hauled a little less than last year.
- InControl did their annual cybersecurity check.
- Ordered a VFD for HSP pump #5 from Ideal Services. Expecting the pump in 2024, however it arrived last week at a cost of \$18,000.00.

City Administrator Grafstrom updated Commission on the following:

- We accepted the offer from Gordy Kuznia for the dig in. Payment will be coming shortly.
- The City Council did not reduce the Franchise Fees at this time. The Council is willing to reconsider the 2025 budget if the PUC would like to meet with them in 2024.
- In total for all generators, we have currently spent \$90,661 on repairs, of that \$57,000 is on the Cooper.
- We did not receive the federal grant for Phase 1 of the Electrical Upgrades, but DGR has attended an informational meeting regarding other opportunities.
- 2024 budget is included.
- “Gig Town” is a marketing campaign in conjunction with Consolidated. Ribbon cutting will be November 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at City Hall. This is to promote the new fiber and introduce it to the community.

Consolidated thanked the City and Utility department for locating the entire town and answering questions from the public as it required a lot of time for the water, electric and office staff.

- Wastewater Regionalization is in process.
- We received notification from the MN Department of Health that the City’s lead and copper has not exceeded the action level.

Superintendent Allen updated the Commission on the following:

- Completed pole top rescue and had hot sticks and grounds tested.
- A secondary pole that was rotten fell on a homeowner's fence when a tree branch fell on the service. Installed a new underground service.
- Working with L&S and DGR on feeder breaker reclosure settings.
- 2 staff members attended MMUA's Tree Trimming school.

Information items:

- Revenue and expense summary reports.
- Budget for review.
- Next meeting is December 5, 2023, at 8 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

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Dennis McCoy, Chairman

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Angela Grafstrom, Secretary