

**MINUTES OF THE DELANO WATER, LIGHT AND POWER COMMISSION
CITY OF DELANO, COUNTY OF WRIGHT, STATE OF MINNESOTA
WITH ALL ACCOUNTS BEING AUDITED BY SAID COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING
Tuesday December 12th, 2023 5:00PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayer Holly Schrupp called the joint meeting to order for City Council.
Commission Chair Mike Mathisen called the meeting to order for DMU.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken, and a quorum established

Commission Members Present – Chairman Mike Mathisen, Commissioners Nick Willing, Larry Bartels, Chris Link

Also Present, General Manager Paul Twite; Recorder Wendy Neu

Council Members Present - Councilmembers Becky Schaust, Mike Mathisen, Jeremiah Hawkins

Also Present, Phil Kern, City Administrator; Shawn Louwagie, City Engineer; Bryce Borland, Deputy Clerk

A. General Updates

Paul Twite provided update for Delano Municipal Utility:

- DMU staff will be moving to the new offices Dec 15th
- AEP (All Electric Power) becomes our Market Participant Dec 15th
- Review of Bonding status with CLA (Clifton Larson Allen) and Baker Tilly
- Review Gen 9-There was limited success in testing Generator 9

Phil Kern provided update for the city:

- City budget is complete
- Independence requested cancelation of the Fire Service Contract with the City
- Ice Park Discussion-This would be a joint venture between the City and DASA (Delano Area Sports Arena) and DAYHA (Delano Area Youth Hockey Association) that will be considered at the next council meeting. It will provide a larger public skating facility, ice sheet will be refrigerated
- City and DMU are working to finalize the ESST (Earned Sick and Safe Time) policy
- The City is having an outside party complete/review its comp plan
- First phase of Capstone and final phase of Greywood will be reviewed in 2024
- Lennar is looking for further developments
- Ice Palace is scheduled to start making ice Jan 1 with target open of Jan 11
- City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint meeting to review a draft version of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan

City Engineer, Shawn Louwagie provided an update on the joint facility.

B. Discuss Master Water Plan

Paul Twite discussed the Water Distribution Study that was awarded to Stantec. With the City population growth, DMU is looking forward to completion of the study to address any areas that may present concern.

C. Discuss Watering Restrictions

There was a review of the annual water usage in Delano. While the DNR acknowledges that Delano is above the permit level, they do expect the City to enforce summer watering restrictions. Currently it is the City Administrator that has the authority to declare the terms and conditions of water restrictions in Delano. Mr Kern recommends a joint resolution to allow DMU to impose the water restrictions. However, DMU does not have the ability to enforce the restrictions that are put in place. Mr Kern stated that City would have multiple options to enforce them.

There was a discussion on different billing strategies that could be options as well. One being seasonal billing and the second being tiered billing. In tiered billing the price per thousand gallons would go up the more water used by a resident. Seasonal billing would include higher rates for summer usage.

As DMU continues to roll out AMI metering the resident will be able to monitor their usage through SMART HUB. Providing an option to curtail their usage before hitting the next level. As for the customer opting out of the AMI meters, it was discussed that some cities do a trip charge to have the crew manually read the meter. All new homes in Delano automatically have the new meters installed.

There was a discussion regarding a second water tower. Mr Twite noted that the recommendation is to have 48 hours of drinking water stored in the city. During the peak summer months DMU maintains roughly 24 hours, the remainder of the city has about 72 hours of storage.

D. Consider Infrastructure Fee Schedule

In 2023 there was a joint decision to reinstate the Electric Infrastructure fee that had been suspended in 2008. At the time, the joint decision was to roll back some fees to the 2019 rates. This would allow the electric fee to be charged with no additional impact on the developers. Currently the city is recommending a 3.5% increase on all infrastructure fees in 2024. These fees are to cover costs that are incurred for the infrastructure to be put in place. Not used as a revenue stream for the city.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.



Mike Mathisen, Chair



Larry Bartels, Secretary