

Minutes of the Moorhead Public Service Commission
Hjemkomst Center, Auditorium
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – 4:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Baker (Interactive Technology—Personal), Lisa Borgen, Matthew Leiseth, Steve Lindaas, and Jason Ness

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Lammers

OTHERS PRESENT: Staff Members Adam Benhardt, Taylor Holte, Jake Long, Mark Moilanen, Susan Orth, Marc Pritchard, and James Sumba; MPS Attorney John Boulger; Assistant City Manager Mike Rietz

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Commissioner Leiseth called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. A quorum of the following members was present: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness.

Chairperson Leiseth appointed Commissioners Baker, Leiseth, and Ness to the Budget Working Group and Commissioners Borgen, Lammers, and Lindaas to the Human Resources Working Group.

2. APPROVE AGENDA.

Commissioner Borgen made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

3. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

[The consent agenda approved above includes all items shown herein with an asterisk (*). These items were considered routine or non-controversial by the Commission and were enacted by the Commission in one motion, which is the motion above to approve the consent agenda.]

***4. APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026.**

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***5. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT.**

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the bills for payment. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***6. APPROVE SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR MPS' 8TH STREET SOUTH WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT.**

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for Moorhead Public Service's 8th Street South Watermain Replacement Project. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

7. CUSTOMERS TO BE HEARD/RECOGNITIONS.

There were no customers to be heard.

8. OLD BUSINESS.

There was no old business to discuss.

9. REPORTS.

City Council

Commissioner Borgen provided an update on Moorhead Area Day at the Capitol, which the Legislative Work Group (Work Group), business leaders, and school staff attended in St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 11-12, 2026. The Work Group discussed several legislative priorities with legislators.

Public Service Commission.

Commissioner Leiseth reported on a variety of topics that were discussed at the American Public Power Association's Legislative Rally in Washington, DC, February 23-25, 2026, which he attended with General Manager Travis Schmidt.

Commissioner Borgen stated that she and MPS staff met with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' staff to discuss water appropriation levels for the Moorhead and Buffalo Aquifers, and ensure that MPS has plans and other measurement methods in place in case of a drought.

General Manager's Report.

Administration and Finance Manager Mark Moilanen provided an introduction to the General Manager's Report, which included an update on Missouri River Energy Services' (MRES') power factor assessment, the 2026 flood outlook, legislative newsletter from MRES, and a thank you note from Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation.

Electric Project Engineer Taylor Holte provided an update on the assessment completed by MRES to ensure that MPS has maintained an acceptable power factor.

Construction Manager Adam Benhardt provided an update on the 2026 flood outlook for the Fargo-Moorhead area.

10. APPROVE MPS' 2026 WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECTS.

Water Distribution Manager Jake Long provided background information on MPS' 2026 watermain replacement projects. Long responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Borgen made a motion to approve Moorhead Public Service's 2026 Watermain Replacement Projects. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

11. CLOSE MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The meeting was not closed for executive session.

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS.

Upcoming meetings of the Moorhead Public Service Commission are scheduled for April 7, 2026 (if needed), and April 14, 2026 (rescheduled from April 21, 2026).

13. ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.

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The minutes herein are approved on this 14th day of April, 2026.

APPROVED BY:



Matthew Leiseth
Chairpersonⁱ

ATTEST:



Lisa Borgen
Secretaryⁱ

ⁱ Pursuant to the Bylaws of the Moorhead Public Service Commission adopted January 18, 2022, Article 3, Section 11, states, "The Chairperson and Secretary shall sign, execute, and acknowledge all instruments authorized by the Commission or as are incident to the office. If either the Chairperson or Secretary is unavailable to execute an instrument, the Vice Chairperson may execute the instrument in place of the unavailable officer. Execution of instruments by two officers is required."