

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Travis Schmidt; Staff Members Taylor Holte, Jake Long, Mark Moilanen, Lisa Norstad, Marc Pritchard, and James Sumba; MPS Attorney Erin Larsgaard; Assistant City Manager Mike Rietz

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Commissioner Borgen called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM. A quorum of the following members was present: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Commissioner Borgen introduced Commissioner Amy Lammers, who was newly appointed to the Commission by the Moorhead City Council.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to nominate himself as the Commission's new Chairperson. Seconded by none. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to nominate Commissioner Leiseth to serve as the Commission's new Chairperson. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. Commissioner Leiseth accepted the nomination. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to nominate Commissioner Baker to continue to serve as the Commission's Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. Commissioner Baker accepted the nomination. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to nominate Commissioner Borgen to continue to serve as the Commission's Secretary. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. Commissioner Borgen accepted the nomination. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to nominate Commissioner Lindaas to serve as the Commission's representative on the Economic Development Authority Board. Commissioner Lindaas declined the nomination. Commissioner Borgen made a motion to nominate Commissioner Ness to serve as the Commission's representative on the Economic Development Authority Board. Commissioner Leiseth seconded the motion. Commissioner Ness accepted the nomination. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lammers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

4. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, 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.]

***5. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2026.**

Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***6. APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT.**

Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the bills for payment. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***7. APPROVE REVISED MPS ELECTRIC SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the revised Moorhead Public Service Electric Service Rules and Regulations. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***8. APPROVE RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES DESIGNATED ENTITY CONTRACT NO. 25-UGPR-73 WITH WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION.**

Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the Renewable Energy Certificates Designated Entity Contract No. 25-UGPR-73 with Western Area Power Administration, designating Missouri River Energy Services to administer Moorhead Public Service's Renewable Energy Certificates, contingent upon final legal approval. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

9. CUSTOMERS TO BE HEARD/RECOGNITIONS.

There were no customers to be heard.

General Manager Travis Schmidt recognized Moorhead Public Service (MPS) Accounting Technician Meghan Wateland for reaching her 10-year milestone.

10. OLD BUSINESS.

There was no old business to discuss.

11. REPORTS.

City Council

Commissioner Borgen provided an update on recent Moorhead City Council discussions regarding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement tactics and recent events that occurred in Minnesota. Borgen stated that Moorhead Mayor Shelly Carlson is forming an Ad Hoc Committee to address these issues further.

Public Service Commission.

No report was made.

General Manager's Report.

General Manager Travis Schmidt provided an introduction to the General Manager's Report, which included updates to the 2025 fourth quarter Strategic Plan and highlights of MPS' 2025 fourth quarter dashboards. Schmidt also noted the addition of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project updates to the dashboards. Schmidt discussed the 2025 Community Solar Garden credits, Eide Bailly's annual audit, the 2026 spring flood outlook, West Central Regional Water District's public notification, and the State legislative newsletter from Missouri River Energy Services. Schmidt informed the Commission that MPS sent two lineworkers to North Carolina to assist with cleanup efforts following Winter Storm Fern. Schmidt responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Electric Project Engineer Taylor Holte provided detailed information on the Community Solar Garden credits that were issued to customers in 2025. Holte also addressed the 20-year plan and future maintenance of the solar panels. Holte responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Administration and Finance Manager Mark Moilanen provided an update on the process for the annual audit with Eide Bailly scheduled for March 2026.

Water Plant Manager Marc Pritchard provided information on recent public concerns regarding taste and odor issues with MPS customers' water. Pritchard responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Accept Report on Service Territory Payment to RRVCPA for 2025 Energy Usage.

General Manager Travis Schmidt and Administration and Finance Manager Mark Moilanen provided information on the payment to Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association for 2025 energy sales.

Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to accept the report on the electric service territory payment to Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association totaling \$82,512.19 for 2025 energy sales within their former service area. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

12. AUTHORIZE MPS' PARTICIPATION IN THE 2026 LIGHT UP NAVAJO PROJECT.

General Manager Travis Schmidt provided information on the 2026 Light Up Navajo Project. Schmidt stated that Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) offered MPS an opportunity to send one, four-person line crew to the Navajo Nation to assist with extending electric service to homes that have waited years for connection. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to authorize Moorhead Public Service to participate in the 2026 Light Up Navajo Project. Commissioner Leiseth seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

13. AWARD BID FOR FURNISHING 115 KV IPO BREAKERS AT MPS' NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST SUBSTATIONS.

Electric Project Engineer Taylor Holte presented details on the Northeast and Southeast Substation Projects and the bids received for two 115 kV independent pole operation (IPO) breakers. Holte responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to award the bid for furnishing two 115 kV IPO breakers at Moorhead Public Service's Northeast and Southeast Substations to Border States Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$558,750, and authorize the General Manager to approve all change orders up to a cumulative maximum of 5 percent of the contract amount, contingent upon final legal approval, as shown on the Bid Summary attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

14. APPROVE REQUEST TO MAYOR AND MOORHEAD CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION OF APPLICATIONS FOR MPS' 2026 WATER DIVISION PROJECTS.

Water Distribution Manager Jake Long provided details on MPS' 2026 Water Division Projects and the request to the Mayor and Moorhead City Council to consider approving four Resolution of Applications to submit to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water Revolving Fund for these projects. Long responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to request the Mayor and Moorhead City Council to consider approval of Resolution of Applications for the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority Drinking Water Revolving Fund for Moorhead Public Service's 2026 Water Division Projects as follows:

- 1. 2026 Lead Service Line Replacement Project*
- 2. 2026 Lead Service Line Replacement – Emergency Replacement*
- 3. 2026 Watermain Replacement – Distribution Phase 4*
- 4. 2026 Lead Service Line Replacement – Eighth Street South*

Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

15. APPROVE SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM MOORHEAD AMERICAN LEGION FOR VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT OF ND/MN SUMMER BLAST FUNDRAISER.

General Manager Travis Schmidt provided information on the sponsorship request from the Moorhead American Legion for the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN Summer Blast Fundraiser. Schmidt stated that the event aligns with MPS' sponsorship criteria. Schmidt responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to approve the sponsorship request from the Moorhead American Legion for the 2026 Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN Summer Blast Fundraiser in the amount of \$2,500. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

16. DISCUSS SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM ASIAN NIGHT MARKET FOR 5TH ANNUAL EVENT.

General Manager Travis Schmidt provided information on the sponsorship request from Asian Night Market for its 5th Annual Event to be held at the Fargo Air Museum on May 30, 2026. Schmidt requested that the Commission review the details and determine funding for this event, as it is not being held in Moorhead. Schmidt responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Leiseth made a motion to not approve the sponsorship request from Asian Night Market for its 5th Annual Event. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Borgen, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

17. CLOSE MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The meeting was not closed for executive session.

18. UPCOMING MEETINGS.


Upcoming meetings of the Moorhead Public Service Commission are scheduled for March 3, 2026 (if needed), and March 17, 2026.

19. ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM.


The minutes herein are approved on this 17th day of March, 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."