Minutes of the Moorhead Public Service Commission
Hjemkomst Center, Auditorium
Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – 4:30 PM

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Borgen

OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Travis Schmidt; Staff Members Adam Benhardt, Cheryl Glasoe, Taylor Holte, Katie Kemper, Jake Long, Mark Moilanen, Andrew Nord, Marc Pritchard, and Alison Skansgaard; MPS Attorney John Boulger; Representative from *The Forum*; MPS Customer Jay Lere

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Leiseth called the meeting to order at 4:39 PM. A quorum of the following members was present: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness.

2. APPROVE AGENDA.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, 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, 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.]

*4. APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2026.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2026. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, 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, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***6. APPROVE SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR FURNISHING MAJOR MATERIALS AT MPS' NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST SUBSTATIONS.**

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for furnishing major materials at Moorhead Public Service's Northeast and Southeast Substations, contingent upon final legal approval. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***7. APPROVE TASK ORDER NO. 16 WITH APEX ENGINEERING GROUP FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MPS' 2027 WATERMAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.**

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve Task Order No. 16 with Apex Engineering Group, Inc., for engineering services associated with Moorhead Public Service's 2027 Watermain Improvement Projects in an amount not to exceed $123,778, contingent upon final legal approval. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

***8. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH USI CONSULTING GROUP FOR GASB 75 COMPLIANCE.**

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the Agreement for Consulting Services with USI Consulting Group, Inc., to utilize Hildi Incorporated, a Division of USI Consulting Group, for services to comply with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 75, Other Post-Employment Benefits. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, 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's (MPS') Water Plant Operator Ryan Knutson on reaching his 5-year employment milestone.

10. OLD BUSINESS.

There was no old business to discuss.

11. REPORTS.

City Council
No report was made.

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 MPS hosting a community engagement event for Public Power Week, MPS' Water Treatment Plant lab audit, Imagine A Day Without Water annual event, staff's participation in the Red River Water Festival and Pumpkin Party Pick-Up, and a thank you note from Moorhead Sausage Fest.

Water Plant Manager Marc Pritchard provided an overview of the Water Treatment Plant's lab audit, the social media shared on Imagine A Day Without Water, and the Red River Water Festival activities.

Accept Report #1 on MPS' Proposed 2027 Budget.
Administration and Finance Manager Mark Moilanen provided an update on MPS' proposed 2027 budget. Moilanen stated that MPS is proposing overall increases of 2.5 percent for electric rates and 5.25 percent for water rates for 2027.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to accept Report #1 on Moorhead Public Service's proposed 2027 Budget and Strategic Plan. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

Accept Report on Electric Service Extension Surcharges.
Construction Manager Adam Benhardt provided a brief overview of MPS' Electric Service Extension Surcharges. Benhardt responded to questions of the Commission.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to accept the report on the review of the Electric Service Extension Surcharges that are outlined in the Commission's Policy on Service Extensions. Commissioner Lammers seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

Accept Report on MRES' Smart Energy Squad School Program.
Electric Project Engineer Taylor Holte provided information on MRES' Smart Energy Squad School Program. Holte responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to accept the report on Missouri River Energy Services' Smart Energy Squad School Program and the Smart Energy Squad Annual Summary Report for 2025-2026. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

12. APPROVE MOORHEAD'S CONTINUATION OF 100 PERCENT NET-ZERO CARBON POWER SUPPLY THROUGH MRES' BRIGHT ENERGY CHOICES PROGRAM FOR 2027.

Electric Project Engineer Taylor Holte provided information on MRES' Bright Energy Choices Program for 2027. Holte responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the continuation of Moorhead having a 100 percent net-zero carbon power supply through participation in Missouri River Energy Services' Bright Energy Choices Program for 2027. Commissioner Lammers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

13. AWARD BID FOR 2026/2027 TREE TRIMMING.

Construction Manager Adam Benhardt provided an overview of the tree trimming planned for Moorhead's south side in 2026 and 2027. Benhardt responded to questions of the Commission. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to award the bid for 2026/2027 Tree Trimming to Carr's Tree Service, Inc., in the amount of $298,900, as shown on the attached Bid Tabulation Sheet attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

14. APPROVE GENERAL MANAGER'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION/COMPENSATION.

14a. Approve Summary of Conclusions of Performance Evaluation of the General Manager.

Chairperson Leiseth read the Summary of Conclusions of Performance Evaluation of the General Manager.

14b. Approve Compensation for the General Manager.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to approve the summary of conclusions of the performance evaluation of the General Manager and a one-step compensation adjustment for the General Manager based on the General Manager's recent performance evaluation. Commissioner Lammers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

15. APPROVE SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM SPREAD YOUR SUNSHINE FOR THE JOY PROJECT.

General Manager Travis Schmidt provided a brief overview of the sponsorship request from Spread Your Sunshine for the Joy Project.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the sponsorship request from Spread Your Sunshine for The Joy Project in the amount of $2,500. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

16. APPROVE AMENDED POLICY ON PAYROLL ADMINISTRATION.

General Manager Travis Schmidt provided an overview of the amended Commission Policy on Payroll Administration.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to approve the amended Policy on Payroll Administration. Commissioner Lammers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

17. PUBLIC HEARING.

17a. Reading of Rules of Conduct.
Chairperson Leiseth read the "Rules Governing the Conduct of Rate Hearings" from Article 5, Section 7, of the Commission's Bylaws.

17b. Conduct Electric Rate Hearing.
Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to open the electric rate hearing. Commissioner Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

General Manager Travis Schmidt presented on the proposed 2.5 percent electric rate increase for 2027.

No customer comments were made on the proposed electric rate increase.

Commissioner Lindaas made a motion to close the electric rate hearing. Commissioner Lammers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

17c. Conduct Water Rate Hearing.
Commissioner Ness made a motion to open the water rate hearing. Commissioner Lindaas seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

General Manager Travis Schmidt presented on the proposed 5.25 percent water rate increase for 2027.

No customer comments were made on the proposed water rate increase.

Commissioner Ness made a motion to close the water rate hearing. Commissioner Lammers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Voting Yes: Baker, Lammers, Leiseth, Lindaas, and Ness. Voting No: None.

17d. Schedule of Rate Adoption.
Chairperson Leiseth read the Schedule of Rate Adoption, which states that written comments will be received for 30 days from the date of this hearing, and no action will be taken on the rates until 30 days from the date of this rate hearing. For comments to be considered by the Commission, written comments should be emailed to mps@mpsutility.com or be postmarked no later than Thursday, November 19, 2026, and mailed to the Moorhead Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 779, Moorhead, MN 56561-0779. The person providing the comments must provide their name and address along with the comments. A formal decision regarding MPS' 2027 rate structure will be determined at the Commission's meeting on or about December 22, 2026. Additional information on our proposed budget and rates is available at www.mpsutility.com.

18. CLOSE MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The meeting was not closed for executive session.

19. UPCOMING MEETINGS.

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

20. ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.

The minutes herein are approved on this 17th day of November 2026.

APPROVED BY:

Matthew Leiseth
Chairperson [i]

ATTEST:

Lisa Borgen
Secretary [i]

[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.