



405 2nd Avenue West
Halstad, MN 56548

Halstad Municipal Utilities Commission met 08/27/24 at 1:05 PM at the Utilities Office.

Commissioners President Tom Maroney, Ron Gotteberg, Darin Johnson
Staff- Lucas Spaeth- Superintendent and Secretary, Allison Tice

Additions to agenda –none

Approval of agenda – Motion Johnson, Second Gotteberg, M/C

Approval of minutes – Motion Gotteberg, Second Maroney, M/C

Check and credit card approval – Motion Maroney, Second Johnson, to approve monthly claims for July.
M/C

Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet- Commissioner review financials and commented on the large increases in cost with lower revenue in electric revenues.

Electric rate review was presented by Tice and Spaeth. Commissioners asked to see comparable electricity rates being offered in the markets of MN and our regional comparisons. Existing rates have not been raised since May 2021 Tice commented. Gotteberg commented on labor and inflation in general have risen very high. Spaeth commented that the wholesale electric rate had been stable but did expect the Northern Municipal Power Agency to look at a rate increase in 2025. Gotteberg Motioned to raise the rate After the September readings with service connection increase and component increases as follows.

Halstad Municipal Utilities Rate Schedule

RATES EFFECTIVE October 1, 2024 BILLING

Service	Facility Chg	All Kwhs	0-2000 gal.	2-8000gal.	8-10000gal	10-20000gal	20000+gal
CL	35.00	0.1350					
RL	35.00	0.1350					
OP Winter (Jan-Apr, Nov-Dec)	10.00	0.0820					
OP Summer (May-Oct)	10.00	0.1195					
P	35.00	0.1350					
P(HLC)	50.00	0.0800					
P(NCW)	50.00	0.0850					
D	0.00	18.25					
WA (per gallon)	23.00	(includes 2000 gallons)	0.011500	0.007924	0.009243	0.01188	0.01253
SE (per gallon)	35.00	(includes 2000 gallons)	0.01750	0.01304	0.01522	0.01959	0.02060
Unmetered WA	47.50						
Unmetered SE	76.00						
AGRONOMY WATER SERVICE (per gallon)				0.0107	0.0107	0.0107	0.0107
NURSING HOME WATER (per gallon)				0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066
NURSING HOME SEWER (per gallon)				0.01085	0.01085	0.01085	0.01085
CL=Commercial Light		D=Demand					
RL=Residential Light		CS=Commercial Surcharge-NA					
OP=Off Peak		RS=Residential Surcharge					
P=Power(3 phase)		OS=Off-Peak Surcharge					
WA=Water		PS=Power Surcharge					
SE=Sewer							

Spaeth reviewed Water Project with West Central Regional Water District (WCRWD.) WCRWD met August 26th discussing the Judicial process continues to evolve. The group is needing to be recognized as a Public Water System to apply for some funding available. Halstad has an application in through Project Priority List helping the district while the Judicial process continues. Halstad is also waiting on a grant from Small Cities Development Plan for upgrades to water system including metering and loops for future regional supply. USDA Rural Development is ready for water application but staff and outside consulting were preparing a application for Wastewater needs in the treatment facility and collection system.

Lead and Copper Rule Revision Spaeth noted the mailings would be going out to consumers in Halstad after the first step in the state program.

Spaeth updated Commissioners on the Perley and Borup contracted services. Perley did have a Letter of Warning that Spaeth replied to and would change some work time to make sure weekly due diligence was happening in Perley and Borup. Spaeth mentioned staff that had hours would be keeping closer eye on work and reporting.

Spaeth reviewed personnel needs after loss of an employee in August. Commissioners were asked to review the process that staff was preparing for with different roles in the future. Spaeth mentioned a retirement upcoming with no specific date. The uses of outside contractors or consultants. Spaeth would review and post a position in the coming month(s.)

WCRWD contract to administrate and act as operator for district. The District is using outside resources and would like to use local staff that can do some day-day duties at a rate HMU was paying existing staff. Some duties include meetings out of town and helping with meeting materials for the WCRWD board.

Grid Resiliency grant under the federal BIL40101(d) HDR Engineering worked with Spaeth to find existing projects in the que that qualify for the grant. Commissioner Maroney state that it would be worth requesting for the grant dollars. Spaeth would get application filed.

Spaeth updated on generators Commission that the Ziegler work on the generators and electric component was being scheduled likely late September. Also the generators ran August 1 for Minnkota to change some equipment in the substation. Minnkota could switch out a Potential Transformer on the line side of the substation. Power transferred a little after 8 and Minnkota was able to switch equipment out. We had a blink around 9:40 when we were transferring power back to Transmission supply power. It was unfortunate and we will be trying to program in a logic to the PLC or the programming itself. Existing the MISO market has had high need and called for Warning that we could be called for generation.

Superintendent notes were supplied.

Next regular council meeting , September 9, 2024.

Next Regular Meeting Date –

No other business to discuss.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Johnson, second Maroney. M/C

Meeting adjourned 3:30 PM

Secretary- Lucas Spaeth