

Cumberland, Wisconsin
February 24, 2023

The special meeting of the Cumberland Municipal Utility Commission was called to order on Friday, February 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Utility Conference Room located at 1265 2nd Avenue Cumberland, Wisconsin by Utility Commission President, Craig Turcott. The following commissioners were present: Craig Turcott, Gerald Thon, John Anderson, Louis E. Muench and Tom Goldsmith. Also in attendance was General Manager Dean Bergstrom, Office Manager Lori Nyhus, Utility Billing Clerk Amanda Cook, alderperson Bill Lussier, Tom Schroeder and Mike Benjamin.

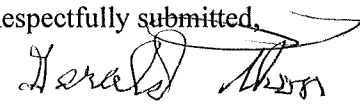
A motion was made by Thon and seconded by Goldsmith, to approve the agenda. All commissioners voted yes; motion carried.

During public comment, Mike Benjamin provided the following statement: "The surreptitious, carte blanche actions of the Cumberland Municipal Utility and commission must undergo immediate, radical changes. Past actions, dating back decades, have created a systemic atmosphere of anaminy with no form of checks and balances restricting budget and policy. Cumberland Municipal Utility. Cumberland Utility, not Utility of Cumberland. Cumberland being the prioritized first word. Approving any rate increases without public disclosure, input, discussion, proposed alternatives or compromises is wrongful to the ratepayers, especially with the healthy fiscal reports and cash reserves currently held by the Utility. Moving forward, there should be the utmost transparency, with documented, published justification for any and all endeavors."

The next item was to discuss and approve the proposed 2023 PSC water rate case. There was much discussion regarding providing ratepayers with an opportunity speak to the commissioners about the rate proposal. The commissioners felt that the Utility did not give people the opportunity to come to speak to the commission prior to approval. It was stated that this meeting was only to approve the rate case and the rates to go forward with the PSC hearing, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Also, it was stated that the Utility should provide a one-page synopsis explaining why a rate case would be justified. Information to include would be an explanation of our rates, future projects and also that we have not had a rate increase in 10 years. All that said, a motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Muench, to table this approval of the 2023 PSC water rate case until the March 21, 2023 regular scheduled commission meeting; motion carried.

Next was to discuss any necessary proposals for the Utility Shop and storage facilities, the office area that is needed for electric and water employees, how to proceed with Northwest Builders and how to proceed with renting of the Ardisam Plant 8 building from Matt Torgeson. After much discussion, we will have a tour of the cold storage building of the Cumberland Golf Course that includes some office space. In addition, we will get ideas on how to build an office space either in conjunction with the present 8th Avenue building, or a stand-alone building. After inquiring about different options, it will be brought back to the commission to move forward.

Being no necessary action to be taken, a motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Thon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Gerald Thon, Secretary