



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Meeting Agenda Full Detail - Final-revised Public Utilities Commission

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Tuesday, February 2, 2021

8:00 AM

Conference Room of Public Utilities Service  
Center

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### CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to due notice and call thereof, a Special meeting/work session of the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 8:00 AM in the conference room of the Public Works/Public Utilities Service Center at 500 SE 4th Street, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

**BE ADVISED:** Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, Subdivision 1, some or all members may appear by telephone or other electronic means.

**COMMISSIONERS:** To access the meeting by phone via Microsoft Teams: Dial in to 1-612-601-1964, when prompted for conference ID, enter 220 505 534#

### CALL OF ROLL

[21-1645](#) Acknowledge the proper posting of the special meeting date, time, and purpose.

**Attachments:** [special meeting notice 20210202.pdf](#)

[21-1647](#) Consider approving the Mid-month Accounts Payable list in the amount of \$215,398.81.

**Attachments:** [AP List 2020.12.31 #2.pdf](#)

[21-1650](#) Superoxygenation Project Update.

**Attachments:** [20210129 Super-Oxy Update.pdf](#)

[21-1649](#) Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA) Update.

**Attachments:** [2021-0120 NEMMPA Minutes-draft.pdf](#)

[2021-0127 NEMMPA Special Meeting Minutes-draft.pdf](#)

[21-1646](#) Governance discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**BE ADVISED:** Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, Subdivision 1, some or all members may appear by telephone or other electronic means.

The next Regular Meeting of the Commission is Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Public Works/Public Utilities Service Center at 500 SE 4th Street.

The next Special Meeting/Work Session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Public Works/Public Utilities Service Center at 500 SE 4th Street.



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Legislative Master

**File Number: 21-1645**

**File ID:** 21-1645

**Type:** Agenda Item

**Status:** Administration

**Version:** 1

**Reference:**

**In Control:** Public Utilities  
Commission

**File Created:** 01/28/2021

**File Name:**

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Acknowledge the proper posting of the special meeting date, time, and purpose.

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** special meeting notice 20210202.pdf

**Enactment Number:**

**Contact:**

**Hearing Date:**

**Drafter:**

**Effective Date:**

**Related Files:**

### History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
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### Text of Legislative File 21-1645

Acknowledge the proper posting of the special meeting date, time, and purpose.



## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

500 SE FOURTH STREET  
GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA 55744  
TELEPHONE (218) 326-7024  
TDD (218) 326-7487 FAX (218) 326-7499

### **NOTICE**

There will be a special meeting/work session of the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 8:00 AM in Conference Room 112 of the Public Works/Public Utilities Service Center located at 500 SE 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Grand Rapids, MN.

BE ADVISED: Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021, Subdivision 1, some or all members may appear by telephone or other electronic means.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. Consider a motion to approve the mid-month Accounts Payable list.
2. Super-oxygenation Project update.
3. Northeast Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA) update.
4. Governance discussion.

Signed: Julie A. Kennedy  
General Manager

Posted: January 28, 2021



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Legislative Master

**File Number: 21-1647**

**File ID:** 21-1647

**Type:** Agenda Item

**Status:** Passed

**Version:** 1

**Reference:**

**In Control:** Public Utilities  
Commission

**File Created:** 01/29/2021

**File Name:** Verified Claims 2020 Dec #2

**Final Action:** 02/02/2021

**Title:** Consider approving the Mid-month Accounts Payable list in the amount of \$215,398.81.

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** AP List 2020.12.31 #2.pdf

**Enactment Number:**

**Contact:**

**Hearing Date:**

**Drafter:** Tyanne Betts

**Effective Date:**

**Related Files:**

### History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Public Utilities Commission	02/02/2021	Passed				Pass
<b>Action Text:</b> A motion was made by Secretary Kathy Kooda, seconded by Commissioner Rick Smith, to approve the Mid-month Accounts Payable list in the amount of \$215,398.81. The motion carried by the following vote. <div style="text-align: right;">Aye: 4    President Tom Stanley, Commissioner Rick Blake, Secretary Kathy Kooda, and Commissioner Rick Smith</div>							

### Text of Legislative File 21-1647

Consider approving the Mid-month Accounts Payable list in the amount of \$215,398.81.

#### Background Information:

See attached check registers.

#### Requested Commission Action:

Consider approving the Mid-month Accounts Payable list in the amount of \$215,398.81.



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Legislative Master

File Number: 21-1647

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Accounts Payable**  
**December 2020 #2 (Worksession) 2/2/21**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Amaril Uniform	2,467.95
American Public Power Association	9,419.47
Aramark	398.64
Badger State Inspection, LLC	1,600.00
Braun Intertec	1,270.00
City of Grand Rapids	30,341.68
Dakota Supply Group	151,842.08
Davis Oil Inc	1,891.12
Fairview Health Services	375.00
Fastenal	136.45
Grainger	42.65
Herald Review	71.95
Irby	2,400.65
Johnson, Killen, & Seiler P.A.	1,115.40
Mielke Electric Works	6,830.00
Nextera	618.77
Personnel Dynamics LLC	292.45
Railroad Management Company	284.85
S E H	1,320.00
Slipstream	631.96
Telemetry and Process Controls	847.32
Viking Electric	1,003.06
Xerox	197.36
 TOTAL	 <hr/> 215,398.81



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Legislative Master

**File Number: 21-1650**

**File ID:** 21-1650

**Type:** Agenda Item

**Status:** Administration

**Version:** 1

**Reference:**

**In Control:** Public Utilities  
Commission

**File Created:** 01/29/2021

**File Name:**

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Superoxygenation Project Update.

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** 20210129 Super-Oxy Update.pdf

**Enactment Number:**

**Contact:**

**Hearing Date:**

**Drafter:**

**Effective Date:**

**Related Files:**

### History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
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### Text of Legislative File 21-1650

Superoxygenation Project Update.

### Background Information:

### Requested Commission Action:

No action needed - for review only.



## Super-Oxy Project Update



Setting of the speece cone (Electric department helping)



LOX tank delivery and installation





Pump and piping installation (all GRPUC labor including the fabrication).





Inlet piping to the cone set in place (joint GRPUC effort).





# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Legislative Master

**File Number: 21-1649**

**File ID:** 21-1649

**Type:** Agenda Item

**Status:** Administration

**Version:** 1

**Reference:**

**In Control:** Public Utilities  
Commission

**File Created:** 01/29/2021

**File Name:**

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA) Update.

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** 2021-0120 NEMMPA Minutes-draft.pdf, 2021-0127  
NEMMPA Special Meeting Minutes-draft.pdf

**Enactment Number:**

**Contact:**

**Hearing Date:**

**Drafter:**

**Effective Date:**

**Related Files:**

### History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
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### Text of Legislative File 21-1649

Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA) Update.

#### Background Information:

Attached are the draft minutes from the Jan. 20, 2021 NEMMPA Regular Board meeting and the Jan. 27, 2021 NEMMPA Special Board meeting. Included with the Jan. 27 minutes is Resolution 2021-1 which was adopted by the NEMMPA Board and has been forwarded to MP Representatives by NEMMPA consultant Dave Berg. NEMMPA members have agreed as a group to have Dave be the single point of contact with MP Representatives regarding the requests detailed in the Resolution.

#### Requested Commission Action:

No action needed - for review only.



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Legislative Master

File Number: 21-1649

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# NEMMPA

## Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Board Meeting

Minutes of the Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA) Board Meeting held on January 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via MS Teams.

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by President French at 11:01 a.m.

Attendees:

President Greg French, Virginia  
Vice President Scott Magnuson, Brainerd  
Secretary Julie Kennedy and Alternate Member Jeremy Goodell, Grand Rapids  
Board Member Dave Cluff, Aitkin  
Board Member Harold Langowski, Ely  
Board Member Jean Lane and Alternate Member Dan Chase, Hibbing  
Board Member Dan Walker and Alternate Member Blake Prince, Two Harbors  
Member Representative Craig Wainio, Mountain Iron  
Member Representative Char Jones, Proctor  
Member Representative Mayor Dave Fischer, Pierz  
Member Representative Sam Lautigar, Gilbert  
Consultants Gary Cerkenik and Jeff Anderson, Costin Group  
Consultant Dave Berg, Dave Berg Consulting

Board Members Absent:

None

### 2. Approve Agenda

Motion by D. Cluff, supported by S. Magnuson, to approve the agenda as revised by President G. French to add new agenda item (#6) to discuss Disconnection for Non Payment status at the member utilities. MCU

### 3. Approve Minutes from the November 2020 Annual Member Meeting

Motion by H. Langowski, supported by D. Cluff, to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2020 annual member meeting. MCU

### 4. Dave Berg Consulting Status Update

D. Berg reported he'd met with MP representatives letting them know that in 2021 the Board desires to send out Requests For Information (RFI) to solicit potential interest from wholesale power providers. MP staff acknowledged they'd also been doing some work on wholesale power terms and they were interested in starting a conversation.

Motion by H. Langowski, supported by D. Cluff that next steps include developing a resolution for Board adoption that identifies the request for information from MP. MCU

A Board meeting will be called in the next week to review and consider adoption of the resolution.

## **5. Legislative Session Update**

J. Anderson and G. Cerkenik reported this year's state legislative session would be entirely remote and primarily focused on the budget and COVID-related bills. HF 164, the ECOAct bill, is of interest to this Board as it tightens up some existing standards and converts some goals to mandates. The bill will be heard in the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee next week. The House is really focused on moving this bill, but the Senate is likely going to be a little more conservative. It's anticipated there will be some movement on the legislation, but the likely changes will come in small doses over a period of time.

It was also discussed that several measures (HF1 & HF12) have been introduced in the House that would appropriate \$50 million for housing assistance grants that may be used to pay utility bills. During the discussion of these measures, it was mentioned by J. Lane that a streamlined form would help ratepayers who need assistance. Anderson and Cerkenik recommended that utilities reach out directly to the Department of Commerce asking them to re-write the rules associated with assistance grants for struggling ratepayers.

## **6. Customer Disconnection for Non Payment (DNP) Discussion**

Members discussed the current status at their individual utilities regarding the DNPs during the pandemic and winter conditions. It was noted that the vast majority of utilities are disconnecting for non payment for those customers who fail to communicate with the utility on some type of payment arrangement.

## **7. Open Discussion/Around the Horn**

Members discussed their individual projects/situations.

## **8. Adjourn**

Motion by H. Langowski, supported by D. Cluff, to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 p.m. MCU

*The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NEMMPA Board of Directors is at 11 am on February 17, 2021 via MS Teams.*



# NEMMPA

## Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Special Board Meeting

Minutes of the Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA) Special Board Meeting held on January 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via MS Teams.

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by President French at 11:02 a.m.

Attendees:

President Greg French, Virginia  
Vice President Scott Magnuson, Brainerd  
Secretary Julie Kennedy, Grand Rapids  
Board Member Dave Cluff, Aitkin  
Board Member Harold Langowski, Ely  
Alternate Member Dan Chase, Hibbing  
Consultant Gary Cerkvenik, Costin Group  
Consultant Dave Berg, Dave Berg Consulting

Board Members Absent:

Board Member Dan Walker, Two Harbors  
Board Member Jean Lane, Hibbing

### 2. Approve Agenda

Motion by S. Magnuson, supported by D. Cluff, to approve the agenda as presented. MCU

### 3. Approve Resolution 2021-1 Regarding Wholesale Power

Motion by H. Langowski, supported by D. Cluff, to approve Resolution 2021-1 Regarding Wholesale Power. MCU

### 4. Open Discussion

No discussion from individual utilities.

### 5. Adjourn

Motion by H. Langowski, supported by S. Magnuson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 p.m. MCU

*The next regularly scheduled meeting of the NEMMPA Board of Directors is at 11 am on February 17, 2021 via MS Teams.*



**RESOLUTION OF NEMMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGARDING WHOLESALE POWER**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1**

Whereas, the Northeastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (NEMMPA) desires to best serve its customers by providing the most competitive electrical rates available in the market; and

Whereas, NEMMPA is organized as a power agency representing fifteen municipal electric utilities; and

Whereas, NEMMPA is resolved to enter into the marketplace to assess the competition for wholesale power; and

Whereas, NEMMPA notes that Minnesota Power has been a long-time provider of wholesale electric power to its members; and

Whereas, NEMMPA desires to balance the needs of its customers for the best market rates along with the needs for reliability and support;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that NEMMPA has authorized Dave Berg Consulting to coordinate with Minnesota Power (MP) regarding a proposal from MP for revised pricing, terms and conditions for wholesale power to NEMMPA members and that NEMMPA requests MP to respond with a formal offer by March 29, 2021; and

Be it Further Resolved, that NEMMPA, as a requirement of MP in its response, outlines a long-term wholesale power contract for its members under the following conditions:

1. The wholesale contract will be issued to NEMMPA, with individual provisions with each member to be negotiated by the parties.
2. That it is a requirement to finalize this contract that NEMMPA members receive significant rate reductions in their individual existing wholesale power contracts with MP.
3. That MP's long-term wholesale power contract proposal with NEMMPA strongly reflects existing market conditions and a long-term reduction in wholesale power costs with greater price certainty for our customers.

Be it Further Resolved, upon receipt of an initial proposal from MP, NEMMPA will enter into a 90-day negotiation period with MP to finalize such a wholesale power contract with NEMMPA to benefit its members and customers; and

Be it Further Resolved, that if NEMMPA—at its sole discretion—rejects MP's final offer after the 90-day period, NEMMPA shall issue a public Request for Information and Request for Proposals from the market and alternative electric power suppliers in addition to allowing MP to submit a revised proposal at the same time, which NEMMPA has chosen as August 1, 2021.

Adopted by the NEMMPA Board of Directors on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Greg French, President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Julie Kennedy, Secretary



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

## Legislative Master

**File Number: 21-1646**

**File ID:** 21-1646

**Type:** Agenda Item

**Status:** Administration

**Version:** 1

**Reference:**

**In Control:** Public Utilities  
Commission

**File Created:** 01/28/2021

**File Name:**

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Governance discussion.

**Notes:**

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:**

**Enactment Number:**

**Contact:**

**Hearing Date:**

**Drafter:**

**Effective Date:**

**Related Files:**

### History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
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### Text of Legislative File 21-1646

Governance discussion.