

**MELROSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 – 6:30 A.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Melrose Public Utilities Commission met in a Special Meeting March 12, 2026 at 6:30 A.M. at the Melrose City Center pursuant to due notice being given thereof. Present were Public Utilities Commission members Jeremy Kraemer and Eric Seanger, Police Chief Craig Maus, and Human Resources Coordinator Doris Rieland. Finance Director Jackie Niehaus was present by telephone. Public Utilities Commission member Joe Finken was absent. Vice Chair Seanger presided thereat.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Secretary Kraemer, seconded by Vice Chair Seanger, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

3. ACTION ITEMS

3a. County Road 169 Rural Line Replacement Project

Paul Davis from DGR Engineering submitted a memo detailing his comparisons of the overhead and underground options for the County Road 169 Rural Line Replacement Project. At the February 9, 2026, regular PUC meeting the PUC made a motion to approve overhead lines for this area. Since that time, there has been some additional information provided to the City, and both Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) and Arvig have been consulted. At the March 9, 2026, regular PUC meeting, the PUC tabled this item and requested additional cost information before deciding on the project and scheduled this special meeting to evaluate this information and discuss.

Secretary Kraemer asked Paul Davis, who was present by Teams, about the cost of removing the overhead line. Davis stated that the cost of removing the overhead line would not be included in the \$495,000 cost of the underground project.

Vice Chair Seanger asked whether a Delta to Y Transformer could be installed so that only one cable would be needed to be run down the road. Davis stated that could be done.

Secretary Kraemer asked Sam Jones from MRES what he feels that Melrose Public Utilities would be able to self-perform depending on the overhead or underground option. Jones stated that staff would be able to work on the underground work along with Arvig, but overhead there is not much staff could do, the city would have to find a contractor.

Vice Chair Seanger asked about the concerns about timeline that Jones had. Jones stated that the County wants to start pushing dirt on this project within the next month.

Arvig also wants to start as soon as next week on their underground work. To do overhead it would take a couple weeks for bids and to find a contractor. Vice Chair Seanger and Secretary Kraemer stated that even with underground, bids will still need to be done by Melrose Public Utilities, the project needs to be bid out. Emergency rules would not apply in this scenario. Jones estimated that bids could be solicited and received in the next few weeks.

Seanger asked if there are any temporary structures that need to be built if the project is underground. Davis stated that with overhead line construction, there would be temporary structures that are not in the initial cost of the overhead line. There was also discussion about whether the construction would require the movement of the existing overhead poles and how that would be handled.

Vice Chair Seanger stated that he would be willing to go with the underground line option so that it could be started faster and finished earlier. Secretary Kraemer agreed. Vice Chair Seanger wanted to continue to check into the Delta to Y Transformer as that could reduce the cost.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Seanger, seconded by Secretary Kraemer, and unanimously carried choose an underground line system for the County Road 169 Rural Line Replacement Project.

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Secretary Kraemer, seconded by Vice Chair Seanger, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 A.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connor Kockler", written over a horizontal line.

CONNOR KOCKLER – CITY CLERK