August 26, 2019

Jim Brey – Chairperson of Finance City of Manitowoc 900 Quay St Manitowoc, WI

Dear Finance Committee:

This letter is to formally express my interest in being reappointed to the MPU Commission. I would gladly make myself available to the Committee at a convenient time. To accompany this letter I've included a bit of personal and city history.

My family moved to Manitowoc 50 years ago when my father was hired by MPU to finish the Water Treatment facility. I worked summers during high school and college in the City Engineering Department while attending UW-Madison to become a Civil Engineer. I was hired by the City as an Engineer, and this allowed me to become a licensed Professional Engineer. I am grateful for the mentorship during my tenure at the City. I started, and continue to work at ROYDAN Enterprises, an IT company that automates debt collection companies around the country.

Normally, I would keep this short and sweet, however, because this letter is coming on the heels of a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, August 19th where the roles and responsibilities of the MPU Commission were discussed, I want your Committee to understand my perspective.

Let me begin with the formal creation of the MPU Commission.

The Manitowoc Municipal Code Chapter 12 reads: (1) Creation. There is hereby created the Manitowoc Public Utilities Commission to manage and operate the electric utility, water utility, and communications utility of the City.

The city leadership purchased the Utility from a private party over one hundred years ago. Presumably this transaction was completed for the benefit of the citizens of Manitowoc. The creation included a role for an MPU Commission which, similar to the board of directors of a private company, is accountable to the shareholders who are the citizens of Manitowoc as represented by the alders of the City. To this day, MPU has been delivering consistent and growing dividends to the shareholders through the PILOT. This is a result of MPU being properly managed and operated through turbulent and easy times.

Today, due to our success, MPU has very strong reserves to address the new and unforeseen challenges ahead. These challenges include the evolving energy dynamic, the continued support of our valued joint action agencies (Great Lakes Utilities and Central Brown County Water Authority), the continued management of community partner utilities and the ability to weather the impacts of customer load shifts and economic variability. Even though MPU has enjoyed successes, the Commission, should always understand the challenges the citizens of Manitowoc face and make sure that we never overlook the importance of supporting efforts to grow Manitowoc through mutually beneficial investments.

Very truly yours.

Daniel R Hornung
Cc: Justin Nickels, Mayor