



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, November 7, 2025

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

- Antonio Davis
- Mike Mayou
- Andrew Paszak
- Branden Robinson, President
- Brandon Van Tassel, Vice President
- Robert Woods
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Terese Tomanek

Guests Present

- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Joe Jurewicz, Senior Traffic Engineer – City of Duluth
- Peter Passi, Reporter – Duluth News-Tribune
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor
- Kristi Stokes, President/Chief Operating Officer – Downtown Duluth

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the October 2025 Duluth Parking Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Robert Woods motioned that the minutes be approved. Commission Vice President Brandon Van Tassel seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments during the initial public comments period.

ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING ZONE REQUESTS

Mr. Bauer presented four on-street accessible parking zone requests for approval. He stated he had visited the sites related to the applications for 2872 Exeter Street, 626 North 56th Avenue West, and 3909 Grand Avenue and consulted with the City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities on all three. He stated that the request at 230 East Superior Street was for the addition of a two-hour time limit to the existing accessible parking zone, which had been approved and installed in 2023 and that the Commission on Disabilities was also supportive of this

request. Commissioner Van Tassel motioned that the proposal for 2872 Exeter Street be approved. Commissioner Antonio Davis seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. Commissioner Woods motioned that the request for 626 North 56th Avenue West be approved. Commissioner Mike Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. Commissioner Davis motioned that the request for 3909 Grand Avenue be approved. Commissioner Andrew Paszak seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. Commissioner Woods motioned that the request for 230 East Superior Street be approved. Commissioner Van Tassel seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

PROPOSAL TO REVISE 2026 ON-STREET PARKING FEES AND IMPLEMENT COMPLIMENTARY PARKING DAYS AT CERTAIN FACILITIES

Mr. Bauer presented an updated on-street parking rate recommendation for 2026, following a period of further communication with area stakeholders. He stated that the Parking Services Division was proposing a mitigated increase to the on-street parking rate from the current \$1.50 per hour to \$2.00 per hour, down from the originally-proposed on-street fee of \$2.50 per hour. Downtown Duluth President and Chief Operating Officer Krist Stokes spoke in support of the mitigated proposal, noting that it had resulted from a strong cooperative set of discussions with the Parking Services Division and area businesses. She indicated that she recognized the need to better balance the City's on- and off-street parking fees, and Mr. Bauer agreed that the mitigated proposal represented a meaningful step in that direction. Ms. Stokes stated that the originally-proposed on-street fee had generated concern by area businesses in being too large an increase. Mr. Bauer provided the Commission with letters from both Downtown Duluth and a Hart District business group that indicated support of the revised proposal. Mr. Bauer stated that the proposal also included the designation of four upcoming days as "complimentary parking" days at Technology Village Ramp, Hart District Ramp, and Lakeside Public Ramp in response to business community concern that some of the public still had a lingering perception that the downtown ramps were unsafe and unclean, perceptions that were no longer supported by factual information. He stated that the specific "free" days would be Saturday, November 29 (Small Business Saturday), Thursday, December 4, Thursday, December 11, and Thursday, December 18. Commissioner Paszak inquired when the most recent increase to on-street parking fees had occurred. Mr. Bauer stated that he would provide that specific information in the following Commission meeting. Commissioner Davis inquired when the most recent parking study had been performed for downtown Duluth. Mr. Bauer stated that several types of studies had been performed over time but that he would provide more specific information in a future meeting. Ms. Stokes stated that she planned to work with the business community to explore the possibility of some of the private parking owners also offering complementary parking on the designated days. Commissioner Paszak motioned that the adjusted on-street parking fees and complimentary parking days proposal be approved. Commissioner Mayou seconded the proposal, which was approved 6-0.

PROPOSAL TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON ELMER WAY

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to prohibit parking on Elmer Way, adjacent to the Schneiderman's Furniture parking lot. He stated that the request had been generated by the City's engineering division, after they noted that vehicles were parking in the City right-of-way near the end of the roadway. City of Duluth Senior Traffic Engineer Joe Jurewicz provided further detail, stating that he believed it was primarily furniture store employees parking in the ROW and noting that the store featured a large parking lot that did not appear to be heavily utilized. Commissioner Davis motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Van Tassel seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Duluth Assistant Operations Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that the new Hillside Public Ramp had opened to traffic two days previous and that operations so far appeared smooth. He stated that Interstate was in the process of preparations for the upcoming winter season. Mr. Helmin discussed specifically how the upcoming complimentary parking days would be handled in applicable parking facilities, noting the staffing and operations modes. He noted that the upcoming winter season would be the first full one featuring the full implementation of the ramps' access control systems and that he would continue to monitor the systems' effectiveness.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer stated that the City was fully prepared for the upcoming snow season and its improved Snow Emergency system, and he added that enhanced educational efforts were underway. He stated that the Parking Services Division was in the process of charting a path forward with regard to a large-scale conversion to an on-street virtual payment system and that he would keep the Commission updated on the progress.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

There were no additional public comments.