City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

City Council

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Duluth City Council is to develop effective public policy rooted in citizen involvement that results in excellent municipal services and creates a thriving community prepared for the challenges of the future.

TOOLS OF CIVILITY: The Duluth City Council promotes the use and adherence of the tools of civility in conducting the business of the council. The tools of civility provide increased opportunities for civil discourse leading to positive resolutions for the issues that face our city. We know that when we have civility, we get civic engagement, and because we can't make each other civil and we can only work on ourselves, we state that today I will: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, not gossip, show respect, seek common ground, repair damaged relationships, use constructive language, and take responsibility. [Approved by the council on May 14, 2018]

MN Statutes,13D.02. Members may participate by interactive technology

Monday, March 9, 2026 | **6:00 PM** | **Council Chambers**

ROLL CALL

All members present at Roll Call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes from the 2-23-2026 City Council Meeting by Councilor Desotelle, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

1. Meeting Minutes of the Duluth City Council

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Ian Johnson spoke on the recent flying of the Russian flag in City Hall and the Standing Rules changes.
The following audience members spoke regarding the Standing Rules changes: Corinne Freedman Ellis, Alex Swenson, Alec Kadlec, Alexandra Panovich, Loren

Martell, Karin White, Ansel Schimpff, Andrew St. Croix, Brandon Parker, Barb Montee.
Roy Hamlin spoke regarding the vape shop that is being constructed next to Hamiln Music
Michael Bernstein spoke regarding the Lester Golf Course land-use study
Callan Pfau rose to yield his time to Michael Bernstein, President Nephew denied the request based on the Standing Rules where speakers are only allowed to speak once, allowed Pfau to speak if Pfau desired. Pfau declined to speak.

RESOLUTIONS TABLED

BY COUNCILOR RANDORF (FINANCE)

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT GIFTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY IN THE AMOUNT OF $10,000 OR LESS (REPLACEMENT).

Motion to remove from the table was made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A motion to table the resolution was made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion failed 2-7 by voice vote. Councilors Clanaugh and Durrwachter voting in favor.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilor Tomanek, seconded by Councilor Forsman. Question was called by Tomanek, seconded by Forsman. Motion carried 7-2 by roll call vote. Councilors Clanaugh and Durrwachter voting in opposition.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Vice President Kennedy, seconded by Councilor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The Consent Agenda has been approved.

BY COUNCILOR RANDORF (FINANCE)

3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT 24886 WITH THE GREATER DOWNTOWN COUNCIL FOR AN INCREASE OF $44,000 OF TOURISM TAX FUNDING FOR A NEW TOTAL AMOUNT OF $817,000.

This Resolution was adopted.

4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM IN THE AMOUNT OF $310,000.

This Resolution was adopted.

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO A JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH AND ACCEPT A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $15,757.27 FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, ACTING THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO PROVIDE WEEKLY REQUIRED RECEPTION AND CAREERLAB DUTIES FOR STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2028.

This Resolution was adopted.

6. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE DULUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DEDA) FOR THE HOUSING TRUST FUND AND APPROVING DEDA RESOLUTION 26D-03 AUTHORIZING DEDA EXPEND AN AMOUNT OF UP TO $1,250,000 TO SUPPORT THE HOUSING TRUST FUND

This Resolution was adopted.

7. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PLANNING STUDY OF THE I-35 CORRIDOR WITHIN THE DULUTH CITY LIMITS FROM THE RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,800,000.00.

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR DESOTELLE (PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES)

8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT L31230 WITH NORTHLAND CONSULTING ENGINEERS L.L.P. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DESIGN OF PROJECT 2324 LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT - ENDION, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY $17,680.00 FOR A NEW TOTAL OF $327,100.00.

This Resolution was adopted.

9. RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO K&H EXCAVATING INC FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE 2026 GAS EXCESS FLOW VALVE, RISER REPLACEMENT, METER RELOCATION AND BOLLARD INSTALLATIONS PROJECT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF $594,873.23

This Resolution was adopted.

10. RESOLUTION AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC. FOR THE WOODLAND WEST RESERVOIR REHABILITATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $96,400.

This Resolution was adopted.

11. RESOLUTION AWARDING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC. FOR THE LAKEWOOD PUMP HOUSE ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $87,600.

This Resolution was adopted.

12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEN-YEAR CONTRACT WITH ST. LOUIS COUNTY FOR A COOPERATIVE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT.

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

13. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH DULUTH ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION CENTER FOR THE ANNUAL PROCUREMENT AND COORDINATION OF A FIREWORKS DISPLAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOURTH FEST.

This Resolution was adopted.

14. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH SPIRIT MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA AUTHORITY FOR 2026 OPERATING EXPENSES IN THE AMOUNT OF $400,000.00.

This Resolution was adopted.

15. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE TO PURCHASE ORDER 25-0648 FOR ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT WITH LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $10,920.63 FOR A NEW TOTAL OF $159,224.80.

This Resolution was adopted.

16. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT L31283 WITH CR-BUILDING PERFORMANCE SPECIALISTS, INC., FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ON THE MORGAN PARK ROOF INSULATION PROJECT, FOR AN INCREASE OF $17,500.00 AND A NEW AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $59,500.00.

This Resolution was adopted.

17. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES WITH THE LAKE SUPERIOR YMCA FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $106,036.95 FOR LIFEGUARDING SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE CITY'S PARK POINT BEACH HOUSE AND RECREATION AREA DURING THE 2026 OPERATING SEASON.

This Resolution was adopted.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

The following entitled resolutions are also to be considered:

BY COUNCILOR DESOTELLE (PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES)

18. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT) FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE AERIAL LIFT BRIDGE (BRIDGE NO. L6116) IN THE AMOUNT OF $11,200,000.00.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilor Tomanek, seconded by Councilor Desotelle. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution 26-0159R is adopted.

19. RESOLUTION AMENDING CITY COUNCIL STANDING RULES TO REVISE THE ORDER OF BUSINESS, CREATE TWO SEPARATE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS, DOCUMENT THE MOST COMMON MOTIONS AND THE RULES OF DECORUM, CLARIFY THE AMENDMENT OF RULES AND UPDATE THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Randorf.

Motion to amend Rule 17(c) made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Randorf. Modifies 17(c) to read, maintaining the italicized language in the original document: "To maintain focus on city business, speakers shall address remarks to the council body as a whole. Speakers may reference or critique actions or statements of individual councilors or public officials as a part of policy discussion. Direct debate between speakers and council members during public comment is not permitted." Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion to amend Rule 17(d) made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Modifies 17(d) to read, maintaining the italicized language in the original document: "Comments should not include threatening or obscene language as defined by law, defamatory statements, or personal attacks as defined by ad hominem." Motion carried 8-1 by roll call vote. Vice President Kennedy voting in opposition.

Motion to amend Rule 17(h) made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Randorf. Modifies 17(h) to add: "However, individual members of a group shall retain the right to speak during public comment in their personal capacity." Motion failed 4-5 by roll call vote. Councilors Desotelle, Forsman, Johnson, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew voting in opposition.

Motion to amend Rule 17(j) was made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Modification proposed was reliant on the amendment of 17(h) to pass. Motion was withdrawn by Councilors Durrwachter and Clanaugh.

Motion to table Resolution 26-0173R was made by Councilor Tomanek, seconded by Councilor Durrwachter. Motion failed 3-6 by roll call vote. Councilors Desotelle, Forsman, Johnson, Randorf, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew.

Motion to amend was made by Councilor Tomanek, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Modification to remove the second comment period from the Standing Rules. Motion failed 4-5 by roll call vote. Councilors Forsman, Johnson, Randorf, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew voting in opposition.

Motion to amend Rule 7 was made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Clanaugh. Modification to Rule 7, move item 11, Second public comment period (Non-agenda Items), to immediately follow item 6. Question was called by Vice

President Kennedy. Motion failed 4-5 by roll call vote. Councilors Desotelle, Forsman, Johnson, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew voting in opposition.

Motion to amend Rule 17, Paragraph 1, Sentence 3, was made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Clanaugh. Modifies Paragraph 1, Sentence 3, to read: "Any person wishing to be heard on agenda items is encouraged to sign up prior to the start of the council meeting to ensure orderly administration." Question was called by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

A point privilege was called by Councilor Tomanek to take a break. A recess was called by President Nephew for a 5-minute break at 8:32 PM. Meeting was resumed at 8:42 PM.

Motion to reconsider the vote on the amendment to Rule 7; Modification to Rule 7, move item 11, Second public comment period (Non-agenda Items), to immediately follow item 6 was made by Councilor Desotelle, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Question was called by Councilor Tomanek. Vote on calling the question carried 5-4 by roll call vote. Councilors Forsman, Johnson, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew. Original Motion carried 5-4 by roll call vote. Councilors Forsman, Johnson, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew opposed.

Motion to amend Rule 18 made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Adds a new subsection (f) to Rule 18 reading: "(f) Any enforcement of the standing rules during public comment shall be viewpoint-neutral and applied equally to all speakers regardless of position on an issue." Motion failed 2-7 by roll call vote. Councilors Clanaugh, Desotelle, Forsman, Johnson, Randorf, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew voting in opposition.

Motion to amend Rule 7a, Paragraph 1, was made by Councilor Clanaugh, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Modification of Rule 7a, Paragraph 1, was read by Councilor Clanaugh. Question was called by Vice President Kennedy. Motion failed 1-8 by roll call vote. Councilors Desotelle, Durrwachter, Tomanek, Forsman, Johnson, Randorf, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew voting in opposition.

Motion to amend Rule 7a, Paragraph 2, was made by Councilor Clanaugh, seconded by Councilor Durrwachter. Modication to Rule 7a, Paragraph 2, was read by Councilor Clanaugh. Question was called by Councilor Forsman. Motion failed 3-6 by roll call vote. Councilors Tomanek, Forsman, Johnson, Randorf, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew voting in opposition.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-0173R as amended by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Desotelle. Motion carried 7-2 by roll call vote. Councilors Clanaugh and Durrwachter voting in opposition.

Resolution 26-0173R is adopted as amended.

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

20. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING UNCONDITIONAL MONETARY AND NON-MONETARY GIFTS FROM THE DULUTH LIBRARY FOUNDATION

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LIBRARY FOR 2026.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-0154R made by Councilor Tomanek, seconded by Vice President Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution 26-0154R was adopted.

21. RESOLUTION ACCEPTING UNCONDITIONAL GIFTS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE DULUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LIBRARY FOR 2026.

Motion to approve Resolution 26-0155R was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Vice President Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution 26-0155R was adopted.

The following entitled ordinances are to be read for the first time:

BY COUNCILOR DURRWACHTER (PURCHASING & LICENSING)

22. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 27-18, OF THE DULUTH CITY CODE TO CHANGE THE MOBILE FOOD TRUCK LICENSING PERIOD.

This Ordinance was read for the first time.

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

23. AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING A PERPETUAL EASEMENT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OVER AND ACROSS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR TRAIL AND OTHER RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.

This Ordinance was read for the first time.

COUNCILOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

COUNCILOR PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS