



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Final

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, February 23, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

All members present at Roll Call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [26-005](#) Meeting Minutes of the Duluth City Council

Indexes:

Attachments: [2026-02-09 City Council Minutes](#)

A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Councilor Clanaugh, seconded by Councilor Forsman. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Ginka Tarnowski spoke on progressiveness for community and accessibility of council meetings. Lee Cutler spoke on a Duluth to believe in, welcoming people in. Anne Sivertson spoke on the Skywalk. Asher Estrin spoke on accusations

made regarding emails to councilors. The following spoke on civility at Council Meetings: Eleanor Dolan, Brandon Parker, Alex Panovich, and Barb Montee. Roy Hamlin spoke regarding the vape shop opening next to Hamlin Music Academy. Julia Covert and Rachael Anderson spoke about concerns in the city. Eric Lindell spoke about the state of politics in Duluth. Denise Lavoie spoke about an incident with the partner of a City Councilor. Joel Sipress spoke about the decorum of council. The following spoke regarding Ordinance #5 and Resolutions 105 and 127: Corinne Freedman Ellis, Ken Loeffler-Kemp, Ahnika Berg, Harry Redmann, Tabby Helgeson, Marcus Edjete, and Andrea Hanek. David Lewis spoke on gratitude for being able to speak and the decorum brought to council.

RESOLUTIONS TABLED

BY COUNCILOR DURRWACHTER (PURCHASING & LICENSING)

2. [26-0105R](#) RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE MINNESOTA GOVERNOR TO ISSUE AN EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER INSTITUTING A TEMPORARY STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF FINANCIAL RESIDENTIAL PROTECTION TO FAMILIES DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY OPERATION METRO SURGE (REPLACEMENT)

Indexes:

Attachments: [2020-3-23 Exec Order 20-14](#)
[Cover Memo 26-0105R](#)

Motion was made to pull 26-0105R from the table by Councilor Clanaugh, seconded by Councilor Tomanek.. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made to approve 26-0105R by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion failed by a 2-7 roll call vote. Opposed: Councilors Desotelle, Tomanek, Forsman, Johnson, Randorf, Vice President Kennedy, and President Nephew.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve was made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. The Consent Agenda passed unanimously by voice vote.

BY COUNCILOR DESOTELLE (PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES)

3. [26-0113R](#) RESOLUTION REVISING THE LIST OF HIGH PRIORITY BRIDGES IN THE CITY OF DULUTH.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover memo](#)
[EXHIBIT A](#)

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

4. [26-0115R](#) RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO VEIT & COMPANY, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE “LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT - SPIRIT VALLEY” PROJECT FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,960,738.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[Location map](#)
[Bid Tabulation](#)

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

5. [26-0118R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR 2026 LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACE PROJECTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,564,265.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover memo](#)

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

6. [26-0122R](#) RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO NORTHLAND CONSTRUCTORS OF DULUTH, A DIVISION OF MATHY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, FOR THE PALM STREET STORMWATER POND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, CITY PROJECT NO. 2208, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,087,000.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

7. [26-0124R](#) RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO HANCO UTILITIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE 2026 GAS BLANKET PROJECT FOR MAINS AND SERVICES IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,329,885.00

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover memo](#)
[Bid Tabulation](#)

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

8. [26-0125R](#) RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO HANCO UTILITIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT - EAST HILLSIDE 1 PROJECT FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,972,447.50.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[Location Map](#)
[Bid Tabulation](#)

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

9. [26-0128R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF DRESSER GAS METERS FROM NATURAL GAS SOLUTIONS NORTH AMERICA, LLC. FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$131,039.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Exhibit A - Cover Memo](#)

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

10. [26-0127R](#) RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY OPERATION METRO SURGE.

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

11. [26-0131R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT OF UP TO \$200,000 TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF THE CROSS CITY TRAIL BETWEEN REDRUTH STREET AND SOUTH 67TH AVENUE WEST.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - CCT FRTP](#)
[Exhibit A](#)

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

12. [26-0132R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A REGIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT OF UP TO \$300,000 TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF THE CROSS CITY TRAIL BETWEEN REDRUTH STREET AND SOUTH 67TH AVENUE WEST.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - CCT RTP](#)
[Exhibit A](#)

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

13. [26-0133R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM EQUIPMENT GRANT OF UP TO \$75,000 TO PURCHASE A NEW PUMP FOR THE RIVER STATION TO SUPPORT SNOWMAKING AT THE SPIRIT MOUNTAIN NORDIC CENTER.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - F RTP Equipment River Pump](#)

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

14. [26-0134R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM EQUIPMENT GRANT OF UP TO \$75,000 TO PURCHASE A NEW PUMP FOR THE MAIN STATION TO SUPPORT SNOWMAKING AT THE SPIRIT MOUNTAIN NORDIC CENTER.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - F RTP Equipment Main Pump](#)

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

The following entitled resolutions are also to be considered:

BY COUNCILOR RANDORF (FINANCE)

15. [26-0110R](#) RESOLUTION AMENDING JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT C20604 WITH DULUTH ENTERTAINMENT AND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY FOR THE OPERATION OF MINNESOTA SLIP

PEDESTRIAN DRAW BRIDGE DURING YEAR 2026 FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$52,000.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

[Cover Memo for 2026 resolution 26-0110R](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Desotelle. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

16. [26-0129R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH HANOVER INSURANCE COMPANY FOR PROPERTY INSURANCE AT THE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$370,000.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - Hanover insurance](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

17. [26-0130R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DULUTH AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO INSURE CERTAIN DULUTH AIRPORT AUTHORITY PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT UNDER THE CITY'S PROPERTY AND BOILER INSURANCE POLICIES.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Attachment A](#)

[Cover Memo -DAA](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Vice President Kennedy. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

BY COUNCILOR DURRWACHTER (PURCHASING & LICENSING)

18. [26-0126R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ONE-YEAR RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SFM RISK SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$75,936.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

[Cover Memo for Resolution 26-0126R](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Tomanek, seconded by Councilor Forsman. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

BY COUNCILOR FORSMAN (PERSONNEL)

19. [26-0112R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE A PAY EQUITY IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Exhibit C](#)
[Exhibit D](#)

Motion to approve was made by Forsman, seconded by Vice President Kennedy.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

20. [26-0117R](#) RESOLUTION TO APPROVE VACATION OF A SLOPE AND FILL EASEMENT, EFFECTING LOTS 70, 72, AND 74, DULUTH PROPER FIRST DIVISION, EAST FIFTH STREET.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[Exhibit A - E 5th St](#)
[Exhibit B - PLVAC-2512-0012 Staff Report with Attachments](#)

Motion to approve was made by President Nephew, seconded by Vice President Kennedy. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

BY COUNCILOR DESOTELLE (PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES)

21. [26-0109R](#) RESOLUTION AMENDING A CONTRACT WITH SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON, INC. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE WEST SUPERIOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$3,424,100.00 FOR A NEW TOTAL OF \$6,333,651.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[Exhibit 1](#)
[location map](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Desotelle, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

22. [26-0120R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A STIPULATION AGREEMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY RELATED TO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF MINN. R. 7050.0210, GENERAL WATERS OF THE STATE, FOLLOWING THE

TISCHER CREEK FISH KILL.

Indexes:Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)[Exhibit A](#)

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

23. [26-0121R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES DAMAGES ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY AND THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$190,000.

Indexes:Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)[Exhibit A](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Desotelle, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

BY COUNCILOR RANDORF (FINANCE)

24. [26-005-O](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE DULUTH CITY CODE BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE XXXIX REGARDING STEWARDSHIP OF CITY RESOURCES AND THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL CIVIL IMMIGRATION LAWS WITHIN THE CITY OF DULUTH (REPLACEMENT).

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

25. [26-003-O](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF DULUTH TO RECLASSIFY PARCELS IN THE DULUTH HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD FROM RESIDENTIAL-TRADITIONAL (R-1) TO RESIDENTIAL-PLANNED (R-P).

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo PLUMA-2512-0007 .pdf](#)

[Attachment 1.pdf](#)

[Attachment 2.pdf](#)

[Attachment 3.pdf](#)

[Attachment 4.pdf](#)

Motion to approve was made by President Nephew, seconded by Vice President Kennedy. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

COUNCILOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

COUNCILOR PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS