

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018

Members Present: Councilor Noah Hobbs, Jen Julsrud, Chris McIntosh, Councilor Joel Sipress, Councilor Em Westerlund

Members Absent: Jim Lewis, Rob Prusak

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Todd Carlson, Leanna Gilbert, Howard Jacobson, Chris Kleist, Eric Shaffer, Glenn Strid, Andy Swanson, Kerry Venier

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m. by Vice President McIntosh.

Public hearing:

18PUC-002 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NATURAL GAS RATE FOR MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESALE INTERRUPTIBLE LARGE VOLUME EFFECTIVE WITH METER READINGS AFTER MARCH 14, 2018.

The Commission held a public hearing on natural gas rate resolution 18PUC-002. No one from the public was present to speak. The hearing was closed and the Commission moved on to the regular meeting.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

New business:

18PUC-002 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NATURAL GAS RATE FOR MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESALE INTERRUPTIBLE LARGE VOLUME EFFECTIVE WITH METER READINGS AFTER MARCH 14, 2018.

Commissioner Sipress motioned to approve the resolution, and the motion was seconded. Resolution 18PUC-002 was approved by all present.

WLSSD I&I ordinance

Todd Carlson gave an overview of the sanitary sewer system and its history. Andy Swanson talked about the updated WLSSD I&I ordinance. Proposed changes to Chapter 43, the Private Sewer Service Grant Program, and the I/I Grant Program Guidelines were sent to commissioners prior to the meeting. Staff would like to propose a minimum of 100 laterals per year. Grants of \$4,000 would be available for those mandated to replace their laterals, and grants of \$2,000 would be available for volunteers. After some discussion, Vice President McIntosh asked staff to prepare the resolution recommending the proposed changes to Council.

Municipal water resale discussion

Jim Benning stated that Proctor withdrew their appeal to the MPUC. Commissioner Julsrud motioned to have staff bring a municipal water resale rate resolution next month, and the motion was approved by all present.

Updates from staff

Jim Benning reported that the bids for Superior Street will be open on February 28th. Glenn Strid mentioned the 2017 year end adjustment letter from WLSSD that was sent to commissioners prior to the meeting. The adjustment will result in a sanitary sewer variable rate increase of approximately 0.976% to cover the cost of the additional surcharge. This increase will equate to about \$0.06 per CCF or \$0.36 per month for the average household.

Upcoming Council actions

Commissioner Julsrud mentioned that the ordinance eliminating DPUC member term limits passed. Jim Benning stated that we will need a Council resolution reappointing Rob Prusak for the March 26 agenda.

Commissioner questions or comments

Commissioner Julsrud thanked everyone for all of their work.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The Commission will consider a municipal water resale rate and continue to discuss the WLSSD I&I ordinance.

Known absences for future meetings

Vice President McIntosh and Commissioner Hobbs will not be able to attend the March meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.