



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, February 6, 2026

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

- Antonio Davis
- Mike Mayou
- Andrew Paszak
- Branden Robinson, President
- Terese Tomanek
- Robert Woods
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Brandon Van Tassel, Vice President

Guests Present

- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Duluth Operations Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Amanda Paszak, Chair – City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the January 2026 Duluth Parking Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Robert Woods motioned that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Mike Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0 (Commissioners Antonio Davis and Terese Tomanek had not yet arrived).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments during the initial public comments period.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ON-STREET SINGLE-STALL PARKING METERS AND ADD NEW PAYMENT METHODS

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to remove all on-street single-stall parking meters in Duluth and, in conjunction, add two payment methods to the existing Park Duluth mobile application for on-street parking payments. He stated that the two new payments method would involve QR codes and a text-to-park option. He stated that the system would be a “pay-by-plate,” rather than a “pay-by-stall” model. He stated that the changes, if approved, would likely begin in the Civic Center area and that each zone’s installation would follow in succession. He stated that the vendor had provided educational and data standards compliance

materials and that the accepted payment methods would be credit cards, debit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and PayPal. Mr. Bauer provided examples of the signage and how the application would look to the customers. He added that he had communicated with several local business organizations regarding the proposed changes and that the feedback had been generally positive. Commissioner Woods expressed concern for parkers who did not want to – or who were unable to – use a phone to pay. Mr. Bauer stated that any type of phone would be compatible with the system, due to the addition of the text-to-park option. He stated that he was hopeful that the City’s planned education efforts, citation issuance adjustments, and possible repositioning of multi-stall payment kiosks, which still would accept cash and credit cards physically, would help assist customers unable or unwilling to utilize virtual payment technology. Commission President Branden Robinson suggested the addition of parking fee enforcement hours to the signage. Mr. Bauer stated that zone enforcement hours are included in the mobile application, as well. Commissioner Tomanek inquired whether there could be some type of “coupon” system for those unable to utilize the new payment technology. Mr. Bauer stated that this was something that could be explored but pointed out some of the possible negative effects of such a system. Commissioner Tomanek suggested that the City conduct a public event to introduce and educate on the system. Commissioner Mayou suggested that the City consider conducting a survey following implementation to gauge parker satisfaction. Mr. Bauer stated that this would be possible but noted that the system vendor and Parking Services Division already employed several methods of tracking customer feedback. Commissioner Woods suggested reaching out to senior citizens’ organizations to help educate. Commissioner Andrew Paszak motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF PARKING COMMISSION PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Bauer introduced the topic of the annual elections of the Commission’s President and Vice President. He stated that while Vice President Brandon Van Tassel was not able to attend, he was interested in serving a second term as Vice President. Commissioner Woods motioned that Commissioner Robinson be elected to a second term as President. Commissioner Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. Commissioner Woods motioned that Commissioner Van Tassel be elected to a second term as Vice President. Commissioner Tomanek seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Assistant Duluth Operations Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that parking demand at Lakeside Public Ramp was very high and that staff were encouraging parkers to also utilize the adjacent Hillside Public Ramp as well. He stated that pipe leaks at Technology Village Ramp had been repaired. Mr. Bauer stated that plans were in progress for annual parking facility maintenance and added that fencing would be installed soon to better secure certain locations. Commissioner Mayou inquired into parking provided for the Duluth Playhouse and indicated that their director had recently contacted him regarding this. Mr. Bauer stated that the City was in communication with the Playhouse regarding parking at

Lakeside Public Ramp. He stated that there was no past or current agreement for complimentary or discounted parking for the Playhouse. Mr. Bauer clarified that the Parking Commission does not have authority over individual agreements with area stakeholders and that the City would continue to work with the Playhouse in an effort to meet their parking needs.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to change the most common on-street parking time limit at metered stalls from 80 to 90 minutes. He stated that the current 80-minute limit did not conform to the rate structure approved by the Commission for 2026 implementation. He stated that all other time limits appeared to conform. He stated that the new time limit would be implemented in conjunction with the installation of the upcoming new on-street signage and payment methods. Commissioner Davis motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

Commissioner Tomanek stated that this would likely be her final meeting as a Parking Commissioner and that another Councilor would likely soon be appointed to the Commission. She stated that she would have preferred to continue to serve on the Commission but that another Board/Commission opportunity had become available that conflicted with her service on the Parking Commission. She stated that she had enjoyed her work on the Commission and that it was very well-run.