



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Unofficial Actions - Final

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

5:15 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 411 West First Street

NOTE: This was not an official meeting, and no actions were made as there was no quorum.

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan noted the absence of a quorum and opened the floor to discussion at 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Andrea Crouse, Councilor Mike Mayou, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Terese Tomanek

Members Absent: Councilor Wendy Durrwachter, Derek Medved

Staff Present: Nick Anderson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Ostern, Howie Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were made at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Infrastructure Surcharge discussion

Since there was no quorum, this topic will be discussed at the next meeting. Jim Benning's summary of the EPA's administrative order on consent will be sent to commissioners as requested.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Vice President

Since there was no quorum, the election will be held at the next meeting.

[DPUC140](#)Indexes:Attachments: [2025 DPUC Meeting Schedule](#)

Meetings will continue to be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

Jim Benning mentioned that the water infrastructure surcharge ordinance was approved by City Council last night. After 30 days has passed, the DPUC can create the surcharge. The EPA administrative order on consent was also passed last night. Once it has been fully signed it will be official, and the clock will start on plans for projects.

Howie Smith stated that construction of the Upper Lakeside Water Interconnect project was awarded last night. Staff has been busy with emergency gas trainings. Howie is also responsible for outreach to public officials in neighboring communities. Commissioner Mayou asked about the Upper Lakeside water tank. Howie reported that the first of four 2025 lead projects is advertised for bids right now. The second should roll out before the end of the year. Staff is working on 2026 projects so that we can apply for funding in the spring. Chris Ostern reported that we will be submitting our request for reimbursement from the PFA this week. We anticipate seeing the funds by the end of the year.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

There were no questions or comments at this time.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

No upcoming actions were mentioned.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The Commission will continue discussing the water infrastructure surcharge. Public education for the surcharge will begin in upcoming months followed by a public hearing.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Commissioner Crouse will not be available for the January meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The discussion ended at 5:42 p.m.