



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Unofficial Actions - Draft

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

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 Scott noted the absence of a quorum and opened the floor for discussion at 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Andrea Crouse, Councilor Diane Desotelle, Councilor Wendy Durrwachter, Brad Scott

Members Absent: Councilor Janet Kennedy, Derek Medved

Staff Present: Nick Bax, Cyndi Falconer, Leanna Gilbert, Amanda Mangan, Chris Ostern, Cari Pedersen, Howie Smith, Kerry Venier

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Since there was no quorum, approval of minutes will be postponed until the next meeting.

[DPUC168](#)

Indexes:

Attachments: [02172026 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

[DPUC171](#)

Indexes:

Attachments: [03172026 DPUC meeting notes draft](#)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[DPUC170](#)Indexes:

Attachments: [26PUC-001 adding statement charge to utility fees](#)

Since there was no quorum, this resolution will be considered at the next meeting.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

Howie Smith reported on various projects including lead service replacement, tower painting, the Palm Street pond, and roof replacement on the historic pump house. He also gave a brief history of the natural gas rates for new service installations and mentioned the need for updates. More information will be available in future meetings. Kerry Venier mentioned that staff will be presenting a summary of stormwater rates in June.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Desotelle asked about water quality on Norton Road. Howie Smith responded that it is likely due to the condition of the water main. Staff is looking into replacing that main and a possible main extension. Flushing would help with the issue, but the customers are all on private septic systems.

Commissioner Durrwachter asked about the West Superior Street reconstruction project and bike lanes. Cari Pedersen responded that the bike lanes were put in as a temporary detour of the cross city trail during the TPI project. Bike lanes will be part of the West Superior Street reconstruction.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

Cari Pedersen mentioned resolutions for tower painting, West Superior Street reconstruction, a grant agreement for West Superior Street, and two resolutions awarding street preservation projects. Howie Smith mentioned a resolution for electrical upgrades at three booster stations.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The Commission will consider a resolution establishing a paper statement charge. Staff will have more information on natural gas service installation rates. Staff will present information on stormwater rates in June and the 2027 budget in August.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Commissioner Crouse will not be able to attend the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The discussion ended at 5:59 p.m.