



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Draft

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

5:15 PM Lakeside Conference Room 430, City Hall, 411 West First
Street

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Andrea Crouse, Councilor Wendy Durrwachter (left at 6:10 p.m.), Councilor Mike Mayou (left at 6:10 p.m.), Derek Medved, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Terese Tomanek (arrived at 6:00 p.m., left at 6:10 p.m.)

Members Absent: Erin Abramson

Staff Present: Nick Anderson, Jim Benning, Cyndi Falconer, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Ostern, Howie Smith, Kerry Venier

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were made at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[DPUC136](#) Sep. 17, 2024 DPUC meeting minutes draft

Indexes:

Attachments: [09172024 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

The September 17, 2024 meeting minutes were approved by all present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Infrastructure Surcharge discussion

Chris Ostern presented four surcharge calculation methods. Commissioners and staff discussed the pros and cons of each method. The ordinance will provide for annual review of the surcharge. The calculation methods presentation will be sent to commissioners as requested. Commissioner Mayou requested a few examples for each commercial/industrial rate category.

NEW BUSINESS

[DPUC137](#) 2025 WLSSD budget

Indexes:

Attachments: [2025 Budget WLSSD](#)

Kerry Venier stated that staff budgeted enough to cover the increase. WLSSD should be with us next month to explain their budget process and operations.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

Howie Smith reported on projects including the water main going through the Northland Country Club, design for next years' projects, Woodland Booster Station, and stormwater tunnel repair. Cyndi Falconer reported that the Lincoln Park project is wrapped up for the year. The high priority lead replacement project is very active. Many will be postponed until next spring. We are working on projects for 2025. Lead Copper Rule Compliance starts tomorrow. About 14,000 letters will be sent out. The website has been updated. The City is planning to do about 1,700 lead service replacements next year.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Crouse asked about the sewage leak into Chester. Howie Smith responded that the segment of pipe was repaired and will be lined with cured in place pipe.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

No actions were mentioned.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. WLSSD representatives will attend the November meeting to explain their 2025 budget. The Commission will continue discussing options for the water infrastructure surcharge.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No absences were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.