



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, June 5, 2026

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

- Mike Mayou
- Andrew Paszak
- Brandon Van Tassel, Vice President
- Robert Woods
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Antonio Davis
- Jordon Johnson
- Branden Robinson, President

Guests Present

- Isaiah Helmin, Assistant Duluth Area Manager – Interstate Parking Company
- Shawna Mullen, Transportation Services Manager – Essentia Health Duluth
- Amanda Paszak, Chair – City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities
- Alex Popp, Senior Engineer – City of Duluth
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the May 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during the initial public comments period.

ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING ZONE REQUEST

Mr. Bauer presented one on-street accessible parking zone request. He stated that he had researched the request, for 620 North 56th Avenue West, and communicated with the applicant. He stated that he had consulted with the City Commission on Disabilities and that they were supportive of the request. Commissioner Andrew Paszak motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

PROPOSAL TO APPROVE REDEVELOPMENT-RELATED PARKING

CONFIGURATION CHANGES TO 4TH STREET

City of Duluth Senior Engineer Alex Popp presented a proposal to remove parking from the south side of 4th Street from Mesaba Avenue to 6th Avenue East, stating that the removal was part of an upcoming street redevelopment project. He provided a visual presentation that illustrated the City's engineering and community planning teams' efforts to collect public input, on-street parking usage information, and how the streetscape would look following redevelopment. He noted that public feedback was mixed, with some favoring the proposed plan and many residents in the area indicating opposition to the proposed parking loss. Commissioner Woods indicated concern with the proposal parking removal, citing a lack of traffic data in the proposal and concern for the area residents, as well as concern regarding seasonal snow removal and storage. Commissioner Mayou indicated support for the proposal, citing the importance of planning for the future and improving the community's quality of life through the addition of greenspace. Commissioner Paszak indicated concerns with vehicle loading along the corridor and suggested the proposal be tabled for further consideration and development. Commission Vice President Brandon Van Tassel stated that public accessibility was important and indicated concern with the volume of parking removal and how that would affect area residents. He added that he had concerns regarding snow removal and storage and indicated that he thought more room might be needed to accommodate the growth of the tree roots in the future. Essentia Health Duluth Transportation Services Manager Shawna Mullen addressed the Commission and indicated support for the proposal, noting that it aligns with Essentia Health's long-term goals for their campus, which falls within the eastern end of the redevelopment zone. Commissioner Paszak motioned that the proposal be tabled until the July Parking Commission meeting. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0. Commissioner Woods requested that traffic counts for the area be provided in the July meeting.

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A DROP-OFF ZONE ON THE 400 BLOCK OF WEST SUPERIOR STREET

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to create a one-stall ten-minute drop-off zone adjacent to 420 West Superior Street. He stated that the request had been generated by the owner of the building and that the zone would serve the needs of a new pizza restaurant that would soon be moving into the building. Commissioner Woods motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A BUS DROP-OFF ZONE ON THE 400 BLOCK OF WEST 1ST STREET

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to create a bus drop-off zone on the south side of the western end of the 400 block of West 1st Street, adjacent to the redeveloped Independent School District 709 educational site. He stated that the school district had requested the zone to serve buses transporting students, many of whom will have accessibility needs, to and from the school. He stated that the proposed zone was adjacent to the building entrance and would be 75 feet in

length. Commissioner Woods suggested that the zone be juxtaposed with the adjacent loading zone to the immediate west to allow better access by the buses. Mr. Bauer suggested that the proposal remain unchanged but that the new zone be monitored for future adjustment needs. Commissioner Mayou motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Paszak seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Interstate Parking Company Assistant Duluth Area Manager Isaiah Helmin provided an update on off-street parking operations. He stated that the summer parking enforcement season in Canal Park had begun and that operations were going smoothly. He stated that plans were in progress for seasonal and incidental facility structural repairs. Mr. Helmin stated that restriping and cleaning of the Canal Park lots was underway. He added that Interstate had noted a recent increase in security incidents at Hillside and Lakeside Ramps and that he was not certain what had contributed to this.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking. He stated that, while there had been a significant amount of public destruction of parking-related signage throughout the downtown area, the initiative to remove physical parking meters and add two new payment methods to the existing Park Duluth mobile payment system had been largely successful, with a noted increase in application usage by the public. Commissioner Paszak inquired whether the City had noted an associated increase in issuance of parking citations; Mr. Bauer stated that no significant increase had been noted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

There were no additional public comments.