



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Final

City Council

MISSION STATEMENT: *The mission of the Duluth City Council is to develop effective public policy rooted in citizen involvement that results in excellent municipal services and creates a thriving community prepared for the challenges of the future.*

TOOLS OF CIVILITY: *The Duluth City Council promotes the use and adherence of the tools of civility in conducting the business of the council. The tools of civility provide increased opportunities for civil discourse leading to positive resolutions for the issues that face our city. We know that when we have civility, we get civic engagement, and because we can't make each other civil and we can only work on ourselves, we state that today I will: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, not gossip, show respect, seek common ground, repair damaged relationships, use constructive language, and take responsibility. [Approved by the council on May 14, 2018]*

MN Statutes, 13D.02. *Members may participate by interactive technology*

Monday, August 10, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM. All members present at Roll Call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [26-024](#) MEETING MINUTES OF THE DULUTH CITY COUNCIL

Indexes:

Attachments: [2026-07-27 City Council Minutes](#)

Minutes accepted unanimously without objection

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (AGENDA ITEMS)

Denise Voie de Vie spoke regarding the Lester Park Petition item (26-0681R)

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Dan Grandmaison spoke regarding the illegal posting of signs and flyers on utility poles, boxes, and others in the right of way and his willingness to volunteer his time to clean up these flyers. The following spoke regarding Flock cameras: Brandon Parker, Ellen Gott, Andrew St. Croix, and Elizabeth Gaylord. Loren Martell spoke regarding the Duluth School District and the "Red Plan".

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Vice President Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously by Voice Vote (9-0).

BY COUNCILOR RANDORF (FINANCE)

2. [26-0706R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A \$1,534,500 TAXABLE GRANT ANTICIPATION REVENUE NOTE, SERIES 2026A, AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PAYMENT.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

[Exhibit C](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

3. [26-0707R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A \$5,666,728 TAXABLE GRANT ANTICIPATION REVENUE NOTE, SERIES 2026B, AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PAYMENT.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Exhibit B](#)

[Exhibit C](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR DURRWACHTER (PURCHASING & LICENSING)

4. [26-0726R](#) RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Indexes:

Attachments: [C&D App. Sister Cities](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

5. [26-0727R](#) RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS FOR LAWFUL GAMBLING

Indexes:

Attachments: [Lawful Gambling App, Little Saints Street Ministry](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

6. [26-0701R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, FOR USE OF OFFICE SPACE AT LAKE SUPERIOR COLLEGE AT NO COST TO THE CITY.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - LSC Office Lease Agreement 07-01-2025 through 06-30-2028](#)
[LSC Office Lease Agreement - 07-01-2025 through 06-30-2028](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR DESOTELLE (PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES)

7. [26-0697R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY (MPFA) FOR A FORGIVABLE LOAN FROM THE DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENTS AS PART OF THE N 40TH AVE W RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (PFA PROJECT 1690011-23, CITY PROJECT 1813) AS DESCRIBED IN THE LOAN APPLICATION.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[PFA Application 1690011-23](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

8. [26-0711R](#) RESOLUTION AMENDING A CONTRACT WITH LHB, INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT - DENFELD PROJECT, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$25,666.50 FOR A NEW TOTAL OF \$388,256.50.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[31229 Amendment Request Documentation](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

9. [26-0720R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PERMIT FROM ST. LOUIS COUNTY, FOR THE TEMPORARY USE OF PROPERTY ABUTTING ST. MARIE ST. IN THE CHESTER PARK-UMD NEIGHBORHOOD, AT NO COST TO THE CITY.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[Exhibit 1 - Permit](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

10. [26-0698R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THREE-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE DULUTH AREA FAMILY Y.M.C.A. FOR THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE WOODLAND COMMUNITY CENTER.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Exhibit 1](#)
[Cover Memo_YMCA](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

11. [26-0712R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE TO THE ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER (OEM) PARTS, SUPPLIES AND LABOR FOR 2026 FROM BOYER TRUCKS-SUPERIOR FOR \$20,000.00, FOR A NEW AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$85,000.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo for 26-0712R](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

12. [26-0715R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT OF \$150,000 TO CONSTRUCT A PORTION OF THE CROSS CITY TRAIL.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)
[Project Map](#)
[Cover Memo - Resolution to Accept FRTP CCT](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

13. [26-0716R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A REGIONAL TRAIL

PROGRAM GRANT OF \$300,000 TO CONSTRUCT A PORTION OF THE CROSS CITY TRAIL.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - Resolution to Accept RTP CCT](#)

[Exhibit A](#)

[Project Map](#)

This Resolution was adopted.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

The following entitled resolutions are also to be considered:

BY COUNCILOR FORSMAN (PERSONNEL)

14. [26-0723R](#) RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF BRIANNA GUNDERSON TO THE DULUTH ENTERTAINMENT AND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

Motion to table made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Tomanek.
Motion to table carried unanimously by Voice Vote (9-0).

15. [26-0724R](#) RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF GINKA TARNOWSKI TO THE SANITARY SEWER BOARD OF THE WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT.

Motion to table made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh.
Motion to table carried unanimously by Voice Vote (9-0).

16. [26-0725R](#) RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LUKE MEDIS TO THE BUILDING APPEAL BOARD

Motion to approve made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Johnson.
Motion to table made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Motion to table carried unanimously by Voice Vote (9-0).

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

17. [26-0714R](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY USE PROVISION ENCUMBERING CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY MANAGED BY THE DULUTH AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

Indexes:

Attachments: [20260731 Cover Memo](#)

[Exhibit 1](#)

Motion to approve made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Councilor Forsman announced his intent to abstain due to the nature of his employment with MN Power. Motion carried 8-0 by Roll Call vote, Councilor Forsman Abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS TABLED

BY COUNCILOR DURRWACHTER (PURCHASING & LICENSING)

18. [26-0681R](#) RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE LESTER PARK INITIATIVE ORDINANCES TO THE VOTERS AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, AND DIRECTING CERTIFICATION TO THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR

No action was taken on this item, it is to remain on the table.

The following entitled ordinances are to be read for the first time:

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

19. [26-037-O](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10-5, OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE DULUTH CITY CODE TO REDUCE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BUILDING APPEAL BOARD TO SEVEN MEMBERS.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo - 2026 Bylaw Ordinance Change](#)

This Ordinance was read for the first time.

The following entitled ordinances are to be read for the second time:

BY COUNCILOR RANDORF (FINANCE)

20. [26-035-O](#) AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 10473, FILE NO. 16-061-O, AND GRANTING MINNESOTA POWER, A DIVISION OF ALLETE, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN AN ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITHIN THE CITY.

Indexes:

Attachments: [20260717 Cover Memo](#)

[Document A - Duluth Franchise Fee Summary](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Desotelle. Councilor Forsman announced his intent to abstain from this item due to his employment with MN Power. Motion carried 8-0 by Roll Call vote, Councilor Forsman Abstaining.

BY COUNCILOR FORSMAN (PERSONNEL)

21. [26-023-O](#) AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 2-2.1, 2-2.2, 2-2.3, AND 2-2.4 OF THE DULUTH CITY CODE.

Indexes:

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)

Motion to approve was made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

22. [26-026-O](#) ORDINANCE GRANTING VITTA PIZZA, INC. A CONCURRENT USE PERMIT FOR PERGOLAS AND A BARRICADE TO PROVIDE CODE COMPLIANT, PERMANENT, OUTDOOR SEATING WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 307 CANAL PARK DRIVE.

Indexes:

Attachments: [PLCUP-2605-0010 Cover Memo.pdf](#)

[Attachment 1- PLCUP-2605-0010 Staff Report with Attachments.pdf](#)

[Attachment 2- Vitta Pizza Survey Exhibit V2.pdf](#)

[Attachment 3- July 2026 Planning Commission Minutes \(not approved yet\).pdf](#)

Motion to approve was made by President Nephew, seconded by Councilor Desotelle. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

23. [26-027-O](#) ORDINANCE GRANTING DULUTH COFFEE COMPANY INC. A CONCURRENT USE PERMIT FOR A PERGOLA AND A BARRICADE TO PROVIDE CODE COMPLIANT, PERMANENT, OUTDOOR SEATING WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 107 EAST SUPERIOR STREET.

Indexes:

Attachments: [PLCUP-2606-0012 Cover Memo.pdf](#)

[Attachment 1- PLCUP-2606-0012 Staff Report with Attachments.pdf](#)

[Attachment 2- Exhibit Concurrent Use 20260605 v1.pdf](#)

[Attachment 3- July 2026 Planning Commission Minutes \(not approved yet\).pdf](#)

Motion to approve made by President Nephew, seconded by Councilor Randorf.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

24. [26-030-O](#) AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AT&T A CONCURRENT USE PERMIT TO INSTALL SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITY TO A MINNESOTA POWER POLE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE NORTH 9TH AVENUE EAST RIGHT OF WAY.

Indexes:

Attachments: [PLCUP-2606-0011 Cover Memo.pdf](#)
[1. Survey.pdf](#)
[2. PLCUP-2606-0011 Staff Report and Attachments.pdf](#)
[3. July 2026 Planning Commission Minutes \(not approved yet\).pdf](#)

Motion to approve made by President Nephew, seconded by Councilor Johnson. Councilor Forsman announced his intent to abstain due to the nature of his employment with MN Power. Motion carried 8-0 by Roll Call vote, Councilor Forsman Abstaining.

ORDINANCES TABLED

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

25. [26-033-O](#) AN ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION THAT REQUIRES THE CITY TO REZONE AS PARK AND OPEN SPACE (P-1) THE 37.5-ACRE PARCEL KNOWN AS THE LAKE 9 PARCEL OF THE FORMER LESTER PARK GOLF COURSE, AND FURTHER PROHIBITING ANY REZONING OF THIS PARCEL THAT AUTHORIZES PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, HOSPITALITY, OR MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT UNLESS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS AT A CITY ELECTION.

No action taken.

26. [26-034-O](#) AN ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION THAT WOULD PRECLUDE THE CITY OF DULUTH FROM REZONING THE 230-ACRE PARCEL LOCATED IN OR NEAR THE LESTER PARK GOLF COURSE FROM A PARK, OPEN SPACE, OR CONSERVATION DESIGNATION TO A CLASSIFICATION THAT AUTHORIZES PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, HOSPITALITY, OR MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT UNLESS THE REZONING IS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS VOTING ON THE QUESTION AT A REGULAR OR SPECIAL CITY ELECTION.

No action taken.

COUNCILOR/ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

COUNCILOR/ADMINISTRATION PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Vice President Kennedy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).