



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Draft

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

5:15 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 411 West First Street

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Derek Medved

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

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SURCHARGE PUBLIC MEETING

Jim Benning gave a presentation about the proposed water infrastructure surcharge. Lisa Fitzpatrick, 5229 Peabody Street, asked about the work needed on the historic Lakewood pumphouse, the reasoning for the EPA ordered improvements, and the treatment facility in West Duluth. The public meeting was closed at 5:48 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were made at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[DPUC142](#) Jan. 21, 2025 DPUC meeting minutes draft

Indexes:

Attachments: [01212025 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

The Jan. 21, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by all present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Infrastructure Surcharge discussion

Commissioners asked a variety of questions about the water system, projects planned, and the proposed surcharge. Commissioner Mayou motioned to move

forward with a water infrastructure surcharge resolution per the calculations provided by City staff for the March 18 meeting, and all present approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

[DPUC143](#) WLSSD 2024 Year-End Adjustment

Indexes:

Attachments: [2024 Wastewater Treatment Year-End Adjustments from WLSSD 01292025](#)
[WLSSD Rate Adj MARCH2025](#)

Chris Ostern gave a summary of the WLSSD year-end adjustment and noted that the sanitary rate would go from \$7.19 to \$7.69.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

Howie Smith reported that the lead projects are being advertised for bids. He also reported that about half the pipe for the Upper Lakeside project has already been installed.

Jim Benning reported that there is a good candidate to fill the vacant DPUC position.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Mayou asked about the 6th Ave. East project. Howie Smith responded that the lead replacement work would be bid separately from the road work.

Commissioner Tomanek asked if the State deficit would affect the lead replacement funding. Howie Smith responded that the 2025 and 2026 projects should be funded.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

No actions were mentioned.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the water infrastructure surcharge at the beginning of the regular meeting. City staff will prepare a resolution establishing the water infrastructure surcharge for the Commission to consider at the March meeting.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No upcoming absences were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.