



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parking Commission.

Friday, May 1, 2026

7:30 AM

Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

ROLL CALL

Members Present

- Antonio Davis
- Jordon Johnson
- Mike Mayou
- Andrew Paszak
- Branden Robinson, President
- Robert Woods
- Mark Bauer, Ex Officio

Members Absent

- Brandon Van Tassel, Vice President

Guests Present

- Amanda Paszak, Chair – City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities
- John Ramos, Investigative Reporter – Duluth Monitor
- Jason Rolfe, Owner – Liila Boutique

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Duluth Parking Services Manager Mark Bauer presented the April 2026 Duluth Parking Commission meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Robert Woods motioned that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Jordon Johnson seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0 (Commissioners Antonio Davis and Mike Mayou had not yet arrived).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Liila Boutique owner Jason Rolfe presented several questions to the Commission regarding parking configuration plans for Lincoln Park. He stated that he supported a request by Bali Asian Cuisine to convert an on-street loading zone into metered parking and then place a parklet in the zone for more restaurant seating. Mr. Bauer stated that he was aware of this request and did not support it, based on the area's need for loading zones and his observed use of the one in question. Mr. Rolfe inquired into plans for on-street payment technology once the upcoming Superior Street redevelopment project was complete. Mr. Bauer stated that that the area would feature updated version of the T2 Systems multi-stall payment kiosks located elsewhere in the city. Mr. Rolfe inquired into the details on how the Park Duluth mobile payment application functioned, which Mr. Bauer provided.

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 1926 East 2nd Street and performed a site visit. He stated that, due to the timing of the monthly Parking Commission and Commission on Disabilities meetings, he had not presented the request to the Commission on Disabilities but that he would provide them information on the request in their next meeting. He stated that during the site visit he noted several off-street garage stalls associated with the apartment building at the address but that the applicant had stated that there were internal building obstacles that prevented her from using them. Commissioner Woods motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE ZONE ON THE 100 BLOCK OF NORTH 1ST AVENUE WEST

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to create an emergency vehicles only parking zone on the 100 block of North 1st Avenue West, adjacent to CHUM Center Duluth. He stated that the request had been generated by the director of CHUM and was supported by the Duluth Police Department. He stated that there were frequent visits to the site by emergency vehicles and that the public parking in the area had, in the past, caused public safety challenges. Commissioner Woods suggested that a no parking zone be placed in the area instead. Mr. Bauer stated that the Parking Services Division preferred signing the zone in as close alignment with its intended use as possible and added that other such zones had previously been employed in the downtown area. Commissioner Johnson stated that it was more likely that an emergency vehicles only zone would be respected than a no parking zone. Commissioner Andrew Paszak stated that he regularly noted emergency vehicles visiting the building, adding that driver and pedestrian sightlines were sometimes compromised when emergency vehicles parked in the drive lane instead of an on-street parking area. Commissioner Mayou motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which was approved 5-1 (Commissioner Woods dissenting).

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A BUS DROP-OFF ZONE ON THE 200 BLOCK OF WEST MICHIGAN STREET

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to create a bus drop-off zone on the east end of the 200 block of West Michigan Street. He stated that the Duluth Transit Authority's Director had referred a representative of FlixBus to him, following FlixBus' request to designate a pick-up/drop-off zone related to new bus service from Duluth to other destinations. He stated that the DTA Director had communicated that there was inadequate room within the Duluth Transit Center but that an adjacent on-street zone could serve their needs. Mr. Bauer stated that he had identified an on-street area to the immediate east of the DTC, on the lower side of Michigan Street, that could serve this function. He stated that while parking demand was stronger to the west of the zone, demand in the zone area itself was not as strong. Commissioner Woods stated that he would like clarification on the usage and timing of bus service in the zone. Mr. Bauer noted that any bus could use the zone, including DTA buses. Commissioner Mayou

inquired whether road width was adequate to accommodate the zone; Mr. Bauer stated that it was wide enough. Commissioner Davis noted that the area in question was already being utilized as a bus zone at times. Commissioner Paszak motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Woods seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A 2-HOUR TIME LIMIT ZONE ON THE 200 BLOCK OF WEST 4TH STREET

Mr. Bauer presented a proposal to create a 2-hour time limit zone on the 200 block of West 4th Street, in the area adjacent to the Center for American Indian Resources building. He stated that the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa leadership had requested the zone to serve their clients and that the off-street parking lot that served the building sometimes filled. Commissioner Johnson inquired whether the zone, if approved, would be retained following the upcoming redevelopment of 4th Street. Mr. Bauer stated that he believed that would be the case. Commissioner Woods motioned that the proposal be approved. Commissioner Mayou seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0.

OFF-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer provided an update on off-street parking. He stated that Interstate Parking Company was in the process of preparing for the summer season, with washing and restriping of the lots and ramps to begin in early May. He stated that updated and replacement signage was being ordered for all Canal Park Lots, to be followed by update signage for the ramps in time for Grandma's Marathon. Mr. Bauer stated that Lot B, Pickwick Lot, Hartley Lot, and Sculptured Wall Lot had been converted to Interstate's proprietary InFlow revenue control system to better differentiate between on- and off-street parking systems. He added that Interstate had been noting high payment compliance in all the locations.

ON-STREET PARKING UPDATE

Mr. Bauer provided an update on on-street parking. He stated that installation of new signage that indicated the new additional payment methods for on-street parking, as well as removal of the single-stall parking meters, was complete. He stated that while there was a certain amount of negative feedback to the changes, none was unexpected, and staff were committed to working through solutions with parkers. Commissioner Mayou inquired into long-term on-street signage plans and suggested that items such as braille be included in the future. Mr. Bauer confirmed that the new kiosks that would be installed in Lincoln Park would accept cash and coin. Commission President Branden Robinson inquired into on-street parking stall designations, particularly regarding diagonal stalls. Mr. Bauer stated that stall designations were generally not employed, except on Superior Street, but that additional stall marking may be necessary in the future for diagonal stalls, particularly noting challenges in determining stall locations on Priley Drive, adjacent to City Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOW-UP

Commission on Disabilities Chair Amanda Paszak spoke to the group and encouraged enhanced communication and brainstorming between the two

commissions to best serve those with disabilities and/or accessibility challenges.