



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Draft

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

5:15 PM

Lakeside Conference Room 430

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Andrea Crouse, Councilor Mike Mayou, Derek Medved, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Terese Tomanek

Members Absent: Councilor Wendy Durrwachter, Brad Scott

Staff Present: Nick Anderson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Lydia Schroeder, Howie Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Herron, 2617 E 5th St, commented that the lead service replacement agreement instructions are good. She also asked various questions about the replacement process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[DPUC150](#) May 20, 2025 DPUC meeting minutes draft

Indexes:

Attachments: [05202025 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

The May 20, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by all present.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

Howie Smith reported that about 500 lead services have been replaced so far this year. The London Road project will start after Grandma's Marathon. Design has begun on the 2026 projects. He also reported on the MNDOT roundabout projects and the associated water main relocation. Staff has also been working on various EPA reports.

Jim Benning mentioned that no bonding money was received in 2025, but we have submitted for 2026 bonding. There was some discussion about progress on projects required by the EPA and the London Road projects.

Lydia Schroeder requested help advertising the option for e-billing instead of

paper bills and the new billing portal coming in September. President Ryan suggested a bill insert about this. Jim Benning suggested an incentive to switch to e-billing. There was some discussion about the costs of paper billing, credit card fees, and check processing fees.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Crouse asked about the note regarding I&I program sump pump grants that the Commission received from Danielle Rhodes. Jim Benning explained that staff is considering combining the sump pump grant components (\$1,400 for sump pump, \$150 for electrical, \$350 for house trap, \$250 for combined storm line) into a total grant of \$2,150. If the change is made, it will come before the Commission for consideration before going to City Council.

Commissioner Crouse mentioned the opportunity to share the cost for an engraved brick in honor of former commissioner Erin Abramson and her son.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

No upcoming actions were mentioned.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Staff will have budget information for the Commission to review in August, and part of the budget is the fee schedule. Staff will probably have the sump pump program information ready by then.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No absences were mentioned, but this is probably Commissioner Mayou's last meeting. He would like to come back as a citizen member when there is an opening. Staff would like to have another councilor appointed to the Commission by August.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.