

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2015

Members Present: Councilor Zack Filipovich, Rob Prusak, Jim Ramnes, Linda Sellner, Councilor Joel Sipress; Councilor Jennifer Julsrud arrived at 5:20 p.m.

Members Absent: Jason Thorsell

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Kleist, Eric Shaffer, Glenn Strid

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m. by President Prusak.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

New business:

Chapter 43 revisions: Illicit discharge language

Chris Kleist gave an overview of proposed revisions to the illicit discharge language in the City code and answered questions from commissioners. The proposed language would clarify the existing ordinance to meet MS4 requirements.

Large diameter water mains

Eric Shaffer gave a presentation about large diameter water mains in the city, particularly the two transmission mains from the water plant. These pipes are very old and are deteriorating, and the riveted steel pipe is impossible to connect onto and very difficult to repair. Plans for replacement need to begin soon to prevent a catastrophic failure to the water supply. Replacement method and routes are to be determined. Commissioners and staff discussed potential issues and costs of replacement.

Updates from staff

Eric Shaffer reported that the 4th Street from 12th to 16th Ave E project bids tomorrow. The gas blanket project is ongoing. The Lift Station 8 project was awarded to Rice Lake Construction and work will start in a couple weeks. The first phase of the gas line job from 1st Ave W to Lakeside is advertised to bid.

Upcoming Council actions

Jim Benning mentioned a few items on the agenda, including grant money from the DNR for stream repairs, a cost overrun for consulting on lift station projects due to changes in scope, a project going from design phase to construction, and a land swap near Lift Station 8. The illicit discharge ordinance will appear soon.

Commissioner questions or comments

Commissioner Sellner inquired about the water piping for Spirit Mountain. Eric Shaffer explained that this is not a City project, so we are not involved in the plans. Spirit Mountain is partnering with the DNR on the project.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.