

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016

Members Present: Councilor Zack Filipovich, Jen Julsrud, Jim Lewis, Rob Prusak, Jason Thorsell, Councilor Em Westerlund; Councilor Joel Sipress arrived at 5:21 p.m.

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Liz Bieter, Leanna Gilbert, Howard Jacobson, Chris Madden, Eric Shaffer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by President Prusak.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Old business:

16PUC-009 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VARIOUS UTILITY-RELATED SERVICES.

After some discussion, Commissioner Julsrud motioned to take resolution 16PUC-009 off the table, and the motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Filipovich motioned to approve resolution 16PUC-009, and the motion was approved unanimously.

New business:

Gas transport rate

Eric Shaffer has been working on the gas transport rate and will meet with gas control personnel next week to discuss this. He will have something for the January meeting.

2017 meeting schedule

President Prusak inquired about the Council's summer break. Commissioner Filipovich said that the Council would probably have a recess in July or August, but their 2017 schedule has not been set yet. Commissioner Julsrud motioned to remove the December 19th meeting, and the motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Sipress mentioned that there is a strong likelihood that we will lose the July meeting due to the Council summer recess.

Updates from staff

Eric Shaffer reported that all of the construction projects are wrapped up. We had a huge amount of natural gas work this year.

Upcoming Council actions

There is nothing of note on the upcoming agenda.

Commissioner questions or comments

President Prusak would like to look at the water utility and capital projects in more depth over the next few months and have a plan by July that would be effective in January. A discussion of various ideas for funding followed.

Preview of upcoming business

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The Commission will discuss the water utility, the gas transport rate, and elect officers. Commissioner Filipovich mentioned that this may be the last meeting for him and Commissioner Sipress pending next year's Council selection.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.