

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019

Members Present: Councilor Zack Filipovich, Howard Jacobson, Chris McIntosh, Rob Prusak, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Joel Sipress

Members Absent: Councilor Arik Forsman

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Eric Shaffer, Glenn Strid, Kerry Venier

Call to Order: President Prusak called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Old business:

Middle booster station

Eric Shaffer stated that we are still working on the Middle booster station study and trying to figure out the biggest pumps we can put in there without changing the influent suction and discharge piping. We have also started rearranging projects so that we can pay cash for this project. We do not have a total cost estimate for Middle yet, so this is still a work in progress. Staff should have more information in two months.

Updates from staff

Eric Shaffer reported that the current focus is getting projects out for bid. The first project to be bid was the gas main lowering at Riverwest, which came in at \$110,000. The developer is paying 48% of the cost, and the City is paying 52%. The gas blanket project is advertised. The Decker Road project was submitted to MNDOT for approval. The County is advertising the Woodland project where we will be doing a lot of water main. A second heater will be installed for the regulator station in Gary, and the resolution ordering it should be on the April 8 Council agenda.

Upcoming Council actions

No upcoming actions were mentioned.

Commissioner questions and comments

Commissioner Sipress asked for an update on water main breaks. Jim Benning stated that the worst should be over, but we will see what happens in the next month or so. Eric Shaffer reported that there have been quite a few water services freezing due to people on the bleeder lists shutting off their water early. The water main on Fairmont also froze. We had previously lowered this section of main, but it froze again due to the proximity of a storm culvert. It has been replaced and insulated.

Vice President Ryan asked for an update on stormwater rates. Jim Benning stated that we are still waiting for the legislative session to run its course. President Prusak asked if there was anything new on the half-percent sales tax. Jim Benning stated that we are optimistic that it will go through.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. A tour of the Middle booster station will follow the meeting.

Known absences for future meetings

None were mentioned.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.