City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Final

City Council

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Duluth City Council is to develop effective public policy rooted in citizen involvement that results in excellent municipal services and creates a thriving community prepared for the challenges of the future.

TOOLS OF CIVILITY: The Duluth City Council promotes the use and adherence of the tools of civility in conducting the business of the council. The tools of civility provide increased opportunities for civil discourse leading to positive resolutions for the issues that face our city. We know that when we have civility, we get civic engagement, and because we can't make each other civil and we can only work on ourselves, we state that today I will: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, not gossip, show respect, seek common ground, repair damaged relationships, use constructive language, and take responsibility. [Approved by the council on May 14, 2018]

MN Statutes,13D.02. Members may participate by interactive technology

Monday, July 27, 2026 **6:00 PM** **Council Chambers**

ROLL CALL

All members present at Roll Call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 26-022 MEETING MINUTES OF THE DULUTH CITY COUNCIL

Indexes:

Attachments: 2026-07-13_City Council Minutes
2026-07-23_Special City Council Minutes

Minutes were accepted by Council without objection.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (AGENDA ITEMS)

The following spoke regarding the Lester Park Petition Items: Libby Bent, Ryan Jones-Casey, Alexandra Panovich, Nik Bayuk, Matt Baumgartner, Courtney Stein, Michael Bernstein, Hadrian DeMaioribus, Tim Allen, Sharla Gardner, Laura

Erickson, Jill Crawford-Nichols, Tom McNamara. Gika Tarnowski spoke regarding the Lester Park Petition items and the recent arrests downtown. Eleanor Dolan spoke regarding the Lester Park Petition items and the Lake Superior Violent Offender Task Force.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Roy Hamilin spoke regarding the Vape Shop next to Hamlin Music Academy, Zac Tuominen spoke about the USW negotiations with Essentia, Pat Sterner spoke regarding short term rentals in the city, Loren Martell spoke regarding the pay increase for the Police Chief and the School District Superintendent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Vice President Kennedy, seconded by Councilor Randorf. Motion to approve carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

2. 26-0647R RESOLUTION APPROVING DEDA RESOLUTION 26D-18 AUTHORIZING A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DULUTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND HISTORIC DULUTH ARMORY, LLC FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE ARMORY ARTS AND MUSIC CENTER AND APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Indexes:

Attachments: Council Memo
Attachment A
Attachment B
Attachment C

This Resolution was adopted.

3. 26-0673R RESOLUTION VACATING A PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG 18 ½ AVENUE WEST BETWEEN WEST 4TH STREET AND WEST 5TH STREET, IN THE PLAT OF MYERS REARRANGEMENT OF BLOCKS 105-106-127-128 & 142 IN DULUTH PROPER SECOND DIVISION.

Indexes:

Attachments: PLVAC-26005-0003 Cover Memo final.pdf
Exhibit A 18 and a half Ave W-vacation_signed exhibit.pdf
Exhibit B PLVAC-2605-0003 Staff Report and Attachments.pdf

This Resolution was adopted.

4. 26-0678R RESOLUTION VACATING A PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG 26TH

AVENUE WEST BETWEEN WEST 10TH STREET AND ITS ALLEY, IN THE PLAT OF SPALDING'S ADDITION TO DULUTH, LYING NORTHWESTERLY OF THE NORTHEASTERLY EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID BLOCK 17 AND LYING SOUTHEASTERLY OF THE NORTHEASTERLY EXTENSION OF THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1, BLOCK 17.

Indexes:

Attachments: PLVAC-2506-0005 Cover Memo final.pdf
Exhibit A 26th Ave W at W 10th St_vacation_signed.pdf
Exhibit B PLVAC-2506-0005 Staff Report and Attachments.pdf
8-12-25 PC Minutes.pdf

This Resolution was adopted.

5. 26-0683R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF MINNEAPOLIS TO SUPPORT THE COORDINATION OF PERIODIC FOCUS GROUPS.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo - 2026 Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Focus Group Services Agreement
Exhibit A - 2026 Federal Reserve Bank of Mpls Focus Group Service Agreement

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR DESOTELLE (PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES)

6. 26-0655R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 11,750 TONS OF ROAD SALT FOR THE 2026-27 WINTER SEASON FROM MORTON SALT, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $839,063

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Indexes:

Attachments: Exhibit A - Cover Memo

This Resolution was adopted.

7. 26-0671R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH ST. LOUIS COUNTY FOR THE 2027 TOWNSHIPS AND CITIES MAINTENANCE STRIPING PROGRAM FOR ROAD LINE STRIPING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE CITY OF DULUTH AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF $111,274

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo
Exhibit A

This Resolution was adopted.

8. 26-0674R RESOLUTION CONCURRING WITH THE AWARD TO ULLAND BROTHERS, INC., BY ST. LOUIS COUNTY FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS TO 40TH AVENUE W FROM GRAND AVENUE TO BELOW THE RAILROAD TRACKS, WITH A CITY SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,502,524.32.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo
Map

This Resolution was adopted.

9. 26-0677R RESOLUTION OF INTENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SANITARY SEWER TO SERVE PROPERTIES ON ROSLYN AVENUE BETWEEN OXFORD STREET AND CARLISLE AVENUE, AND TO ASSESS THE COSTS THEREOF.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo
Location Map
Signed Petition

This Resolution was adopted.

10. 26-0682R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH H&R CONSTRUCTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE 2026 GUARDRAIL REPAIR PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $164,735.93

Indexes:

Attachments: Exhibit A - Cover Memo
Exhibit B - Quote from H&R Construction

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR TOMANEK (PUBLIC SAFETY)

11. 26-0656R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT A $90,250 GRANT AWARD FROM THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY, HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS (HIDTA) PROGRAM, TO BE USED FOR EXPENSES INCURRED DURING PARTICIPATION IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR DRUG CORRIDOR INITIATIVE.

Indexes:

Attachments: Document A - Grant Award Agreement
Resolution Cover Memo_2026 HIDTA

This Resolution was adopted.

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

12. 26-0657R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRACK WHEELCHAIR MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH HARTLEY NATURE CENTER.

Indexes:

Attachments: Exhibit A
Cover Memo

This Resolution was adopted.

13. 26-0660R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A THIRD AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION FOR A LICENSE TO USE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY BETWEEN MORGAN PARK AND GARY-NEW DULUTH FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, AT NO COST TO THE CITY.

Indexes:

Attachments: Exhibit 2-Map
Exhitit 1_Third Amendment
Cover Memo_3rd Amendment

This Resolution was adopted.

14. 26-0661R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT L31209 WITH AMI CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIR PROJECTS AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS RESULTING FROM THREE SEPARATE STORM EVENTS, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY $268,126.00 FOR A NEW TOTAL OF $868,026.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: Exhibit A
Cover Memo - Flood Damage Repair Design - AMI Amendment No. 1

This Resolution was adopted.

15. 26-0665R RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE LAKEWALK AND COASTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO RACHEL CONTRACTING, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF $9,884,980.33.

Indexes:

Attachments: Resolution cover memo
Bid Summary 26-99547
Lakewalk RAISE Area Map

This Resolution was adopted.

16. 26-0666R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LAKEWALK AND COASTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $8,196,234.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo
Project Location Map
Exhibit A

This Resolution was adopted.

17. 26-0667R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT JOBS ACT MATCH PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE LAKEWALK AND COASTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $2,049,752.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo
Exhibit A
Project Location Map

This Resolution was adopted.

18. 26-0668R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF $105,000 TO SUPPORT PLACE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AT HARTLEY NATURE CENTER.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo
Exhibit A

This Resolution was adopted.

19. 26-0669R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH HARTLEY NATURE CENTER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $105,000 TO SUPPORT PLACE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL

EDUCATION FOR YOUTH.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo

Exhibit A

This Resolution was adopted.

20. 26-0680R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT OF $350,000 FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT NORTON PARK.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo

Exhibit A

This Resolution was adopted.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

The following entitled resolutions are also to be considered:

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

21. 26-0662R RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MINNESOTA POWER FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE UPGRADES FOR THE CHESTER BOWL CHALET PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $109,373.00.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo - Chester Bowl Electric Service - 26-0662R

Exhibit A

Motion to approve made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Councilor Forsman indicated that he will be abstaining from the vote due to his employment with Minnesota Power. Motion to approve carried 8-0 by voice vote, Forsman Abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS TABLED

BY COUNCILOR FORSMAN (PERSONNEL)

22. 26-0639R RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LYNNE WILLIAMS TO THE SPIRIT MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA AUTHORITY.

Motion to remove from the Table made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Motion to remove from the table carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0). Motion to approve made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Randorf. Motion to approve carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

23. 26-0640R RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF SCOTT SODERBERG TO THE SANITARY SEWER BOARD OF THE WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT

Motion to remove from the table made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion to remove from the table carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0). Motion to approve made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion to approve carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

24. 26-0679R RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE SUBJECT OF TWO SEPARATE INITIATIVE PETITIONS CONTAINING PROPOSED ORDINANCES GOVERNING THE LAND USE AND ZONING OF TWO SPECIFIC PARCELS OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN OR NEAR THE FORMER LESTER PARK GOLF COURSE ARE PREEMPTED BY STATE LAW AND SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT.

Motion to remove from the table made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Randorf. Motion to remove from the table carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0). Motion to approve made by Councilor Forsman, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Motion to approve carried 7-2 by roll call vote, Yes: Desotelle, Tomanek, Forsman, Johnson, Randorf, Kennedy, Nephew. No: Clanaugh, Durrwachter.

BY COUNCILOR DURRWACHTER (PURCHASING & LICENSING)

25. 26-0681R RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE LESTER PARK INITIATIVE ORDINANCES TO THE VOTERS AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, AND DIRECTING CERTIFICATION TO THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR

Motion to remove from the table made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion to remove from the table carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0). Motion to approve made by Councilor Durrwachter, seconded by Councilor Clanaugh. Motion to table made by Councilor Randorf, seconded by Councilor Desotelle. Motion to table carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0)

The following entitled ordinances are to be read for the first time:

BY COUNCILOR RANDORF (FINANCE)

26. 26-035-O AN ORDINANCE REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 10473, FILE NO. 16-061-O, AND GRANTING MINNESOTA POWER , A DIVISION OF ALLETE, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN AN ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITHIN THE CITY.

Indexes:

Attachments: 20260717 Cover Memo

Document A - Duluth Franchise Fee Summary

This Ordinance was read for the first time.

BY PRESIDENT NEPHEW (PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

27. 26-026-O ORDINANCE GRANTING VITTA PIZZA, INC. A CONCURRENT USE PERMIT FOR PERGOLAS AND A BARRICADE TO PROVIDE CODE COMPLIANT, PERMANENT, OUTDOOR SEATING WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 307 CANAL PARK DRIVE.

Indexes:

Attachments: PLCUP-2605-0010 Cover Memo.pdf

Attachment 1- PLCUP-2605-0010 Staff Report with Attachments.pdf

Attachment 2- Vitta Pizza Survey Exhibit V2.pdf

Attachment 3- July 2026 Planning Commission Minutes (not approved yet).pdf

This Ordinance was read for the first time.

28. 26-027-O ORDINANCE GRANTING DULUTH COFFEE COMPANY INC. A CONCURRENT USE PERMIT FOR A PERGOLA AND A BARRICADE TO PROVIDE CODE COMPLIANT, PERMANENT, OUTDOOR SEATING WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 107 EAST SUPERIOR STREET.

Indexes:

Attachments: PLCUP-2606-0012 Cover Memo.pdf

Attachment 1- PLCUP-2606-0012 Staff Report with Attachments.pdf

Attachment 2- Exhibit Concurrent Use_20260605_v1.pdf

Attachment 3- July 2026 Planning Commission Minutes (not approved yet).pdf

This Ordinance was read for the first time.

29. 26-030-O AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AT&T A CONCURRENT USE PERMIT TO INSTALL SMALL CELL WIRELESS FACILITY TO A MINNESOTA

POWER POLE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE NORTH 9TH AVENUE EAST RIGHT OF WAY.

Indexes:

Attachments: PLCUP-2606-0011 Cover Memo.pdf
1. Survey.pdf
2. PLCUP-2606-0011 Staff Report and Attachments.pdf
3. July 2026 Planning Commission Minutes (not approved yet).pdf

This Ordinance was read for the first time.

The following entitled ordinances are to be read for the second time:

BY COUNCILOR JOHNSON (RECREATION, LIBRARIES & AUTHORITIES)

30. 26-025-O AN ORDINANCE DEDICATING REAL PROPERTY AS PARK PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION INTO DOWNER PARK.

Indexes:

Attachments: Cover Memo Downer
Exhibit A - Legal Description
Exhibit B - Map

Motion to approve made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Tomanek. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

31. 26-033-O AN ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION THAT REQUIRES THE CITY TO REZONE AS PARK AND OPEN SPACE (P-1) THE 37.5-ACRE PARCEL KNOWN AS THE LAKE 9 PARCEL OF THE FORMER LESTER PARK GOLF COURSE, AND FURTHER PROHIBITING ANY REZONING OF THIS PARCEL THAT AUTHORIZES PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, HOSPITALITY, OR MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT UNLESS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS AT A CITY ELECTION.

Motion to table made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Desotelle. Motion to table carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

32. 26-034-O AN ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION THAT WOULD PRECLUDE THE CITY OF DULUTH FROM REZONING THE 230-ACRE PARCEL LOCATED IN OR NEAR THE LESTER PARK GOLF COURSE FROM A PARK, OPEN SPACE, OR CONSERVATION DESIGNATION TO A CLASSIFICATION THAT AUTHORIZES PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, HOSPITALITY, OR MIXED-USE

DEVELOPMENT UNLESS THE REZONING IS APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE VOTERS VOTING ON THE QUESTION AT A REGULAR OR SPECIAL CITY ELECTION.

Motion to table made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Randorf. Motion to table carried unanimously by voice vote (9-0).

COUNCILOR/ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

COUNCILOR/ADMINISTRATION PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by President Nephew, seconded by Councilor Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.