



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Final

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

5:15 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 411 West First Street

NOTICE: The Duluth Public Utilities Commission will hold the October 19, 2021 meeting by other electronic means pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some members of the Commission will be participating through video conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public comment will not be taken in person. However, members of the public can monitor the meeting and provide public comment on agenda items through WebEx Events. Visit <https://duluthmn.gov/live-meeting> to access the meeting. The public is also encouraged to submit written comment to jbenning@duluthmn.gov prior to the meeting. Please include "October 2021 DPUC Agenda" in the subject line, and include your name and address and the agenda item you are speaking to. The agenda can be found online at <https://duluthmn.gov/boards-commissions/duluth-public-utilities-commission/>. Please note that all public comment is considered Public Data.

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chris Adatte, Andrea Crouse, Steve Lipinski, Councilor Derek Medved, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Joel Sipress, Councilor Terese Tomanek

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Kim Ellsworth, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Ostern, Eric Shaffer, John Upton

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No citizens were present to comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[DPUC063](#) September 21, 2021 DPUC meeting minutes draft

Indexes:

Attachments: [09212021 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

Commissioner Lipinski motioned to approve the minutes, and the motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2022 Utility Fees

[DPUC064](#) 2022 Proposed Utility Fees

Indexes:

Attachments: [2022 Fees](#)

Jim Benning gave an overview of the proposed 2022 utility fees and answered a question about the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD).

[DPUC065](#) 21PUC-007 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VARIOUS UTILITY-RELATED SERVICES.

Indexes:

Attachments: [21PUC-007 2022 utility fees](#)

Commissioner Lipinski motioned to approve resolution 21PUC-007 establishing utility fees effective January 1, 2022, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

[DPUC066](#) 2022 WLSSD Budget Letter

Indexes:

Attachments: [2022 WLSSD Budget letter](#)

Jim Benning gave a summary of the WLSSD 2022 budget letter. While their overall wastewater budget increased by 4.11%, Duluth's portion decreased by 0.31%. Eric Shaffer reported that most projects are done for the year. The gas blanket project contractor should install the final gas services tomorrow. Jim Benning introduced Kim Ellsworth, who will be focusing on lead programs for Public Works & Utilities.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Vice President Adatte thanked Jim Benning for the quick response to a resident with a noisy water meter.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

No upcoming actions were mentioned.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. The Commission will receive a presentation about the Duluth Citizens' Climate Action Plan.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No absences were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.