



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes - Draft

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

5:15 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 411 West First Street

CALL TO ORDER

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Andrea Crouse, Councilor Deborah DeLuca, Councilor Wendy Durrwachter (arrived at 5:22), Derek Medved, Carrie Ryan, Brad Scott, Councilor Terese Tomanek

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Nick Anderson, Jim Benning, Cyndi Falconer, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Ostern, Howie Smith, Kerry Venier

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Herron, 2617 E 5th Street, asked about the water requirements for the new data center in Hermantown. Howie Smith responded that their current requested volume should not impact us at all. Future expansion might require improvements, or they might have to source their own water.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[DPUC160](#) Sep. 16, 2025 DPUC meeting minutes draft

Indexes:

Attachments: [09162025 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

The September 16, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by all present (Durrwachter absent).

NEW BUSINESS

[DPUC161](#) 2026 proposed utilities fees

Indexes:

Attachments: [2026 Fees](#)

Jim Benning requested that the fees discussion and resolution be tabled until next month. Commissioner Crouse motioned to table the fees discussion and

resolution, and the motion was approved (Durrwachter abstained).

[DPUC162](#)

25PUC-006 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VARIOUS UTILITY-RELATED SERVICES.

Indexes:

Attachments: [25PUC-006 2026 utility fees](#)

This was tabled.

UPDATES FROM STAFF

Howie Smith reported on various projects including design of the filter upgrades at the water plant, painting of water towers next year, generator resiliency at the water plant, the water main work on London Road, and plans for Woodland reservoir updates.

Cyndi Falconer reported that there are about 50 lead services left to replace this year. About 90% of the design projects are completed for next year. We are anticipating being able to replace 1,000 services next year. The annual letter to those with known lead or unknown services will go out in November.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Crouse asked about wastewater and stormwater for the data center in Hermantown. Jim Benning replied that wastewater would go to WLSSD and any stormwater would be in Hermantown. That would not affect the City of Duluth system. An environmental document is available on the Hermantown website.

Vice President Medved asked if the gas system is ready for the winter season. Howie Smith replied that we are ready. Vice President Medved mentioned some work out in Gary. Howie Smith responded that corrosion evaluation of the transmission line must be done every seven years. It is holding up well so far.

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

Jim Benning mentioned various resolutions for easements.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in the Lakeside Conference Room 430. 2026 utilities fees will be on the agenda again. Paperless billing and credit card charges will also be on the agenda.

KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

President Ryan and Commissioner Tomanek will not be able to attend the November 18 meeting. Vice President Medved may not be able to attend either, so there may not be a quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.