



# City of Duluth

411 West First Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

## Minutes - Draft

### Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

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Tuesday, May 19, 2026

5:15 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 411 West First Street

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#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Councilor Diane Desotelle, Councilor Wendy Durrwachter, Councilor Janet Kennedy, Derek Medved, Brad Scott

**Members Absent:** Andrea Crouse

**Staff Present:** Nick Bax, Cyndi Falconer, Leanna Gilbert, Cari Pedersen, Howie Smith, Kerry Venier

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public at this time.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[DPUC168](#) Feb. 17, 2026 DPUC meeting minutes draft

**Indexes:**

**Attachments:** [02172026 DPUC meeting minutes draft](#)

The February 17, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

[DPUC171](#) Mar. 17, 2026 DPUC meeting notes draft

**Indexes:**

**Attachments:** [03172026 DPUC meeting notes draft](#)

The March 17, 2026 meeting notes were approved.

[DPUC172](#) Apr. 21, 2026 DPUC meeting notes draft

**Indexes:**

**Attachments:** [04212026 DPUC meeting notes draft](#)

The April 21, 2026 meeting notes were approved.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[DPUC170](#) 26PUC-001 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A STATEMENT CHARGE FEE.

**Indexes:**

**Attachments:** [26PUC-001 adding statement charge to utility fees](#)

Commissioner Desotelle motioned to approve resolution 26PUC-001 establishing a statement charge fee of \$0.73 effective June 1, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

### UPDATES FROM STAFF

Howie Smith reported on various projects including the Woodland Booster Station, water tower painting, West Superior Street, 40th Avenue West water main and lead services, College Street and St. Marie Street water main, and fiber installation plans. Cyndi Falconer reported that 143 of about 1,250 lead services have been replaced so far this year. A couple of projects are still waiting to go out for construction. Kerry Venier reported that the state bonding bill included \$4.268M for the water treatment plant. There is also \$1.75M in federal funding for the water plant.

### COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Desotelle asked about the stormwater rate increase ending in July. Kerry Venier said that we are planning to discuss the stormwater utility at the next meeting.

### UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIONS

Cari Pedersen mentioned resolutions for a temporary use permit to do work on lift station 40, a down drain project on 5th Avenue West, two PFA applications for lead service replacement projects, and a small piece of property for a stormwater filtration basin.

### PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Staff will present information on stormwater rates at the next meeting and the 2027 budget in August.

### KNOWN ABSENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Commissioner Desotelle will not be able to attend the June meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.