

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2012

Members Present: Councilor Patrick Boyle, John Bruggeman, Patrick Huston, Councilor Jennifer Julsrud, Robert Prusak, Councilor Jim Stauber

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Eric Shaffer, Glenn Strid, Clint Thursby

Members Absent: Linda Sellner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:21 p.m. by President Huston.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Old business:

Water rate structure

Grant Meyer (AE2S) gave an overview of the most recent version of the water rate design study results. The numbers were calculated based on a June 1, 2012 effective date with a companion increase on January 1, 2013. Staff has worked with the results in an effort to provide the least amount of sticker shock for users. Staff provided examples of the different user classes as requested by the commission. Meyer will calculate the percentage of revenue for each rate class as requested by Commissioner Bruggeman. Meyer will find the legislation which allowed for a constant block structure and forward it as requested by Commissioner Prusak.

Meyer and staff will continue to work on the study. Commissioners will review the final version at the regular May meeting. After some discussion, commissioners agreed to have staff prepare rate resolutions for the remainder of 2012 and 2013. Staff will also have a long-term capital plan ready for the commission to adopt. Staff will set up a public hearing to be held after the regular May meeting, which may be followed with a special meeting. Commissioner Julsrud has arranged for her and staff to attend the Chamber of Commerce board meeting.

Updates from staff

There was a substantial rain event yesterday. Neither the City nor WLSSD had any overflows. The new tank in Canal Park caught about 2.5 million gallons. Hopefully this is the beginning of a new trend and overflows will become a thing of the past in Duluth.

Upcoming Council actions

There are no further actions of note for the utilities.

Commissioner questions or comments

Commissioner Prusak encouraged the councilors to support Marcia Podratz for the upcoming appointment to the WLSSD board.

Commissioner Julsrud mentioned the letter from Bluewater Plumbing that has some citizens concerned. Some people thought this letter was coming from the City of Duluth. There was an article in the newspaper addressing this. The Department of Labor and Industry is looking into it.

Preview of upcoming business

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Staff should have rate resolutions prepared for the commission to consider as well as a long-term capital plan.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

A recording of this meeting is available upon request.