

**DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 20, 2014**

**Members Present:** Councilor Zack Filipovich, Councilor Jennifer Julsrud, Rob Prusak, Linda Sellner, Councilor Joel Sipress, Jason Thorsell; Jim Ramnes arrived at 5:24 p.m.

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Bob Asleson, Leanna Gilbert, Howard Jacobson, Eric Shaffer, Glenn Strid

**Others Present:** Jodi Slick (Ecolibrium3)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m. by President Prusak.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes**

**Old business:**

**Review of utility cash projections**

Glenn Strid responded to a question from the previous meeting regarding the number of water customers outside City limits. There were no further questions.

**New business:**

**Energy efficiency (Jodi Slick)**

Jodi Slick, CEO of Ecolibrium3, gave a brief overview of her company. She also explained the Georgetown University Energy Prize Competition that Duluth will be participating in and addressed various questions from commissioners. The goal of the competition is to reduce use of electricity and natural gas in a sustainable way with a prize of \$5 million to the winning community. There is a three-step process to the competition: 1) the City and Ecolibrium3 need to confirm that they will commit to the data collection and they will also determine the recipient of the prize money by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014; 2) community process over the summer and fall to determine what programs to put in place in the next two years to maximize energy savings; and 3) begin making the energy reductions starting January 1, 2015. Energy savings will be measured by actual energy use (gas and electricity sold), which will be weather normalized.

**Updates from staff**

Eric Shaffer reported that the gas copper riser and blanket projects are moving along. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street gas main project will start after Memorial Day. The West Duluth Reservoir is progressing. The contractor is pouring the floor and the caps on columns. We met with the residents on 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue West who are on a private water main. They signed a petition for assessment, so we are moving ahead with connecting them to the water system. The Mayor and Keith Hamre were able to find some Community Development Block Grant funds to help offset the cost of the project.

**Upcoming Council actions**

No actions were mentioned.

**Commissioner questions or comments**

Commissioner Julsrud stated that Jim Benning won the Rudy Perpich Public Service Award from Grandma's Marathon.

**Preview of upcoming business**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. 2015 utility budgets are in process. Eric Shaffer should have updates on the utility capital improvement plans ready in June or July.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.