

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2018

Members Present: Jen Julsrud, Jim Lewis, Rob Prusak, Councilor Joel Sipress, Councilor Em Westerlund

Members Absent: Councilor Noah Hobbs, Chris McIntosh

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Howard Jacobson, Chris Kleist, Eric Shaffer, Glenn Strid, Kerry Venier

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

Public hearing:

18PUC-003 - RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 17PUC-004 ESTABLISHING WATER RATES TO MODIFY RATES CHARGED TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018.

The Commission held a public hearing on water rate resolution 18PUC-003. No one from the public was present to speak. The hearing was closed and the Commission moved on to the regular meeting.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

New business:

18PUC-003 - RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 17PUC-004 ESTABLISHING WATER RATES TO MODIFY RATES CHARGED TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2018.

Commissioner Julsrud motioned to approve the resolution, and the motion was seconded. After some comments, resolution 18PUC-003 was approved by all present.

18PUC-004 - RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CITY COUNCIL APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S SEWER CODE, ITS I & I PROGRAM GUIDELINES, AND ITS PRIVATE SEWER SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES TO MEET WLSSD REQUIREMENTS.

Chris Kleist gave an overview of the proposed changes to Chapter 43, the Private Sewer Service Grant Program, and the I/I Grant Program Guidelines. Grants of \$4,000 would be available for those mandated to replace their laterals, and grants of \$2,000 would be available for volunteers. After some discussion, Commissioner Westerlund motioned to approve the resolution, and the motion was seconded. Resolution 18PUC-004 was approved by all present.

Updates from staff

ASCE Report Cards giving an assessment of local infrastructure were provided to commissioners. Eric Shaffer reported that Superior Street construction is supposed to begin on April 9th and should be finished by Thanksgiving. Jim Benning said that MNDOT is planning to do Central Entrance in 2024. They will probably start at the top of Mesaba, but we are not sure where the construction will end. There are multiple water mains in that area that will need to be replaced.

Upcoming Council actions

Jim Benning reported that there is a resolution on the upcoming agenda reappointing President Prusak to the Commission. There are also resolutions awarding the gas blanket project and gas meter relocations to Hanco.

Commissioner questions or comments

Commissioner Lewis stated that he recently retired from the military and will be moving to Texas. He will be resigning from the Commission after the April meeting. President Prusak thanked Commissioner Lewis for his service on the Commission and his service to the country.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Staff will continue working on the WLSSD I&I ordinance. Staff would like to start focusing on the stormwater system. Commissioner Julsrud suggested having another tour of the stormwater system for commissioners and possibly taking the media along. Chris Kleist will set something up.

Known absences for future meetings

No one present was aware of any absences for the April meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.