

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Tuesday, December 17, 2013
City Council Chambers
AGENDA

1. Roll call
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes
3. Old business
 - 3.1 13PUC-012 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH. (Stauber)
 - 3.2 13PUC-013 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH. (Julsrud)
4. New business
 - 4.1 Clarification of public notification process
 - 4.2 2014 meeting schedule
5. Updates from staff
6. Upcoming Council actions
7. Commissioner questions or comments
8. Preview of upcoming business

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2013

Members Present: Councilor Sharla Gardner (left at 5:45 PM), Councilor Jennifer Julsrud, Robert Prusak, Linda Sellner, Councilor Jim Stauber, Jason Thorsell

Members Absent: Jim Ramnes

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by President Sellner.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Old business:

Stormwater transfers to General Fund for street sweeping

Jim Benning explained that a year and a half ago, he and the former CFO had agreed to reduce the stormwater contribution for street sweeping to \$180,000. In August, the new CFO said that they were unaware of this, which resulted in a shortfall in the General Fund. They said that the stormwater fund would have to transfer the difference for 2013 and 2014. Benning sent out slides to commissioners showing the new numbers, which add up to a \$578,900 decrease in the 2014 year end cash balance. Their budgeted number, \$463,000, is an estimate. Current year-to-date costs are about \$313,000. Commissioners and staff agreed that actual costs for street sweeping should be used. Commissioners Julsrud and Gardner may co-sponsor a Council resolution regarding this. Commissioner Gardner left at this time. Bob Asleson agreed to prepare a resolution.

13PUC-012 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH. (Stauber)

13PUC-013 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH. (Julsrud)

Commissioners decided to discuss 13PUC-012 and 13PUC-013 together. After some discussion, Commissioner Thorsell motioned to table the resolutions. The motion passed unanimously.

13PUC-014 - RESOLUTION AMENDING 11PUC-WLSSD AUTOMATICALLY INCREASING OR DECREASING SANITARY SEWER RATES TO REFLECT SEWER CHARGES IMPOSED BY WLSSD FOR COST OF TREATING CITY'S SANITARY SEWER DISCHARGES TO THE WLSSD SYSTEM.

After some discussion, Commissioner Stauber motioned to approve resolution 13PUC-014. The motion passed unanimously.

13PUC-015 - RESOLUTION AMENDING BYLAWS TO PROVIDE FOR PW&U BUDGET REVIEW PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1.

Commissioner Julsrud motioned to approve 13PUC-015. The motion passed unanimously.

Capital projects update

Eric Shaffer reported that most projects for this year have been completed. There are a couple small gas projects that will be finished this week.

Updates from staff

No other updates.

Upcoming Council actions

Jim Benning mentioned a resolution awarding the Bristol Street box culvert to RJS and the first reading of ordinance 13-070-O which grants authority over two-tier programs to the DPUC. He also noted that public meetings have been scheduled to gather public input on street funding options.

Commissioner questions or comments

President Sellner asked what a Water Quality Specialist does. Jim Benning stated that there are currently four Water Quality Specialists who focus mainly on I/I compliance (sump pumps, lateral lines, etc.). By 2016, after the consent decree is finished, only 1 or 2 Specialists will be needed.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Topics will be the tabled resolutions regarding the sprinkling credit and the public notification process for rate increases. Commissioner Stauber will be leaving, so City Council will need to assign another councilor to this commission. Elections for President and Vice President will be in January.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 13PUC-012

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND
SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE
SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM MAY 1
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH.

RESOLVED by the Duluth Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") that the Commission hereby requests that the City Council amend Section 43-9 of the Duluth City Code, 1959, as amended, to make the so-called "sprinkling credit" available from May 1 through September 30th as set forth in the attached.

Approved by the DPUC:

(date)

Submitted to City Council
(where appropriate)

(date)

ATTEST:

Director
Public Works and Utilities
City of Duluth

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The purpose of this resolution is to request that the City Council modify Section 43-9 of the Code to make the sprinkling credit available during months when it will most likely reflect actual use for sprinkling lawns and gardens.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

13-0SprinklerMay-O

ORDINANCE CHANGING MONTHS FOR SPRINKLING CREDIT TO MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER, AMENDING SECTION 43-9 OF THE DULUTH CITY CODE, 1959, AS AMENDED.

BY COUNCILOR STAUBER:

The city of Duluth does ordain:

Section 1. That Section 43-9 of the Duluth City code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 43-9. Allowance for outdoor use--conditions.

During the months of May ~~April~~ through September ~~August~~, the amount of wastewater determined to be discharged by a user shall be reduced by the amount of water determined to be used during such months in such manner that it does not enter the sanitary sewer system; provided, that such reduction shall not exceed the difference between the actual water consumption during each such month and the average of water consumption as determined for the immediately preceding months of October through April ~~March~~. The director of public works and utilities ~~water and gas~~ of the city is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Section, which regulations shall be published in the official newspaper of the city ten days prior to going into effect and shall be available for examination and copying at the office of public works and utilities department ~~water and gas department's main office~~ during normal business hours.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days from and after its passage and publication.

Approved as to form:

Attorney

CCREQ/ATTY GBJ:cjk 4/4/2013

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this ordinance is to change the months during which the so-called "sprinkling credit" is available to the city's sewer customers to more closely reflect when lawn and garden watering is more likely to be actually occurring.

RESOLUTION NO. 13PUC-013

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND
SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE
SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM JUNE 1
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH.

RESOLVED by the Duluth Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") that the Commission hereby requests that the City Council amend Section 43-9 of the Duluth City Code, 1959, as amended, to make the so-called "sprinkling credit" available from June 1 through September 30th as set forth in the attached.

Approved by the DPUC:

(date)

Submitted to City Council:
(where appropriate)

(date)

ATTEST:

Director
Public Works and Utilities
City of Duluth

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The purpose of this resolution is to request that the City Council modify Section 43-9 of the Code to make the sprinkling credit available during months when it will most likely reflect actual use for sprinkling lawns and gardens.

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

13-0SprinklerJune-O

ORDINANCE CHANGING MONTHS FOR SPRINKLING CREDIT TO JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER, AMENDING SECTION 43-9 OF THE DULUTH CITY CODE, 1959, AS AMENDED.

BY COUNCILOR JULSRUD:

The city of Duluth does ordain:

Section 1. That Section 43-9 of the Duluth City code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 43-9. Allowance for outdoor use--conditions.

During the months of ~~June~~ April through ~~September~~ August, the amount of wastewater determined to be discharged by a user shall be reduced by the amount of water determined to be used during such months in such manner that it does not enter the sanitary sewer system; provided, that such reduction shall not exceed the difference between the actual water consumption during each such month and the average of water consumption as determined for the immediately preceding months of October through May ~~March~~. The director of public works and utilities ~~water and gas~~ of the city is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Section, which regulations shall be published in the official newspaper of the city ten days prior to going into effect and shall be available for examination and copying at the office of public works and utilities department ~~water and gas department's main office~~ during normal business hours.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days from and after its passage and publication.

Approved as to form:

Attorney

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this ordinance is to change the months during which the so-called "sprinkling credit" is available to the city's sewer customers to more closely reflect when lawn and garden watering is more likely to be actually occurring.

2014 DPUC Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:15 PM in City Council Chambers unless otherwise noted

January 21

February 18

March 18

April 15

May 20

June 17

July 15

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

December 16