

## DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2017

**Members Present:** Chris McIntosh, Rob Prusak, Jason Thorsell, Councilor Em Westerlund; Councilor Joel Sipress arrived at 6:01 p.m.

**Members Absent:** Councilor Noah Hobbs, Jen Julsrud

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

The meeting unofficially began at 5:22 p.m., as there was no quorum.

#### **Imagine Duluth 2035 Energy and Conservation presentation**

Kate Van Daele and Kathy Wilson from the Community Planning Division gave a presentation regarding sources of energy in Duluth, energy usage, and draft policies and strategies for conservation. They would like to receive any questions or feedback within a week. There was some discussion about opportunities to improve efficiency in utility systems.

#### **Water rate public meetings review**

Commissioners and staff discussed the most common questions presented at the public meetings. The commissioners present requested that a public hearing be scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Prusak.

#### **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

President Prusak gave a brief summary of what was discussed prior to attaining a quorum.

#### **New business:**

#### **Water rate public meetings review**

Commissioner Westerlund motioned to hold the water variable rates public hearing at the beginning of the September 19, 2017 regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **2018 utilities budget discussion**

Glenn Strid gave an overview of the cash projections for each utility and answered questions from commissioners. A resolution approving and recommending the 2018 budget to City Council will be prepared for the September meeting.

#### **Updates from staff**

Jim Benning stated that the Public Works and Utilities budget presentation to City Council is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. All Commission members are welcome to attend. Eric Shaffer reported on the progress of various utility projects including Michigan Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and London Road.

#### **Upcoming Council actions**

No upcoming actions were mentioned.

**Commissioner questions or comments**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

**Preview of upcoming business**

A public hearing regarding proposed changes to water variable rates will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The regular meeting will follow immediately after the hearing. The Commission will consider resolutions establishing water variable rates, approving and recommending 2018 utility budgets, and establishing 2018 utility-related fees. The Commission should begin to discuss the WLSSD I&I ordinance in the next few months.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.