

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2019

Members Present: Councilor Arik Forsman, Jennifer Julsrud, Rob Prusak, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Joel Sipress, Councilor Em Westerlund

Members Absent: Chris McIntosh

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

Call to Order: President Prusak called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Old business:

Stormwater system discussion

Eric Shaffer reported that staff is almost done with the requested modifications to the stormwater presentation. Staff will send this out to commissioners to review when it is ready. Implementation of the public education process will be delayed due to timing issues.

New business:

2019 term expirations

Commissioner Julsrud is resigning after today. Terms for Chris McIntosh and Councilor Em Westerlund expire on March 31st. There are currently two eligible applicants for the City Council to consider as a replacement for Commissioner Julsrud. A new commissioner would need to be appointed at the February 11 City Council meeting.

Election of officers

Commissioner Julsrud nominated Commissioner Prusak for President. Commissioner Julsrud nominated Commissioner Ryan for Vice President. All present voted in favor of the nominations.

Updates from staff

Eric Shaffer gave an update on Middle booster station. One of the pumps is offline because the control panel died, another pump needs work, and the third pump is okay. If we do not want to bond to rebuild the pump station, we should instead do a full electrical upgrade. There was some discussion about the estimated costs of this project and other details. Staff will have more information for the next meeting.

Upcoming Council actions

No upcoming actions were mentioned.

Commissioner questions and comments

President Prusak said that he appreciates all that Commissioner Julsrud has done for the Commission.

Commissioner Julsrud said that she hopes the Commission keeps the politics out of utility rate discussions and that everyone recognizes their role and the balancing act sometimes necessary.

Commissioner Sipress thanked Commissioner Julsrud.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Staff will have more information on Middle pump station. We should take a tour when it is a little warmer.

Known absences for future meetings

No absences were mentioned.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.