

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2019

Members Present: Councilor Zack Filipovich, Councilor Arik Forsman, Howard Jacobson, Chris McIntosh, Rob Prusak, Carrie Ryan, Councilor Joel Sipress

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Bob Asleson, Jim Benning, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Kleist, Eric Shaffer, Aaron Soderlund, 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:

Middle booster station

Aaron Soderlund will have more information about what is needed for the Middle booster station during the tour.

Updates from staff

Eric Shaffer reported that construction season has started and mentioned projects including Superior Street, the MNDOT project on McCuen Street where we are putting in four blocks of water main and some storm sewer, the Woodland project where we will be redoing all of the water and some sewer lateral work, and Decker Road. The gas blanket project bids tomorrow. A lot of this work will be near the Twin Ports Interchange. We have to replace the gas main from Garfield Avenue to 19th Avenue West. We are putting plans together for this now. MNDOT will reimburse us for this main relocation. We will also be redoing lift station 15, and this is being designed by MSA. We will need to relocate utilities in the area of 3rd and 22nd Avenue. LHB was selected for this project. President Prusak asked about the number of people asking for private gas services. Eric Shaffer responded that about 20 services will be installed in Rice Lake and roughly 100 in Duluth. Commissioner Forsman asked about progress on efficiencies for the utilities. Jim Benning responded that proposals are out for some resiliency and renewable energy options for the water plant. A decision should be made in the next couple of months. Eric Shaffer reported that there is a water leak between the Radisson and the library. The leak is most likely at a transition coupling. We will have to dig up and replace this coupling and another one on the opposite side. The leaking coupling is under warranty. Concrete on that part of the street was cracked and needed to be redone anyway and is under warranty. The street will be rebuilt like new and the patch will have a warranty. We will do this at the same time that the contractor does the work in the west end that was not completed last year.

Upcoming Council actions

Jim Benning mentioned a resolution awarding consulting services to LHB and a resolution modifying one of our loan programs for low to moderate-income homes.

Commissioner questions and comments

There were no questions or comments at this time.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. at the Lakewood Treatment Plant.

Known absences for future meetings

None were mentioned.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.