

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

City Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. Roll call
2. Approval of previous meeting minutes
3. Old business:
 - 3.1 16PUC-009 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VARIOUS UTILITY-RELATED SERVICES.
4. New business:
 - 4.1 Gas transport rate
 - 4.2 2017 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

October 18, 2016

Members Present: Councilor Zack Filipovich, Jen Julsrud, Jim Lewis, Rob Prusak, Councilor Joel Sipress

Members Absent: Jason Thorsell, Councilor Em Westerlund

Staff Present: Jodi Amundson, Bob Asleson, Liz Bieter, Leanna Gilbert, Howard Jacobson, Eric Shaffer

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

Approval of previous meeting minutes

New business:

16PUC-009 - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VARIOUS UTILITY-RELATED SERVICES.

Liz Bieter explained that all of the service related fees were increased by 6%. After some questions and discussion, Commissioner Julsrud motioned to table resolution 16PUC-009 until the calculations for the increases were available, and the motion carried.

Updates from staff

Eric Shaffer reported that Michigan Street is done. We are building a new natural gas regulator by the MN Power building. The 66 psi gas line was extended under the interstate, and this will feed the pipe that is being installed on 4th Street. The new regulator will cut the pressure to 22 psi to feed downtown. On 4th Street, all of the 24" water main is now in. There is still 50 feet of 8" water main left that will hopefully be done next week. The gas line on 4th Street should be done and tested by Monday or Tuesday. They still plan to have curb, gutter, and pavement from 6th to 10th done this year. The Cirrus gas expansion is mostly done. City crews still need to put in a short pipe and a riser. The blanket project should be done next week. Eric also mentioned that the City negotiated a new contract with ME Global. They are our only gas transport customer. Eric will be doing a study on the transport rate and will probably recommend an updated rate.

Upcoming Council actions

The final budget will be voted on in December. There is a resolution for a small assessment agreement for a water main project on the agenda.

Commissioner questions or comments

Commissioner Julsrud asked about the WLSSD 0% change to the total wastewater budget. President Prusak said that even with a 0% change, if the strength changes, the amount the City pays may change. Eric Shaffer stated that charges are also based on the number of gallons.

Commissioner Filipovich commented that a German delegation was here last week to discuss clean energy and energy efficiency. They talked about how much more expensive energy is in Germany, so every individual is more thoughtful about how they use those resources. They mentioned that we have very cheap energy in Minnesota, and we sometimes take it for granted.

President Prusak asked about the water model. Eric Shaffer said that the fire flow tests are all done, and we should have something in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Sipress commented that he made a service call to Comfort Systems last week. Everybody was very helpful and accommodating, and it was a very good experience.

Preview of upcoming business

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The Commission will continue to consider the proposed 2017 fees resolution and discuss the gas transport rate.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 16PUC-009

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VARIOUS
UTILITY-RELATED SERVICES.**

RESOLVED by the Duluth Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) that, pursuant to the authority contained in Section 2-186 (c) of the Duluth City Code, 1959, as amended, the Commission hereby establishes fees for the services described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof (the “Services”) in the amounts as set forth in said Exhibit A, said fees to be effective for services provided after January 1, 2017.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that to the extent that any fee approved by an earlier resolution has been amended by any later resolution, the prior inconsistent or conflicting fee shall be deemed to have been superseded.

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 for the DPUC to set fees for various services provided by the City in conjunction with the provision of utility services as authorized by Section 2-186 (c) of the City code.

Fees Set by DPUC	2016 Fee	2017 Fee
FOG Program - Failure to Maintain Records - per day	\$100.00	\$100.00
FOG Program - Noncompliance - Maximum Penalty - per month	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Gas Furnace Comfort Policy Fee - DCC - annual	\$190.00	\$201.00
Gas Furnace Comfort Policy Fee - Electronic Ignition - Annual	\$178.00	\$189.00
Gas Furnace Comfort Policy Fee - Standing Pilot - Annual	\$166.00	\$176.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekdays - Midnight to 8:00 a.m. - 1st hour OR No show fee	\$165.00	\$175.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekdays - Midnight to 8:00 a.m. - Each additional 15 minutes	\$41.25	\$43.75
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekdays - 4:30 p.m. to Midnight - 1st 1/2 hour OR no show fee	\$110.00	\$117.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekdays - 4:30 p.m. to Midnight - Each additional 15 minutes	\$27.50	\$58.50
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekdays - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - 1st 1/2 hour OR no show fee	\$55.00	\$58.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekdays - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Each additional 15 minutes	\$27.50	\$29.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekends and Holidays - 4:00 p.m. to Midnight - 1st 1/2 hour OR No Show Fee	\$110.00	\$117.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekends and Holidays - 4:00 p.m. to Midnight - Each additional 15 minutes	\$27.50	\$58.50
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekends and Holidays - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 1st 1/2 hour OR No Show Fee	\$110.00	\$117.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekends and Holidays - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Each additional 15 minutes	\$27.50	\$58.50
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekends and Holidays - Midnight to 8:00 a.m. - 1st 1/2 hour OR no show fee	\$165.00	\$175.00
Gas Furnace/Appliance Service - Weekends and Holidays - Midnight to 8:00 a.m. - Each additional 15 minutes	\$41.25	\$87.50
I&I Noninspection/noncompliance Surcharge - per month	\$250.00	\$250.00
Point of Sale - Inspection Fee - Sump Pump Already in Place or Not Required	\$105.00	\$105.00
Point of Sale - Inspection Fee - Sump Pump Installation Required	\$205.00	\$205.00
Point of Sale - Noncompliance surcharge - per month	\$250.00	\$250.00
Violations/Noncompliance/Credit Service Charge - Dispatch of Service Vehicle	\$55.00	\$58.00
Violations/Noncompliance/Credit Service Charge - Restoration of Service - Weekdays between 12:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	\$160.00	\$170.00
Violations/Noncompliance/Credit Service Charge - Restoration of Service - Weekdays between 4:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.	\$80.00	\$85.00
Violations/Noncompliance/Credit Service Charge - Restoration of Service - Weekdays between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	\$55.00	\$58.00
Violations/Noncompliance/Credit Service Charge - Restoration of Service - Weekends and Holidays	\$160.00	\$170.00
Unauthorized Gas Reconnection – 1 st violation	\$100.00	\$100.00
Unauthorized Gas Reconnection – 2 nd violation	\$200.00	\$200.00
Unauthorized Gas Reconnection – 3 rd and subsequent violations	\$400.00	\$400.00
Unauthorized Water Reconnection – 1 st violation	\$100.00	\$100.00
Unauthorized Water Reconnection – 2 nd violation	\$200.00	\$200.00

Unauthorized Water Reconnection – 3 rd and subsequent violations	\$400.00	\$400.00
Water and Gas - Shut Off or Turn On - Minimum Charge	\$55.00	\$58.00
Water and Gas Service Construction Permit - Special inspection fee - minimum	\$25.00	\$25.00
Water Hydrant, Use of	\$210.00	\$211.00
Water Service - Tapping Fee (1" or less)	\$385.00	\$385.00
Water Service - Thawing - Equipment Fee - per water service	\$60.00	\$60.00
Water Service - Thawing - Minimum Fee - per water service	\$525.00	\$556.50

2017 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 17

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19