

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2017

Members Present: Chris McIntosh, Rob Prusak, Councilor Joel Sipress, Jason Thorsell, Councilor Em Westerlund; Councilor Noah Hobbs arrived at 5:21 p.m.

Members Absent: Jen Julsrud

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

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

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Old business:

Water utility discussion

Eric Shaffer provided handouts showing the effect of a 4.7% volume charge increase on customer bills for usage of 2 units and 6 units of water, the draft PowerPoint presentation for the June 27 public meetings, and a Frequently Asked Questions sheet that would be available for residents who attend the public meetings. Commissioners and staff discussed each of the handouts. President Prusak suggested bringing a list of capital projects to the meetings.

New business:

Upcoming public meetings

This topic was covered during the water utility discussion.

Updates from staff

Eric Shaffer reported on the progress of various projects, including the water main pipe bursting project on 47th Ave. E, the gas main pipe bursting project on 48th Ave. E, and Phase 1 of Michigan Street. He also mentioned that the Superior Street project would be moving ahead.

Upcoming Council actions

No upcoming actions were mentioned.

Commissioner questions or comments

Commissioner Sipress asked about work that was done at 21st Ave. E and Superior Street. Eric Shaffer responded that it was an emergency storm sewer repair that had to be completed prior to Grandma's Marathon.

Preview of upcoming business

Public meetings regarding proposed changes to water variable rates will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2017, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. The commission will review feedback from the public meetings.

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