

DULUTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2013

Members Present: Councilor Sharla Gardner (left at 5:45 PM), Councilor Jennifer Julsrud, Robert Prusak, Linda Sellner, Councilor Jim Stauber, Jason Thorsell

Members Absent: Jim Ramnes

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

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

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Old business:

Stormwater transfers to General Fund for street sweeping

Jim Benning explained that a year and a half ago, he and the former CFO had agreed to reduce the stormwater contribution for street sweeping to \$180,000. In August, the new CFO said that they were unaware of this, which resulted in a shortfall in the General Fund. They said that the stormwater fund would have to transfer the difference for 2013 and 2014. Benning sent out slides to commissioners showing the new numbers, which add up to a \$578,900 decrease in the 2014 year end cash balance. Their budgeted number, \$463,000, is an estimate. Current year-to-date costs are about \$313,000. Commissioners and staff agreed that actual costs for street sweeping should be used. Commissioners Julsrud and Gardner may co-sponsor a Council resolution regarding this. Commissioner Gardner left at this time. Bob Asleson agreed to prepare a resolution.

13PUC-012 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH. (Stauber)

13PUC-013 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT CITY COUNCIL AMEND SECTION 43-09 OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE THE SPRINKLER CREDIT APPLICABLE FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH. (Julsrud)

Commissioners decided to discuss 13PUC-012 and 13PUC-013 together. After some discussion, Commissioner Thorsell motioned to table the resolutions. The motion passed unanimously.

13PUC-014 - RESOLUTION AMENDING 11PUC-WLSSD AUTOMATICALLY INCREASING OR DECREASING SANITARY SEWER RATES TO REFLECT SEWER CHARGES IMPOSED BY WLSSD FOR COST OF TREATING CITY'S SANITARY SEWER DISCHARGES TO THE WLSSD SYSTEM.

After some discussion, Commissioner Stauber motioned to approve resolution 13PUC-014. The motion passed unanimously.

13PUC-015 - RESOLUTION AMENDING BYLAWS TO PROVIDE FOR PW&U BUDGET REVIEW PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1.

Commissioner Julsrud motioned to approve 13PUC-015. The motion passed unanimously.

Capital projects update

Eric Shaffer reported that most projects for this year have been completed. There are a couple small gas projects that will be finished this week.

Updates from staff

No other updates.

Upcoming Council actions

Jim Benning mentioned a resolution awarding the Bristol Street box culvert to RJS and the first reading of ordinance 13-070-O which grants authority over two-tier programs to the DPUC. He also noted that public meetings have been scheduled to gather public input on street funding options.

Commissioner questions or comments

President Sellner asked what a Water Quality Specialist does. Jim Benning stated that there are currently four Water Quality Specialists who focus mainly on I/I compliance (sump pumps, lateral lines, etc.). By 2016, after the consent decree is finished, only 1 or 2 Specialists will be needed.

Preview of upcoming business

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Topics will be the tabled resolutions regarding the sprinkling credit and the public notification process for rate increases. Commissioner Stauber will be leaving, so City Council will need to assign another councilor to this commission. Elections for President and Vice President will be in January.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.