



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Unofficial Actions - Final

Duluth Public Utilities Commission.

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

5:15 PM

Council Chambers, City Hall, 411 West First Street

NOTE: This was not an official meeting and no actions were made as there was no quorum.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Erin Abramson, Chris Adatte, Andrea Crouse, Councilor Mike Mayou, Carrie Ryan

Members Absent: Councilor Noah Hobbs, Councilor Terese Tomanek

Staff Present: Jim Benning, Jean Coleman, Leanna Gilbert, Chris Ostern, Tom Pfeffer, Kerry Venier

President Ryan noted the absence of a quorum and opened the floor to discussion at 5:25 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No comments were made at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water utility discussion

[DPUC108](#)

Indexes:

Attachments: [Water rate scenario 9.25](#)

[Water Rate Scenario 12.75](#)

[Proposed Rates Avg per Bill Category](#)

[Water Capital Plan from 2023-final-budget-book](#)

Staff provided rate scenarios and additional information as requested. There was some discussion about the assumptions made in the scenarios and the capital projects that could be done with the additional money. Commissioner Mayou requested a list of proposed capital projects. This will be included in the upcoming budget presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Lead services replacement update

The four sets of plans for projects that we submitted were certified and approved by the Department of Health. Staff is waiting for the Public Facilities Authority to give us an application that we can complete to get the funding for these projects. It is still unknown whether it will be a grant or a loan. The other unknown is the taxability of the project to the homeowner. That will be determined at the federal level. Jim Benning will check with the Finance Director about whether a letter from the Commission would be helpful.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Commissioner Crouse asked about allowing electronic voting. Assistant City Attorney Coleman will look into whether this would be allowed.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BUSINESS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. Staff will present the proposed 2024 utilities budget for approval and recommendation to City Council in August. The Commission may discuss the public education piece of the water rate process in September.

ADJOURNMENT

The discussion ended at 5:59 p.m.