

ENERGY PLAN COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Regular Meeting – City Hall – Conference Room 430 - 4:00 PM

Call to Order – 4:04 PM

Roll Call – Hannah Tite, Gary Olson, Tari Rayala, Scott Wishart, Alyssa Harries – quorum present.

City Staff - Shawna Weaver (Interim Energy Consultant), Rob Hurd (Construction Project Supervisor), Ted Blenkush (Project Coordinator), Erik Birkeland (Property & Facilities Manager).

Acceptance of May 21st, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Approved

Approval of Agenda – Accepted

Commissioner Comments/Welcome – Commission heard from its newest member, Hannah Tite.

Old Business

Sustainability Officer Vacancy Updates – Shawna Weaver provided an update on the interim Sustainability Officer position, priorities and involvement with continued projects, search for opportunities to fund or contract future position.

New Business

2025 Legislative Session Updates: Energy Sector – Sheri Hansen provided overview of legislative actions, programs, building requirements relating to energy efficiency.

City Energy Updates – Ted Blenkush: City continues installation of heat pump water heaters; beginning of design documents for insulation of Morgan Park Community Center roof; commissioning and performance of City Hall HVAC system; installation of electric vehicle charging station in Canal Park, partner with Minnesota Power.

Commissioner Olson made a motion for resolution in support of filling full-time Sustainability Officer position. Commissioner Rayala seconded. Motion passed unanimously as written: “The Energy Plan Commission urges the City of Duluth to hire a full-time Sustainability Officer position and encourages the efforts towards identifying external funding for both the role and opportunities to work towards City’s decarbonization goals.”

Public Comment – Lisa Fitzpatrick

Future meeting topics: Working group to identify strategies for Sustainability Officer role.

Adjourn – 5:29 PM