

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

## of the Public Utilities Commission, City of Hibbing, St. Louis County, Minnesota

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Minutes of the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission, Hibbing, Minnesota, 1902 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hibbing, MN 55746, held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Meeting held at Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Hibbing MN. Chair Bayliss called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Chair Bayliss, Commissioner Hart, Commissioner Stokes, Commissioner Babich, Commissioner Sandstede, Legal Counsel, Andy Borland; General Manager Luke Peterson, Director of HR & OD, Kendra Powers, Manager of Energy Supply Paul Plombon, Director of Electrical Distribution, Samantha Adams, Customer Service & Finance Supervisor, Jill Hietala, Customer Communications & Programs Manager Eliot Dixon. Also in attendance were , HPU Interim Financial Controller Tammy Mattonen, Bolton & Menk Rep. Andy Brotzler, HPAT Rep. Ron Wirkula; HPU Employee George Pogachnik, and Mark Reger.

### **Item 2. ADDS/DELETES**

### **Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Hart, to approve the regular meeting minutes of the September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 Commission Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 4. CITIZENS FORUM –**

### **Item 5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Item 5.A. Approving invoices >\$10,000 & approve the bills & ACH transfers >\$10,000 dated September 18<sup>th</sup> – October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Item 5.B. Approve the payroll paid & overtime report for the October 2<sup>nd</sup> & October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 pay dates.

Item 5.C. Approve Liability Coverage Waiver Form from League of MN Cities

Item 5.D. Approve Commissioners to attend Substation Ribbon Cutting at Ansley Substation on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm

Item 5.E. Authorize Listed Requests for Contribution

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve Consent Agenda items 5.A., 5.B., 5.C., 5.D., & 5.E., as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

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## **Item 6. FINANCIALS & RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **Item 6.A.** Approve September 2025 Interim Financials

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to table the July & August 2025 Interim Financials.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 6.B.** Approve Proposal of Services from Iron Range engineering and Consulting Services, LLC in the amount of \$200,000

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve Proposal of Services from Iron Range engineering and Consulting Services, LLC in the amount of \$200,000

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 6.C.** Approve Stuart Irby's Distribution Rated Underground Cable Order for Warehouse Inventory in the Amount of \$32,661.75

Motion by Commissioner Hart, Supported by Commissioner Stokes, to Approve Stuart Irby's Distribution Rated Underground Cable Order for Warehouse Inventory in the Amount of \$32,661.75

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 6.D.** Award 2025 Fire Hydrant Replacement to low bidder Bob Hecimovich Mechanical Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,040,326

Commission discussed selection process and long term timeline for Hydrant Projects.

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Hart, to Award 2025 Fire Hydrant Replacement to low bidder Bob Hecimovich Mechanical Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,040,326

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 6.E.** Authorize Staff to solicit bids for Phase 2 of HPU's Substation Modernization Project at the Beltline Substation

Motion by Commissioner Babich, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to Authorize Staff to solicit bids for Phase 2 of HPU's Substation Modernization Project at the Beltline Substation.

Motion carried unanimously.

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**Item 6.F.** Authorize RFP 25-09: AMI Meter Installation under the Best Value Method

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to Authorize RFP 25-09: AMI Meter Installation under the Best Value Method.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 7. POLICY & GOVERNANCE-**

**Item 7.A.** Approve 2025 Utility Org Chart

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve 2025 Utility Org Chart.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 7.B.** Approve Internal Posting for Chief Operator Position

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve internal positing for Chief Operator Position.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 7.C.** Approve MN Paid Family Leave

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Hart, to approve MN Paid Family Leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 7.D.** Approve 2026 Utility Benefits

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve 2026 Utility Benefits.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 8. NEW BUSINESS–**

### **Item 9. OLD BUSINESS –**

**Item 9.A.** MPCA Superfund Status - Discussion

HPU General Manager provided an update HPU's progress on MPCA Superfund site redevelopment. Commission discussed scope of project to be located at the site.

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### **Item 9.B. 2026 Budget - Discussion**

Commission discussed priorities of HPU's 2026 Budget development.

### **Item 10. ADJOURNMENT**


Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Hart, to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Attest:



Jeff Hart, Commission Secretary

  
James Bayliss, Chair

Meeting materials are available at  
The next meeting is a working meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
at 5:00 p.m. at the Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Hibbing MN 55746.

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