

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Public Utilities Commission, Hibbing, Minnesota, 1902 E. 6th Ave., Hibbing, MN 55746, held on December 16th, 2025. Meeting held at Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21st 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, Customer Communications & Programs Specialist Eliot Dixon. Also in attendance were , HPU Interim Financial Controller Tammy Mattonen, Bolton & Menk rep. Andy Brotzler, Eden Renewables Representative Tom Crosby, HPU Employee George Pogachnik, and HPAT Rep. Ron Wirkkula.

Item 2. ADDS/DELETES

Add – Item 10.B – Closed Session for Labor Negotiation Strategy

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner stokes, to approve the regular meeting minutes of the November 16th, 2025 Commission Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 4. CITIZENS FORUM –

Tom Cosby of Eden Renewables presented on solar development on St. Louis County Waste Disposal site. Eden Renewables is seeking a partnership with HPU for a 5 MW development at the site.

Item 5. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 5.A. Approving invoices >\$10,000 & approve the bills & ACH transfers >\$10,000 dated November 13th – December 10th, 2025

Item 5.B. Approve the payroll paid & overtime report for the November 27th & December 11th, 2025 pay dates.

Item 5.C. Approve Resolution 25-11: 2026 Official Newspaper & Public Posting Sites

Item 5.D. Approve Resolution 25-12: 2026 Official Depositories

Item 5.E. Approve Resolution 25-13: Meeting Dates for Calendar year 2026

Item 5.F. Approve Resolution 25-14: Resolution Authorizing Hibbing Public Utilities To Make Application To and Accept Funds From the 2026 Community Development Block Grant

Item 5.G. Approve Employee Overnight Travel Q1 2026

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- Item 5.H. Approve LMCIT Workers' Compensation Coverage
- Item 5.I. Accept Intent to Retire Notice from Line Crew Foreman, Esko Savela; Effective 12/31/2025
- Item 5.J. approve Resignation of Fuel Handler, John Fabish: effective 11/28/2025
- Item 5.K. Award Chief Operating Engineer position to Blake Monroe
- Item 5.L. Approve Paul Skubbina as Engineering Manager: Anticipated start 2/2/2026
- Item 5.M. Approve Hiring of Anthony Kanipes and John Packa as Biomass Technician Trainees: Anticipated start 1/5/2025
- Item 5.N. Authorize listed Requests for Contribution

Commissioner Babich requested Item 5.N. be pulled for a separate vote.

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve Consent Agenda items 5.A., 5.B., 5.C., 5.D., 5.E., 5.F., 5.G., 5.H., 5.I., 5.J., 5.K., 5.L., & 5.M. as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Consent Agenda items 5.N. as presented.

Motion carried 4-0
Babich abstained.

Item 6. FINANCIALS & RISK MANAGEMENT

- Item 6.A. Approve November 2025 Interim Financials

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve the November 2025 Interim Financials.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Item 6.B. Approve FM Global Renewal Property Proposal

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve FM Global Renewal Property Proposal.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Item 6.C. Approve Resolution 25-15: Authorizing Gas Supply Agreement with Minnesota Community Energy

Commission discussed the timeline of the agreement. HPU General Manager Luke Peterson presented that it is 30-year commitment with a reevaluation of commitment at 8-years.

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, Supported by Commissioner Hart, to Approve Resolution 25-15 – Authorizing Gas Supply Agreement with Minnesota Community Energy.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6.D. Approve CO#3 with Geislinger for 30” Water Main Slip Lining

Commission discussed purpose and scope of Change Order.

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to Approve Co #3 wit Geislinger for 30” Water Main Slip Lining.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7. POLICY & GOVERNANCE-

Item 7.A. Approve Job Description & External Posting for Environmental, Health & Safety Coordinator

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to Approve Job Description & External Posting for Environmental, Health & Safety Coordinator.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.B. Approve Job Description & External Posting for Executive Assistant

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to Approve Job Description & External Posting for Executive Assistant.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.C. Approve Job Description & Internal/External Posting for Fuel Handler

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Job Description & External Posting for Fuel Handler .

Motion carried unanimously.

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Item 7.D. Approve Job Description & Internal/External Posting for Journeyman Line Worker.

Motion by Commissioner Babich, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve Job Description & External Posting for Journeyman Line Worker.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.E. Approve Job Description & Internal/External Posting for Procurement Supervisor

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to Job Description & External Posting for approve Procurement Supervisor.

Motion carries 3-2
"No" – Hart & Babich

Item 8. NEW BUSINESS–

Item 9. OLD BUSINESS –

Item 10. CLOSED SESSION

Item 10.A. GM Performance Review

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, Supported by Commissioner Stokes to enter into closed session to perform GM Performance Review

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 10.B. Labor Negotiations Strategy Update

Motion by Commissioner Hart, Supported by Commissioner Stokes to enter into closed session to discuss Labor Negotiations Strategy

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 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 Tuesday, January 14th, 2025
at 5:00 p.m. at the Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21st St., Hibbing MN 55746.

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