

# 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 February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Meeting held at Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Hibbing MN. Commission Chair Bayliss called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner Hart; Commissioner Stokes; Commissioner Sandstede; Commissioner Babich; Legal Counsel, Andy Borland; General Manager, Luke Peterson; Human Resources & Organizational Development Supervisor, Kendra Powers; Energy & Operations Manager Paul Plombon; and Customer Service Supervisor, Jill Hietala; and Grant Writer & Engagement Specialist Eliot Dixon. Also in attendance was Rocky Mountain Institute reps. Matthew Popkin & Tansy Massey-Green; Bolton & Menk rep. Andrew Brotzler; HPU Employees George Pogachnik & Paul Petrich; and HPU Retiree Mark Reger.

**Item 1.** Energy Market Update – Winter Storm Fern

Commission discussed regional and national impacts of Winter Storm Fern. Through strong communication and management of the Hibbing Renewable Energy Center, HPU was able to avoid pricing volatility in the natural gas market. As a direct result of this strong management, no additional cost is being passed on to HPU gas customers.

**Item 2.** 2026 Capital Budget Discussion

Commission received a presentation on landfill solar from representatives of the Rocky Mountain Institute. The Commission requested a cost-benefit analysis for a project option being developed on the St. Louis County Landfill site.

Commission discussed 2026 Watermain Capital Investment Plans. Commission prioritized lead projects within the project planning. Commission discussed external funding opportunities. Commission requested RFQs for Potholing and Vactruck leasing to evaluate the cost of internal vs external performance of 2026 Potholing.

**Item 3.** Compensation Philosophy

Commission receive a presentation of a draft Utility Compensation Philosophy from HR & Organizational Development Supervisor, Kendra Powers.

**Action Item**

**Item 4.** Approve Local 94 Tentative Agreement: effective date Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2026

Motion by Commissioner Hart, Supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve Tentative Agreement with Local 94 with an effective date of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Motion Carried unanimously.

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**Item 5.** Other Discussion Items

Commission briefly reviewed accounting policy resolutions and power capacity sale to be brought to them at the Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Stokes requested evaluation and clarification of HPU's Mutual Aid policies.

**Adjournment**

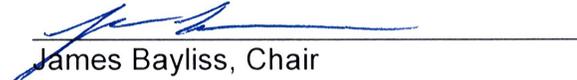
Motion by Chair Bayliss, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Attest:



Jeff Hart, Commission Secretary



James Bayliss, Chair

Meeting materials are available at  
The next meeting is a regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
at 5:00 p.m. at the Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Hibbing MN 55746.

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