

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 March 17th, 2026. Meeting held at Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21st St., Hibbing MN. Third Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner Hart, Commissioner Stokes, Commissioner Babich, Commissioner Sandstede, Legal Counsel, Andy Borland; General Manager Luke Peterson, OD & HR Manager, Kendra Powers; Manager of Operations ; Paul Plombon, Engineering Manager, Paul Skubinna; Customer Communications & Programs Specialist Eliot Dixon. Also in attendance were HPAT Rep. Ron Wirkkula. Absent was Chair Bayliss

Item 2. ADDS/DELETES

Add –

Item 9.A – Approve Commissioners to attend South Water Treatment Plant Ribbon Cutting at 11871 Town Line, Hibbing, MN on April 9th, 2026, 2:15 pm

Item 7.C. – LEA Fund oversight

Item 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve the regular meeting minutes of the February 17th, 2026 Commission Meetings.

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 February 12th – March 11th, 2026

Item 5.B. Approve the payroll paid & overtime report for the February 19th & March 5th, 2026 pay dates.

Item 5.C. Approve Overnight Employee Travel: 2026 Q2 April – June

Item 5.D. Approve Hiring of Tyler Platt, EHS Coordinator; anticipated start date April 6th

Item 5.E. Approve Hiring of Magan Schoeben, Executive Assistant; anticipated start date April 6th

Item 5.F. Approve Hiring of Oren Kero, Accounting Coordinator; anticipated start date April 6th

Item 5.G. Approve Hiring of Chris Zubich, Procurement Supervisor; anticipated start date April 20th

Commissioner Stokes requested separate votes on items 5.D – 5.G

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

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Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve hiring of Tyler Platt as EHS coordinator.

Commission discussed the outstanding issue with the unit clarification. HR Director Kendra Powers provided an update on the performance of the unit clarification being directed through the Bureau of Labor Relations. Commissioner Hart stated that he desired for the item to be resolved before hiring. Commission concurred that hiring items should be returned via Special Meeting as soon as unit clarification is resolved.

Commissioner Stokes withdrew his motion.

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandsteede, to table Items 5.D. – 5.G .

Motion carried 3-1.
“No” - Babich

Item 6. FINANCIALS & RISK MANAGEMENT

Item 6.A. Approve January 2026 Financials

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve January 2026 Financials

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6.B. Material Purchasing for Budgeted Projects

Item 6.B.i. Approve Purchase of Distribution Transformers for Voltage Conversion Project from T&R Electric in the amount of \$34,880.

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve purchase of Distribution Transformers from T&R Electric in the amount of \$34,880.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6.B.ii. Approve Purchase of Materials for Beltline Substation Project

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve materials purchase as proposed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6.C. HPU Projects

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Item 6.C.i. Approve Call for Public Bid 26-06: Beltline Substation Reconstruction

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve Call for Public Bid 26-06: Beltline Substation Reconstruction

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6.D. Authorize Resolution for HPU to make application for Loans and Grants from the Drinking Water Revolving Fund of the MN Public Facilities Authority

Item 6.D.i. Resolution 26-04: Lead Service Lines

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Resolution 26-04: Lead Service Lines

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7. POLICY & GOVERNANCE-

Item 7.A. Approve Customer Policy CUST050: Opt-Out of AMI Installation

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve Customer Policy CUST050: Opt-Out of AMI Installation.

Motion carried 3-1.
"No" - Stokes

Item 7.B. Approve Architects-Engineers-Surveyors Selection Policy

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Architects-Engineers-Surveyors Selection Policy as proposed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.C. LEA Fund Oversight

Commissioner Hart stated desire that any activity regarding the remaining LEA Funds require Commission Action. Commissioner Sandstede stated the restrictions on the funds exist within statutes that require the reinvestment of LEA funds into Biomass Operations and/or Economic Development. Commissioner Sandstede requested that the motion be amended to include activity for a 4M accounts.

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to require Commission approval regarding any activity of the LEA & 4M Funds.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. NEW BUSINESS-

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Item 9. OLD BUSINESS –

Item 9.A. Approve Commissioners to attend South Water Treatment Plant Ribbon Cutting at 11871 Town Line, Hibbing, MN on April 9th, 2026, 2:15 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to require Commission approval regarding any activity of the 4M Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 10. CLOSED SESSION -

Item 10.A. Employee Performance Review

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve enter closed session at 6:45 pm for Employee Performance Review and to adjourn immediately following the conclusion of the closed session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. ADJOURNMENT

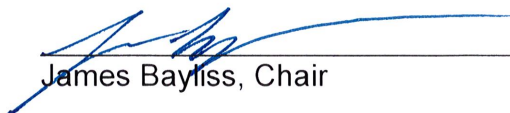
Motion by Commissioner Babich, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, immediately following the conclusion of the closed session.

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, April 14th, 2026
at 5:00 p.m. at the Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21st St., Hibbing MN 55746.

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