

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 May 19th, 2026. Meeting held at Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21st St., Hibbing MN. Chair Bayliss called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. In attendance were Chair Bayliss, Commissioner Hart, Commissioner Stokes, Commissioner Sandstede, Legal Counsel, Andy Borland; General Manager Luke Peterson, OD & HR Manager, Kendra Powers; Engineering Manager, Paul Skubinna; Interim Financial Controller, Tammy Mattonen; Executive Assistant, Magan Schoeben; and Grant Writer & Engagement Specialist, Eliot Dixon. Also in attendance were HPU Employee & Local 94 Union President, George Pogachnik, HPAT Rep., Ron Wirkkula, and Andrew Levi, with Merjent. Community Members, Mark Reger, Candie Seppala, Kelly Grinsteinner, and Joe Peterson. Absent was Commissioner Babich.

Item 2. RECONSIDER GENERAL MANAGER RESIGNATION

Commissioner Bayliss deleted item from the agenda, stating all Commissioners must be present to vote on this item. Chair Babich was absent.

Item 3. ADDS/DELETES

Delete- Item 2. Reconsider General Manager Resignation

Add – Public Service Announcement, HPU Community Survey, Eliot Dixon

Item 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve the regular meeting minutes of the April 28th and special meeting minutes of May 4th, 2026, Commission Meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5. CITIZENS FORUM

Item 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 6.A. Approving invoices >\$10,000 & approve the bills & ACH transfers >\$10,000 dated April 23rd – May 14th, 2026

Item 6.B. Approve the payroll paid & overtime report for, April 30th, and May 14th, 2026 pay dates.

Item 6.C. Request approval to award Line Crew Assistant Lead (26-04) to George Pogachnik

Item 6.D. Authorize listed requests for contributions, Iron Range Street Jams, Organized by Sammy's- Hibbing & the Iron House & ISD 701 HHS Career Academy

Item 6.E. Approve Commissioners to attend the Southern Interconnect Landowner Meeting, May 20th, 2026

Item 6.F. Approve Commissioners to attend the Ever-Green Energy Tour June 2nd, 2026 in the Twin Cities

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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Discussion regarding Item 6.E., location of Southern Interconnect Landowner Meeting, May 20th, 2026. Location will be Maple Hill Community Center.

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Consent Agenda items 6.A., 6.B., 6.C., 6.D., 6.E., & 6.F. as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7. FINANCIALS & RISK MANAGEMENT

Item 7.A. Current Financials

Item 7.A.i. Approve April Financials

Item 7.A.ii. Review & Discuss Budget Current Estimate

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Hart, to approve April, 2026 Monthly financials. Commission reviewed and acknowledged Budget Current Estimate.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.B. Annual Rate Adjustment

Commissioners request additional breakdowns and firm data on spreadsheets for items 7.B.i. & 7.B.ii. Legal Counsel, Andy Borland advised bringing items to next meeting for action.

Item 7.B.i. Approve Base Rate Adjustments Per 2025 Rate Study

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Stokes , to table Item 7.B.i.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.B.ii. Review and Consider Annual Purchase Gas & Power Purchase Adjustments

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Stokes , to table Item 7.B.ii.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.C. Capital Plan

Item 7.C.i. Source of Funds

1. Approve Resolution 26-07; 2025/2026 Drinking Water Revolving Fund in the Amount of 9,206,993

Motion by Commissioner Bayliss, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Resolution 26-07; 2025/2026 Drinking Water Revolving Fund in the amount of 9,206,993.

Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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2. Approve Resolution 26-08; Authorizing Hibbing Public Utilities to Make Application to and Accept Funds from Greater Minnesota Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Community Program

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Hibbing Public Utilities to Make Application and to Accept Funds from Greater Minnesota Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Community Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approve Resolution 26-09; Surplus Equipment

Discussion of Commissioner Stokes generating a list of equipment related questions on the list to provide to employees to provide follow-up information.

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede to table item 7.C.i.3.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7.C.ii.Uses of Funds

1. (OF0004.2) Beltline Substation Project Bid Opening

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve Beltline Substation Project Bid Opening.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. (OF0010.0) Electric Distribution Annual Maintenance Vegetation Management Pre-request for Bid Update

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Electric Distribution Annual Maintenance Vegetation Management Pre-request for Bid.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. (OF0005) Authorize Merjent Permitting and Landowner Engagement

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Bayliss, to authorize Merjent permitting and landowner engagement.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. OF009.0) Gas AMI Discussion Options for Gas Meter Upgrades

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve Hibbing Public Utilities to pursue other options for gas meter upgrades.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Lead Water Main Bids 4th Avenue East & 4th Avenue West

Chair Bayliss stated that this item is included in the Capital Plan and will be tabled.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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

6. Alliance Proposal for Stack Testing

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by commissioner Sandstede, to approve Appliance Proposal for Stack Testing.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. Policy & Governance

A. Market Energy Service Agreement

i. Approve Annual Power Plan

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve item 8.A.i. Annual Power Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Approve & Discuss Communication Regarding Future with MN Power

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve item 8.A.i. Annual Power Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Bayliss, to approve item 8.A.ii. Approve & Discuss Communication Regarding Future with MN Power.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approve Succession of Leadership Policy

Motion by Commissioner Stokes supported by Commissioner Sandstede, to approve Succession of Leadership Policy Leadership Policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approve Commission Officers

Commissioner Stokes nominated James Bayliss as Chair, supported by Commissioner Sandstede.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hart nominated Commissioner Sandstede as Vice Chair, Commissioner Bayliss supported.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stokes nominated Commissioner Hart as the Secretary position, Commissioner Sandstede supported.

Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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Item 9. ADJOURNMENT

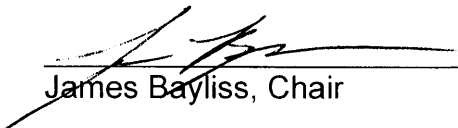
Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm, immediately following was the Joint Workshop with the Hibbing City Council.

Motion carried unanimously

Attest:



Jeff Hart, Commission Secretary



James Bayliss, Chair

Meeting materials are available at
The next meeting is an action meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th, 2026
at 5:00 p.m. at the Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21st St., Hibbing MN 55746.

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