

# 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. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hibbing, MN 55746, held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Meeting held at Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Hibbing MN. Commissioner Bayliss called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner Bayliss, Commissioner Sandstede, Commissioner Hart, Commissioner Stokes, Commissioner Babich, Legal Counsel, Andy Borland; General Manager Luke Peterson, Senior Director of HR and Organizational Development, Kendra Powers; Energy & Operations Manager, Paul Plombon, 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 Community Members, Mark Reger, and Tim Powers.

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

Commissioner Bayliss announced Consent Agenda Item 5.D. Reaffirm General Manager's Employment to be moved to Item 6.D.

Commissioner Bayliss announced Item 6.C. Closed Session for the Purpose of General Manager Review, was added to the agenda.

General Manager, Luke Peterson requested to add two public service announcements.

1. HPU acknowledged the passing of Shirley Rodrico, a longtime HPU employee.
2. The MPCA published its decision docket regarding the former coal gasification plant superfund site. The project will be funded by outside resources. HPU will issue a press release and encourage public participation during the MPCA comment period.

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

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Babich, to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Commission Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 4. CITIZENS FORUM**

No public comments were made.

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

Item 5.A. Approve invoices >\$10,000 & approve the bills & ACH transfers >\$10,000 dated May 15<sup>th</sup>, through May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Item 5.B. Approve the payroll paid & overtime report for, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 pay date.

Item 5.C. Authorize listed requests for contributions, Project Care, Free Clinic "Spirit of Giving" Fundraiser, Bluejackets High School Soccer Booster Club, Hibbing Community College Foundation & Mines and Pines Revisited.

Item 5.E. Approve Commissioners to attend June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, South Water Treatment Plant Ribbon Cutting at 11871 Town Line Rd., Hibbing, MN 55746 at 1:30 pm.

Item 5.F. Approve Commissioners to attend June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, All Employee Summer Safety Meeting & BBQ, Bennett Park North Pavilion from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

# **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

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

---

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 6. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Item 6.A. Annual Rate Adjustment**

##### **Item 6.A.i. Approve Base Rate Adjustments Per 2025 Rate Study**

The Commission discussed the proposed rate adjustments.

Commissioner Sandstede moved to approve rate adjustments. Following clarification, the motion was restated as approval of rate increases excluding the gas rate. The motion did not receive a second; therefore, no vote was taken.

No action was taken.

##### **Item 6.A.ii. Review and Consider Annual Purchase Gas & Power Purchase Adjustments**

The Commission discussed Annual Purchase Gas & Power Purchase Adjustments.

Commissioner Bayliss called for a motion; however, no motion was made.

No action was taken.

#### **Item 6.B. Capital Plan**

##### **Item 6.B.i. Sources of funds**

###### **1. Approve Resolution 26-09, Surplus Equipment**

The Commission reviewed the Surplus Equipment list and requested a breakdown of all forty-nine items on the Surplus Equipment list.

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to take AEDs off Surplus Equipment list to be given to the City of Hibbing.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Stokes, for Surplus Equipment list to be referred to management to gather information on items for further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

##### **Item 6.B.ii. Uses of Funds**

###### **1. (OPF0003.0) Lead Water Main Bids 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East & 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West**

Motion by Commissioner Hart, supported by Commissioner Stokes, to approve Lead Water Main Bids 4th Avenue East & 4th Avenue West.

Motion carried unanimously.

# MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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

---

**Item 6.C.** Closed Session pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subdivision 3(a), for the Purpose of General Manager Review.

Motion by Commissioner Sandstede, supported by Commissioner Babich, to enter closed session for the purpose of General Manager review.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 6.D.** Reaffirm General Manager's Employment

The Commission noted that the General Manager provided a letter to the Commission requesting to rescind his resignation.

Commissioner Bayliss made a motion to accept the letter rescinding the General Manager's resignation. The motion did not receive a second; therefore, no vote was taken.

No action was taken.

### **Item 7. NEW BUSINESS**

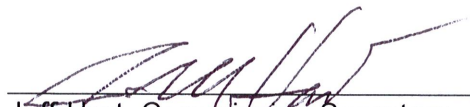
General Manager, Luke Peterson, thanked the Public Utilities Commission & Rate Payers for the opportunity to work for them over the past five years.

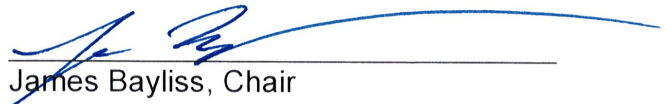
### **Item 8. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Stokes, supported by Commissioner Hart, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Hart, Commission Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Bayliss, Chair

Meeting materials are available at  
The next meeting is a working session scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026  
at 4:00 p.m. at the Hibbing City Hall, 401 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St., Hibbing MN 55746.

*p/2026-06-9-Minutes.doc*