

**CITY OF HERMANTOWN
UTILITY COMMISION AGENDA**

**Utility Commission Meeting Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Council Chambers, City Hall - Hermantown Governmental Services Building**

CITY STAFF: Paul Sens, Public Works Director; Trish Crego, Utility & Infrastructure Director; John Mulder, City Administrator

VISITORS: 7

1. **ROLL CALL**

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Bill Berg: | Absent |
| Councilor Andy Hjelle: | Present |
| Doug Kerfeld: | Present |
| Robert McLachlan: | Present |
| Jim Samberg: | Present |
| James Sweeney | Present |

2. **MINUTES**

Approval or Correction

A. 09/18/2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve September 18th, 2025 meeting minutes. This motion, made by Robert McLachlan and seconded by James Sweeney, Carried.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Bill Berg: | Absent |
| Councilor Andy Hjelle: | Yea |
| Doug Kerfeld: | Yea |
| Robert McLachlan: | Yea |
| Jim Samberg: | Yea |
| James Sweeney: | Yea |
| Yea: 5, Nay: 0 | |

3. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

- A. Jeffrey Donahue – Data center related concerns. Noise levels will be too high for residential area, does not think it would be considered light industrial.
- B. Noel Donahue – Data center related concerns. Looking for an update on NDA's and meetings being postponed.
- C. Travis Drayna - Data center related concerns. Concerned that citizens will be assessed for utility extensions if the data center moves forward.

- D. Jonathan Thornton – Data center related concerns. Concerned about mistakes in the past on the comprehensive plan.
- E. Clarissa Ek – Data center related concerns. Feels that the promises fall flat, and that the data center will destroy the environment.
- F. Denise Regstad – Data center related concerns. Concerned about the utility extension along Morris Thomas Rd and was wondering if it has already been approved.

Utility Commission members stated that they know the same amount as the public and staff addressed a few of the public's concerns.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. WLSSD Discharge Monitoring Report – Placed on file
- B. Utility Billing Update – Placed on file
- C. 2026 Budget – Enterprise Fund & Fund 260 – Placed on file
- D. 2026 WLSSD Budget Information – Placed on file
- E. Email Correspondence – 5338 Roosevelt Dr. – Paul informed commission that there has been no findings on why this is happening. Paul will work with the homeowner moving forward to see if there is anything the City can do.
- F. Housing Trust Fund – Funding – Placed on file

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Delinquent Utilities – Recommendation to City Council

Motion to approve and recommend to City Council. This motion, made by Doug Kerfeld and seconded by James Sweeney, Carried.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Bill Berg: | Absent |
| Councilor Andy Hjelle: | Yea |
| Doug Kerfeld: | Yea |
| Robert McLachlan: | Yea |

Jim Samberg: Yea
James Sweeney: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

8. **REPORTS**

- A. Budget to Actual Expenditure Report – *Noted that the city is under budget*
- B. Public Works Director Report – *Goal to have all 2500 accounts on AMI by end of the year.*
- C. Utility & Infrastructure Director Report – *Trish to ask for Mediacom map on all Right of Way work performed.*
- D. Water Loss Report – *Placed on file*
- E. WLSSD Monthly Flow - Rain Fall & Flow Report – *Placed on file*
- F. Comfort Systems Invoice – *Placed on file*
- G. New Connections Report – *Placed on file*

9. **COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORT**

- A. Jim Samberg – *Noted good discussion tonight.*
- B. William Berg - *Absent*
- C. Robert McLachlan – *Data Center – Reported that he is only aware of the potential utility extension.*
- D. Doug Kerfeld – *Informed commission that he has changed jobs and now works for LHB*
- E. James Sweeney – *Data Center – Does not know more than what the public knows at this time.*
- F. Councilor Andy Hjelle – *Thank you to everyone in attendance.*

10. **RECESS**

(motion, roll call)

Motion to adjourn at 6:57pm. This motion, made by Doug Kerfeld and seconded by Robert McLachlan, Carried.

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|------------------------|--------|
| Bill Berg: | Absent |
| Councilor Andy Hjelle: | Yea |
| Doug Kerfeld: | Yea |
| Robert McLachlan: | Yea |
| Jim Samberg: | Yea |
| James Sweeney: | Yea |
| Yea: 5, Nay: 0 | |