

MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
November 12, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryan Morris – Chair
Stefanie Block – Treasurer
Dr. Hector Ocaranza – Member
Charlie Intebi – Member
Lane Gaddy – Member
Mayor Renard U. Johnson

PSB MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dr. Anna Gitter – Vice Chair

PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT

John E. Balliew, P.E., President and Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel

EPWATER EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Ana Sanchez, Vice President of Financial and Management Services
Gilbert Trejo, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services
Adam Wickersham, Vice President of IT
Jeff Tepsick, Chief Financial Officer
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Ruben Rodriguez, Chief Water Quality Compliance Officer
Ivana Clark, Support Services Specialist I
Cinthya Dominguez, Budget Analyst
Ozzie Muniz, Interim Chief of Safety, Security, & Emergency Response
Daniel Cortes, Business and Financial Manager
Gustavo Hurtado, Fiscal Operations Manager
David Rodriguez, Support Services Specialist I
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Amy Aragon, Utility Facilities Maintenance Manager
Christina Montoya-Halter, Marketing and Communications Manager
Isela Holguin, Utility Human Resources Manager
Brenda Cantu, Utility Business and Customer Service Manager
Lidia Carranco, Utility Chief Customer Experience Officer
Geoffrey Espineli, Wastewater Systems Division Manager
Sergio Castro, Utility Chief Plant Manager
Michael Dubrule, Operations Supervisor

Zulema Jamis, Office Manager
Ceci Bertolli, Capital Improvements Program Manager
Aldo Gomez Fierro, Support Services Specialist III
Alfredo Aleman, Utility Meter Shop Supervisor
Becky Hart, Utility Treasury and Property
Gerardo Gomez, Constructions Superintendent
Elijio Myers, Water Distribution Superintendent
Juan Cervantes Jr., Utility Business and Customer Service Manager

GUEST

Vanessa Leon, Heart Gallery

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Mr. Morris at 8:32. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Felipe Lopez in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Mrs. Block, items 7 were pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed into the Regular Agenda.

On a single motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza and unanimously carried, the Board took action on the following consent agenda items:

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 2025.**
- 2. APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH TROJAN TECHNOLOGIES CORP. PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR UV DISINFECTION SYSTEM COMPONENTS, MAINTENANCE SERVICES, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND, CONTINGENT UPON THE VENDOR PROVIDING ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.**
- 3. APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH ALFA LAVAL, INC. PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR PARTS, SERVICE, AND TRAINING RELATED TO THE GRAVITY BELT THICKENERS AND BELT FILTER PRESSES, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND, CONTINGENT UPON THE VENDOR PROVIDING ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.**
- 4. APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PURE TECHNOLOGIES U.S. INC., PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, TO CONDUCT LEAK DETECTION, CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND ELECTROMAGNETIC INSPECTIONS OF TRANSMISSION MAINS, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$2,500,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH TWO ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND, CONTINGENT UPON THE VENDOR PROVIDING ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.**
- 5. APPROVED A MASTER CONTRACT WITH I3-IMAGESOFT, LLC THROUGH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES (DIR) CONTRACT DIR-TSO-4392 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MOBILE APPLICATION INTEGRATED WITH ADVANCED METER DATA ANALYTICS, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.**

6. APPROVED AN INCREASED IN CAPACITY OF THE MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO 4 RIVERS EQUIPMENT, LLC, JOHN DEERE'S AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT DEALER, THROUGH SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 011723-JDC FOR HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000 TO INCREASED THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT TO A CUMULATIVE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000; AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 AS LONG AS THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.
8. AWARDED RFP 21-25 POWDERED ACTIVATED CARBON FOR RECLAMATION FACILITIES TO NORIT AMERICAS, INC. AND ARQ PURIFICATION LLC. FOR EACH VENDOR TO SUPPLY POWDER ACTIVATED CARBON ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS AT THE UNIT PRICES PROPOSED, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$127,400 FOR NORIT AMERICAS INC., AND \$138,600 FOR ARQ PURIFICATION, LLC. THE CONTRACT FOR EACH VENDOR IS FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND; AND THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD MAKES THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:
9. APPROVED THE RATIFICATION OF THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$136,117.93 FOR THE CONTRACT ISSUED TO HG ARIAS & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C. FOR TEMPORARY STAFFING SERVICES THROUGH ESC REGION 19 ALLIED STATES COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 22-7448.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS – RFQ 44-25 TO ARCADIS INC., BROWN AND CALDWELL, CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC., CDM SMITH, INC., HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C., HDR ENGINEERING, INC., AND PARKHILL, SMITH & COOPER, INC., FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 PER FIRM, WITH A CONTRACT TERM OF THREE YEARS EACH.

Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Wastewater treatment plants are essential for the safe and efficient processing of wastewater across the service area. EPWater requires reliable engineering services to support design, upgrades, and maintenance at these facilities. Engineering services under these contracts may include process and mechanical equipment design, structural repairs, electrical and instrumentation upgrades, architectural improvements, odor control, site civil improvements, hydraulic modeling, construction management, permitting, water quality analysis, and plant operational assistance.

These engineering on-call contracts will provide the flexibility to issue task orders as needed in support of capital improvement projects and operational needs throughout the utility. Work assignments will be distributed based on expertise, workload, and project requirements.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Mrs. Block, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a professional engineering services contract for the On-Call Professional Engineering Services for Wastewater Treatment Plants – RFQ 44-25 to Arcadis Inc., Brown and Caldwell, Carollo Engineers, Inc., CDM Smith, Inc., Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., HDR Engineering, Inc., and Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 per firm, with a contract term of three years each. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the Board on this item.

10. CEO MONTHLY UPDATED REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:

- **JOHN BALLIEW RECEIVES THE WOODY L. HUNT EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD**
- **TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD VISIT TO EPWATER**
- **CITIZENS ACADEMY - NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

11. MANAGEMENT REPORTED:

- **CHARITY OF CHOICE CHECK PRESENTATION**
- **SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT**
- **SECOND QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT**
- **VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS: NEW METER VIDEOS**

12. PUBLIC COMMENT WAS HEARD. THE PSB PERMITTED PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT DID NOT DELIBERATE ON THESE ITEMS IF NOT POSTED FOR DISCUSSION. THE CHAIR IMPOSED REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.

No one signed up to speak.

13. PRESENTATION, TRAINING AND DISCUSSION ON EPWATER'S BUDGET PROCESS, PROCEDURES AND FINANCIAL PLANNING.

Jeff Tepsick, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The presentation, training and discussion will provide Public Service Board (PSB) members and the public with a foundational understanding of the annual budget process, including key procedures and timelines, in preparation for the Budget Workshop meeting scheduled for November 20, 2025. Mr. Tepsick, Mrs. Montoya-Halter and Mr. Wickersham answered questions from the board on this item.

No action was taken for this item.

14. AWARDED RFP 25-25, SODIUM CHLORITE 25% TO INTERNATIONAL DIOXCIDE, INC. AND PURELINE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, LLC. FOR EACH VENDOR TO SUPPLY THESE CHEMICALS ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS AT THE UNIT PRICES PROPOSED, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$371,350 FOR INTERNATIONAL DIOXCIDE, INC. AND \$347,050 FOR PURELINE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, LLC. THE CONTRACT TERM FOR EACH VENDOR IS FOR ONE YEAR, WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.

Richard Wilcox, Water Supply Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The 25% sodium chlorite when introduced into the chlorine dioxide generator containing chlorine gas produces chlorine dioxide used by the Umbenhauer/Robertson Wastewater Treatment Plant to oxidize and disinfect the water during treatment. This chemical is necessary to protect the public health and safety of customers.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded RFP 25-25, Sodium Chlorite 25% to International Dioxide, Inc. and Pureline Treatment Systems, LLC. for each vendor to supply these chemicals on an as-needed basis at the unit prices proposed, for an estimated annual amount of \$371,350 for International Dioxide, Inc. and \$347,050 for Pureline Treatment Systems, LLC. The contract term for each vendor is for one year, with four one-year options to extend. Mr. Wilcox answered questions from the Board on this item.

15. DELIBERATED ON THE APPEAL OF CUSTOMER, ERNEST JUAREZ, REGARDING A BILLING DISPUTE PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS NO. 8.

Staff requested this item move to Executive Session. On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza item 15 was moved to Executive Session.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza the determination of the Administrative Committee and the decision of the President/CEO regarding Ernest Juarez's billing dispute was affirmed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 10:42 November 12, 2025, pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 through 551.089 to discuss the following:

The Public Service Board will retire into Executive Session pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 through 551.089. (The items listed below are matters of the sort to be discussed in Executive Session; however, the Public Service Board may move any item of this agenda to Executive Session, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.)

Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney
Section 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property
Section 551.073 Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift
Section 551.074 Personnel Matters
Section 551.076 Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits
Section 551.0761 Deliberation Regarding Critical Infrastructure Facility
Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations
Section 551.089 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

a. CYBER SECURITY PRESENTATION: FORTIFYING EL PASO WATER'S CYBERSECURITY, A STRATEGIC ROADMAP (551.076) (551.0761) (551.089)

This item had no action.

b. DELIBERATE ON THE PROCUREMENT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FROM BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC., A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER OF THE SERVICES, PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, IN THE ANNUAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND. (551.071) (551.089) (551.0761)

On a motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi the Public Service Board approved the procurement of critical infrastructure facilities equipment and services from Border States Industries, Inc., a sole source provider of the services, pursuant to Section 252.022(a)(7) of the Texas Local Government Code, in the annual estimated amount of \$4,000,000 for a term of one year with four one-year options to extend.

c. STRATEGY BRIEFING AND LEGAL ADVICE ON THE PURCHASE, SALE, LEASE OR VALUE OF UTILITY REAL PROPERTY. (551.071) (551.072)

This item had no action.

d. **AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THE SETTLEMENT OF EVAN AMBROSE (PREVIOUSLY ALSO KNOWN AS LAUREN AMBROSE) VS. CHRISTOPHER PAUL AGUILAR, CITY OF EL PASO, AND EL PASO WATER UTILITIES, CAUSE NO. 2022DCV1738. (551.071)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi authorized the Office of General Counsel to participate in settlement negotiations to the extent and in accordance with the direction of the Board and defend the interests of the utility in connection with this matter.

e. **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT/CEO, JOHN E. BALLIEW. (551.071) (551.074)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi the Public Service Board has deliberated on the performance of the President/CEO and determined that the President/CEO has performed above average and exceeded the Board's expectations, but will not make a performance-based increase to his current salary for this year;

FURTHER, the Board moves to execute an Amended and Restated Employment Agreement ("Amended Agreement") between El Paso Water and John Balliew, in accordance with the direction of the Public Service Board, in the form approved by outside counsel, to continue his current benefits into the Amended Agreement and also incorporate the following terms:

1. Extend the term of his employment until December 31, 2028
2. Authorize vacation accrual up to six (6) months, the Employer continue the practice of making a lump sum payout for accrued vacation leave upon the termination of this agreement.
3. Upon completion or termination of the Amended Agreement, Employer will pay all then-accrued and unused sick leave.
4. Employer will contribute to the City of El Paso's 457 (b) Deferred Compensation Plan for the benefit of the President/CEO in the maximum allowable amount under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations for 2025 and thereafter the Employer will annually contribute the maximum allowable amount as updated for that year by the IRS.

Any action as a result of these discussions will be taken at the re-opening of this meeting or at a subsequent meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 1:04, November 12, 2025.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, the meeting adjourned at 1:08, November 12, 2025.

ATTEST:

Bryan Morris, Chair

Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer