

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**  
**CITY OF EL PASO**  
December 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

**PSB MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**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  
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO  
Jeff Tepsick, Chief Financial Officer  
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff  
Ozzie Muñoz, Interim Chief of Safety, Security, & Emergency Response  
Steve Porras, Utility Security Manager  
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer  
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer  
Ruben Rodriguez, Chief Water Quality Compliance Officer  
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel  
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel  
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager  
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist  
Isela Holguin, Utility Human Resources Manager  
Monica Puga Ontiveros, Utility Chief Human Resources Officer  
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Margaret Carrillo, Office Manager  
Becky Hart, Utility Treasury and Property  
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager  
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager  
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer  
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Pablo Mejia, Capital Projects Manager  
Geoffrey Espineli, Wastewater Systems Division Manager  
Veronica Garcia, Senior Purchasing Agent  
Ivan Ibarra, Utility Support Operations Superintendent  
Sergio Castro, Utility Chief Plant Manager  
Sergio Saenz, Chief Operational Technology Officer  
Rick Dominguez, Wastewater Plant Superintendent  
Devin Chavez, Wastewater Plant Superintendent  
Jaime Benavides, Wastewater Plant Assistant Superintendent  
Gilbert Anaya, Wastewater Plant Assistant Superintendent

## **EPWATER EMPLOYEES PRESENT (continued)**

Christina Montoya-Halter, Marketing and Communications Manager  
Jennifer Barr, Water Conservation/TecH2O Manager  
Gabriela Warren, Utility Senior Computer Media Specialist  
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel

## **GUEST**

Jon Barela, Borderplex Alliance  
Marcos Delgado, Borderplex Alliance  
Deanna M. Rocha, City Council, District 3 Representative

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Mr. Morris at 8:33 a.m. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Jeff Tepsick in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a single motion made by Mr. Gaddy and seconded by Mrs. Block and unanimously carried, the Board took action on the following consent agenda items:

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**1. CREATED A STANDING PSB COMPENSATION COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS FOR FUTURE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT/CEO AND APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE:**

**(A) BRYAN MORRIS, STEFANIE BLOCK URIBARRI, AND LANE GADDY**

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board created a standing PSB Compensation Committee to review and recommend compensation and benefits for future contract negotiations with the President/CEO and appointment of the following Board members to the committee: (a) Bryan Morris, Stefanie Block Uribarri, and Lane Gaddy.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2. APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2025, AND THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP SPECIAL PSB MEETINGS HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2024 AND NOVEMBER 20, 2025.**
- 3. APPROVED AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO A SOLE SOURCE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH AQUATERREX LLC FOR PHASE III OF THE PROJECT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$157,101 TO CONDUCT A FOLLOW-UP FIELD SURVEY FOR WELLBORE SITING IN HUDSPETH COUNTY AND EXTEND THE CONTRACT TERM BY AN ADDITIONAL YEAR.**
- 4. APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH PARKSON CORPORATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR SERVICES, REPAIRS AND PARTS FOR PARKSON EQUIPMENT AT THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE AND HASKELL R. STREET WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS 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.**

5. APPROVED A MASTER CONTRACT WITH HD SUPPLY FACILITIES MAINTENANCE, LTD. DBA USABBLUEBOOK THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE CONTRACT OMNIA MARICOPA COUNTY, AZ CONTRACT NUMBER 16154 MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, OPERATING SUPPLIES, INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES AND RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, FOR THE PURCHASE OF MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS, AND FACILITY NEEDS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE COOPERATIVE CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.
6. APPROVED A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WORKQUEST TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL CONTRACT CAPACITY FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES BY \$300,000 FOR A TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,270,580 FOR THE CURRENT CONTRACT YEAR PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(13) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, AND TO AMEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT BY AN ADDITIONAL TWO-ONE YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND, FOR A TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,270,580 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL OPTION PERIOD.
7. AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WATER, WASTEWATER, RECLAIMED WATER, AND STORMWATER PIPELINES 24-INCH AND SMALLER-RFQ 48-25 TO BROCK & BUSTILLOS INC., CEA ENGINEERING GROUP, INC., CONSOR NORTH AMERICA INC., H2O TERRA, LLC, HUITT ZOLLARS, INC., MORENO CARDENAS, INC., AND PARKHILL, SMITH & COPPER, INC, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 FOR EACH FIRM WITH A TERM OF THREE YEARS EACH.
8. AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER LIFT STATIONS – RFQ 52-25 TO AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC, ARCADIS U.S., INC., BROWN AND CALDWELL, CEA ENGINEERING GROUP, INC, GARVER, LLC, AND MORENO CARDENAS, INC., FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 FOR EACH FIRM, WITH A CONTRACT TERM OF THREE YEARS EACH.
9. AWARDED RFP 26-25, HYDROGEN CHLORIDE, TO SYOXSA, INC., THE SOLE OFFEROR, TO SUPPLY HYDROGEN CHLORIDE ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$307,200 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.
10. APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH WATER CONSERVATION SERVICE CO. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$105,625 TO PAY FOR TARIFFS RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF GUTERMANN LEAK DETECTION LOGGERS.
11. CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:
  - EPWATER EMPLOYEES' UNITED WAY PLEDGES OVER \$117,000
  - MILESTONE ACHIEVED: \$3 MILLION IN GOVDEALS SALES (FLEET & PROPERTY)
  - KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON DESALINATION PLANT WINS BEST TASTING WATER AWARD

The Board received the CEO Monthly Update regarding Utility Management and/or Operations. Topics included: EPWater employees' United Way pledges over \$117,000; Milestone Achieved: \$3 Million in GovDeals Sales (Fleet & Property); Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant Wins Best Tasting Water Award. This item had no action.

**12. MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

- **CONSERVATION UPDATE**
- **S4S - SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABILITY**
- **WASTEWATER PLANTS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES AWARDS**
- **VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS: OUTDOOR WATER USE VIDEO**

The Board received the Management Report. Topics included: Conservation Update; S4S - Skills for Sustainability; Wastewater Plants National Association of Clean Water Agencies Awards; Video from Communications: Outdoor Water Use Video. This item had no action.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT: THE PSB WILL PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT MAY NOT DELIBERATE ON THESE ITEMS IF NOT POSTED FOR DISCUSSION. THE CHAIR MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.**

The Board heard public comment, Ashley Kent from Eberhard signed up to speak. This item had no action.

**14. ANNUAL PRESENTATION BY THE BORDERPLEX ALLIANCE REPORTING ON THE ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BORDERPLEX ALLIANCE UNDER THE TWO-YEAR SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH EPWATER FOR PLANNING SERVICES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 252.022(A)(4) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, APPROVED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2025.**

Jon Barela, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Public Service Board (PSB) annually invites the Borderplex Alliance to provide an update on regional economic development initiatives and collaborative efforts that impact the utility's operations and community development goals. This presentation serves as an opportunity for the Board to gain insights into regional growth trends, strategic partnerships, and upcoming economic initiatives that support EPWater's mission and regional objectives.

This item had no action.

**15. AWARDED BEST VALUE BID NUMBER 32-25, SITE SAFETY EQUIPMENT, TO THE HIGHEST RANKED OFFEROR, SUNSTATE EQUIPMENT CO., LLC, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$984,135.85, FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND**

Pablo Mejia, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Safety equipment is needed for field operations. Safety equipment rentals support EPWater field crews during maintenance, repair, and installation activities, ensuring compliance with safety standards, safeguard employees, and to protect the public during line excavations and related work at sites within the utility's service area. Mr. Mejia answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Mrs. Block, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded best value Bid Number 32-25, Site Safety Equipment, to the highest ranked offeror, Sunstate Equipment Co., LLC, in the estimated annual amount of \$984,135.85, for a term of one year with four one-year options to extend.

**16. AWARDED BEST VALUE BID 59-25 SECURITY GUARD SERVICES TO THE HIGHEST RANKED OFFEROR UNIVERSAL PROTECTION SERVICES, LP DBA ALLIED UNIVERSAL SECURITY SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$2,625,795 FOR A TERM OF ONE-YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.**

Ozzie Muniz, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Security Guards (Guards) are deployed to multiple sites to protect EPWater personnel, property, and facilities. Guards follow EPWater's security and emergency protocols. Guards are expected to proactively manage their assigned areas to prevent security breaches and safety incidents. Mr. Muñoz answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Gitter, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded best value Bid 59-25 Security Guard Services to the highest ranked offeror Universal Protection Services, LP dba Allied Universal Security Services in the estimated annual amount of \$2,625,795 for a term of one-year with four one-year options to extend.

**17. APPROVED THE 2026 PSB MEETING SCHEDULE AND DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE PSB'S DIRECTION ON WHETHER TO DIRECT STAFF TO PRESENT AN AMENDMENT OF THE EPWATER BYLAWS AT THE FEBRUARY 2026 PSB REGULAR MEETING, TO REVISE THE 8:00 A.M. START TIME OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Dr. Gitter, with one opposition by Mr. Gaddy, the motion carried, approving the 2026 PSB meeting schedule and a one-year adjustment of the meeting start time from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. for meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month; no bylaw amendment is required.

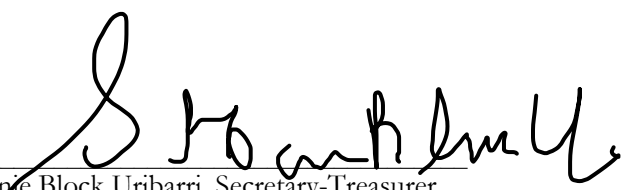
### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m., December 10, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer

  
Bryan Morris, Chair