MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
February 11, 2026

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT
Bryan Morris – Chair
Stefanie Block – Treasurer
Dr. Anna Gitter – Vice Chair
Dr. Hector Ocaranza – Member
Charlie Intebi – Member
Lane Gaddy – Member

PSB MEMBERS NOT PRESENT
Mayor Renard U. Johnson

PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT
John E. Balliew, P.E., President and Chief Executive Officer
Patricia Borschow, Senior Assistant 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
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
Ivana Clark, Support Services Specialist 1
Robert Evans, Software Developer 1
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Ozzie Muniz, Utility Emergency Response Coordinator
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Fred Solano, Utility Chief Information Officer
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Rose Guevara, Utility Purchasing & Contracts Manager
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Francisco Martinez, Capital Improvements Project Manager
Veronica Galindo, Capital Projects Manager
Richard Wilcox, Water Supply Manager

GUEST
Francesco
Chamindra Dassanayh, Hazen
Saul Gonzalez, Sembrando Ezperansa

Veronica Carbajal, Sembrando Ezperansa
Miller Amand
Michael Ramirez

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 Mr. Morris in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a single motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi 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 JANUARY 14, 2026.**

2. **APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE MASTER CONTRACT WITH SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC SYSTEMS USA, INC. PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR AUTOMATION AND CONTROL EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, AND RELATED SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF EPWATER'S PROJECTS FOR PROCESS AUTOMATION SYSTEMS IN THE 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 AN INCREASE IN THE MASTER CONTRACT CAPACITY OF TUATARA CONSULTING INC. THROUGH THE TIPS PURCHASING COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 240601 TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS, PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES BY AN ADDITIONAL $4,500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $5,000,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $5,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE TIPS CONTRACT NO. 240601 IS IN PLACE.**

4. **APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE MASTER CONTRACT CAPACITY OF CONVERGEONE, INC. THROUGH THE TEXAS DIR PURCHASING COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. DIR-TSO-4288 SOFTWARE, INCLUDING SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE BY AN ADDITIONAL $250,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF $750,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT TO END NOVEMBER 30, 2027.**

5. **APPROVED AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC. FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT HEADWORKS IMPROVEMENTS – PART 2 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,900,000; AUTHORIZE FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF $2,000,000 AND AMEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT BY AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS.**

6. **APPROVED AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT HEADWORKS IMPROVEMENTS – CONSTRUCTION MANAGER-AT-RISK PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,979,805; AUTHORIZE FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN THE**

ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF $2,000,000 AND AMEND THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT BY AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS.

7. AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WATER, TREATMENT PLANTS – RFQ50-25 TO CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC., CDM SMITH INC., GARVER, LLC, HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C., AND PARKHILL, SMITH AND COOPER, INC FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,500,000 FOR EACH FIRM WITH A TERM OF THREE YEARS EACH.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:

EMPLOYEE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS
MARTIN NORIEGA HONORED WITH WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS HEROISM AWARD
RETIREMENT RECOGNITION: FRANCISCO "KIKO" MARTINEZ

President/CEO John E. Balliew provided the CEO Monthly Update, highlighting key takeaways from the employee survey, recognizing Martin Noriega for receiving the Water Environment Association of Texas Heroism Award, and acknowledging Francisco "Kiko" Martinez for his retirement and service to EPWater.

9. MANAGEMENT REPORT:

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT REPORT (Ruben Rodriguez, Chief Water Quality Compliance Officer): Ruben Rodriguez presented the Water Quality Management Report and provided an operational update on water quality compliance and related efforts.

UPDATE ON RESPONSE TO THE WATER MAIN BREAK IN NORTHEAST EL PASO (NEVINS 36-INCH DISCHARGE LINE) AND LARGE DIAMETER WATER MAIN INTERCONNECTION SYSTEM ANALYSIS (Gilbert Trejo, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services): Gilbert Trejo provided an update on EPWater's response to the Northeast El Paso water main break (Nevins 36-inch discharge line), including progress and the ongoing large-diameter water main interconnection system analysis.

VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS: SERVICE IN ACTION FOLLOWING THE NORTHEAST WATER MAIN BREAK (Christina Montoya, Marketing and Communications Manager): Christina Montoya presented a Communications video, "Service in Action," highlighting EPWater's response efforts following the Northeast water main break.

10. 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 following people from the public signed up for comment, Saul Gonzalez and Veronica Carbajal from Sembrando Ezperansa and Michael Ramirez.

11. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE CREATION OF A STANDING PSB BUDGET COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND MAKE BUDGET RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PSB BUDGETS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE:

MAYOR RENARD JOHNSON, STEFANIE BLOCK URIBARRI, AND LANE GADDY

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board created a standing PSB Budget Committee to review and make budget related recommendations for future PSB budgets and appointed Mayor Renard Johnson, Stefanie Block Uribarri, and Lane Gaddy to the committee.

12. AWARDED RFP 08-25 MAINTENANCE OF NATURAL GAS ENGINES TO SOUTHWEST COMMERCIAL ENGINES, INC. AND VALLEY DIESEL LLC. FOR EACH VENDOR TO SUPPLY MAINTENANCE SERVICES ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS AT THE UNIT PRICES PROPOSED, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $1,101,250 FOR SOUTHWEST COMMERCIAL ENGINES, INC. AND $1,000,000 FOR VALLEY DIESEL LLC. THE CONTRACT FOR EACH VENDOR IS FOR A TERM OF 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.) This contract is used to provide maintenance services for 25 stationary natural gas engines, which are part of EPWater's critical infrastructure. The service includes preventative maintenance which involves weekly inspections, compliance with recommended practices from engine manufacturers, and monthly service reports. Top-End Overhaul services will include replacing the cylinder head and turbocharger cartridge. Complete Overhaul services entail complete engine disassembly for inspection, repair, or replacement of worn components, reassembly, testing, and return to service within the tolerances specified by the manufacturer. As these engines are required to operate various water pumps throughout the city, they are integral to ensuring the public health and safety of EPWater customers. Multiple vendors are required to ensure the continuity of utility services in advance of any single vendor's inability to perform. RFP 08-25 contained language that provided notice to potential bidders of the potential for EPWater to award more than one bidder. Mr. Wilcox answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded RFP 08-25 Maintenance of Natural Gas Engines to Southwest Commercial Engines, Inc. and Valley Diesel LLC. for each vendor to supply maintenance services on an as-needed basis at the unit prices proposed, for an estimated annual amount of $1,101,250 for Southwest Commercial Engines, Inc. and $1,000,000 for Valley Diesel LLC. The contract for each vendor is for a term of one year with four one-year options to extend.

13. AWARDED BID NUMBER 12-25, MONTANA VISTA WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM PHASE II, TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, ZTEX CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF $21,777,345.40.

Veronica Galindo, Capital Projects Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Montana Vista Wastewater Collection System Phase II project will continue expanding Phase I wastewater infrastructure to provide first-time wastewater service to the Montana Vista Phase II area. The project includes installation of approximately 87,000 linear feet of new PVC sanitary sewer mains, 198 concrete manholes, and 717 new sewer service connections with associated yard lines. Work also includes the decommissioning of existing septic systems, pavement restoration, trench safety, and stormwater controls. EPWater received Economically Distressed Areas Program funding through the Texas Water Development Board. Ms. Galindo answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mrs. Block, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded Bid Number 12-25, Montana Vista Wastewater Collection System Phase II, to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, ZTEX Construction, Inc. in the amount of $21,777,345.40.

14. ADOPTED A RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO WATER UTILITIES PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD DELEGATING THE AUTHORITY TO THE PRESIDENT/CEO OR DESIGNEE TO EVALUATE, SELECT AND AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT ARE PART OF EPWATER'S FY26-27 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY AND THE MUNICIPAL DRAINAGE UTILITY THAT ARE PROCURED USING THE COMPETITIVE BIDDING METHOD OR THE COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL METHOD, WHICH COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS AND EPWATER POLICY AND THAT DO NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF $6,000,000 PER CONTRACT AWARD, NOT INCLUSIVE OF CHANGE ORDERS, WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD APPROVAL; THIS DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY ALSO INCLUDES THE REJECTION OF BIDS AND TERMINATION OF AWARDED

CONTRACTS.

Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) On January 14, 2026, the PSB approved the FY26-27 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgets for the Water and Sewer Utility and the Municipal Drainage Utility. As in the previous fiscal year, the FY26-27 CIP budgets reflect a series of projects that are each estimated to be under $6 million. Staff requests the approval of a resolution delegating authority to the President/CEO or Designee to evaluate, select, and award construction contracts certain construction contracts that do not exceed $6 million dollars in order to efficiently complete the number of CIP projects for FY26-27. Mrs. Castillo answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Mrs. Block, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted a Resolution of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board delegating the authority to the President/CEO or Designee to evaluate, select and award construction contracts for construction projects that are part of EPWater's FY26-27 Capital Improvement Program for the Water and Sewer Utility and the Municipal Drainage Utility that are procured using the competitive bidding method or the competitive sealed proposal method, which comply with all applicable laws and EPWater policy and that do not to exceed the amount of $6,000,000 per contract award, not inclusive of change orders, without further Public Service Board approval; this delegation of authority also includes the rejection of bids and termination of awarded contracts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mrs. Block, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 10:07 a.m. February 11, 2026, 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. SUCCESSION PLAN PRESENTATION ON EXECUTIVE POSITIONS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT/CEO AND VICE PRESIDENTS.

This item had no action.

b. **UPDATE ON CLAIMS RELATED TO THE WATER MAIN BREAK (NEVINS 36-INCH DISCHARGE LINE) IN NORTHEAST EL PASO AND UPDATE TO THE RELATED CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM ANALYSIS.**

This item had no action.

c. **CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY ON THE BRINE WATER TREATMENT SERVICES AND SALES AGREEMENT WITH UW CMC LLC (UPWELL WATER CRITICAL MATERIAL CORPORATION).**

This item had no action.

d. **THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE REGARDING WHETHER THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CAN BE DECLARED INEXPEDIENT TO THE WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS: 79 TSP 2 SEC 35 T & P SURV TR 1-A-2, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, APPROXIMATELY 0.7683 ACRES**

On one motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi that the that the property as described in the posting language, be declared inexpedient to the water, wastewater and stormwater systems.

e. **DETERMINATION OF THE LEASE VALUE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY: TRACT 2C, BLOCK 17, UPPER VALLEY GRANT, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES.**

On one motion made by Dr. Ocaranza and seconded by Dr. Gitter this item was deleted at the request of staff.

f. **THE BOARD WILL CONSULT WITH ITS ATTORNEY AND DELIBERATE ON THE POTENTIAL DISPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 600 ACRES OF UTILITY LAND NORTH OF STAN ROBERTS SR AVE. IN NORTHEAST EL PASO.**

This item had no action.

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 Mrs. Block, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 1:06 p.m., February 11, 2026.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m., February 11, 2026.

ATTEST:

Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer

Bryan Morris, Chair