

**CITY OF TULARE
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tulare Public Library & Council Chamber
491 North M Street, Tulare**

**Thursday, September 18, 2025
4:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

Proper notice of this meeting was given pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: President Tony Sozinho
Vice President Blake Wilbur
Commissioner Ray Fonseca
Commissioner Brian Nunes
Commissioner Renee Soto

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Marc Mondell; Assistant City Manager Thomas W. Gaffery IV; Assistant City Attorney Megan Crouch; Public Works Director Trisha Whitfield; Chief Financial Officer Mark Roberts; City Engineer Michael Miller; Assistant Public Works Director Tim Doyle; Public Works Business Manager Andrew Bettencourt; Administration Analyst Diana Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sozinho called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber located at 491 North M Street.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Commissioner Fonseca led the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation was given by Commissioner Soto.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Commissioner Fonseca, seconded by Commissioner Nunes, and unanimously carried that the items on the Consent Calendar be approved as presented.

5.1 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes of the special and/or regular meetings of August 21, 2025. [D. Smith]

5.2 Public Works Performance Reports for August 2025.

Recommended Action: Receive the Public Works performance reports for August 2025. [A. Bettencourt]

5.3 Monthly Investments Report.

Recommended Action: Accept the monthly investments report for June 2025. [M. Roberts]

6. GENERAL BUSINESS**6.1 Hydro Vacuum Excavator.**

Recommended Action: Award the purchase of a trailer-mounted hydro vacuum excavator to The Charles Machine Works, Inc. (Ditch Witch), using Sourcewell Contract 110421-CMW in the amount of \$78,399.64, which includes tax and shipping.

Presented By: Assistant Public Works Director Tim Doyle

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Board Action: Various questions were asked by the Board relating to tool specifications and uses of the excavator. Assistant Public Works Director Doyle responded thereto. It was moved by Commissioner Nunes, seconded by Commissioner Soto, and unanimously carried to approve the item as presented.

6.2 Actions Pertaining to Farmland Mitigation.

Recommended Action: Receive a briefing on farmland mitigation; approve a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$1,095,000 plus a 10% (\$109,500) contingency from Fund 015 Sewer/Wastewater unallocated fund balance.

Presented By: Assistant City Manager Thomas W. Gaffery IV

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Board Action: Inquiries by the Board were addressed by City staff. It was moved by Commissioner Fonseca, seconded by Commissioner Soto, and unanimously carried to approve the item as presented.

7. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Items of interest were discussed amongst the Board and staff.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to discuss, President Sozinho adjourned the regular meeting at 4:30 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes approved on October 2, 2025 by the Board of Public Utilities.

Marc Mondell, City Clerk



By Diana Smith, Deputy City Clerk