

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

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

**Thursday, January 15, 2026
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: Assistant City Manager Thomas W. Gaffery IV; Assistant City Attorney Megan Crouch; Public Works Director Trisha Whitfield; Chief Financial Officer Mark Roberts; Public Works Business Manager Andrew Bettencourt; Administration Analyst Diana Smith; Solid Waste Manager Art Avila

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 Nunes 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 Vice President Wilbur, 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 December 18, 2025. [D. Smith]

5.2 Public Works Performance Reports for December 2025.

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

5.3 Monthly Investments Report.

Recommended Action: Accept the monthly investments report for September and October 2025. [M. Roberts]

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Purchase of Two Electric Refuse Trucks.

Recommended Action: Authorizing an increase of up to \$1,829,000 to the Fleet Replacement Fund appropriation and use of the fund balance in the Fleet Replacement Fund for the purchase of a McNeilus Volterra ZSL electric Automated Side Loader refuse truck and a McNeilus Volterra ZFL electric Front Loader refuse truck from Haaker Refuse, of Tulare, CA, using Sourcewell Contract #110223-MCN. Adopt a resolution approving the appropriation of \$1,829,000 and use of the fund balance from the Fleet Replacement Fund for the purchase.

Presented By: Public Works Business Manager Bettencourt

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Board Action: The Board posed several questions, all of which were addressed by staff. The Board asked clarifying questions regarding the differences between electric vehicle trucks and current fleet vehicles. Public Works Business Manager Bettencourt further noted that this purchase will assist the City in evaluating future needs as it moves toward a full transition to electric vehicles. It was moved by Commissioner Nunes, 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 4:33 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of January 15, 2026, as approved by the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners.

Marc Mondell, City Clerk



By Diana Smith, Deputy City Clerk