

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

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

**Thursday, February 05, 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: City Manager Marc Mondell; Assistant City Manager Thomas W. Gaffery, IV; Assistant City Attorney Megan Crouch; Public Works Director Trisha Whitfield; Assistant Finance Director Melanie Gaboardi; City Engineer Michael Miller; Public Works Business Manager Andrew Bettencourt; Administration Analyst Diana Smith; Project Manager Dylan Chimienti

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sozinho called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners at 4:01 p.m. in the Council Chamber located at 491 North M Street.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

President Sozinho 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 Vice President Wilbur, seconded by Commissioner Fonseca, 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 January 15, 2026. [D. Smith]

5.2 Notice of Completion for Project WW0073 - Pond Rehabilitation Project.

Recommended Action: Accept as complete the contract with Ares Eng, LLC, of Tollhouse, California, for CIP Project WW0073, Pond Rehabilitation Project; authorize the Public Works Director to sign the Notice of Completion and direct the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion with the Tulare County Recorder's Office. [T. Whifield]

5.3 Capital Improvements Project Dashboard for January 2026.

Recommended Action: Accept the Capital Improvements Project Dashboard for January 2026. [D. Chimienti]

6. GENERAL BUSINESS**6.1 Award Project WT0020 – Well Extension 39, 45, 47 Project.**

Recommended Action: Award and authorize the City Manager to sign contracts related to City Project WT0020, Well Extension 39, 45, 47 Project; authorize the City Manager or designee to approve contract change orders in an amount not to exceed 10% of each contract amount and approve the revised budget.

Services	Contractor	Amount
Construction Contract	Valley Pump & Dairy Systems	\$66,650.00
Labor Compliance	Labor Consultants of California	\$8,287.50

Presented By: Project Manager Chimienti

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Board Action: It was moved by Commissioner Nunes, seconded by Vice President Wilbur, and unanimously carried to approve the item as presented.

7. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Items of interest were discussed amongst the Board and staff. Public Works Director Whitfield advised the Board that she plans to present the draft report from the wastewater treatment plant facilities plan to either the next meeting or the following meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to discuss, President Sozinho adjourned the regular meeting at 4:10 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of February 5, 2026, as approved by the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners.

Marc Mondell, City Clerk



By Diana Smith, Deputy City Clerk