



Board of Public Utilities Commissioners Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 491 North M Street, Tulare, California

Proper notice of this regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners was given pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2.

Commissioners Present: President Tony Sozinho, Vice President Blake Wilbur, Commissioner Brian Nunes, Commissioner Renee Soto, Commissioner Ray Fonseca

Staff Present: City Manager Marc Mondell; Assistant City Attorney Megan Crouch; Chief Deputy City Clerk Melissa Wilcox; Public Works Director Trisha Whitfield; Chief Financial Officer Mark Roberts; Assistant Public Works Director Jan Bowen; Public Works Business Manager Andrew Bettencourt; Budget Finance Manager Jacob Del Cid; Project Manager Dylan Chimienti

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sozinho called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners at 4:00 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 Vice President Wilbur.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Commissioner Soto, 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 March 19, 2026. [D. Smith]

5.2 Public Works Performance Reports for February 2026.

Recommended Action: Receive the Public Works performance reports for February 2026. [A. Bettencourt]

ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

5.3 Construction Award – Emergency Rehabilitation of Lactalis Lift Station.

Recommended Action: Award and authorize the City Manager to sign contracts related to City Project SW0008, Lactalis Lift Station Emergency Rehabilitation 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. [D. Chimienti]

Services	Contractor	Amount
Construction Contract	West Valley Construction	\$349,500.00
Construction Inspection	4Creeks	\$63,120.00
Labor Compliance	Labor Consultants of California	\$10,200.00

Board Action: This item was pulled by Commissioner Soto for clarification. Project Manager Chimienti provided an overview of the project. Questions posed by the Board were responded to by staff. It was moved by Commissioner Fonseca, seconded by Commissioner Soto, and unanimously carried to approve the item as presented.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Water Main Relocation at Tulare Irrigation District Main Canal.

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute a contract with Peters Engineering Group of Clovis, CA, for an amount not to exceed \$77,700 to prepare construction documents for the realignment of the City water main north of Paige Avenue and east of State Route 99, as part of the Caltrans Six-Lane and Paige Avenue Interchange Improvement Project; authorize the City Manager or designee to approve contract change orders up to 10% (\$7,770) of the contract amount.

Presented By: Assistant Public Works Director Bowen

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

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

6.2 Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Utilities Preliminary Budget Review.

Recommended Action: Review the City of Tulare Fiscal Year 2027 Municipal Utilities Preliminary Budget and provide direction thereto.

Presented By: Budget Finance Manager Del Cid

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Board Action: This item was informational only; therefore, no action was taken.

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 4:36 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of April 2, 2026, as approved by the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners.

Marc Mondell, City Clerk



By Diana Smith, Deputy City Clerk