

City of Arts & Innovation

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
ART PICK COUNCIL CHAMBER
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, CA 92522

PRESENT: Chair Rebecca Goldware, Vice Chair Brian Siana, and Board Members Peter Wohlgemuth, Sandra Polichetti, Warren Avery, Gary Montgomery, and Tom Evans

ABSENT: None

Vice Chair Goldware called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Member Avery led the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board Member Siana nominated Vice Chair Goldware as Chair of the Board of Public Utilities.

Following discussion, it was moved by Board Member Montgomery and seconded by Board Member Evans to close the nominations for the position of Chair and elect Vice Chair Goldware as Chair of the Board of Public Utilities. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Goldware nominated Board Member Siana as Vice Chair of the Board of Public Utilities.

Following discussion, it was moved by Board Member Avery and seconded by Board Member Evans to close the nominations for the position of Vice Chair and elect Board Member Siana as Vice Chair of the Board of Public Utilities. The motion carried unanimously.

Following further discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Siana and seconded by Board Member Avery to ratify the July 11, 2022, revised Board of Public Utilities Standing Rules, authorize the Chair to sign the revised rules, and requested that the Board Chair and Vice Chair work together with the General Manager and City Attorney's Office to bring back a plan to address concerns through workshops, ad hoc committees, and other formal ways to bring topics of discussion to the Board of Public Utilities. The motion carried unanimously.

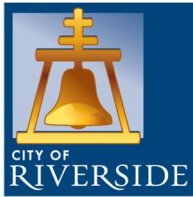
PUBLIC COMMENT IN-PERSON/TELEPHONE

Malissa McKeith spoke regarding water hydrants, trees that reduce the spread of fires, Tree Power Program, planting trees, and protecting City from fires.

COMMUNICATIONS

BOARD MEMBERS DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared at this time.



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CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Board Member Avery and seconded by Board Member Wohlgemuth to approve the Consent Calendar as presented below affirming the actions appropriate to each item. The motion carried with Board Member Evans abstaining from the approval of the February 24, 2025 Minutes.

MINUTES

The minutes of February 24, 2025, were approved as presented.

ABSENCE

The Board of Public Utilities excused the absence of Board Member Avery from the Board of Public Utilities meeting held January 27, 2025.

ABSENCE

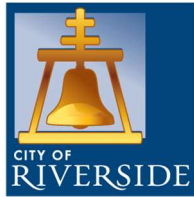
The Board of Public Utilities excused the absence of former Board Chair Ocegüera from the Board of Public Utilities meeting held January 27, 2025.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO SERVICES AGREEMENT - WEED ABATEMENT SERVICES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PROPERTIES

The Board of Public Utilities (1) approved the First Amendment to the Services Agreement with James Huss dba West SWPPP Services for weed abatement services of Public Utilities properties in the amount of \$49,000, for a revised contract total of \$98,000; and (2) authorized the City Manager, or designee, to execute the First Amendment and any other documents necessary to effectuate the project described in the staff report, as well as the ability to make minor non-substantive changes in accordance with all purchasing policies.

FIRST AMENDMENT TO SERVICES AGREEMENT - HERBICIDE APPLICATION OF WEED SUPPRESSION SERVICES AT PUBLIC UTILITIES PROPERTIES

The Board of Public Utilities (1) approved the First Amendment to the Services Agreement with Quality Sprayers Inc., for herbicide application of weed suppression services at Public Utilities properties in the amount of \$49,000, for a revised contract total of \$98,000; and (2) authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the First Amendment and any other documents necessary to effectuate the project described in the staff report, as well as the ability to make minor non-substantive changes in accordance with all purchasing policies.



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DISCUSSION CALENDAR

OVERVIEW OF URGENT GAS TURBINE REPAIRS - UNIT 2 AT RIVERSIDE ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER
Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Siana and seconded by Board Member Polichetti that the Board of Public Utilities receive and order filed an overview of the urgent gas turbine repairs on Unit 2 at Riverside Energy Resource Center. The motion carried unanimously.

INCREASE HEAT PUMP PROGRAM ANNUAL BUDGET - MAINTAIN CURRENT REBATE PER TON FOR REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEARS 2024-2025 AND 2025-2026
Following discussion, it was moved by Board Member Avery and seconded by Board Member Evans to recommend that the City Council approve (1) increasing the heat pump program annual budget to \$2,000,000; and (2) maintaining the current rebate amount of \$750 per ton for the remainder of Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 2025-26. The motion carried unanimously.

LEASE BUYOUT OF TWO VEHICLES - PURCHASE OF EXTENDED WARRANTIES FOR SIX VEHICLES
Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Siana and seconded by Board Member Avery to recommend that the Board of Public Utilities (1) approve the lease buyout of two vehicles with Altec Capital Services, LLC, in the amount of \$55,714; and (2) approve the purchase of extended warranties for six vehicles with Altec Capital Services, LLC, in the amount of \$78,540; (3) authorize the City Manager to sign all documents necessary to effectuate the transaction and make minor non-substantive changes. The motion carried unanimously.

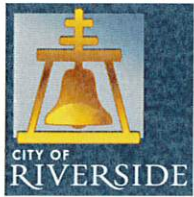
BOARD MEMBER/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

SYSTEMATIC REPORTING ON MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, AND SEMINARS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF

There were no reports given at this time.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CONSIDERATION

Board Member Evans requested a discussion regarding: (1) unspent funds in the Public Benefits Program and suggested forming an Ad hoc committee; (2) support for Low Income Customer Program and how staff satisfies itself that the money is going to customers whom actually qualify for it; and (3) whether it is appropriate that there is a 2.85 percent surcharge against the total utility bill plus utility users tax, the total bill includes the General Fund Transfer, we are charging a tax on top of another tax.



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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Following discussion and without formal motion, the Board of Public Utilities received and ordered filed the General Manager's reports including: (1) WA-12 Agricultural Service Water Rate report for January 31, 2025; (2) Southern California Public Power Authority Agenda and Minutes; (3) a list of upcoming City Council and Board meetings; and (4) Electric/Water Utility Acronyms.

The Board of Public Utilities adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANA ALEGRIA
Deputy City Clerk