

HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1078 Dogwood Rd., Suite 104
Heber, CA 92249

MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The District recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to those individuals with disabilities. Please contact the District (760-482-2440) two working days prior to the meeting with any special requests for reasonable accommodation including translation services. **COMUNÍQUESE CON EL DISTRITO SI SOLICITA SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN SOBRE UN TEMA PARTICULAR DE LA AGENDA. TODAS LAS SOLICITUDES DEBERÁ REALIZARSE POR ESCRITO DOS DÍAS HÁBILES ANTES DE LA JUNTA.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Matus at 6:08pm
2. **ROLL CALL:** Those present at the meeting included: President Delfino Matus, Vice-President Helen Diaz-Molina, Director Tony Sandoval, General Counsel Steve Walker, General Manager Madeline Dessert, Finance Manager Luis Carrasco, Grants Manager Jacob Bermudez
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Matus led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Vice-President Diaz-Molina motioned to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Director Sandoval. Motion approved AYES: 3 / NOES: 0 / Absentees: Director Garcia and Director Tabarez.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Martha Gallegos requested a status update on Correll Park and future plans. Additionally, Ms. Gallegos requested a study be conducted to compare the utility rates to other local jurisdictions. General manager Provided Ms. Gallegos with the most current rate study. Juan Molina expressed his gratitude towards all those who attended the Wassupwu Mother's Day Celebration.
6. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Vice-President Diaz-Molina motioned to approve the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Director Sandoval. Motion approved AYES: 3 / NOES: 0 / Absentees: Director Garcia and Director Tabarez
 - A. **Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting on April 18, 2024**
 - B. **Approve Current Demands for April 2024**
7. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**
 - A. **Ratify Resolution Proclaiming May 19, 2024 through May 25, 2024 Special Districts Week; Employee Recognition:** General Manager recognized HPUD staff and presented awards to staff with over 20 years of continuous service and dedication to Heber Public Utility District.
 - B. **Education and Awareness on Lithium Development – Los Amigos de la Comunidad, Inc**

Mr. Reyes provided a presentation on Lithium Valley and the future plans for the county and how HPUD could benefit from Lithium Valley. Presentation was provided with no further information or questions.

Director Garcia joins the Board meeting at 6:20pm
 - C. **Presentation on Future Correll Park:** Grants Manager presented on the status of Correll Park and shared the proposed plans of the renovation. Grants Manager addressed questions from the Board and members of the public. HPUD plans to release the request for proposals by the end of 2024.

8. REPORTS

- A. President and Director's Comments:** Director Sandoval emphasized his gratitude towards HPUD staff for the translation of the agenda. Furthermore, Director Sandoval asked HPUD staff to share information on utility rate study that has been conducted which compares local jurisdiction utility rates.
- B. Operations Report for April 2024:** General Manager reported on the current status of the sewer cleaning project.
- C. General Manager's Report:** General Manager recognized May 19 -25, 2024 as Special District week. General Manager provided an update on the presentation that was given at the Heber Community Advisory Committee meeting. Report was given on the status of grants and recent events attended.
- D. Grants Update:** Grants Manager provided a detailed update on status of grants. Grants Manager addressed questions from the Board and members of the public.

9. OLD BUSINESS: Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding changes to HPUD Policy Manual Policy #2601, Meeting Stipend – As Requested by Director Sandoval:** The Board expressed their concerns with the proposed language and directed HPUD staff to modify the language on the Manual Policy and to bring up to discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept the Proposed Rate Increase by Solid Waste Hauler, CR&R, Incorporated as included in contract:** Mr. Grey provided the presentation on the proposed rate increase. Questions were taken from the Board and members of the public. Director Sandoval motioned to approve the rate increase. Motion was seconded by Director Garcia. Motion approved. AYES: 4 / NOES: 0 / Absentee Director Tabarez.
- B. Authorize Budget Modification to cover unexpected expenses in FY 2023-2024:** Finance Manager provided presentation on budget amendments need. Director Sandoval motioned to the approve the modification of the 2023-24 budget. Director Garcia seconded the motion. Motion approved AYES: 4 / NOES: 0 / Absentee: Director Tabares.

Director Tabares Joined the Board Meeting at 8:49pm

- C. Information Only: 2024-2025 Budget Review:** Finance Manager presented on the 2024-2025 budget with no additions.

11. ANNOUCEMENTS:

- A. Reminder: Please file form 700s with the County Registrar of Voters:** General Manager reminded the Board to file form 700 with the registrar of Voters.

12. CLOSED SESSION: Commenced at 9:05pm

To ensure privacy during Closed Session, we will observe the following procedures: The Board President will enter Closed Session. Members of the public will exit the boardroom.

- A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54957(b))**
General Manager
- B. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code § 54957.6)**
Agency Designated Representatives: General Manager, General
No reportable action taken. Direction was given to labor negotiators regarding the NRT agreement.

End of Closed Session: Board ended closed session at 9:46pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 9:47pm.