

CITY OF HARLINGEN WATERWORKS SYSTEM
Special Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

The Special Board Meeting of the Utility Board of Trustees was conducted on the 8th day of May 2024 at 5:00 P.M. in the Harlingen Waterworks System's Board Room located on the second floor at 134 E Van Buren Avenue, in the City of Harlingen, Texas.

City Commissioners Present: Ford Kinsley, District 1

Board Members Present: Chris Bartnesky, Chairman
Michael Garza, Vice Chairman
Steve Brewer, Trustee
Gabriel Gonzalez, City Manager, Ex-Officio
Norma Sepulveda, Mayor, Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Gene McCullough, System Attorney
Jose L. Rodriguez, Director of Information Technology
Elizabeth Soto, Director of Human Resources
Gabriel Trevino, Utility Engineer
Joseph Lunn, Assistant Utility Engineer
Michael Chamberlain, Purchasing Manager
David Sanchez, Director of Water Services
Ron De La Garza, Director of Finances
Florita J. Rodriguez, Customer Service Director
Jon Hedegard, Director of Wastewater Services

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: OPEN MEETING AND WELCOME

Chris Bartnesky, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:13P.M. and asked whether the agenda had been posted in accordance with the law; Nilda Sanchez responded, yes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Bartnesky read the conflict-of-interest disclosure and asked the Board if anyone had any known conflicts of interest for this Board Meeting. None of the trustees reported a conflict of interest.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3 ADDRESS STAFF WITH THE STATE OF HARLINGEN WATERWORKS SYSTEM

Mr. Bartnesky informed the Board there were some changes that were transpiring within the system. He explained that since the dismissal of the General Manager, the Board was seeking out to fill that position and maybe hire for an Assistant General Manager position as well.

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Mr. Bartnesky gave staff an opportunity to input their ideas and suggested qualifications for seeking out a new General Manager. Other suggestions included how to restore the daily operations and build up company-wide morale for a better and more effective work environment. Discussion by the Board ensued.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: EXECUTIVE SESSION

(1) Deliberation on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee; pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §551.074.

A motion to enter Executive Session was made for possible action on the General Manager's position:

Motion: Garza Second: Brewer

Motion to Approve: 3 Yeas 0 Nays

Entered Executive Session at: 5:54 PM.

Exited Executive Session at: 6:32 PM.

Meeting was called back to order at: 6:33 PM.

Possible Board Action on Item 4 (a)

Mr. Bartnesky reported there were two potential motions for action items:

A motion was made to approach a nominee for the Interim General Manager position, authorizing Mr. Bartnesky to contact the potential candidate.

Motion: Michael Garza
Second: Steve Brewer

A second motion was made to contract SGR Consulting Firm to begin the hiring process for a permanent General Manager position.

Motion: Steve Brewer
Second: Michael Garza

Motion to approve both items was carried by a vote of the Board (3-0)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman, Bartnesky, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 P.M.

Motion: Steve Brewer
Second: Michael Garza

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Motion to approve was carried by a vote of the Board (3-0).

Attest: 

Nilda Sanchez, Board Secretary