

**HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES**

**1078 Dogwood Rd., Suite 104  
Heber, CA, 92249**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Members of the public may attend this meeting in person or via the application Zoom.**

**ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION:**

**WEBSITE:** <https://zoom.us/join>

**MEETING ID: 796-978-5637**

**CALL IN PHONE NUMBER: 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (760) 336-1572**

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.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 6:06pm by President Sandoval.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Those attending the meeting included President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Tabarez, and Director Garcia. Also in attendance were General Manager, Madeline Dessert, General Counsel (attended via Zoom), Steve Walker, Finance Manager, Adriana Amezcua, and Office Manager, Moises Cardenas.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by General Counsel, Steve Walker.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** There was a motion to approve the agenda by Vice President Diaz-Molina, seconded by Director Matus.  
**The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.**  
**AYES:** President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Tabarez, Director Garcia  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE.**

The Board may set time limits on the amount of time any speaker can use to address the Board. Members of the public are allowed to make comments about anything not listed on the agenda. If

the comments concern an agenda item, they must wait until that item is up for discussion. If you wish to address the Board, please speak to the Board Clerk or General Manager during the meeting and when recognized by the President of the Board address the Board. The Board can't take action on any item not on the agenda.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:** There was a motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Director Matus, seconded by Director Garcia.

**The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.**

**AYES:** President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Tabarez, Director Garcia

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of Regular Meeting on February 16, 2023

B. Approve Current Demands for February 2023

7. **REPORTS:**

A. President and Director's Comments

Director Matus stated that there were only 8 out of 20 Tito Huerta Park Field Lights in working order. He requested HPUD to change the lights to have better visibility at night.

B. Operations Report for February 2023

The Operations Report was presented with no additional comment.

C. General Manager's Report

The General Manager's Report was presented with no additional comment.

D. Grants Update

The Grants Update was presented with no additional comment.

8. **NEW BUSINESS: Discussion and Possible Action**

A. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Regarding Solid Waste rate increase, effective April 1, 2023

**The Public Hearing regarding waste services was opened at 6:11pm by President Sandoval.**

Open Public Hearing: -CR&R Presentation

-Receive public comments regarding the Solid Waste rate increase

Esteban Padilla, 1078 Heber Ave- Mr. Padilla stated that he is not in favor of this potential trash increase. He has experienced bad service from CR&R and does not feel that CR&R should be compensated.

Isidro Cuen, 6 Dove Ct- Mr. Cuen stated that he is not in favor of this potential trash increase. He stated that \$24.00 a year is extensive and that many families would

not be able to afford a serious rate increase.

Sarah Curry, 59 W Mallard St- Ms. Curry stated that she is not in favor of this potential trash increase. She has had bad service from CR&R in the past and has dealt with many trash and oil spills.

Close Public Hearing: After receiving comments from the public regarding the proposed Solid Waste rate increase.

Clerk of the Board, Moises Cardenas, stated that there was a total of 46 written protests turned in prior to the Regular Board meeting, and 2 were submitted during the board meeting, totaling 48 written protests. HPUD needed a total of 842 to not implement the rates according to Proposition 218, which were not met at this public hearing.

**Public Hearing closed at 6:55pm by President Sandoval.**

- B. Adopt Resolution 2023-02 setting Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection rates- General Manager

There was a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-02 by President Sandoval, seconded by Director Garcia.

**The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 4-1.**

**AYES:** President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Garcia

**NOES:** Director Tabarez.

**ABSTAIN:** None

**An incorrect exhibit was attached to Resolution 2023-02. The exhibit on Resolution 2023-02 has been corrected as of April 18, 2023 as directed by General Counsel.**

- C. Authorize utilization of COVID-19 Fiscal Relief Funds, in the amount of \$130,000 to cover cost of repairs to the Wastewater Treatment Plant- General Manager

There was a motion to approve COVID-19 Fiscal Relief Funds by Director Tabarez, seconded by Vice-President Diaz Molina.

**The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.**

**AYES:** President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Tabarez, Director Garcia

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

- D. Information Only- Establishing the HPUD Scholarship Program- General Manager

An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed where Director Diaz-Molina and Director Garcia volunteered for it.

- E. Increase contribution to SHS Band, waiving Policy No. 3066 -Presented by General Manager, Requested by Director Diaz-Molina

There was a motion to waive Policy No. 3066 by Vice-President Diaz Molina, seconded by President Sandoval.

**The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.**

**AYES:** President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Tabarez, Director Garcia  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**9. OLD BUSINESS: Discussion and Possible Action**

- A. Authorize repairs to the Tito Huerta Park Snack Bar and approve the appropriate budget modification- General Manager

There was a motion to authorize the repairs to the Tito Huerta Park Snack Bar by Director Tabarez, seconded by Director Garcia.

**The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.**

**AYES:** President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Tabarez, Director Garcia  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday. You can listen and watch the proceedings <https://board.imperialcounty.org/>.

CSDA newsletter is available at [www.csdanet.org](http://www.csdanet.org).

Applications for Water/Wastewater Operator and Parks Maintenance closed on Wednesday, March 8. Interviews for both positions were held on Tuesday, March 14. The Water/Wastewater Operator position had 76 applications. The Parks Maintenance position had 260 applications.

**11. CLOSED SESSION:** President Sandoval went into closed session at 7:20pm.

To ensure privacy during Closed Session, we will observe the following procedures:

- A separate, private Zoom meeting for Closed Session will be created.
- Once a motion to move to Closed Session is approved, participants joining Closed Session will exit the public meeting and join the private Closed Session meeting.
- Once Closed Session is complete, participants will leave the private zoom meeting and re-join the public and adjournment.

A. Potential Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1))

1 Case: Empire Cat

B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54957(b))

General Manager

Direction given to staff.

Closed Session ended at 7:38pm.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm by President Sandoval, seconded by Vice-President Diaz Molina.

**The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-0.**

**AYES:** President Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Matus, Director Tabarez, Director Garcia

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Minutes of the March 16, 2023 Regular Meeting were prepared by Moises G. Cardenas, Clerk of the Board.

