

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 15, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.,
IN THE PLANNING ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 101 N. HALAGUENO
STREET, CARLSBAD, NM**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Stephens	Chairman
Fred Beard	Member
Dennis Miehl	Member
John Bowen	Member
Robert Chavez	Member

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eddie Rodriguez	Ex-Officio
Wendy Austin	City Manager/ Secretary

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:

Richard D. Lopez	Mayor
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Ahrens	Deputy City Manager
KC Cass	Director of Operations
Ivan "Mike" Abell	Director of Utilities
Barbara Hodgson	City Attorney
Melissa Salcido	Finance Director
Matt Warner	WWTP Superintendent
Olga Ramirez	Assistant to City Manager
Richard Aguilar	Environmental Superintendent
Tyler Lane	Ridge Runner
Austin Tramell	Ridge Runner

1. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

C. Stephens called roll and it was determined that there was a quorum of voting members.

**2. Consider Approval of Minutes of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners
Regular Meeting held December 18, 2025**

D. Miehl asked about the discussion from the last meeting regarding Water Rights. He asked if it was 250 acre feet the city was trying to acquire. He asked if this purchase was confidential. W. Austin stated it is approximately 250 acre feet, and stated the potential seller would like to stay confidential at this point. She said the City is still looking into purchasing those Water Rights. W. Austin said Maria O'Brien is still researching it. D. Miehl asked what the going rate was, W. Austin responded in the past the City has paid around \$5,000 to \$8,000 per acre foot. She stated before the City can purchase them, they will have to do an appraisal. W. Austin said M. O'Brien and Dave Romero are working on that and working with the state engineer's office making sure a transfer is possible. W. Austin stated the City will keep the board updated on the status. F. Beard asked if the Water Rights could be part of the 50 year plan. He stated with the potential growth of

the City, there will not be enough water. W. Austin mentioned at the last meeting she asked if they could evaluate the impact 100 years out. C. Stephens asked what the timetable was to potentially acquire those Water Rights. W. Austin responded M. O'Brien is hoping to have a draft analysis for the board at next month's meeting.

C. Stephens asked why the insurance requirement is only \$1 million, why doesn't the City require \$10 million in insurance. He also stated at the last meeting it was discussed to raise the aggregate. He stated whatever the City requires needs to be per occurrence or per incident, not aggregate. He mentioned the aggregate is for all incidents in one year. He asked why the City hasn't been requiring at least \$10 million. W. Austin stated that is the amount that is in the current Ordinance. The City is in the process of updating some very old outdated Ordinances. That is one of the Ordinances they are working on, but it's very complex, City staff and outside counsel are working to get it updated. She stated for now the City will have to make that motion separately.

D. Miehl asked if D. Romero found any issues with 3R Operating. W. Austin stated Ron Myers is working with D. Romero on that. D. Romero is hoping to have a report for the board at next month's meeting. She stated 3R Operating understands they were conditionally permitted to drill but not through the City aquifer. She mentioned the City will continue to have conversations with 3R Operating. F. Beard asked how many wells the City has in the Wellfield. W. Austin stated about 94, she said for next month's meeting she would bring the number of active wells in Sheep's Draw, City limits, and Double Eagle for the boards review.

The motion was made by D. Miehl and seconded by F. Beard to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners meeting held on December 18, 2025. The vote was as follows: Yes: F. Beard, J. Bowen, R. Chavez, D. Miehl, No: None Abstained: C. Stephens The Motion passed.

3. Utilities Department Monthly Reports presented by Ivan "Mike" Abell

I. Abell reported for the month of December the Water department pumped approximately 527.65 acre-feet from the Sheep's Draw, which is 5.73 million gallons a day. This is 57.21 acre-feet more than this time last year. He stated, overall for the calendar year 2025 the city used less than 2024 by 526 acre feet. The City is at 93% of our Water Rights. In the Double Eagle Water System, the Double Eagle department pumped about 93.36 acre-feet. He reported they pumped 1110.33 acre feet of the 7648 acre feet that is available at Double Eagle. Overall for the calendar year the city used more than 2024 by 246 acre feet. They are about 15% of their Water Rights. Due to the meter failure in October numbers are still unavailable for the amount of water delivered to the City of Carlsbad. They are waiting on parts and hope to have it repaired soon. Customers on the Double Eagle water system used approximately 12.63 million gallons. The WWTP treated about 2.68 million gallons of sewage and treated about 157 thousand gallons of septage. They delivered 4.4 million gallons of Effluent to the Municipal Golf Course and had no Effluent sales for the month of December. He stated they did start selling Effluent, since the Water Rights have restarted for the year. They are on a limit of 400 acre feet, the City is working on renewing the contract.

Precipitation for the month of December was 0.56 inches and total rainfall for 2025 was 14.75 inches.

C. Stephens stated he noticed the meter count was down from November to December. I. Abell stated they are finishing up some subdivisions and switching out some meters so the count will be about the same when they are done. C. Stephens asked about the letters to the customers on the Double Eagle waterline. I. Abell stated the letters were mailed, he has had some phone calls with some of the ranchers who wanted clarification, he said the ranchers understood the issue.

I. Abell mentioned to the board the request for proposal for the Sheep's Draw Tank #5 design and install has been awarded to Souder Miller. He said Souder Miller has also been awarded the Double Eagle/Tatum connection and Phase II of the 22 inch waterline replacement from Double Eagle. C. Stephens asked if the Tatum Wells are proving out, I. Abell stated they need to finish proving them out, but from the test pumping and data those wells are in good shape and should be good to go.

R. Chavez asked if Rockhouse and Select Energy were the same company. I. Abell stated Rockhouse sold to Select Energy. F. Beard said he would like to make a comment, he said that the sooner the City gets the Wells up and going the better off the City will be. I. Abell responded awarding the RFP's and having the money that is available to make the connection between Tatum and Double Eagle is the first step.

(J. Bowen left at 8:56)

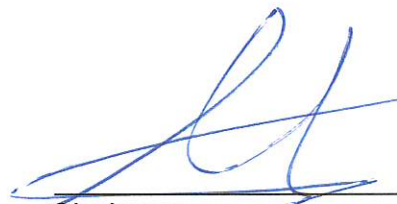
4. Update on UV Disinfection at the Waste Water Treatment Plant by Ivan "Mike" Abell

I. Abell gave a brief update on the UV Disinfection Project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He stated this is the second bank of the UV Disinfection for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Currently there is one bank in operation. He stated they have had some issues in the past where the plant went into zero disinfection mode. He said in 2014 the Treatment Plant was designed to have two banks, but the cost exceeded the budget. They did put the concrete trough, the City just never equipped it.

Councilor Rodriguez said there is an added alternative bid listed to replace existing PLC and HMI, is that considered optional. I. Abell said when this went out to bid originally, it included the added alternative because they were unsure what the price would be. He believes the added alternative has been included in the project.

I. Abell reminded the board they would be touring the Waste Water Treatment Plant on Wednesday, January 21, the van would be in front of City Hall at 10:30 am.

C. Stephens stated the meeting is adjourned.



Chairman