

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

May 5, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 5th day of May, 2026, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS JONES, WALTERS, McNEIL CAIRNS AND POWELL

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, CITY MANAGER MARTINEZ, UTILITY MANAGER TORRANCE AND OTHER KEY STAFF

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JONES, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONER BROWN. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS JONES,  
WALTERS, McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

APPROVAL AGENDA COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALTERS, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS JONES,  
WALTERS, McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

CORSPNDN: None

PBLC APRN: None

CNST CAL: COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER POWELL, to approve agenda items 1 through 2.

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held April 7, 2026
2. Approve a Second Amendment to the Joint Use of Poles between the City of Needles and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Telecommunications Inc. for seven (7) new connections along E Broadway Street

Motion to approve item 1 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS JONES,  
WALTERS, CAIRNS AND POWELL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN  
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER McNEIL

Motion to approve item 2 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS JONES,  
WALTERS, McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

REG ITEMS: Utility Manager Torrance briefly explained the creation of the Needles Public Utility Authority (NPUA) in 1997 and the due to/due from between the city and NPUA. She noted it's hard to have a zero balance in the due to/due from due to timing. Current balances are water owes \$456,677; wastewater owes \$252,134; electric owes \$5,270,424; and All American Canal (Lower Colorado Water Supply Project - LCWSP) has a credit of \$521,398. She spoke on the annual depository statement which is based on the annual approved budgets divided by twelve with some minor seasonal adjustments. City Manager Martinez explained staff is currently working on the budgets for next fiscal year and finance will be working with staff to make sure the monthly transfers are made.

CITY/NPUA  
INFO

Discussion followed on the due to/due from and the repayment to the LCWSP fund. Utility Manager Torrance pointed out that there is no comingling of funds, all are separate and will come back as part of the budget.

LTR OF  
SUPPORT  
CARB CAP  
ON GHG

Utility Manager Torrance explained that a letter of support was written on behalf of two Greenhouse Gas Ad-Hoc Committee Members, COMMISSIONERS JONES AND CAIRNS, after meeting with representatives of the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and being notified of an increase in greenhouse gas free allowances by 322%. This is backed by CMUA and information was provided in the letter on the impact to our ratepayers. The letter of support was timely submitted.

City Manager Martinez spoke on the impact to small low income communities and the inability of Needles to sustain the \$1.7 million expense relating to greenhouse gas. Utility Manager Torrance noted that the changes will be voted on and implemented by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and not the California legislature. We're wanting changes implemented to benefit Needles.

COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAIRNS, to accept and file the Letter of Support to the California Air Resources Board (15-day) Proposed Amendments to the California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Market-Based Compliance Mechanisms Regulation. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS JONES,  
WALTERS, McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BROWN

CMUA LTR  
ON ADVC  
CL FLEET  
REGS

Utility Manager Torrance explained this agenda item was created by the Greenhouse Gas Ad-Hoc Committee Members Jones and Cairns and relates to an unfunded mandate set by CARB who want all publicly owned utility fleets to be zero emissions by 2045. The city submitted comments to CMUA on the negative impacts to the city/utilities noting that there are no zero emission electric fleets for bucket trucks at this time; Needles has approximately 35-40 non-electric standard vehicles for various departments that lack funding to purchase new electric vehicles; and the city does not have the area or EV charging equipment to charge 35-40 vehicles each night. Staff is asking for Board direction to continue to monitor these regulations and submit opposition letters as needed.

COMMISSIONER JONES commented that unfunded mandates are not reasonable and he hopes that CARB will reduce the restrictions significantly.

All agreed that staff will continue to monitor CARB’s advanced clean fleet regulations and submit opposition letters as needed as this is an unfunded mandate.

REPORTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged: 1) Present Perfected Rights Report March 2026; and 2) Needles Public Utility Authority Unaudited Income Statement through December 31, 2026

MGR’S RPT: City Manager Martinez reported on upcoming community events.

BRD RQSTS: COMMISSIONER JONES reported on his attendance at a meeting with the CMUA which he found informative and is starting to understand. CMUA is an advocate for Needles and includes other agencies. He mentioned designated wildfire areas and the effect on homeowners’ insurance and requested the city transfer that information to the City Council as necessary.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 5th day of May, 2026, adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary