

# AUSTIN UTILITIES

## MINUTES OF MEETING

4:00 pm, January 20th, 2026

Date

Regular Meeting

Steve Greenman/Tyler Hulsebus

President

### Members Present:

Steve Greenman, President  
Jay Lutz, Commissioner  
Geoff Baker, Commissioner  
Tyler Hulsebus, 2026 President  
Kristin Johnson, Commissioner

### Others Present:

Tom Dankert, General Manager  
Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director  
Kory Robinson, Finance & Customer Care Director  
Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director  
Sarah Douty, Administrative Coordinator

### Members Absent:

President Steve Greenman called the meeting to order

Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve the meeting agenda. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 16th, 2025. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Tyler Hulsebus, to approve the disbursements summary, accounts payable list, additional bills and expenses, and authorize warrants to be drawn for their payment. Approved unanimously.

Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Jay Lutz, to adjourn the 2025 Board of Commissioners of the Austin Utilities. Sine Die. Approved unanimously.

The Secretary convened the 2026 Board of Commissioners of the Austin Utilities.

Tyler Hulsebus was nominated as President and Geoff Baker as Vice President from among the Commission, for the ensuing year. (In accordance with Chapter 10, Section I, Austin City Charter). Moved by Kristin Johnson, seconded by Jay Lutz to approve the nominations. Approved unanimously.

The Secretary stated the Board's nomination and election of the President and Vice President for 2026, after which, the new President of the Commission, Tyler Hulsebus, continued with the remaining business of the Commission. Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to appoint Tom Dankert as Secretary to the Board for the ensuing year (in accordance with Chapter 10, Section 1, Austin City Charter). Approved unanimously.

President, Tyler Hulsebus, stated the Board's appointment of Tom Dankert as Secretary to the Board, and directed the Secretary to note the members of the 2026 Board of Commissioners of the Austin Utilities. President Tyler Hulsebus, and Secretary Tom Dankert will be official signers on all Austin Utilities checking accounts for 2026.

The Board appointments for subcommittees remained unchanged as Personnel Committee: Geoff Baker and Tyler Hulsebus. The Budget Committee representatives will continue to be Kristin Johnson and Steve Greenman and the Policy Committee representative will be Jay Lutz.

Kory Robinson, Finance and Customer Care Director, presented the 4th quarter 2025 charge-offs. Residential loss totaled \$43,383.16. Commercial loss was \$36.49 and miscellaneous receivables were \$2,619.29. Commissioner Johnson asked how past due amounts for some residents were allowed to reach into the thousands. Kory Robinson explained the MN Cold Weather Rule was a likely factor. The HeatShare customer round up total for 2025 was \$4,404.25. Along with other donations and fundraisers the total donation to the Salvation Army program was \$5,513.19. Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve the charge offs and HeatShare report as presented. Approved unanimously.

Tom Dankert, General Manager, presented Resolution No. 342 - Accepting Donations to AU. The list of donations included snacks and promotional items like hats and coffee cups from vendors for the holidays. Moved by Jay Lutz, seconded by Kristin Johnson to approve Resolution No. 342 as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved 5 yeas to 0 nays.

Kory Robinson, Finance and Customer Care Director, presented Resolution No. 343 - Designating Depositories for 2026. The only changes from 2025 were business name changes for Home Federal to Allerus and Bremer Bank to Old National. Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Steve Greenman, to approve Resolution No. 343 as presented. Roll call vote taken and approved 5 yeas to 0 nays.

Kory Robinson, Finance and Customer Care Director, presented the annual insurance liability waiver stating AU does not waive the statutory limit. Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve the waiver as presented. Approved unanimously.

Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, presented a bid for the NE substation transformer. AU's Capital Improvement Plan includes the replacement of an aging Power Transformer at the Northeast Substation in 2028. DGR, AU's Electrical Engineering consulting firm, developed a bid specification and the replacement unit was recently publicly bid. Bids were received on December 3rd, 2025. The low bidder is Niagara Power Transformer, with a total purchase price of \$1,328,407. Staff recommends awarding the contract to Niagara Power Transformer, and requests Board approval to move forward by authorizing staff to execute the necessary agreements. Moved by

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*Continued...*

Geoff Baker, seconded by Steve Greenman, to approve the bid and authorize staff to execute the agreements. Approved unanimously.

Alex Bumgardner, Utility Operations Director, presented an Engineering, Design & Bidding Proposal from Bolton & Menk to construct a 1.0 MG elevated storage tank and make other improvements to AU's water system. Commissioner Lutz asked about the condition of the existing Downtown Reservoir and whether it could be refurbished. Commissioner Hulsebus stated he would like to see more research into that possibility along with more analysis on the future water consumption estimates as Commissioners requested during the presentation of the water system study at the October 2025 board meeting. Agenda item 12, water tower proposal, and item 13, Resolution for financing reimbursement for a water tower, were tabled.

Tom Dankert, General Manager, and Dan Ulland, Employee Relations Director, presented the proposed Public Purpose Expenditure Policy for Austin Utilities. After advice from CLA, AU's auditor, consultation with the City Attorney and review by AU staff and the Board of Commissioners Policy Committee, a formal policy has been drafted to correct current practices and provide guidelines for future expenditures. The policy also establishes an Employee Wellness and Recognition Program defining awards for employee anniversaries and removing certain awards for department safety milestones. The policy also requires an end to AU's volunteer program per advice from the City Attorney. Moved by Geoff Baker, seconded by Jay Lutz, to approve the policy as presented. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Baker left the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Tom Dankert, General Manager, presented the Components of Employment for former UAW union members who are no longer represented after a decertification vote December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. AU leadership held an informational meeting with the 47 employees on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to review its compensation approach for the next 12 months while they are non-contract employees. Leadership requests the board approve a 4% COLA for 2026 to remain consistent with the approved BPS, and to retain most of the premium pay provisions those employees had. Any references to seniority and union representation have been eliminated. Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Kristin Johnson to approve Components of Employment as presented. Approved 4 – 0.

Tom Dankert, General Manager, also updated the Board on the following:

- SMMPA meeting minutes
- Safety committee minutes
- MMUA Legislative issues
- Discontinuation of the penny
- All employee meeting and raffle February 12<sup>th</sup>
- Promotion to Engineering Supervisor for Derek Berndt

The next regular board meeting was set for 4:00 pm, February 17th, 2026. Moved by Steve Greenman, seconded by Kristin Johnson, to adjourn. Approved unanimously at 5:01 pm.

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President

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Secretary