

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Mayor

AGENDA DATE: February 16, 2021

CONTACT PERSON NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Mayor Oscar Leeser (915) 212-0021

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

SUBJECT: Approve the following Resolution

Discussion and action on a Resolution to appoint a member to the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees in the area of expertise of Financial Management as recommended by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee:

Ranked 1 st	Lisa J. Saenz
Ranked 2 nd	James A. Easley
Ranked 3 rd	Michael T. White

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The second term of the Public Service Board member serving in the area of expertise of Financial Management, Ms. Terri Garcia, expires on March 13, 2021. Ms. Garcia is not eligible to be appointed for another term since board members are limited to two terms.

On January 28, 2021, as required by Ordinance Number 017167, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee (hereinafter "Selection Committee") met and reviewed the applications submitted by qualified applicants. I, as Mayor, serve as the Chairperson of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee's membership consists of the Public Service Board members and eight persons (1 vacancy) appointed by City Council. The Selection Committee now forwards a slate of three candidates, in order of their ranking, to the City Council for consideration and appointment.

Advertisement for applicants interested in this position were placed in the El Paso, Inc., and on the City of El Paso and El Paso Water's websites.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

Yes. The City Council most recently approved a Resolution on December 8, 2020 appointing Charles Intebi to fill a vacancy of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees in the area of expertise of General Business Management.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board budget.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION:

On January 28, 2021, the Selection Committee approved a Resolution selecting and ranking the qualified applicants in the area of expertise of Financial Management. The Committee's Resolution is attached.



TO: Tomás González, City Manager, City of El Paso, Texas
FROM: John E. Balliew, President/CEO, El Paso Water Utilities, Public Service Board
DATE: February 3, 2021

**SUBJECT: Request for Placement of Item on the Regular Agenda for City Council Meeting:
February 16, 2021**

Agenda Posting Language:

Discussion and action on a Resolution to appoint a member to the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees in the area of expertise of Financial Management, as recommended by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee.

(All Districts) El Paso Water Utilities, John E. Balliew, President/CEO, (915) 594-5595

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Background:

This agenda item is for City Council to appoint a member to the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees. The second term of the Public Service Board member serving in the area of expertise of Financial Management, Ms. Terri Garcia, expires on March 13, 2021. Ms. Garcia is not eligible to be appointed for another term since board members are limited to two terms. Attached is a copy of the general qualifications to be considered for the Financial Management category.

On January 28, 2021, as required by Ordinance Number 017167, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee (Selection Committee) met and reviewed the applications submitted by qualified applicants. The Committee's membership consists of the Public Service Board and eight persons (1 vacancy) appointed by City Council. In accordance with Ordinance 017167, the Committee now forwards a slate of three candidates, in order of their ranking, to the City Council for consideration and appointment. Attached is a copy of the Resolution adopted by the Selection Committee at the January 28, 2021 meeting along with the resumes of the applicants.

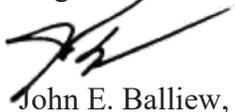
Action Requested:

That the City Council adopt a Resolution appointing a member to the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees in the area of expertise of Financial Management, as recommended by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee.

If there are any questions, please contact me at 594-5595 or e-mail Jeballiew@epwater.org. El Paso Water Utilities staff will attend the City Council meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,



John E. Balliew, P.E.
CEO/President

Attachments

DHS
City Council Resolution
Selection Committee Resolution
Score/Ranking Sheet
Resumes of top 3 candidates (Redacted)
PSB Areas of Expertise, Education and Experience for Financial Management

CC: The Honorable Mayor Oscar Leeser (email) Marcela Navarrete, Vice-President, PSB
 Laura D. Prine, City Clerk (email) R. Alan Shubert, Vice-President, PSB
 Karla Nieman, City Attorney (email) Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel, PSB

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board will occur on March 13, 2021 with the expiration of the second term of Terri Garcia, in the area of Financial Management; and,

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso adopted Ordinance Number 017167 which requires that any vacancy in the membership of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board be filled by the City Council; and,

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso by Resolution established the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee, to be comprised of the members of the Public Service Board and such additional members as appointed by the City Council to assist City Council in selecting eligible candidates to fill the vacancy; and,

WHEREAS, under the Resolution, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee reviews resumes submitted by persons interested in filling the vacant position and submits to the City Council the names and the ranking of three eligible candidates; and,

WHEREAS, a quorum of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee met on January 28, 2021 pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the nomination, ranking and recommendation of eligible candidates for consideration and appointment by City Council;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

THAT, a quorum of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee met on January 28, 2021 pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the nomination, ranking and recommendation to the City Council the following candidates to fill a vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board in the area of Financial Management:

- Ranked 1st Lisa J. Saenz
- Ranked 2nd James A. Easley
- Ranked 3rd Michael T. White

THAT, the El Paso City Council hereby appoints _____ to fill the vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board in the area of Financial Management. The term of appointment shall commence on March 14, 2021 and shall be for a four (4) year term.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of February, 2021.

THE CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leaser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Karla M. Nieman
City Attorney

for,

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board will occur on March 13, 2021 with the expiration of the second term of Terri Garcia, who filled the position with expertise in Financial Management; and,

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso adopted Ordinance Number 017167 which requires that any vacancy in the membership of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board be filled by the City Council; and,

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso by Resolution established the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee, to be comprised of the members of the Public Service Board and such additional members as appointed by the City Council to assist City Council in selecting eligible candidates to fill the vacancy; and,

WHEREAS, under the Resolution, the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee reviews resumes submitted by qualified persons interested in filling the vacant position and submits to the City Council the names and the ranking of the eligible candidates;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EL PASO WATER UTILITIES PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS:

THAT, a quorum of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee met on January 28, 2021 pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the nomination, ranking and recommendation to the City Council of the following candidates to fill a vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Ranked 1 st | Lisa J. Saenz |
| Ranked 2 nd | James A. Easley |
| Ranked 3 rd | Michael J. White |

THAT, the Mayor of El Paso, who serves as the Chair of the Committee, forward the recommendation to the El Paso City Council for their consideration for filling the vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board.

PASSED and APPROVED this 28th day of January, 2021.

El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board
Selection Committee:



Mayor Oscar Leeser, Chair

Approved As To Form:



Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel

Lisa J. Saenz, CPA
Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Public Service Board
1154 Hawkins Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79925

January 8, 2021

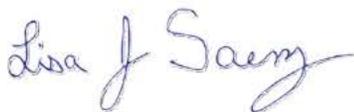
Dear Public Service Board Selection Committee:

Upon learning about the Public Service Board vacancy, I was eager to contact you with my interest. As a seasoned Chief Financial Officer of a large community bank, I offer vast financial management experience that aligns with the requirements posted on your website for PSB Areas of Expertise, Education and Experience.

As you will see from the enclosed resume, my education and work experience make me an ideal fit for the vacant Financial Management position on the Public Service Board. I started my career in Public Accounting with KPMG and have spent the last twenty years overseeing the financial, tax and regulatory accounting areas for WestStar Bank. I serve as the Bank's Investment Officer and manage an investment portfolio in excess of \$400 million as well as maintain a budget for the Bank with total assets of \$2.4 billion and net income of \$51.3 million. I have developed and implemented sound financial practices at the Bank in order to maintain financial integrity in the information provided to shareholders, regulators and clients. I have lead many projects for the Bank including the current construction and development of WestStar Tower. I have served on the Board for non-profit organizations in El Paso and in 2021 I will serve as Board Chair for the Paso del Norte Health Foundation. I joined the Board for the Paso del Norte Health Foundation in 2015 and have served as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee and a member of the Investment Committee.

I am excited at the prospect of bringing my talents to the Public Service Board. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience to discuss how my experience and qualifications will prove valuable in the Board member role.

Sincerely,



Lisa J. Saenz

Enclosure

Lisa J. Saenz, CPA
Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer



Brief description of current job function

Manages the Bank's Accounting, Treasury, Information Technology, Branch Operations and Wealth Management Departments. Maintains a wide range of responsibilities including overseeing and directing the Bank's financial goals, strategic objectives, interest rate risk, investment strategies and budget. Also have direct involvement in a variety of contract negotiations, purchase and sale of properties, and project management. A member of the Executive Management team also serving on the following Board committees: Asset Liability Committee (ALCO), IT Committee, and ex-officio member of the Wealth Management Committee.

Employment History - WestStar Bank

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
January 2015 - Present

Senior Vice President and Controller
July 2002

Vice President and Assistant Controller
July 2000

Prior Employment History

Senior Auditor
KPMG LLP, El Paso, Texas
December 1997 – June 2000

Internal Auditor
El Paso County, El Paso, Texas
June 1997 – November 1997

Education

Southwestern Graduate School of Banking
Southern Methodist University
Graduated with Distinction for Academic Honors

Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Computer Information Systems
University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas
Graduated with Honors

Certifications / Licenses

Certified Public Accountant (CPA) since 2000

Community Involvement / Memberships

Board Chair for the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation

Board Member of Financial Managers Society

Board Member of Texas Bankers Association Services Company

Member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Member of Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants



December 28, 2020

Zulema Jamis, Interim Executive Assistant to President/CEO
El Paso Water



Dear Zulema:

Attached please find my resume that I am submitting in association with my application for the Financial Management Public Service Board vacancy. I look forward to being able to contribute to the mission and vision of the El Paso Water Utilities System.

I have reviewed the PSB Areas of Expertise, Education and Experience associated with the Financial Management Board position and I feel I meet the criteria.

I have reviewed the PSB General Duties, Responsibilities and Expectations and I feel I meet the criteria.

Thank you for your assistance thus far with the information that you have provided. Please let me know if there is any additional information needed for this application. My cell phone number is

Sincerely,

James A. Easley
Market President and Senior Vice President
Citizens Bank

MEMBER FDIC



Main Branch 505 S. Main St. Las Cruces, NM 88001 575 647 4100	Roadrunner Branch 3991 E. Lohman Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88011 575 528-6300	Country Club Branch 2841 N. Main St. Las Cruces, NM 88001 575 647-4136	Picacho Branch 3030 W. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88007 575-528 6363	University Branch 3065 E. University Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88011 575-647 6700	T or C Branch 1920 N. Date St. T or C, NM 87901 575 894-0820	El Paso Branch 2500 N. Mesa St. Ste. A El Paso, TX 79902 915 275 0750
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James A. Easley



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - Thirty-nine years of banking experience as follows:

September 2016 through present - Market President and Senior Vice President for Citizens Bank in El Paso, TX, Citizens Bank of Las Cruces, NM. Management responsibility for Commercial Lending in El Paso, TX.

March 2012 through August 2016 - Market President for Sandoval County and Community Lending Team Leader for northern New Mexico comprised of Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Gallup, Grants and Taos, NM for US Bank New Mexico. Responsible for Commercial Banking team of six Relationship Managers and two Banking Assistants.

November 2011 through February 2012 - Commercial Lending Relationship Manager for US Bank New Mexico.

October 2009 through September 2011 - Business Banking Manager II for Albuquerque North Business Banking, Wells Fargo Bank. Responsible for a Commercial and Industrial Business Banking team of six Relationship Managers, one Credit Analyst and two Banking Assistants.

September 2005 through October 2009 - Business Banking Manager II for Greater New Mexico, Wells Fargo Bank. Responsible for all Business Banking for the markets that comprised southern New Mexico.

March 2005 through September 2005 - Business Banking Manager II for Southwestern New Mexico, Wells Fargo Bank. Responsible for Business Banking in Las Cruces, Silver City, Deming and Alamogordo, New Mexico.

October 2000 through March 2005 - Community Banking President VII for Las Cruces, New Mexico market, Wells Fargo Bank. Responsible for all Business Banking and Retail Banking for the Las Cruces market comprised of Las Cruces, Santa Teresa, Anthony and Hatch, New Mexico.

October 1999 through October 2000 - Community Banking President I for the Las Cruces, New Mexico market, Wells Fargo Bank.

October 1995 through October 1999 - Business Banking Manager I and II for the Las Cruces, New Mexico market, Wells Fargo Bank and Norwest Bank.

September 1992 through October 1995 - Vice President, Commercial Lending, First Security Bank of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

September 1988 through September 1992 - Vice President, Commercial Lending, Sunwest Bank of El Paso, El Paso, Texas.

June 1981 through September 1988-MBank El Paso, Various positions in Commercial Lending from Credit Analyst to Vice President, El Paso, Texas.

EDUCATION

Masters of Business Administration, Summer 1981, University of Texas at El Paso

Bachelors of Business Administration, Fall 1979, University of Texas at El Paso

CURRENT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Board Member Enchantment Land Certified Development Company

Member and Board Member of the Rotary Club of West El Paso, El Paso, TX

PAST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Rio Rancho Sunrise

Board Member and Finance Committee Chair of the Sandoval Economic Alliance

Graduate of Leadership Sandoval County, Class of 2012 - 2013

Graduate of Leadership Albuquerque, Class of 2010 - 2011

Board Member and President Upper Rio Grande Valley Chapter Risk Management Associates

Member of Las Cruces Rio Grande Rotary Club, Past President and Board Member

Board Member Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance

Board Member Southwest United Way

Board Member University Terrace Good Samaritan Village

Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce

Board Member Memorial Medical Center Foundation

Numerous other past non-profit and civic organizations in El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM, Albuquerque, NM and Rio Rancho, NM

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC
810 East Yandell Drive
El Paso, Texas 79902

(915) 532-8405 (fax)
CRLcpa.com

12/2/2020

Zulema Jamis, Interim Executive Assistant Secretary
to President/CEO
El Paso Water
1154 Hawkins Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79925

Re: Public Service Board Vacancy

Ms. Jamis:

I would like to be considered for the Financial Management vacancy on the Public Service Board. I feel my experience and knowledge in the public accounting industry and my participation in many not for profit and for profit boards will be an asset to the board as it oversees the management, control and operation of the El Paso Water System.

My resume and bio are attached for your review. I understand this position is voluntary and will require an estimate 125 hours of service per year. I am a United States citizen and an El Paso County resident. I have been involved with the community for over 20 years including sitting and chairing boards such as:

- El Paso 8(a) and Government Contractors Association – Chair Elect
- Construction Financial Management Association El Paso Chapter – Current Chair
- YWCA Foundation – Past Chair
- El Paso Opera – Past Chair
- Institute of Internal Auditors El Paso Chapter – Board Member
- Jr. Leadership El Paso – Board Member (Founding Board)

I do not hold a political office and I do not believe I have any interest that conflict with those of the Public Service Board including real estate management and land development.

Thank you for considering my application. If you have any other questions, please email me at mjwhite@cricpa.com or call me at

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ White', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael J. White, CPA
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC



MICHAEL J. WHITE, CPA



Summary

Dedicated Partner promoting exceptional skills in accounting and consulting services for over 20 years. Bilingual and committed to outstanding customer service in a wide variety of industries including international, construction, governmental, not for profit, utility, and retail.

Skills

- Developing and reviewing Company processes and procedures
- Customer relationship building
- Proficient in Xero, Microsoft, QuickBooks, Foundation
- Accounting training management & consulting

Experience

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, El Paso, TX
Partner
03/2007 – Current

Responsible for all engagements performed in the El Paso region including Las Cruces, NM and Alamogordo, NM. Responsible for attracting new clients, as well as performing administrative duties and oversight for the El Paso Office and Alamogordo Office.

Wiener Strickler, LLP, El Paso, TX
Staff Accountant
12/2003 – 03/2007

Worked in teams to perform external audit services for clients. Assisted in creating a team to perform internal audit services to assist in Sarbanes-Oxley readiness engagements including facilitating control documentation workshops, assisting clients with management's internal control assessment, and implementing tools and technology to support the Sarbanes Oxley compliance effort.

Edge, McLagen, Nugent & Co., P.C., El Paso, TX
Staff Accountant
07/2000 – 12/2003

Performed CFO services for clients including managing their accounting processes using firm staff or training and using client staff. Assisted clients with managing their companies by providing financial statements, budgets and forecasts to aid clients with their business decisions.

Education and Certifications

The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX
BBA in Accounting
06/2000

Certified Public Accountant, Texas
08/2006

Professional Affiliations

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA)
El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (EPTSCPA)
El Paso Chapter of Institute of Internal Auditors (EPIIA)
El Paso Chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association (EPCFMA)



Michael J. White, CPA

Partner



Experience

Michael is a Partner in CRI and brings over 20 years of public and private accounting and consulting experience in a wide variety of industries, including significant experience in international, construction, not-for-profit, gaming, distribution, retail, and governmental. He has assisted in Sarbanes-Oxley readiness engagements; which includes, facilitating control documentation workshops, assisting clients with management's internal control assessment, and implementing tools and technology to support the Sarbanes-Oxley compliance effort. He offers CFO type services to his clients and works with each client management team by providing them the resources available at CRI and CRI's family of companies to help each client achieve their business goals.

Michael is ultimately responsible for all engagements performed in the El Paso region including Las Cruces NM and Alamogordo NM; and attracts and develops new clients, as well as performs assigned administrative duties. He is licensed to practice as a CPA in Texas.

Education, Licenses & Certifications

- BBA, Accounting, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Professional Affiliations

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA)
- El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (EPTSCPA)
- El Paso Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)
- El Paso Chapter of the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA)