

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

DEPARTMENT: Office of the Mayor

AGENDA DATE: March 18, 2025

CONTACT PERSON NAME/PHONE NUMBER: Mayor Renard Johnson (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 1st: Lane Gaddy

Ranked 1st: John Hjalmsquist

Ranked 2nd: Ekhi Muniategui

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

This agenda item is for City Council to appoint a member to the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees. A vacancy in the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board occurred on December 12, 2024 with the resignation of the first term of Lisa Saenz, who filled the position, which required expertise in the area of Financial Management.

On February 18, 2025, 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 the qualified applicants. Mayor Johnson served as Chairperson of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee's membership consists of the Public Service Board members, which includes the Mayor, and eight persons appointed by City Council, one for each district. The Selection Committee now forwards a slate of three qualified candidates in order of their ranking to the City Council for consideration and appointment.

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

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

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

Yes. The City Council approved a Resolution on June 11, 2024, appointing Dr. Hector Ocaranza to fill a vacancy of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board of Trustees in the area of expertise of Environment and Health Management.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board budget.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION:

On February 18, 2025 the Selection Committee approved a Resolution selecting and ranking the qualified the top three qualified applicants in the area of expertise of Financial Management. The Committee's Resolution is attached.

Q5 326

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board occurred on December 12, 2024 with the resignation of the first term of Lisa Saenz, who filled the position which required expertise 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 February 18, 2025, pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the selection and ranking of the top three 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 February 18, 2025 pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the selection and ranking the following eligible candidates for consideration and appointment by the City Council to fill a vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board in the area of Financial Management:

(Tie) Ranked 1st: Lane Gaddy

(Tie) Ranked 1st: John Hjalmquist

Ranked 2nd: Ekhi Muniategui

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 _____ and shall be for a four (4) year term.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____.

THE CITY OF EL PASO

Renard U. Johnson
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Karla M. Newman
City Attorney

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board will occurred on December 12, 2024 with the resignation of the first term of Lisa Saenz, who filled the position, which required expertise in the area of Financial Management;

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:

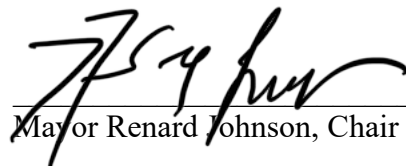
THAT, a quorum of the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee met on February 18, 2025 pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act and approved the nomination and recommendation to the City Council of the following candidates to fill a vacancy on the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board:

1. Lane Gaddy
John Hjalmquist
2. Ekhi Muniategui

THAT, the Chair of the Committee forward the recommendations 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 18th day of February, 2025

El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board Selection Committee:



Mayor Renard Johnson, Chair

Approved As To Form:



Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel

PSB Selection Committee
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Finance Management

SCORING OF CANDIDATES

CANDIDATES	NUMBER OF POINTS:	RANK
Lane Gaddy	22	1
John Hjalmsquist	22	1
Ehki Muniategui	10	2



Committee Chairman

2/18/25

Date



General Counsel

2/18/25

Date

Lane B Gaddy
El Paso, TX

Employment History

2005 - Present **Chairman and CEO** W. Silver Recycling El Paso, TX (HQ)

- Opened 11 new locations; employee growth from 26 to 300+ currently

2005 - Present **General Partner:** Variety of commercial real estate assets: US, Mexico, Scotland, England

- Ownership: STNL, office, industrial, mixed use, hotel, specialty, land, water rights
- Property management company: Best Real Estate Management

Additional Non-CRE Activity: *Freshii Franchisee (divested), 204 Mills Restaurants, MixLab, 9 Banded Whisky, Electric, Felix Payments, Schematic Ventures Funds 1/2, Silver Farms (divested), SHHH LLC, FOMO LLC, Ecotone Investments, Radian Capital Funds 1/2/3 and others*

Education

Georgetown University	MPS Real Estate Finance	2023	Washington, DC
Bank Director Training	Certificate	2021	
Stagen	Integrated Leadership Program (ILP)	2014	Dallas, TX
University of Texas	MBA	2012	Austin, TX
University of Arizona	BA Finance, BA Entrepreneurship	2005	Tucson, AZ
Real Estate Broker	Licensed in Texas	2005- Current	Texas

Board of Directors

• W Silver Recycling	2005- Current	El Paso, TX
• Steel and Metals YPO Network	2013- 2015	El Paso, TX
• Tax Increment Re-investment Zone No. 5	2013- 2019	El Paso, TX
• Architectural Preservation Committee- EP County Historical Commission	2015- 2017	El Paso, TX
• Texas Trost Society	2015- 2019	El Paso, TX
• RedSky – Medical Center of the Americas	2016- 2022	El Paso, TX
• El Paso Convention and Visitors Advisory	2016- 2017	El Paso, TX
• El Paso Downtown Management District (DMD)	2016- 2018	El Paso, TX
• WestStar Title	2017- 2019	El Paso, TX
• The Borderplex Alliance	2018- Current	Regional
• Eller College National Board of Advisors – University of Arizona	2018- Current	Tucson, AZ
• McGuire Entrepreneurship Program Board – University of Arizona	2018- Current	Tucson, AZ
• Hospitals of Providence - Transmountain Governance Board (Vice Chair)	2020- Current	El Paso, TX
• WestStar Bank (Loan Committee/ALCO Chair)	2020- Current	El Paso, TX
• Calstrip Industries (divested to Steel Technologies 2021)	2020- 2021	Mira Loma, CA
• Medical Center of the Americas	2022- Current	El Paso, TX

Awards

• El Paso Independent School District Partner of the Year (W Silver)	2012
• Nominated El Pasoan of the Year	2015
• Platt's Scrap Company of the Year - Nominee (W Silver)	2016
• Inducted into El Paso Business Hall of Fame	2016
• El Paso Chamber of Commerce - Breakthrough Leader Award	2016
• Received Hub of Human Innovation – Innovator Award	2017
• Preservation Texas, Prestigious Project Award – Martin Building	2018
• Preservation Texas, Prestigious Project Award – Bassett Tower	2019
• American Metal Market Scrap Company of the Year - Nominee (W Silver)	2018+2019+2020+2021

Affiliations/Organizations

• Member: Institute of the Scrap Recycling Industry (ISRI)	2005- Current
• Young President's Organization (past Board Member, past Chapter Chair)	2006- Current
• YPO Recycling Forum (Member)	2013- 2021
• Desarrollo Economico de Ciudad Juarez – (Member)	2020- 2023
• Border Industrial Association – (Member)	2018- Current
• Mesilla Valley Economic Development Association – (Member)	2018- Current
• YPO Network Forum (Member)	2021- Current
• Member: International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC Member)	2023- Current

PSB AREAS OF EXPERTISE, EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Financial Management:

Professional knowledge and experience in finance or public finance, accounting and financial management practices, investment and banking practices, standard auditing methods; knowledge in standard auditing and fiscal administration policies and practices, auditing methods and standards; and knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, auditing and financial reporting procedures and standards. Knowledge of IRS and other tax laws and regulations; rules, regulations and practices related to the management and investment of public funds; and five-year and annual budget planning, development and control.

Work experience may include an accountant, accounting manager, and/or hold certifications in the financial area such as Chartered Financial Analyst, Corporate Finance, Association of Corporate Treasurers, Certified Market Analyst, Master of Finance & Control. Accountancy qualifications may include Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Accountant, budget and management analyst, financial manager, financial systems manager, chief financial officer, or fiscal operations manager.


Bachelor's degree preferable. A minimum of four years experience in accounting, finance, business or public administration, economics, or related field; community involvement experience that accents demonstrated leadership; no conflicts of interest; abide by a specified code of ethics; and no current political office held.

John T. Hjalquist

John T. Hjalquist is a native El Pasoan and is a 1978 honors graduate with a BBA from the University of Texas at El Paso where he majored in accounting. He is a certified public accountant.

Hjalquist is President/Chief Executive Officer of Pizza Properties, Inc., which owns and operates 51 franchised Peter Piper Pizza restaurants in Texas and Southern New Mexico. Pizza Properties is the largest franchisee of Arizona-based Peter Piper, Inc. John also serves as President/Chief Executive Officer of Lone Star Apple, LLC which consists of 12 Applebee's restaurants in El Paso and Las Cruces, New Mexico which were acquired in September 2019. Together, both companies employ approximately 3,000 employees with corporate headquarters in El Paso, Texas. John's prior positions at Pizza Properties, Inc. include Controller and Chief Financial Officer. Hjalquist led the efforts that resulted in the successful sale in February 2017 of 39 Burger King restaurants they owned and operated in Texas and New Mexico.

Hjalquist has been and continues to be active in numerous civic and charitable organizations. He is currently a member of the University of Texas at El Paso Business Advisory Council and serves on the Board of Directors of the Borderplex Alliance. He is a board member and past board chairman of the University Medical Center/El Paso Children's Hospital Foundations. He is a member of the El Paso/Juarez Chapter of the Young President's Organization (YPO and YPO Gold) where he has served as Chapter Chairman, Education Chairman, Membership Chairman and has served on the Western Regional Board for YPO Gold. John previously served on the boards of and as board chairman of both the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and El Paso Pro-Musica. Mr. Hjalquist is a former board member and past president of the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is a graduate of Leadership El Paso Class 8. Hjalquist also has served on the Regional Advisory Board for Chase Bank-El Paso.



EKHI MUNIATEGUI

El Paso TX

SUMMARY

Accomplished leader with a proven track record in administrative practices, budget development, and operational management. Skilled in optimizing business performance through effective team oversight, strategic planning, and financial acumen. Experienced in supervising production, sales, HR, and advertising teams, while fostering accountability, motivation, and productivity. Adept at employee training, performance reviews, and implementing efficient business models to ensure financial health. Well-versed in corporate governance, economics, environmental regulations, operations within highly regulated industries, and compliance, with a commitment to sustainability and organizational growth. Recognized for driving operational success and contributing to public institutions through strategic leadership.

SKILLS

- Public Policy and Governance
- Strategic Partnerships
- Stakeholder Relations
- Advocacy and Public Relations
- Finance Management and Compliance
- Operational Efficiency
- Strategic Thinking
- Strategic Planning
- Talent Development
- Operations Management

EXPERIENCE

DIRECT KINETIC SOLUTIONS

El Paso, TX

Co-Founder and CEO

01/2019 to Current

Founded the company post thorough customer discovery, identifying versatile applications for the technology within both government and commercial sectors. Secured over \$15 million in government contracts, as well as a \$2 million seed round of private financing leading the development of an 15-member team, and driving critical R&D initiatives to advance the technology from conceptualization to functional product. Operationalized a fully licensed radiological facility in early 2023 and developed a fully automated production lab in 2024.

- Engineered a specialized power source for the Air Force, enabling extended operational capabilities for asset tracking tags, valued at over \$30 million, scheduled to commence in Q4 2024
- Designed a comprehensive modular power source catalog for NASA, targeting small satellites to complement existing solar array and chemical battery solutions, with a \$1 million prototyping contract expected to initiate in Q2 2024
- Working with a large multinational battery manufacturer to create a hybrid chemical and radioisotopic battery to target the intelligent metering market for gas and water with an expected sales volume in the hundreds of thousands units per year worldwide.

HILTI NORTH AMERICA

Plano, TX

Regional Manager

01/2015 to 01/2019

Led a newly formed \$7 million region covering the south border of Texas, Waco and College Station

- Commanded a recently integrated team of veteran and rookie sales people to continuously grow sales, push the SaaS product, increase channel adoption, and advance in their careers
- Achieved a 10% CAGR in sales over a three year period while increasing the gross profit margin by effectively managing account development, shifting customers to more efficient channels, and accelerating new product adoption
- Enabled the sale of the first SaaS contract in the division after On!Track was launched
- Drove a 4x growth in the high-end Optical Layout business, leading North America.

INTEL CORPORATION

Santa Clara, CA

Strategic Business Development

01/2012 to 01/2014

Spearheaded teams of functional experts such as marketing, R&D, engineering, and external consultants across the globe to develop investment recommendations to the Mobile Group business heads

- Analyzed market and technological developments to propose new business models and partnerships to succeed in the next five years
- Developed a product to target 45% of the smartphone market, covering a gap in Value and Mainstream
- Recommended a strategic investment of \$100 million to set a foothold in the China Tech Ecosystem, a market with no Intel presence
- Ideated a strategic marketing partnership with Futbol Club Barcelona with the aim of selling one million Intel tablets worldwide.

INTEL TECNOLOGIA

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Field Sales Team Lead

01/2010 to 01/2012

Led a team of over 20 sales professionals from being on the brink of divestment to a model organization with \$60 million in sales and over 80% margin

- Managed over 1,000 accounts across Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Bolivia
- Led a \$60 million P&L to cover the Broad Channel in the Southern Cone with a team of 24 sales professionals
- Executed successful marketing campaigns, constantly achieving a return on investment of over 20%
- Upgraded a channel partner to the distribution chain, adding over 200 accounts to the roster.

INTEL CORPORATION

Santa Clara, CA

Ecosystem Enablement Associate

01/2009 to 01/2010

Created communications, training, deployment, and sales plans for the ClassMate PC - Intel's 1:1 education solution

- Enabled the launch of the 1:1 ClassMate PC education programs in Argentina and Macedonia
- Constituted Intel's most coveted volunteer opportunity, the Intel Education Service Corps
- The team was awarded a Division Recognition Award for this development.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION: ACCELERATING BOARD DIVERSITY

10/2021

Harvard Business School

MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

01/2009

Harvard Business School, Boston, MA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE - INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

01/2004

The University of Texas El Paso, El Paso, TX

Cum Laude

LANGUAGES

English:

Native/ Bilingual

Spanish:

Native/ Bilingual

French:

Limited

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

- Panel reviewer for NSF
- Judge and POD leader for MassChallenge
- Volunteers time to help high school students with their college applications
- Visiting Facilitator for UTEP's Miners Leadership Initiative focusing on the Leadership with Purpose topic