

**Knoxville Utilities Board  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 18, 2025 Noon**

**Call to Order**

The Knoxville Utilities Board met in regular session in the Larry A. Fleming Board Room at 445 S. Gay Street, on Thursday, December 18, 2025, pursuant to the public notice published in the January 4, 2025, edition of the *News Sentinel*. Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Claudia Caballero, Ron Feinbaum, Cynthia Gibson, Kathy Hamilton, Celeste Herbert, Phyllis Nichols, and Dr. Craig Pickett, Jr.

Commissioners Absent: None

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Herbert and a second by Commissioner Feinbaum, the November 20, 2025 Board meeting minutes were approved by a roll call vote. The following Commissioners voted "aye": Caballero, Feinbaum, Gibson, Hamilton, Herbert, Nichols, and Pickett. No Commissioner voted "nay".

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

President Gabriel Bolas recognized Cindy Reed, Manager of Accounting and Budget, who reviewed the proposed tax equivalent payments and distribution of payments for the electric, gas, and fiber systems for fiscal year 2026. She advised that state law requires that City Council adopt a resolution setting the amount of the electric, gas, and fiber payments and providing for their distribution. Ms. Reed also reviewed the water and wastewater systems in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2026.

**Resolution 1513 – A Resolution Requesting the City Council of the City of Knoxville to Adopt a Resolution Setting the Tax Equivalent Payments for the Electric, Gas, and Fiber Systems for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Providing for the Allocation and Distribution of Such Payments to the Affected Taxing Jurisdictions**

December 18, 2025

Upon a motion by Commissioner Nichols and a second by Commissioner Hamilton, Resolution 1513 (*Attachment 1*) was adopted by a roll call vote on first and final reading. The following Commissioners voted "aye": Caballero, Feinbaum, Gibson, Hamilton, Herbert, Nichols, and Pickett. No Commissioner voted "nay".

## **President's Report**

### **Century II Updates**

President Bolas reminded Commissioners the Century II program is a key initiative at KUB, focusing on maintaining and replacing utility system assets to provide safe and reliable services to KUB customers. He recognized Nathan Babelay, Director of Engineering, to provide an update on our Century II efforts.

## **Other Business**

Commissioner Herbert announced the Nominating Committee met today and voted to nominate the following slate of officers for 2026; Cynthia Gibson, Chair; Kathy Hamilton, Vice-Chair; and Mark Walker, Secretary. She also announced that the election of officers would be conducted in January 2026 as required by the Charter.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **New Business**

### **Resolution 1514 – A Resolution of the Knoxville Utilities Board Honoring Celeste Herbert, who is Concluding Service as a Commissioner**

President Bolas offered Resolution 1514 for the Board's consideration recognizing Celeste Herbert for her service to the KUB Board of Commissioners. Bill Coley, Board's General Counsel, read Resolution 1514.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Hamilton and a second by Commissioner Caballero, Resolution 1514 (*Attachment 2*) was adopted by a roll call vote on first and final reading. The following Commissioners voted "aye": Caballero, Feinbaum, Gibson, Hamilton, Nichols, and Picket, Jr. No Commissioner voted "nay".

Commissioner Herbert thanked the Board and KUB staff and expressed her appreciation for all KUB employees.

December 18, 2025

**Adjournment**

There being nothing further to come before the Board, Chair Gibson declared the Board meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.



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Cynthia Gibson, Chair



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Mark Walker, Board Secretary

Attachment 1	Recommendation Letter and Resolution 1513 – A Resolution Requesting the City Council of the City of Knoxville to Adopt a Resolution Setting the Tax Equivalent Payments for the Electric, Gas, and Fiber Systems for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Providing for the Allocation and Distribution of Such Payments to the Affected Taxing Jurisdictions	<b><u>Page(s)</u></b> 13758 – 13764
Attachment 2	Resolution 1514 – A Resolution of the Knoxville Utilities Board Honoring Celeste Herbert, who is Concluding Service as a Commissioner	13765 – 13766



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December 12, 2025

Knoxville Utilities Board  
445 S. Gay Street  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1109

Commissioners:

The December 18 Board meeting agenda includes a single official action item, a resolution requesting City Council approval of electric, gas, and fiber in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2026. An overview of the resolution is set forth below.

**Resolution 1513**

State law requires City Council, as the municipality's governing body, to pass a resolution setting in lieu of tax payments for KUB's electric, gas, and fiber systems each fiscal year and providing for their distribution to the appropriate taxing jurisdictions.

Tax equivalents for the three systems for fiscal year 2026 total \$25,204,859, including \$18,992,987 for the electric system, \$6,193,691 for the gas system, and \$18,181 for the fiber system. The fiber system amount is small given the relatively low value of fiber system assets in place. The electric, gas, and fiber tax equivalent payments are the maximum amounts provided for under state law. These payments will be made to the respective taxing jurisdictions on the last business day of June.

A summary of all tax equivalent payments for fiscal year 2026 is enclosed for your information. Although it doesn't require official action by the Board or City Council, our presentation will also cover the in lieu of tax payments for the water and wastewater systems.

Resolution 1513, enclosed for your information, requests the City Council of Knoxville to set the in lieu of tax payments for KUB's electric, gas, and fiber systems and to establish the allocation of payments to the various taxing jurisdictions for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. I recommend its adoption on first and final reading.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Bolas", written in a cursive style.

Gabriel J. Bolas II  
President and CEO



## RESOLUTION NO. 1513

### **A Resolution Requesting the City Council of the City of Knoxville to Adopt a Resolution Setting the Tax Equivalent Payments for the Electric, Gas, and Fiber Systems for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Providing for the Allocation and Distribution of Such Payments to the Affected Taxing Jurisdictions**

**Whereas**, in accordance with Section 1101 of the Charter of the City of Knoxville, the purchase, sale, and distribution of electric and gas services by the City of Knoxville are under the jurisdiction, control, and management of the Knoxville Utilities Board ("KUB"); and

**Whereas**, the state of Tennessee adopted electric and gas tax equivalent statutes in 1987 (TCA Sections 7-52-301 et seq. and Sections 7-39-401 et seq.) in order to gain uniformity with respect to payments in lieu of taxes on the property and operations of all electric and gas systems owned and operated by incorporated cities or towns, by counties, and by metropolitan governments in the state of Tennessee; and

**Whereas**, the state of Tennessee adopted a tax equivalent statute in 1999 (TCA Section 7-52-606) in order to provide the method for calculation of payments in lieu of taxes on the property and operations of all internet (fiber) or other like systems owned and operated by municipalities in the state of Tennessee; and

**Whereas**, the statutes provide that every municipality may cause an amount to be paid from its electric and/or gas and/or fiber system revenues for tax equivalents which, in the judgment of the municipality's governing body (i.e. City Council of Knoxville), after consultation with the supervisory body (i.e. KUB), represents the fair share cost of government to be borne by the electric system and/or gas and/or fiber systems; and

**Whereas**, the statutes include formulas which establish the maximum annual tax equivalent payment for electric, gas, and fiber systems; and

**Whereas**, the statutes provide the basis for the allocation and distribution of tax equivalent payments to the various taxing jurisdictions, except to the extent any such payments were allocated and distributed under established arrangements in existence immediately prior to the adoption of the statutes; and

**Whereas**, KUB had an established arrangement for the allocation and distribution of electric and gas system tax equivalent payments, as defined by the statutes, in existence immediately prior to the adoption of said statutes; and

**Whereas**, TCA Section 7-52-606 provides that a municipality providing internet (fiber) services shall make payments in the same manner established for its electric system, except as provided in the statute; and

**Whereas**, KUB has prepared a proposed resolution for passage by the City Council of Knoxville, a copy of which resolution is attached hereto and made a part hereof (hereinafter referred to as the "Proposed Resolution").

**Now, Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Knoxville Utilities Board:**

**Section 1.** That the KUB Board of Commissioners (the "Board"), after due consideration, finds that it is in the best interest of KUB and the City of Knoxville to make electric, gas, and fiber tax equivalent payments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, totaling \$18,992,987 for the electric system, \$6,193,691 for the gas system and \$18,181 for the fiber system (hereinafter referred to as "Tax Equivalents"), with the aforesaid Tax Equivalents being the maximum amounts permitted by law.

**Section 2.** That this Board, after due consideration, finds that the following allocation and distribution of the aforesaid Tax Equivalents to the following taxing jurisdictions is required under the applicable statutes:

	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Gas</u>	<u>Fiber</u>	<u>Total Tax Equivalents</u>
City of Knoxville	\$10,910,682	\$4,020,572	\$10,565	\$14,941,819
Knox County	6,598,138	2,170,286	7,616	8,776,040
Union County	758,649			758,649
Sevier County	432,611			432,611
Grainger County	162,608			162,608
Jefferson County	89,897			89,897
Blount County	21,298			21,298
Anderson County	19,104	1,669		20,773
Loudon County		1,164		1,164
Total	\$18,992,987	\$6,193,691	\$18,181	\$25,204,859

**Section 3.** That this Board hereby formally requests City Council to pass the Proposed Resolution, and this Board does hereby adopt, ratify, approve, consent and agree to each and every recital and provision contained in the Proposed Resolution.

**Section 4.** That this Board finds that the statutory obligation for consultation with the supervisory body (KUB) will be fulfilled by the delivery of this resolution to City Council.

**Section 5.** That upon City Council's passage of the Proposed Resolution, the President and Chief Executive Officer, or the Chief Financial Officer, is hereby authorized and directed to distribute the Tax Equivalents to the respective taxing jurisdictions in accordance with the Proposed Resolution; provided, however, that the amount of such Tax Equivalents to be paid to any taxing jurisdiction specified in the Proposed Resolution shall be appropriately reduced by the aggregate amount of any qualified state, county, city and other local taxes or charges imposed for such fiscal year by or for the benefit of such taxing jurisdiction, said reduction being required by the statutes.

**Section 6.** That the President and Chief Executive Officer is authorized to deliver copies of this Resolution to the Mayor and City Council as formal evidence of this Board's action in connection therewith.

**Section 7.** That this Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage.

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Cynthia Gibson/s  
Cynthia Gibson, Chair

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Mark Walker/s  
Mark Walker, Board Secretary

APPROVED ON 1<sup>st</sup>  
& FINAL READING: 12-18-25  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-18-25  
MINUTE BOOK 50 PAGE 13759-13764



## RESOLUTION

### **A Resolution of the Council of the City of Knoxville Setting the In Lieu of Tax Payments for the Electric, Gas, and Fiber Systems of the Knoxville Utilities Board for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Providing for the Allocation and Distribution of Such Payments to the Affected Taxing Jurisdictions**

**Whereas**, under the state of Tennessee electric, gas and internet (fiber) tax equivalent statutes (TCA Section 7-52-301 et seq., Section 7-39-401 et seq. and TCA 7-52-606), the Council of the City of Knoxville, after consultation with the Knoxville Utilities Board (hereinafter referred to as "KUB"), may cause to be paid from KUB's Electric, Gas, and Fiber Divisions an amount for payments in lieu of taxes (hereinafter referred to as "Tax Equivalents") on KUB's electric, gas, and fiber systems and operations which, in the judgment of City Council, shall represent the fair cost of government properly to be borne thereby; and

**Whereas**, the amount of Tax Equivalents on KUB's electric and gas systems that may be set by City Council is to be in lieu of all state, county, city and other local taxes or charges imposed on KUB's Electric and Gas Divisions for the fiscal year by the various taxing jurisdictions in which the properties of the electric and gas systems are situated, said amount being subject to a maximum limitation that may be paid for a fiscal year; and

**Whereas**, the amount of Tax Equivalents on KUB's fiber system that may be set by City Council is to be in lieu of all state, county, city or other local taxes or charges imposed on KUB's Fiber Division for the fiscal year by the various taxing jurisdictions in which the properties of the fiber system are situated, except as specifically provided in Section 7-52-606; and

**Whereas**, the Tax Equivalents are to be distributed to the respective taxing jurisdictions in accordance with a mandatory distribution formula or under established arrangements with taxing jurisdictions in effect immediately prior to the adoption of the statutes, both as provided for in the statutes; and

**Whereas**, KUB had established arrangements in place with taxing jurisdictions for the allocation and distribution of in lieu of tax payments on KUB's electric and gas systems immediately prior to the adoption of the statutes; and

**Whereas**, TCA Section 7-52-606 provides that a municipality providing internet (fiber) services shall make payments in the same manner established for its electric system, except as provided in the statute; and

**Whereas**, KUB, by its passage of Resolution No. 1513 on December 18, 2025, and the delivery of same to City Council, has requested City Council pass a resolution setting the Tax Equivalents for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and providing for the allocation and distribution of the Tax Equivalents to the affected taxing jurisdictions (hereinafter referred to as “Proposed Resolution”); and

**Whereas**, City Council, having consulted with KUB regarding the setting of the Tax Equivalents and the allocation and distribution thereof to the affected taxing jurisdictions, hereby finds that KUB’s Proposed Resolution is in the best interests of the City of Knoxville and KUB.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:**

**Section 1.** That pursuant to T.C.A. Sections 7-52-301 et seq., Sections 7-39-401 et seq., and Section 7-52-606, the Council of the City of Knoxville hereby sets the Tax Equivalents for KUB’s electric, gas, and fiber systems for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, at a total of \$25,204,859, representing \$18,992,987 in electric Tax Equivalents, \$6,193,691 in gas Tax Equivalents and \$18,181 in fiber Tax Equivalents, said amounts being the maximum amount of Tax Equivalents that may be paid from KUB’s Electric, Gas, and Fiber Divisions under law.

**Section 2.** That the aforesaid Tax Equivalents be distributed in accordance with law to the following taxing jurisdictions in the amounts specified below:

	<u>Electric</u>	<u>Gas</u>	<u>Fiber</u>	<u>Total Tax Equivalents</u>
City of Knoxville	\$10,910,682	\$4,020,572	\$10,565	\$14,941,819
Knox County	6,598,138	2,170,286	7,616	8,776,040
Union County	758,649			758,649
Sevier County	432,611			432,611
Grainger County	162,608			162,608
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Blount County	21,298			21,298
Anderson County	19,104	1,669		20,773
Loudon County		1,164		1,164
Total	\$18,992,987	\$6,193,691	\$18,181	\$25,204,859

**Section 3.** That the statutory obligation for City Council to consult with the supervisory body (KUB) was satisfied by the delivery of KUB Resolution No. 1513 to City Council.

**Section 4.** That KUB be and hereby is authorized and directed to aforesaid amounts of Tax Equivalents to the respective taxing jurisdictions specified above; provided, however, that the amount of such Tax Equivalents to be paid to any taxing jurisdiction shall be appropriately reduced by the aggregate amount of any qualified state, county, city and other local taxes or charges imposed for such fiscal year by or for the benefit of such taxing jurisdiction, said reduction being required by law.

**Section 5.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it, and a certified copy hereof shall be delivered to the President and Chief Executive Officer of KUB as formal evidence of this Council's action in connection therewith.

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Mayor

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City Recorder



## **RESOLUTION NO. 1514**

### **A Resolution of the Knoxville Utilities Board Honoring Celeste Herbert, who is Concluding Service as a Commissioner**

**Whereas**, Celeste Herbert became a member of this Board in January 2013 and has now served faithfully for thirteen years; and

**Whereas**, Commissioner Herbert's more than 40 years of legal experience and passion for community service have been tremendously impactful and deeply appreciated during her tenure on the Board; and

**Whereas**, Commissioner Herbert provided leadership for KUB's Board of Commissioners by serving as Board Chair for two years, Vice Chair, and past Chair of the Board's Nominating Committee; and

**Whereas**, Commissioner Herbert's support in the early years of KUB's Century II program and her continued advocacy for proactive infrastructure investment has helped improve the safety and reliability of KUB's utility systems; and

**Whereas**, Commissioner Herbert's careful consideration and action to establish KUB's Fiber Division has resulted in improved quality of life and economic opportunity for the greater Knoxville area, including customers who previously had no reliable internet access; and

**Whereas**, Commissioner Herbert has also helped to support KUB customers in need, with establishment of programs during her tenure including ConnectED for student internet assistance, Round It Up for weatherization assistance, and the COVID Utility Relief Effort, which aided more than 18,000 customers with nearly \$13 million following the unprecedented impacts of the global pandemic; and

**Whereas**, during her tenure as a Commissioner, Commissioner Herbert's perspective and leadership supported the development of KUB's Blueprint, creation of KUB's Community Advisory Panel, and KUB's award-winning approach to operations, customer service, environmental stewardship, and community impact; and

**Whereas**, Commissioner Herbert has been a longstanding and enthusiastic champion of KUB's TeenWork Program, consistently attending classroom sessions, engaging with students, and supporting their annual end-of-year presentations, thereby strengthening KUB's connection to local youth and fostering future workforce development; and



**Whereas,** Commissioner Herbert's engagement in the community extends beyond her tenure on the KUB Board and is reflected through her service to YWCA of Knoxville, Leadership Knoxville, the Executive Women's Association, and the Tanasi Girl Scout Council for which she was awarded the Thanks Badge, one of the highest honors for adults in Girl Scouts; and

**Whereas,** Commissioner Herbert always offers sparks of humor and good cheer through her stories of travel, family, and transcendental connections with her animals; and

**Whereas,** Commissioner Herbert's bold spirit, mixed with authenticity, dedicated professionalism, and unwavering care for the Knoxville community and KUB's customers will continue to inspire KUB and its employees for years to come.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Hereby Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Knoxville Utilities Board:**

**Section 1.** That this Board hereby gratefully acknowledges and commends Celeste Herbert for her dedicated service to KUB, its employees, customers, and our community.

**Section 2.** That this Board recognizes Commissioner Herbert's meaningful and effective service and genuinely regrets that her time on the KUB Board of Commissioners has concluded.

**Section 3.** That this Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage and that a copy shall be provided to Commissioner Herbert.

Claudia Caballero/s  
Claudia Caballero, Commissioner

Ron Feinbaum/s  
Ron Feinbaum, Commissioner

Cynthia Gibson/s  
Cynthia Gibson, Chair

Kathy Hamilton/s  
Kathy Hamilton, Commissioner

Phyllis Nichols/s  
Phyllis Nichols, Commissioner

Craig Pickett/s  
Dr. Craig Pickett, Jr, Commissioner

APPROVED ON 1<sup>st</sup>  
& FINAL READING: 12-18-25  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-18-25  
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