

**COMMISSIONERS**

**City**

Javier Moreno, Chair

Robert Amparano

**County**

Jesus Escobar, Vice-Chair

Michael Kelley

**Public**

David Salgado



**Tyler Salcido, Executive Officer**

**Steve Walker, Legal Counsel**

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS**

**City**

Ramon Castro

**County**

John Hawk

**Public**

Jose Landeros

---

**SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, October 24, 2024**

**8:30 am**

**El Centro City Council Chambers**

**1275 W. Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243**

---

**VOTING COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Javier Moreno, Chair  
Jesus Escobar, Vice-Chair  
John Hawk  
Robert Amparano  
David Salgado

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ramon Castro

**ABSENT:**

Michael Kelley

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Steve Walker, Legal Counsel  
Tyler Salcido, Executive Officer  
Lori Zinn, Clerk/Analyst

---

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. July 17, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
  - b. July 19, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
  - c. July 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes
  - d. July 30, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
  - e. August 28, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes
- The Commission approved the consent items.
-

**Motion by Commissioner Amparano to approve the Consent Items**

AYES: MORENO, HAWK, AMPARANO, SALGADO  
NAYES: NONE  
ABSTAINED: NONE  
ABSENT: KELLEY, ESCOBAR

**6. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made.

**7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**a. Project Status Report**

The Executive Officer presented the current Project Status Report to the Commission. He informed them that the staff is contacting all the agencies, setting up and attending meetings.

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

**a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation**

(Gov. Code § 54956.9) Name of Case: Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District v. Imperial Valley Healthcare District case #ECU003473

Legal Counsel Steve Walker reported that there was no reportable action.

**9. PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:00 A.M.**

**a. Dissolution of the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District pursuant to AB 918**

Legal Counsel Steve Walker reminded the Commission of the following:

- Under AB 918 PMHD must be dissolved by January 1, 2025.
- The Imperial Valley Healthcare District has requested that LAFCO dissolve the district no later than December 1, 2024.
- The Commission may select another date for dissolution.
- Concerning the petition filed by PMHD, Judge Anderholt ordered a stay of the effect of any vote by this Commission to dissolve. Transfer of assets, licenses, etc. cannot be implemented until the court has ruled.

Legal Counsel Steve Walker noted that Mr. Grass on behalf of the Imperial Valley Coalition for Sustainable Healthcare Facilities submitted a letter to the Commission dated October 22, 2024, asking to be made part of the record for this public hearing.

A total of twenty-three attendees made comments regarding the dissolution of the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District.

The speakers asked the following of the Commission:

- Do not vote to dissolve until the court ruling.
- Follow the dissolution procedures in the CKH Act.
- Take no action today.
- Do not dissolve.
- Place this back into the hands of the voters and keep the decision local.
- Suspend the property tax levied on the PMHD residents if dissolving.

Ian Weeks, a candidate for California's 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and Jeff Gonzalez, a candidate for CA State Assembly District 36, were present to stand on the side of the people for local control and to have a say via vote.

A nursing student in the Imperial Valley stated a dissolution would cause nursing students to seek work outside of the Imperial Valley.

The Commission was presented with a box containing a petition signed by three thousand Brawley residents protesting the dissolution of the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District.

The CEO of the Imperial Valley Healthcare District, who is a Brawley resident and former CEO of the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District, made comments ensuring everyone that with the dissolution, nothing changes. The only difference is that there would be a new board. IVHD is ready to receive the transfer of the licenses, and they have worked with the state and agencies to ensure a seamless transition.

Two speakers disagreed with comments made by the IVHD CEO, stating that there would be billing issues and that IVHD had said in a public meeting that the hospital would be repurposed.

Each Commissioner made comments regarding the dissolution of the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District.

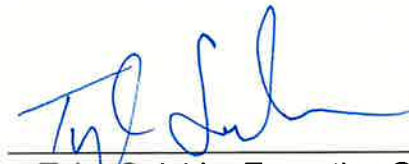
Commissioner Hawk made the first motion, to delay the vote until the court has ruled. The motion died due to lack of a second.

The Commission voted 4-1 to dissolve PMHD, emphasizing the need to uphold the law and ensure long-term healthcare sustainability in Imperial County.

**Motion by Commissioner Escobar and second by Commissioner Amparano to dissolve the Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District effective October 24, 2024, pursuant to AB 918**

AYES: MORENO, ESCOBAR, AMPARANO, SALGADO  
NAYES: HAWK  
ABSTAINED: NONE  
ABSENT: KELLEY

## 10.ADJOURNMENT



Tyler Salcido, Executive Officer