

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

John Bakota, President
Henry Ventura, Vice-President
Joseph Ochoa, Member
Anthony Askounis, Member
Ray Lopez, Member

STAFF:

Winna Guzman
Anthony Herrera
Joseph Allegretti
Bill Biller
Edward Santen

Reported by: Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: John Bakota
Present Telephonic: Henry Ventura, Ray
Lopez, Joseph Ochoa, Anthony Askounis,
Joseph Allegretti
Staff Present Telephonic: Edward Santen,
Bill Biller

MR. BAKOTA: First item, Board's approval
of Check warrants.

WARRANT 052720 WB - \$23,300.40.

Motion to approve Warrant 052720 WB, in the amount of
\$23,300.40, made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

WARRANT 060120 WB - \$58,537.70.

Motion to approve Warrant 060120 WB, in the amount of
\$58,537.70, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

1 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

2 Next we have approval of Payroll
3 warrants.

4 WARRANT 052920 - \$35,599.15 - 5/9/20 to 5/22/20

5 Motion to approve Warrant 052920, amount of \$35,599.15,
6 payroll for dates of 5/9/20 to 5/22/20, made by Henry
7 Ventura. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

8 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
9 saying aye?

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

12 WARRANT 052920 - \$26,916.82 - Utilities Payroll

13 Dates of 5//9/20 to 5/22/20

14 Motion to approve Warrant 052920, in the amount of
15 \$26,916.82, Utilities Payroll, for dates of 5/9/20 to
16 5/22/20, made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

17 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
18 saying aye?

19 (All signify aye.)

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

21 Next, Filtration Report. No Report.
22 Water Report?

23 MS. GUZMAN: No report for this meeting.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Distribution report.

25 MR. SANTEN: Nothing new to report.

MR. BAKOTA: We go to New Business. We
have Resolution WD 20-06. That is a resolution of the
Board of Directors of the East Chicago Department of
Waterworks authorizing the temporary transfer to a
depleted fund. There is a copy of that in your packet.

MR. OCHOA: What is the depleted fund?

MR. BAKOTA: Okay. It's necessary to
borrow money to enhance the depleted fund that is in
need of money for cash flow purposes. There must be
sufficient money on deposit or funds that can be
temporary transferred. The prescribed hearing should be
in the budgetary year in which the transfer occurs.

1 Whereas, East Chicago Water Utility
2 Fund is depleted and in need of money for cash flow
3 purposes. And there is sufficient money in the Water
4 Tank Refurbishing Fund, 0631, on deposit, to offer
5 temporary transfer of money to East Chicago Water
6 Utility Fund, 0601.

7 MR. ALLEGRETTI: The resolution is
8 related to the action taken by the Common Council at the
9 last Common Council meeting, whereby they authorized a
10 temporary transfer from the City's General Fund to the
11 Water Utility to help us -- Winna can probably talk
12 about this more specifically than I can -- to pay for
13 these emergency repairs and water main breaks. They
14 were approaching seven figures. This is a transfer of
15 money. We have money in the Water Tank Refurbishing
16 Fund and this is kind of an accounting measure.

17 MR. VENTURA: We have to approve it?

18 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes, sir.

19 MR. LOPEZ: You need approval?

20 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Yes, sir.

21 Motion to approve Resolution WD 20-06, transfer of funds
22 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

23 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
24 saying aye?

25 (All signify aye.)

26 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

27 Next is Agreement with Core & Main,
28 hydrants and valves. This is a bid process. Core &
29 Main brought in a bid of \$32,640.00. Also bids from
30 Utility Supply Company, bid of \$34,380.00; Ferguson
31 Waterworks came in with a bid of \$32,952.00. Core &
32 Main came in with the lowest bid.

33 Motion to approve Core & Main agreement for \$32,640.00,
34 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Ray Lopez.

35 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Does the staff recommend
36 award to lowest bidder, Winna?

37 MS. GUZMAN: That is correct. And this
38 is for hydrants and valves.

1 MR. VENTURA: This is for 12 hydrants and
2 12 valves?

3 MR. SANTEN: Yes. That's for 12 hydrants
4 and 12 valves, to continue working on the Hydrant
5 Replacement Program. You see the prices there are
6 within 40 bucks, 50 bucks each. They are very
7 competitive, all three of them.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Any comments or questions?
9 All in favor signify by saying aye?
10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

12 Next are adjustments. If it's all
13 right with the Board, I'll go through all of them here,
14 and then -- unless you want to scrutinize any -- we'll
15 go with that. 5015 Alexander, this is billed usage. It
16 was billed at 72,900. The correct reading was 33,000.

17 Next is 4202 Baring. Payment made
18 to the wrong account of \$28.05. This is a banking
19 error.

20 4117 Grand Boulevard, the adjustment
21 was \$14.56; \$9.80 and \$8.35, plus fees.

22 Next is 3834 Drummond, Peoples' Bank
23 made an additional payment of \$23.70. This is the one
24 that was returned to Peoples' Bank

25 MS. GUZMAN: Peoples' Bank had paid
inadvertently an additional amount. So they are
requesting their refund.

MR. BAKOTA: Any questions on this?

(None)

Motion to approve adjustments as listed made by Ray
Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

Next we have report from Legal
Counsel.

MR. ALLEGRETTI: The staff and our
professional advisors, and legal and accounting are
still working in doing the necessary research and
background work to prepare the rate case with the IURC
to increase our water charges. And we are reviewing the

1 transcript and the proceedings from our previous rate
2 case in 2016, and we are going to have some challenges,
3 but everybody is involved. Ed is involved, Winna, and
4 also staff, Dr. Z, Ralph; everybody is working on it.
5 We'll be reporting on it as it goes forward. That's all
6 I have to say.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Financial Report.

9 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Just to note, Bill is
10 not here today. Hopefully he will be at the next --

11 MR. BILLER: I'm on the phone.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Welcome back. Do you have
13 anything to report?

14 MR. BILLER: No, sir.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

16 Next is Unfinished Business. We
17 have none. Next is Public Comment, there is none.

18 Next meeting will be June 15th, here
19 in the Council Chambers, at 5:00 p.m.; hopefully we'll
20 have a regular meeting. This is aggravating.

21 Do I have a motion for adjournment?

22 Motion to adjourn meeting made by Joseph Ochoa. Second
23 by Anthony Askounis.

24 MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
25 saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

MR. BAKOTA: All in favor signify by
saying aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. BAKOTA: Motion carries.

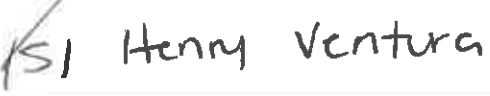
***** Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.*****

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
June 1, 2020


Approved and signed _____



John Bakota, President




Henry Ventura, Vice-President



Joseph Ochoa, Member



Ray Lopez, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Anthony Herrera, Secretary

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 3rd day of June, 2020.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR