

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF STORM WATER COMMISSIONERS

BOARD MEMBERS

Miguel (Mike) Rivera, President
Anthony Galindo, Vice President
Tia Cauley, Member
Loreto Gonzalez, Member
Alojzy (Ben) Moricz, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 1, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m.
Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present: Miguel Rivera, Anthony Galindo, Tia
Cauley, Loreto Gonzalez, Alojzy Moricz.
Also Present: Anthony DeBonis, Anthony Herrera, Keith
Selvie.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 18, 2019

Motion to approve July 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes made by
Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy Moricz.
Questions/Comments: None.
Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

MR. DeBONIS: Mr. President, I'm sorry to interrupt. I
believe we have some residents here who have a complaint or
an inquiry about a sewer bill matter. And I know we're now
on the Storm Water Meeting. But I think you may want to hear
them out.

MR. RIVERA: Could we wait until Public Comments?

MR. DeBONIS: We could do it at the end.

APPROVAL OF CHECK WARRANTS:

1 MR. RIVERA: Next item is Check Warrants. Warrant
Number 080119 ST in the amount of \$4,607.62.

2 Motion to approve Check Warrant 080119 ST made by Loreto
3 Gonzalez. Second by Tia Cauley.

4 Questions/Comments: None.

5 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. RIVERA: Next is Warrant Number 072619 Storm Water
7 Payroll 7/6/19 to 7/19/19.

8 Motion to approve Check Warrant 072619 Storm Water Payroll
9 7/6/19 to 7/19/19 made by Loreto Gonzalez. Second by Alojzy
Moricz.

10 Questions/Comments: None.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

12 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: None.

13 REPORT FROM FINANCIAL CONSULTANT:

14 MR. BILLER: Good evening. You have a memo in your
15 packet. But I'll just hit a couple highlights for Storm
16 Water.

We received our first installment of Storm Water
17 collections from the County Treasurer in June. We collected
\$737,000 which was approximately 70 percent of what we
18 figured our collections would be.

19 Historically we collect about 55 percent in June
and the balance in December. So we did very well in June.

20 The other thing is the Board approved a resolution
21 to loan the Water Department up to 2,200,000. In June we
received the repayment of the loan from December of last
22 year, the million-seven. And the Controller sent the loan
back to the Water Department, 2,000,000. So there may be an
23 additional \$200,000 increment loan to the Water Department by
year end.

24 Then the other thing is that between now and the
25 year end we'll receive from Civil City approximately \$270,000

1 which is the City's portion of the Storm Water fee for the
2 City property. We hadn't been collecting that through the
3 County Treasurer Auditor on the normal tax cycle.

4 First of the year those were removed. And the City
5 will just be paying us directly. So that would be
6 approximately 270,000. And we'll be getting that between now
7 and the end of December.

8 Any questions?

9 MR. RIVERA: Any questions for Mr. Biller? Thank you.

10 NEW BUSINESS: None.

11 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT:

13 MR. HERRERA: We have Laura Thomas from 3730 Drummond
14 Street in regards to her sewer bill.

15 MS. THOMAS: Good afternoon. I am here because of a
16 sewer bill. I live on Euclid. But this address is 3730
17 Drummond Street.

18 In April, I believe it was end of April a pipe
19 busted. And I get a sewer bill. It was like 11-something,
20 \$1,100 and something.

21 And at the time I had surgery on my eyes. And I
22 didn't go down there everyday. And when I get this bill, I'm
23 saying to the Lord I can't pay this because the complete bill
24 was like \$1,800.

25 I am a single person. Work part time and I have to
live. I have all kinds of medicine bills. And this is money
that I do not have. And I am doing my best to try to pay on
it now. But it's a hardship, a very much hardship for me.

I had surgery on my eyes. Then turned around a
month and a half later I found out I had cancer. So I am
dealing with everything within two and a half months. I am
dealing with a lot.

And I don't see how I am going to be able to do
this. But I'm just trying to keep -- because my bill has
never been behind. I always pay my bills. And this is
something that came upon me like a disaster. And I really

1 don't know how.

2 I am trying to find out is there any way that --
3 because water did not go down the sewer because I had to get
4 a pump. I had to go rent a pump to pump the water out of the
5 basement. So it didn't go down the sewer. So I don't see
6 how the bill for the sewer is that high.

7 MR. RIVERA: How much was it, 1,800 you said?

8 MS. THOMAS: The entire bill was 1,800. The sewer part
9 was 11-something I believe it was.

10 I went and rented a pump from Hammond to pump the
11 water out the basement. So it didn't go down the sewer.

12 So I was wondering if there's any type of way that
13 something could be did to help me out.

14 MR. RIVERA: Does anybody have the particulars on this
15 case?

16 MR. BILLER: No. This is the first I've heard of it.

17 MR. DeBONIS: Sounds like a broken waterline. And it's
18 been established the Board has granted relief in the past and
19 has reduced the sewer portion to the average bill in the
20 prior year I believe.

21 MR. BILLER: That's correct.

22 MR. DeBONIS: So the thing to do would be to have the
23 staff determine what the average sewer bill was for this user
24 for the last year before the break and charge that average
25 amount in the intervening months and forgive the rest.

MR. RIVERA: Could we have someone for the next meeting
come out with this information?

MR. DeBONIS: Anthony, can you get somebody to do that?

MR. HERRERA: We'll find the conclusions and have proper
representation from the Department come and present it to the
Board.

MR. BILLER: So we have the correct address?

MS. THOMAS: 3730 Drummond.

1 MR. GONZALEZ: Mike, I've got a question. Ma'am, where
was the pipe busted at, inside or outside?

2
3 MS. THOMAS: It's inside. And I don't know because it
wasn't -- I mean I don't know if the pipe was just old
because it wasn't cold enough for the pipe to bust. But
4 things happen.

5 MR. DeBONIS: Has it been repaired?

6 MS. THOMAS: No. It hasn't been repaired yet because
I've been sick. I was sick when it happened. And I've been
7 sicker since it happened. So it hasn't been repaired yet.

8 MR. MARTINEZ: Has the water been shut off?

9 MS. THOMAS: Yeah. The water is cut off. I cut the
water off.

10
11 MS. CAULEY: I have a question. This is to John. I
thought now we had the meter reader where we're supposed to
be able to alert them to tell them.

12
13 MR. MARTINEZ: Depends if she's got the new meter in the
house.

14 MS. THOMAS: The new meter is there.

15 MR. BILLER: You're correct. On the new meters there
should have been a notice at least sent to the Water
16 Department. And they had been I thought trying to contact
customers when it had shown a leak.

17
18 MS. CAULEY: Make a motion to table this matter until we
have a better idea to make sure it wasn't negligence on our
part.

19
20 Ma'am, someone from the Water Department will
contact you within the next two weeks after our next Board
Meeting because they have to find out what happened and make
21 sure we did what we were supposed to do.

22 MS. THOMAS: Okay.

23 MS. CAULEY: Am I okay in saying that, Mr. President?

24 MR. RIVERA: Yes.

25 MS. CAULEY: Hope you feel better, ma'am.

1 MS. THOMAS: I thank you all very much for your time.
It's so much on me right now I don't know which way I'm
2 going. I really don't know which way I'm going. But thank
you very much.

3 MS. CAULEY: Thank you. I hope feel better.

4 MS. THOMAS: God bless you.

5 MS. CAULEY: God bless you.

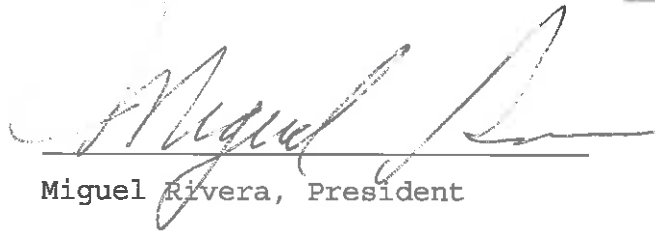
6 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, August 15,
7 2019 @ 4:30 p.m.
8 Motion to adjourn was made by Tia Cauley. Second by Loreto
Gonzalez.

9 * Meeting ended at 5:17 p.m.

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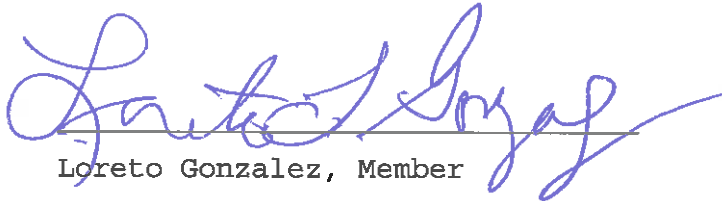
Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Thursday, August 1, 2019

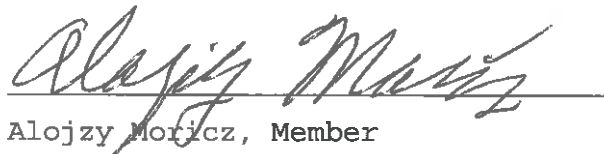
Approved and Signed _____

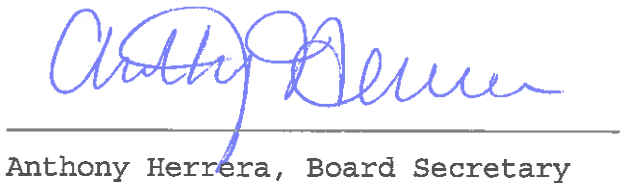

Miguel Rivera, President

Anthony Galindo, Vice President


Tia Cauley, Member


Loreto Gonzalez, Member


Alojzy Moricz, Member


Anthony Herrera, Board Secretary

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2 C E R T I F I C A T E
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4 I, Lisa Pena, a competent and duly qualified
5 court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in
6 machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my
7 shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were
8 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal
9 direction.

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

14 Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 12th day of
15 August, 2019.

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23 _____
24 Lisa Pena
25 Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483.