

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
PLAN COMMISSION MEETING  
Monday, August 17, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS:

Valeriano Gomez, President  
Anthony Serna, Vice-President  
Lilia Ramos, Secretary  
Monique Kurmis, Commissioner  
Joanne Moricz, Commissioner  
Douglas Sloss, Commissioner  
William Allen, Commissioner  
Lydia Lopez, Commissioner  
Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

STAFF:

Ateria Allen  
Joseph Allegretti  
Richard Morrisroe

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR RPR

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present: Valeriano Gomez  
Present through Zoom: Lilia Ramos, Joanne  
Moricz, Douglas Sloss, William  
Allen, Lydia Lopez, Stacy Winfield

MR. GOMEZ: Meeting is called to order.  
We have a quorum. First order of business is approval  
of minutes.

Motion to approve meeting minutes of Monday, August 3,  
2020, as written, made by Lilia Ramos. Second by  
William Allen.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We'll move on to New Business.  
First -- we have two items -- the first item for  
approval is Thor Mobile Shredder Plans, Sims Metal  
Management, at 425 West 152nd Street. Mr. Morrisroe?

MR. MORRISROE: I would like to introduce  
Debbie Hayes, who is with Sims, and this was considered  
in Tech Review last Wednesday, the 12th of August, and  
the project was approved and recommended for the Plan  
Commission.

1 Debbie, will you please give us a  
2 brief overview of the shredder and what it does and its  
3 capacity, and what you intend to do with it.

4 MS. HAYES: First I want to thank you  
5 all. Good afternoon. As stated, Sims Metal Management  
6 is located at 425 West 152nd Street. We are looking to  
7 install a Thor 2121 shredder. It's a small, mobile  
8 shredder that has a capacity of 38 tons of material an  
9 hour. And as a point of reference, the shredder owned  
10 by Rental Management, in the City of Chicago, shreds  
11 about 180 tons an hour, so it truly is a small mobile  
12 shredder.

13 Having experience running a shredder  
14 in the City of Chicago, best management practices will  
15 be brought to East Chicago so that we operate in an  
16 efficient and effective manner. With all shredders the  
17 feed stock is generally referred to as sheet iron, which  
18 is appliances and other light gauge material, and ends  
19 with small vehicles. We are licensed through the  
20 Indiana Secretary of State's Office to accept vehicles,  
21 but in all honesty, with being such a small shredder,  
22 the likelihood of shredding a number of vehicles is very  
23 low. It just will bog down the shredder, so I don't  
24 foresee a number of vehicles being shredded.

25 And, pardon me, I should have  
introduced two other people with Sims that have also  
joined the call, George Malonis and Joe Caruso is our  
project manager. So are there any questions?

MR. MORRISROE: Debbie, if either one of  
your companions wish to say anything, just introduce  
themselves and they are welcome.

MS. HAYES: Okay.

MS. RAMOS: If we approved this, when is  
this going to take place or the purchase take place?

MS. HAYES: We are looking to -- we have  
brought the shredder from another facility owned by Sims  
Metal Management out East, so it's on-site, but it's not  
been installed. We are looking at like beginning to mid  
September to install it. It literally takes a week or  
two to put the pieces together, but we understand we  
need to wait on the installation for your approval, as  
well as the State of Indiana. They have an air permit  
with IDEM, that's currently going through its 30-day  
comment period, and the end of that comment period will

1 be September 2nd, and we worked out with IDEM all of  
2 their questions and concerns. So I anticipate after the  
3 30-day comment period we'll be receiving a permit, and  
4 with your approval as well, we'll be able to begin  
5 construction.

6 MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions?

7 MR. SLOSS: My question is, with adding  
8 the shredder, would that create any new job  
9 opportunities?

10 MS. HAYES: We have a target of hiring 12  
11 more people. And during the Tech Review I asked for the  
12 HR contact for the City of East Chicago, so that we can  
13 forward job openings to the HR person in the City of  
14 East Chicago. If there are other avenues that you would  
15 like for us to submit job openings to, I'd be more than  
16 happy to do it. It's to our benefit to hire as many  
17 local people as we can as well.

18 MR. SLOSS: Thank you.

19 MR. MORRISROE: Debbie, has that contact  
20 information been forwarded to you? Has the contact  
21 information for Human Resources been forwarded to you?

22 MS. HAYES: Yes.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions or  
24 comments?

25 MS. WINFIELD: Thank you, Reverend Sloss,  
I was going to ask the same question about qualified  
East Chicago residents. And you said you notified the  
HR for the City of East Chicago, but would it also go  
into the newspapers?

MS. HAYES: From the HR perspective, I  
don't know that we used that recently. I know it's been  
posted in various forms, Indeed, Etcetera, and online,  
reaching out to the public online. We are not opposed  
to doing it in print and so we do leave that as an  
option. You know, the goal was to hire up to 12.  
Obviously we are going to start slowly and work our way  
up to that number. But again, we are open -- most of  
our people that work at that facility live in Indiana.  
It's a union facility, so union wages and benefits.  
That again is really important. It would be again

1 presumptive that all Indiana residents that were being  
2 hired work at that facility.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Okay.

4 MS. WINFIELD: The only reason I ask  
5 about the newspaper, because everyone is not on social  
6 media that actually sees ECTV that may qualify for the  
7 position.

8 MR. GOMEZ: I will talk to HR and see if  
9 the City can do it when they get some information. Also  
10 we can put it on our website, and if the City could also  
11 put it on their Facebook too.

12 Are there any other questions or  
13 comments? (None) There being no further questions or  
14 comments, I'll entertain a motion for Thor Mobile  
15 Shredder Plans for Sims Metal Management, at 425 West  
16 152nd Street be approved.

17 MS. RAMOS: So moved.

18 MR. SLOSS: Second.

19 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

20 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
21 Opposed: None

22 MR. GOMEZ: Motion passes.

23 MS. HAYES: Thank you very much. Have a  
24 good afternoon.

25 MR. GOMEZ: We are going to move on to  
the second item, Approval of Structural Plans for Chrome  
LLC, at 3444 Dickey Road.

MR. MORRISROE: If I may, Mr. President,  
this item was considered by the Tech Review Committee  
this past Friday, with Johnny Garcia, the architect, and  
William Marsh, who is the owner of the facility and the  
owner of the proposed building. I'd like to introduce  
Mr. Marsh just to briefly step forward and give us a  
little bit of the background, both of your company and  
of the facility, the building that you are proposing.

MR. MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Morrisroe.  
I'm William Marsh. I'm the owner and operator of

1 American Bar Products. We moved to East Chicago,  
2 Indiana, from Pennsylvania in 2015. We moved here  
3 because the business climate on the East Coast for  
4 manufacturing was deteriorating and because the Midwest  
5 remains the strongest manufacturing hub in the United  
6 States, and Indiana generally and the Northwest region  
7 here has a very good representation for steel operators,  
8 like myself, to set up shop and make a home.

9 After about five years of operation,  
10 I can say I found that to be true. It's been a great  
11 five years and we have done well and appreciate  
12 everything we have done with the City and the City's  
13 partnership with us, in helping us grow our business.

14 When we bought the parcel at 3600  
15 Michigan Avenue, it was more than we needed in terms of  
16 land and also a building. We set about, as soon as we  
17 moved in, improving it both cosmetically and  
18 structurally, making it a much more friendly place to  
19 work, as far as things like insulation and general  
20 habitability for workers. We painted it. We made it  
21 look good from the curb. We cleaned it up. We removed  
22 all the trash. I planted -- personally planted -- over  
23 40 fruit trees. I personally seeded about 3 or 4 acres  
24 in the front. And I can tell you, I didn't know how  
25 things would grow in slag, but we have done that. You  
drive by and you will see the grass looks pretty good.

I brought in a work force of about  
20 chickens to consume waste and produce perfect mulch  
for our fruit trees.

We decided a year ago, that given  
our location in East Chicago, to do more manufacturing  
business. We looked at putting up another building for  
other manufacturers. With our experience, we thought  
other people would be interested. About the time that  
we secured plans for the building, a neighbor of ours,  
Randall Metal Corporation called and said, we really  
need a big building and need it quickly. Our timing was  
great and we met with them, and they explained exactly  
what they were looking for, and we proceeded to apply  
for and arrange for the construction of 120,000 square  
foot facility. Randall Corporation will be occupying  
40,000 square feet of that building around the beginning  
of 2021, in January. That's our expected timeline.  
They have committed to using another 80,000 square feet  
by the end of the following year, although they tell me  
they expect to take the full 120,000 to support their  
current operations. Hiring an indefinite amount of  
people. That was a question, how many people they are  
going to hire. I don't know their answer, I'm not privy

1 to their business. I know they are a new business and  
hire locals, and they will be adding personnel.

2 So that's the plan. We are making  
3 efforts to make it as attractive as we can. I hope you  
4 have seen that as construction goes on. We have done a  
5 good job managing that process. And what I can tell  
6 you, that if you give us the opportunity, I will  
7 continue to improve the appearance of the property and  
8 do everything I can to make sure the property supports  
9 East Chicago, Indiana and the United States, as far as  
10 manufacturing, employment, and the production is  
11 concerned.

12 MR. GOMEZ: Are there any questions or  
13 comments? (None) No questions or comments, okay.  
14 There being no further questions or comments, I'd  
15 entertain a motion for approval of the Structural Plans  
16 for Chrome LLC, at 3444 Dickey Road.

17 MR. MORRISROE: If I may, Mr. President,  
18 there are pending both CDR from the State and the Fire  
19 Prevention Plan is under review by the Fire Department.  
20 We anticipate it being approved, however it was not  
21 received by the Building Department in time for Friday's  
22 meeting. So that is pending and the CDR is pending, and  
23 we anticipate both of those will be granted and the  
24 Building Department will be issuing permits upon receipt  
25 of the CDR and of the Fire Prevention Plan approval.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. We have the motion for  
approval of structural plans. Can I get a second?

MS. WINFIELD: Can I ask a question --  
I'm sorry. I just heard what Mr. Morrisroe said and  
they haven't had approval from the Fire Department and  
others, should this be tabled for right now until they  
get that?

MR. MORRISROE: I would recommend no.  
The Fire Department approval is simply Mr. Carpenter did  
not have the plans by the Friday morning meeting. And  
the CDR, we regularly approve projects pending the State  
approval. We work currently with the State on those  
approvals and typically they are approved, or have minor  
modifications, which the Building Department then  
incorporates into their process.

MR. GOMEZ: They get the permits anyway.

1 MS. WINFIELD: I would just suggest that  
2 the next time we get ready to do something like this, to  
3 make sure everyone has approved it before it comes in  
4 front of the Board.

5 MR. GOMEZ: Okay. We'll make sure Mr.  
6 Morrisroe records that back, to make sure we have  
7 everything in place.

8 So, once again, I'd like to  
9 entertain a motion for approval of Structural Plans for  
10 Chrome LLC, at 3444 Dickey Road.

11 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

12 MS. RAMOS: Second.

13 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

14 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
15 Opposed: None

16 MR. GOMEZ: Thank you. Motion passes.  
17 Thank you, sir

18 MR. MARSH: Thank you very much. I'll be  
19 happy to entertain any of you over at our facility,  
20 thank you so much for your support.

21 MR. GOMEZ: I'd like to make a comment.  
22 His eggs were pretty good, we tried them out in the  
23 Controller's office.

24 We'll move on to Old Business.  
25 We have no Old Business. Are there any other comments  
from the Commissioners? No comments. Any comments from  
the Public? (None)

Next meeting will be Tuesday,  
September 8, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.. That concludes our  
business. I'd entertain a motion for adjournment.

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

MS. RAMOS: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned.

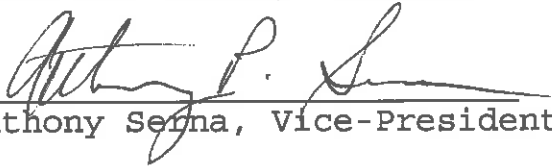
\*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.\*\*\*\*

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Monday  
August 17, 2020

Approved and signed \_\_\_\_\_



Valeriano Gomez, President




Anthony Serna, Vice-President

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Lilia Ramos, Secretary

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Monique Kurmis

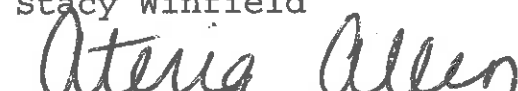
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Joanne Moricz

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Douglas Sloss

  
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William Allen

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Lydia Lopez

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Stacy Winfield

  
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Ateria Allen



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 21st day of August, 2020.

*Peggy S. LaLonde*



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

