CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS
Val Gomez, President
Winna Guzman, Vice-President
Frank Rivera, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Reported by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.
By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Shana Levinson, Attorney
Jaylan Robinson, Public Works Director

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez
Winna Guzman
Frank Rivera

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works for January 22nd, 2026. We do have a quorum.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes for the January 8th, 2026 meeting, as written.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We have no correspondence, we'll move on to New Business.

First item on the agenda is from Public Works, Mechanical Concepts 2026 preventative maintenance. This is for Healthy East Chicago. The amount is $6,800.00. I believe, Jaylan, we have used them in previous years also?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

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MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Mechanical Concepts preventative maintenance from Public Works for the Health Department in the amount of $6,800.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Roof Care, semi-annual service visits throughout the City. We have a not-to-exceed of $15,000.00. This is from NIR Roof Care Plan. It's two only visits with not-to-exceed of $15,000.00. We do have a list of buildings here. They have the Mayor's Office, City Hall, Public Safety, Central Fire Station, Fire Stations 2, 4, 5, Health Department, and Animal Control.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Roof Care semi-annual visits for certain City buildings.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have another one for Roof Care. This is for annual service for centers throughout the City. And the total amount is says to cover is $10,000.00. This is NRI Roof Plan, two service visits annually.

Aany questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd make a motion approving Roof Care annual visits for the City centers throughout the City.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to rate schedules from Public Works for 2026. The first one is from Roof Care.

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It has a not-to-exceed of $20,000.00. These are the rates as needed. They have the description of their rates, and like I mentioned, there's a not-to-exceed of $20,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this rate schedule? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the rate schedule for Roof Care.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next one is from Master Fire. This is for 2026 fire extinguisher services, not-to-exceed of $10,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

We are going to our regular custom, I'll read them all and then have a motion.

Next we have two from Thomas Irrigation. The first one is for various locations around the City. Looks like it is mostly to do with parks and outside areas, like the Lakefront and the Marina, including Unity Plaza. This one has a not-to-exceed of $10,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The second one for Thomas Irrigation also has a not-to-exceed of $10,000.00, for various buildings in the City, Mayor's Office, City Hall, Health, Fire and Police Departments, and Veterans' Park.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

That concludes our rate schedules in this section. There were no questions or comments, so I'd like to make a motion approving the aforementioned rate schedules.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have a proposal from Bus Transit. This is for monthly interior cleaning and sanitizing of the buses. Americlean will be providing

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that service for 2026, with a not-to-exceed of $15,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Americlean's proposal for our Bus Transit.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to outstanding invoices. We have five outstanding invoices. I will read each one and make a motion at the end.

The first one is from the Police Department -- I believe all of these are from the Police Department. The first one for National Internal Affairs Investigators Association. Late invoice dated 9/15/25, amount of $125.00. Explanation: A 2026 PO was needed to pay 2026 dues. The vendor invoiced too soon.

Any questions or comments on that one? (None)

Next one is from the Town of Griffith from the Police Department. They have a late invoice dated 10/1/25. The amount is $4,000.00. Explanation: 2026 PO was needed to pay 2026 dues. Vendor invoiced too soon.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Next one is also from the Police Department. It's Motorola Solutions. The late invoice is dated 10/2/25. The amount is $10,010.00. Explanation: It was not forwarded to the Service Division in a timely manner.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Next we have a late invoice from Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police. The late invoice is 11/1/25. The amount is $460.00. Explanation: This could not be paid during 2025-fiscal year because charges are for 2026. Vendor invoiced too soon.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

And the last one from the Police Department from IACP Net. The invoice is dated 11/14/25 and the amount is $1,225.00. Explanation: Invoice

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listed was sent too early by the vendor. The fees are for service beginning January 2026 and could not be paid in 2025.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving payment of the five aforementioned outstanding invoices from the Police Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Gateway Business Systems from the Building Department. This is our usual customer service maintenance agreement, each department pays for their own. This agreement is for the Building Department. They are billed on per print. These are submitted by the IT Department for each department. This is for two-years.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Gateway Systems Service Maintenance Agreement for the Building Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next -- this is a little different. This is from the Indiana Department of Transportation. It's an amendment #1 concerning the enhancement and broadbrand for Michigan Avenue and State Road 912, which is Cline. This is from Engineering.

They sent us the Joint Use and Maintenance Agreement between the Indiana Department of Transportation and the City of East Chicago concerning the enhancement of broadband on roundabout and bridge at Michigan Avenue and State Road 912. This is an agreement which began March 2, 2022, for these improvements in that area.

There was an interlocal agreement between the City and the State, INDOT. And as far as the enhancements, it's under Section 2.1, where it

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mentions INDOT's cost of constructing and installing the following enhancements as outlined in Exhibit B.

Exhibit B lists on there, City of East Chicago would like conduit added to the project from the southern end of the interchange to the northern end. The project team identified three options with the selected alternative listed below. The first states, eliminated -- the first one is eliminated at INDOT's direction. Internal policy no longer allows conduits to be attached to underside of the bridges due to maintenance issues and concerns.

Second one was also eliminated by INDOT due to conflict with bored under the existing railroad track. Eliminated due to the number of utilities existing within the railroad property, constructability concerns/issues to bore around all the utilities and potential difficulty of obtaining permits with the railroad.

So the one they choose is the third one, conduit to be placed within the median barrier of the bridge. Selected alternatives as accomplished the road to span the railroad, meet requirement that the conduit will not be attached to the underside of the bridge, and does not interfere with the existing railroad tracks.

And they have the preliminary cost of this. There are six items. Total cost will be $121,200.00. And I believe the second page of Exhibit B there is an additional cost and this construction cost is based on the verified design. This includes reinforcing bars epoxy coated, concrete C superstructure, railing concrete PS-1, railing Steel PF-1, Bridge railing pedestrian fence. This amount is $741,690.00. And if you add them together, the total is $930,890.00.

Any questions or comments on this amendment?

MS. GUZMAN: Are we paying a certain amount?

MR. GOMEZ: I believe that INDOT is paying. According to the financial responsibility of Section 2.1, INDOT's cost of construction and following enhancement as outlined in Exhibit B. So unless it specifies that we are paying something. It says on the second page, the design construction cost for additional scope City of East Chicago and the contract, preliminary construction base and quality of the design.

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We can make the motion to accept and then get verification from the Engineering Department, because as I mentioned before, under the contract on 2.1, that INDOT is responsible. So is that acceptable, make a motion subject to clarification from Engineering?

MS. GUZMAN: That sounds good.

MR. GOMEZ: I'd like to make a motion accepting the Indiana Department of Transportation amendment for Michigan Avenue and State Road 912 with added to the motion is clarification on the cost to the City from the Engineering Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have two items from Devine Landscape for Public Works. The first one is Devine Landscape Services 2026 renewal. I put down renewal because they have been doing this for the past several years.

Second one is Devine tree watering 2026 from Public Works. The first one has -- there's three items. First for mulch installation, not-to-exceed of $125,000.00; for landscape, not-to-exceed of $150,000.00; For weed control, not-to-exceed $100,000.00

We do have the Public Works Director here if you have any questions or additions.

MR. ROBINSON: Yes. So the contract is an every year contract that we have established regarding the watering. That's the watering for all the trees that we received. We are responsible to water the trees for the first couple of years in to order to keep the trees year by year.

MR. GOMEZ: The watering is for $28,600.00.

MR. ROBINSON: Correct. That's the watering per the SEA guidelines.

MR. GOMEZ: And then, Mr. Robinson, you said they have been doing this for several years and we are going to add a separate thing for the City watering

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the trees. We have been happy with their job, correct?

MR. ROBINSON: Correct. Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on these two proposals? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Devine's proposal for landscaping services and for tree watering services for 2026 for Public Works.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to our Lawn Maintenance Contracts for 2026. I believe we have been doing this for several years now, and this year we have Great Lakes Landscape, STM, Devine, R & D Construction, Regional Services, Calumet Waste & Recycling.

I believe on every page of every contract, on page 5, you will see the cost for that particular company's cost for services.

MR. ROBINSON: Correct.

MR. GOMEZ: Now we are also going to add something to that?

MR. ROBINSON: Attached you will see our annual request for the 2026 lawn maintenance and landscape. This packet outlines all areas as we continue our commitment to beautify the City in 2026. This year we are able to pinpoint several cost saving opportunities by strategically using our Park Department to maintain select areas within our parks. This collaboration allows certain standards while we were still physically responsible. Per Jim Bennett, on Thursday, January 22, 2026, the funds for this request will be needed to be funded through the Sanitary Solid account. So if you have any questions regarding funding or allocation, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Bennett directly.

Just to go over 2025 compared to 2026 cost savings. In 2025 we had appropriations for $2,000,000.00. What we are doing now is 30 cuts and 15 cuts. We were going to try something different where our total this year is $1,494,006.29, which reduces our

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cuts by only 11 times this year. Some of our parks are going to be cut 15 times this year and some of our other parks are going to be cut 25 times this year. So we are reducing that from 30 cuts to 25 cuts in some areas and reducing from 25 cuts to 15 in some areas. This year's cutting annual, the AMPs will be 11 cuts run from April 22nd through September 18th. Our parks that are under 15 cuts will run from April 27th to October 16th, and our parks that have 25 cuts will run April 27th through November 13th.

And also we did add a five percent contingent cost. So what we are trying to do with that, it's five percent of the total for the lawn maintenance. We want to be able to have a cushion just in case we do have to do additional cuts to what we have allotted. Since this is the first year of us trying a different cutting schedule, we want to make sure there's a sufficient cushion to cut areas if they do exceed the number of cuts that we have allotted for them. That's pretty much it. This year we are about half a million dollars cost savings with the new plan.

MR. GOMEZ: Just for the record, the Controller and Deputy Controller met with Mr. Robinson, and the City Attorney, Joe Allegretti, and Mr. Bennett. So we asked questions of Mr. Bennett and laid down the cost. First he thought it was higher, then we told him it was $1,406,000.00 and he told us which fund to get the money. The Administration would fund this project.

Any questions or comments?

MS. GUZMAN: No. Good job, Jaylan.

MR. RIVERA: We met with Jaylan and we were doing their GIS consideration. We found like maybe 20 lots that are no longer needed for cut, so I am going to get that list to you.

MR. ROBINSON: And we have to add in the contract, we found out two years ago, one of our vendors was very honest, there were about 20 properties that were occupied that was on the list. So we have a contract now, any time that the property is no longer owned by the City, it will be reduced from the contract cost.

MR. RIVERA: Winna sits on that too.

MR. ROBINSON: That will help us.

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MR. RIVERA: We just want to kind of inform you.

MS. GUZMAN: We'll be inviting you to that meeting as well.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the 2026 lawn maintenance contracts for Great Lakes Landscaping, STM, Devine, R & D Construction, Regional Services, and Calumet Waste & Recycling.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Frank O. Carlson late invoice. This is from Public Works. There are three, 10/6/25 amount of $30.00; 10/16/25 for $104.00; 11/6/25 for $216.00; for total of $350.00. Explanation: Invoices were not sent from vendor to Public Works on time.

Any other questions or comments on this late invoice? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to accept Frank O. Carlson late invoices to Public Works.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next on our agenda, additional Public Works 2026 rate schedules. I'll read them and we'll make a motion at the end. First one is from ServPro, not-to-exceed $50,000.00. They have quite an extensive list of services and equipment that they provide and the rates for these objects and people.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Second one from Eaton/Steiner Electric, not-to-exceed $15,000.00. 2026 rates for electrical services. They have their rates, equipment rates, transportation rates, material rates, and labor.

Any questions or comments on this

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one for Eaton/Steiner? (None)
Next we have Schindler Elevator, not-to-exceed $25,000.00. This for service to the various elevators in the City. The rates for the labor and mechanics.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next we have from Integrated Control Technologies LLC, they have a not-to-exceed of $20,000.00 for Public Works and other departments $20,000.00. They do have hourly rates for labor. This one is valid till 5/31/2026.

MR. ROBINSON: They are the ones, they don't honor year-to-year. They only do half a year.

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next we have from Artic Engineering, not-to-exceed of $30,000.00. They do heating and cooling for both Public Works and other departments.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next we have Crawford Door Sales, not-to-exceed $50,000.00 for Public Works and other departments.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None) They are basically their labor rates.
Next we have Doors Done Right, not-to-exceed $50,000.00 for Public Works and other departments.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Altorfer Industries, not-to-exceed $30,000.00 for Public Works and other departments, which is basically their labor rates.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the aforementioned additional 2026 rate schedules for Public Works.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have Fence Masters. We have

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additional gate operator, I believe we were going to table this one. It's not for the casino gate. So this one we'll take off the agenda, that's number 33. We'll move on to the one from Eaton/Steiner Electric, renewal of a factory service contract 2/26 to 2/27 for Public Works. This is for $5,117.75. It's for the UPS system at Public Safety.

MR. ROBINSON: So basically that's the backup to the backup of the generator for all the electronics. If the generator was to ever fail, when it comes to electronics, it would open the doors at PD and this one would kick in.

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None) The cost of this proposal is $5,117.75.

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving this proposal from Eaton/Steiner for the services aforementioned.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

MS. GUZMAN: Before you continue, can I note, do we need to have a motion on the Fence Masters, to table it or are we just removing it?

MR. GOMEZ: Just removing it.

MR. ROBINSON: It was sent to the wrong board.

MR. GOMEZ: For the record, we are removing it.

Continuing, Fire Department Emergency Apparatus Service Policy for 2026. This is the previous policy they had for a number of years. Every year they have three vendors, Interstate Power Systems, out of Portage, Indiana; Legacy Fire Apparatus, Shorewood, Illinois; MacQueen Emergency in Aurora, Illinois. This policy as I mentioned has been going on for several years, where the department would use vendors that agree to go for a set price for labor and set price for this for 2026 will be $180.00 an hour.

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This is for shop labor, field labor, or battery repair, emergency call out; all these different subjects in this agreement. They are all for $180.00 an hour. This is an ongoing project with the East Chicago Fire Department and we are continuing this.

Any questions or comments on this emergency apparatus service policy? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd make a motion to approve the Fire Department's emergency apparatus service policy for 2026.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from the Fire Department Active 911 Inc.. This is a software app. What this does is tie to the County 911 center, so every time there is a fire call, all the firemen will get on their phone about the 911, the location, the type of building. So when they are on their way, they know what they are going to face. And I believe this is the second year they have been using this according to Chief Escobedo and he says it's been working out pretty well for them.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further comments or questions, I'd like to make a motion to approve the 911 software app for the Fire Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have Falcon Security Services. This is for emergency shelters. So basically they provide services when the weather is extremely hot or extremely cold, they provide security 24 hours, seven days a week. The paperwork there was a little error, the Fire Department has they have a not-to-exceed of $66,000.00, but the agreement mentions $10,000.00. I contacted Chief Escobedo and he said to go with the $10,000.00.

Are there any questions or comments? (None)

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There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Falcon Security Services for our emergency shelters security.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next from the Fire Department, Gateway Business Systems service maintenance agreement and the Macqueen annual preventative maintenance. When I saw this on the agenda, it seemed familiar to me. After I checked our past meetings, it turned out in our December meeting we approved these two already. I called the Fire Chief and he looked it up on his records and he agreed, we did approve this in December for 2026. But he asked in place of this -- that's why you have this extra one -- if we could send a letter replacing that maintenance with Legacy.

So I'll read the letter attached, concerning Fire Department's emergency apparatus, requesting Legacy Fire in the amount of $22,895.00. Legacy's fire quote is all encompassing for the department. Legacy Fire has been providing services for the past several years. Funding is coming from our budget. He gives the budget account number, also lists the other services to charge, and he lists what the prices are for the different services and what the service are going to be. It's actually sort of like a rate sheet. The pricing and the other service is listed too. He does have labor rate schedule, which as we mentioned before, they are part of that service policy where it's $180.00 an hour.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to eliminate -- first let's do this -- I will make a motion first to eliminate Gateway Business Systems from the Fire Department and MacQueen annual preventative maintenance for the Fire Department based on the fact we already approved that.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

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Next we'll put a motion to approve the Fire Chief's request for Legacy Fire for their annual preventative maintenance program in the amount of $22,895.00.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next on the agenda we have outstanding invoices from the Fire Department. Cintas, we have two. First one is dated 9/30/25, amount of $9.51. The second from Cintas is dated 9/30/25, amount of $259. 77. They both have the same explanation. Missed in the paperwork, so the invoices were missed.
Any questions or comments on these two from Cintas? (None)
Next one is from Joseph's Hardware. The late invoice is for 12/29/25, amount of $13.09. Explanation: Not enough money remained in the previous year's PO.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next we have from Star Uniform. They have late invoice dated 12/17/25, amount of $1,418.00. Explanation: Not enough money remained in the previous year's PO.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next we have Fastenal. Late invoice dated 12/9/25, amount of $102.76. Explanation: Same, not enough money remained in the previous year's PO.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
Next is WW Granger. One late invoice dated 12/15/25, amount of $388.66. Explanation: Also, not enough money remained in the previous year's PO.
Any questions or comments? (None)
Final one is from Alliance Laundry Systems. Late invoice dated 4/2/25, amount of $375.43. And the second late invoice dated 6/12/25, amount of $312.86. Total is $688.28. And for the record, so people don't think we are doing laundry, this is for the protective gear for the firefighters coats. Some people when they see laundry, they think we are doing their laundry.
Any questions on this one? (None)

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There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the aforementioned late invoices for Fire Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Xerox IT Solutions, security awareness training from IT. We have a letter from our IT director. This is for security training. Description: This agreement is for one year subscription for security training. This program will host various training sessions for computer users to complete. The training is also required to apply for our reduced premium coverage cost, which is roughly $28,000.00 less than the standard premium without the user training. This is a 12-month cost of $7,283.50.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve IT Solutions proposal for our IT Department security awareness training.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have, also from IT, this is our NITCO phone hosting services. It's a 36-month agreement from our IT director. Description: This agreement is for NITCO to continue hosting the City-wide VoIP phone system and the contractor rates per service line. This agreement includes the PBX Hosting services, Desk phone support, and any phone programming that may be requested. This is a 36-month agreement. Apparently it's for the quantity which is open right now, and so for the hosting service is $344.95 per line or installation/training for each seat is a one time cost of $49.95. IT will have to determine how many units they are going to enter into their system.

I did ask Kevin if he had a not-to-exceed and he said he'll get one to me tomorrow. He had to talk with NITCO and he was hoping to get a discount.

I'd like to make a motion approving

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the NITCO phone hosting services with the understanding we'll get additional information from the IT Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to NSP Consulting Services Agreement, Building Department. Project description: Seeking approval proposal submitted by NSP Consultant Services which will include, but not limited to, monitoring and preparing weekly or bi-weekly commercial and residential construction reports. They will act as the representative for the City in monitoring commercial and residential construction projects, monitoring compliance to relevant regulations and applicable construction standards and provide regular updates and reports on projects assigned to NSP Consultants by the City's Building Department. Compensation will be $100.00 per hour, architectural reviewing services for $150.00; but not-to-exceed of $80,000.00. This is from 1st day of January, '26 to terminate the 31st day of December '26.
Are there any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)
There being no further questions or comments -- in this case they have been using this firm for several years -- there being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Building Department's proposal from NSP for consulting service agreement.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from the Law Department, we have basic contracts for attorneys. This one is for attorney contract between the Law Offices of Kristin M. Cantrell, Attorney at Law, for legal services for the year 2026. It's agreed the Law Department feels is necessary to engage an attorney on a contractual basis to assist the Corporation Counsel and the City Attorney, and provide legal services and represent the City, its officials, agents or employees in certain litigation as assigned by the Corporation Counsel and/or the City Attorney, to advise certain City Departments,

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and other related tasks as assigned by the Department of Law.

Her rate is $175.00 per hour for non-litigation services and $150.00 per hour performed in connection with matters in litigation. Usually it's reversed.

MS. LEVINSON: Usually it is, it's more for the litigation work.

MR. GOMEZ: We'll have to check with the Legal Department. I think it might be $150.00 for non-litigation and $175.00 for litigation. There's a not-to-exceed of $50,000.00. We'll make the motion and we'll get clarification. I think it's reversed.

Any questions or comments on this contract with Miss Cantrell? (None)

I'd like to make a motion approving the Law Department's request for contract with Miss Cantrell with the clarification on hourly rates for non-litigation and litigation.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Law Department, we have RL Reporting, LLC. This is a professional service agreement beginning 6th of January, 2026, between the City of East Chicago Fire Civil Service Commission and Jones Associate Court Reporting, January 1st, 2026 to December 31st, 2026. RL Reporting LLC, will provide transcription services for all regular and special City of East Chicago Civil Service Commission meetings. Rates of $200.00 for first two hours and $50.00 per hour thereafter.

RL Reporting LLC will provide transcripts for normal turnaround, which is 10 business days), charged at $4.75 per page. They have a not-to-exceed of $10,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve RL Reporting LLC's proposal for the Law Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

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MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have, this is for the Controller's Office. This is the basic customer service maintenance agreement with Gateway for copiers, Konica copier and they are based on usage. This is the same as the previous one. We have negotiated the rates through the IT Department. Each department pays separately for their own contracts.
Any questions or comments on this proposal from Gateway Business Systems for the Controller's Office? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Gateway's service agreement for the Controller's Office.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Cender/Dalton Municipal Advisors. This is from Controller's Office. This one is basically dedicated to the Controller's office. They assist us in reporting our ARP funding, which we receive from the treasury. In the past the Controller's Office has been doing reports with the assistance of the Engineering Department and we had several minor issues. Carl and Steve came and assisted. They actually helped with another program. So this is an annual contract. I know he had several other contracts for several other departments.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None) And this is the third year the Controller has had this contract.
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Cender/Dalton Municipal Advisors assistance with the Controller's Office.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have Braman Insurance Services, cyber liability insurance. They actually provided us with a binder, but if I took it apart I

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wouldn't be able to put it back together. I made copies of the pages where basically when we met with Braman Insurance with our IT Director, Kevin Klosek, myself, the Deputy Controller, and Mr. Bennett was on the phone. Basically he found another company for cyber security. Our previous company was charging at $58,628.88. The new company will be $33,849.60. There was a condition where our employees would have to do certain training and that was something we passed a little earlier in the meeting. So for that additional training we save like 20 some thousand.

Are there any further questions or comments on our cyber security insurance? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to a accept the proposal from Braman Insurance with the IT Department and the Controller's Office, for new cyber liability insurance.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have an outstanding invoice from Multi Media. This is for the Idea Factory. We have two late invoices dated 9/30/25, amount of $3,360.00. The second one is dated 9/30/25, amount of $4,430.00, total of $7,790.00. The explanation: The invoice wasn't paid due to competing priorities.

I think we mentioned before the issue with our Multi Media, they lost their director and she is having a hard time trying to keep up.

Any questions or comments on this late invoice? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the payment of the outstanding invoices to Idea Factory.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to 2026 EC calendar for Multi Media. And as you obviously know, we are late in getting this approved because we are toward the end of January. There was a bit of a mix up and they sent us the first two quotes. They were not apples to apples.

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one had 10,500 and the other one had 2250. One listed the payment of postage and the other one didn't. I received -- I called Special Events, Multi Media, and asked them, can you resubmit and get new quotes? They have to make them apples to apples.

So, this week, on Tuesday, we received a new one, new proposal. I know you see it on the paper that Multi Media sent their recommendation, but the issue was, when I spoke to them, was Sound Graphics was $5,000.00 cheaper. So I asked if there was any issue and could they tell us why we excluded them? They have been doing our calendar for four years. They had no answer. So I told them, having no answer, it will be excluded and we have to go with the most reasonable lowest cost and most reasonable bid. They told me it's apples to apples. So I said then we have to go with the lowest.

So, after reviewing the two, if you look at them the quote from Frank O. Carlson is $27,599.00 with postage and from Sounds & Graphics is $22,248.86. I actually spoke with the Mayor's financial advisor and spoke to the Mayor.

I'd like to make a motion we accept for the 2026 calendar, Sound & Graphics at their cost of $22,248.85 for magazines and postage for a total of $22,248.85, the lowest and most responsive bid.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have right-of-way applications. We have application numbers 26-05259 through 26-051268 from the Engineering Department.

Are there any questions or comments on the permit applications before us? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the aforementioned right-of-way applications from Engineering Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have added two things to the agenda because they were presented to me from the Law

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Department and the Mayor's office at the last moment. They mentioned they would appreciate getting them on tonight's meeting.

The first one is a late invoice. It's for the Building Corporation, invoice date of 11/24/25. And this invoice -- also see Resolution 25-01. Resolution 25-01 was actually done by the Building Corporation Board. We have their minutes of that meeting of November 25th. We have the invoice where each Board member was present. We have the Board President or Mr. Bennett received $3,000.00, and there was an LWG audit bill for $5,000.00.

Now, what happened was, when we reviewed the invoice and the Law Department conferred -- we already paid this $5,000.00. What happened was these two -- these three invoices -- I don't know, I don't think anybody remembers -- we actually had these presented to us when this corporation closed in '24. At that time we explained in detail as a matter of fact, if you want to look at the past, I think it was January 9, 2025, meeting, what happened was we finished paying off the payment for the Public Safety Building, the trustee, which was the bank.

But anyway, they sent a letter to our financial advisor, Mr. Bennett. We explained this last time. He didn't answer and they sent the letter in early March of that year. And after no reply from that after several requests, they closed out the account and sent the remaining money to the Controller. So once that was done, what happened, my office never got the payment for closing the account. We considered the account dormant and transferred the money to the General Fund.

Mr. Bennett felt he should conduct a meeting to say the account wasn't paid and mentioned we have to have a board meeting to pay the members. So he did that and we have had a meeting. That was back at our meeting in December, and I think it was in the minutes of January 9, '25. So we thought we were done with it.

We move on to another year. Mr. Bennett said that he wanted to pay some other expenses with that money and he submitted it to the Law Department. And the Law Department, they wanted -- we already paid LWG, so because he left the meeting, we had to pay the members again and he had to pay another $3,000.00.

So, this entire thing is handled by the Law Department and this is the solution.

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Are there any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Law Department's request to pay for this late invoice, and the explanation, the Building Corporation, including LWG was previously paid. Payment obligation was surplus funds in the amount of $24,224.07. The Corporation has the funds and was transferred to the General Fund. So as previously, what we did before, because it closed out, we took payment out of the Board of Works contractual funds.

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the Law Department's outstanding invoices due to the Building Corporation.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have the late invoice from the Mayor's Office. The company is called Dentons. They provide law degree services and grad services. They have been doing this for seven years. They have this late invoice for $5,000.00 dated 9/29/25. Explanation: The Mayor's Office, they went through an entire financial system conversion in September and they never sent out. A side story to this, we are no longer going to do this for the company, that's why we paid the invoice as of today.

So any other questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion we pay the late invoice from Dentons for the Mayor's Office for the invoice dated 9/29/25, in the amount of $5,000.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

I believe that concludes everything on the agenda for tonight.

Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 4:30.

Are there any other questions or

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comments? (None)
That concludes everything on the agenda, I'd like to make a motion for adjournment.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned.

* * * * *

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
January 22, 2026
Approved and Signed January 22, 2026.

_____
Val Gomez, President

_____
Winna Guzman, Vice President

_____
Frank Rivera, member

_____
Olga Cosme, 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 27th day of January, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

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