In The Matter Of:

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF REDEVELOPMENT

MEETING HELD ON

February 3, 2026

REGION REPORTERS LLC

219-400-6070

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Region REPORTERS

Min-U-Script® with Word Index

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF LAKE)

BEFORE THE EAST CHICAGO
REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting before the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission, reported by Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in and for the County of Porter, State of Indiana, taken via Zoom Video-Conferencing to be held at City Hall Council Chambers, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, East Chicago, Indiana 46312, on February 3, 2026, scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. in the evening.

REGION REPORTERS, LLC
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(219) 400-6070

APPEARANCES (IN PERSON):

Anthony Serna, Board President
Christine Russell, Board Vice President
Judy Nava, Board Commissioner
Frank Rivera, Executive Director
Thomas Mesich, Financial Advisor
Alysia Dunbar, Program Director
and
Members of the Public

APPEARANCES (VIA ZOOM):

Shelice Tolbert, Board Attorney
Region Reporters

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PRESIDENT SERNA: Good evening, everyone. I'd like to call to order today's regular meeting of the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission for February 3rd, 2026. The time is now 5:00 p.m. If we could all please rise and renew our allegiance to the flag.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED.)

PRESIDENT SERNA: Mr. Secretary, roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Judy Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Here.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Randall Artis?

(NO RESPONSE.)

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner James Portalatin? Present.

Vice President Christine Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Here.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: President Anthony Serna?

PRESIDENT SERNA: Present.

Next item on the agenda is approval of the regular meeting minutes from January 20th, 2026. I'll entertain a motion to

approve those minutes.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Christine Russell, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

PRESIDENT SERNA: Motion made by Vice President Russell, second by Commissioner Nava. Any questions on the motion?

Mr. Secretary, roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Vice President -- President Serna?

PRESIDENT SERNA: Yes. Motion carries.

Okay. We'll repeat that. Counsel is on zoom on the computer, on the internet there.

Next item on the agenda is approval of the dockets.

Director Rivera.

DIRECTOR RIVERA: Good evening, Mr. President, Vice President and all the

Commissioners here, our attorney, and Region Reporters. We are going to go through a few of these particular items.

And the first item for the night is for the City of East Chicago Accounts Payable Warrant Report, which is dated one 1/27/2026, Warrant Number 122325RD, in the amount of $7,459.63. If I can have a motion.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Christine Russell, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

PRESIDENT SERNA: Motion made by Vice President Russell, second by Commissioner Nava. Any questions on the motion?

Mr. Secretary, roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: President Serna?

PRESIDENT SERNA: Yes. Motion carries.

DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.

Our second warrant for the night is a

City of East Chicago Accounts Payable Warrant Report, which is dated 1/26/2026 -- I'm sorry -- 1/28/26. Warrant Number is 012826RD in the amount of $180,492.50. If I can have a motion, please.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Christine Russell, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

PRESIDENT SERNA: Motion made by Vice President Russell, second by Commissioner Nava. Any questions on the motion?

Mr. Secretary, roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: President Serna?

PRESIDENT SERNA: Yes. Motion carries.

DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.

Our third City of East Chicago Accounts Payable Warrant Report is dated 1/28/2026, Warrant Number 012926RD, in the amount of $400. If I could have a motion.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Christine Russell, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

PRESIDENT SERNA: Motion made by Vice President Russell, second by Commissioner Nava. Any questions on the motion?

Mr. Secretary, roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: President Serna?

PRESIDENT SERNA: Yes. Motion carries.

DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you. Commissioners.

This is our last City of East Chicago Accounts Payable Warrant Report for the night, which is dated 1/28/2026, Warrant Number 020326RD, in the amount of $25,791.42. If I could have a motion.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Christine Russell, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Judy Nava, second.

PRESIDENT SERNA: Motion made by Vice President Russell, second by Commissioner Nava. Any questions on the motion?

Mr. Secretary, roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: President Serna?

PRESIDENT SERNA: Yes. Motion carries.

The next item on the agenda is public expression. Is there any public expression? Any public expression? Any public expression?

I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Christine Russell, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

PRESIDENT SERNA: Motion made by Vice President Russell, second by Commissioner Nava.

Mr. Secretary, roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: President Serna?

PRESIDENT SERNA: Yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Everyone, have a good evening.

(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 5:04 PM.)

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF LAKE)

BEFORE THE EAST CHICAGO
REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR, Notary Public in and for the County of Porter, State of Indiana, do hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings had in the above-entitled matter, at the time and place herein set forth; and I do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of 12 (twelve) typewritten pages, is a true and correct transcript of my said stenographic notes.

Signed this 5th day of February, 2026.



/s/ Kristen K. Stokes
KRISTEN K. STOKES
CSR# 084-003723
My Commission Expires: 8/06/31
Notary Public: Porter County, Indiana

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026
APPROVED & SIGNED TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Anthony Serna
President

Christine Russell
Vice President

James Portalatin
Secretary

Judy Nava
Commissioner

Frank Rivera
Executive Director