CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
PLAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 16, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:
Valeriano Gomez, President
Lilia Ramos, Vice-President
Lydia Lopez, Secretary
Marino Solorio, Commissioner
Stacy Winfield, Commissioner
Jaylen Johnson, Commissioner
Grayling Gordon, Commissioner
Hashem Alhashem, Commissioner

STAFF:
Tracy Ailes
Eduardo Fontanez

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.
By: Peggy S. LaLonde, court reporter

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Val Gomez, Lilia Ramos, Lydia Lopez, Hashem Alhashem, Jaylen Johnson, Stacy Winfield

STAFF - Present in Chambers: Tracy Ailes

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. We do have a quorum. I would like to call to order the Plan Commission meeting for Monday, February 16th, 2026.

I would make a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2nd, 2026 as written.

MS. WINFIELD: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We have no Old Business. Under New Business -- for the record, Lilia Ramos is now present for the the meeting.

Under New Business, St. Catherine Hospital, 4321 Fir Street. We have their air handler replacement project. Anybody here to make a comment on it?

MR. STIMAC: Yes. Steve Stimac, and I'm representing St. Catherine's Hospital. I'm the Director of Support Services.

Essentially with the project we are removing the old air handler and putting in a new air handler. The air handler will have higher capacity to meet today's regulations. It will allow for more air exchanges per hour, but really it's just to remove and replace. Unless you have any other questions --

MR. GOMEZ: You are replacing the one that's there now?

MR. STIMAC: Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: There is no Tech Review on this?

MS. AILES: No Tech Review. Just because of the type of project, it would be Building Department approval. It's coming before the Board, as we did previously, because of the dollar amount it would need your approval.

MR. GOMEZ: One million dollars, approximately.

MR. STIMAC: Yes.

MS. AILES: It needs Plan Commission approval.

MR. GOMEZ: Anybody have any other questions on this project, replacing one for another? (None) I read the notes, the temporary air handler is in the parking lot?

MR. STIMAC: Yes. So this air handler will be in the Mother, Baby, Labor and Delivery Department. The temp unit in the parking lot is behind the Labor and Delivery Unit for the duration of the project so that we can keep the Labor and Delivery Unit open.

MR. GOMEZ: There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving St. Catherine's Hospital air handler replacement project. Is there a second?

MS. RAMOS: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Thank you very much for coming.

Are there any comments from the Commissioners? (None)

Any Public -- comments from the Public? (None)

There being no further items on the agenda, our next meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2026, at 4:30.

That concludes all items on the agenda for tonight. I'd like to make a motion for adjournment.

MR. WINFIELD: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Thank you everyone. Have a good evening. Meeting adjourned.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Monday, February 16th, 2026

Approved and signed March 2, 2026

Valeriano Gomez, President

Lilia Ramos, Vice-President

Lydia Lopez, Secretary

Marino Solorio, Commissioner

Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

Jaylen Johnson, Commissioner

Grayling Gordon, Commissioner

Hashem Alhashem, Commissioner

Tracy Ailes, Recording Secretary

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 19th day of February 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde