In The Matter Of:

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO v.
DEPARTMENT OF REDEVELOPMENT

MEETING HELD ON
February 17, 2026

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Region
REPORTERS

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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 17, 2026, scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. in the evening.

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APPEARANCES (IN PERSON):

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

APPEARANCES (VIA ZOOM):

Region Reporters

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VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: I'd like to go ahead and call today's meeting for the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission regular meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, Second Floor, East Chicago, Indiana, February 17th, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Please stand for the pledge.

(PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Thank you.

Roll call.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Here.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Artis?

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Here.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: James Portalatin? Here. Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Here.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: President Serna?

(NO RESPONSE.)

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Thank you.

I'd like approval of the regular meeting minutes from February 3rd, 2026, please.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: So moved.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Is there a

second?

COMMISSIONER RANDALL: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by Commissioner Nava, second by Commissioner Portalatin. Any comments or questions?

Roll call, please.

MR. PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Artis?

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Abstain.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

Moving on to action item -- I mean approval of dockets.

DIRECTOR RIVERA: Good evening, Mrs. Vice President and all our Commissioners today. This should be a very quick meeting. We only have two warrants and one action item.

Our first warrant for the night is the City of East Chicago's Accounts Payable Warrant Report. The date is February 12th, 2026. Warrant number is 021726RD in the

amount of $133,574.50. If I could have a motion, please.

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Randy Artis, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by Randy Artis, second by Judy Nava. Any comments or questions?

Roll call, please.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Artis?

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes.

DIRECTOR RIVERA: The next City of East Chicago Accounts Payable Warrant Report is dated February 12, 2026. Warrant number is 021226RD in the amount of $1,934,137. If I can have a motion, please.

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Randy Artis, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by Randy Artis, second by Judy Nava. Any comments or questions?

Roll call, please.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Artis?

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.

We'll move on to the action item.

DIRECTOR RIVERA: Yes. We go to our action item. It's a motion to approve the request for purchase order for redevelopment subrecipient agreements for agencies in the total amount of $52,000.

The Redevelopment Department has received Subrecipient Agreements from the following agencies to provide community programs and services for the residents of East Chicago,

which are funded by using CDBG funding for the programs.

Below is a list of the organizations that have submitted agreements that need to be funded. The total amount of the agreements is $52,000, and requires requests for purchase orders for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, for each vendor listed in the attached document. The purchase orders will be created from funds allocated in the approved 2026 budget for CDBG contractual expense.

Action is recommended to approve the request for purchase orders for the list of vendors' contractual expenses and authorize the Executive Director to sign any necessary documents. It is recommended that the following motion be adopted verbatim.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion to approve the request for purchase orders for Redevelopment subrecipient agreements for agencies in the total amount of $52,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign any necessary documents. This was adopted the 17th day of February, 2026.

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Randy Artis, so moved.

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by Randy Artis, second by Judy Nava. Any comments or questions?

Roll call, please.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Artis?

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.

Moving on to public expression. Any public expression? Public expression? No public expression? Thank you.

Motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER ARTIS: Randy Artis, so moved.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made

by Randy Artis, second by James Portalatin. Any comments or questions. All in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Or roll call. Sorry.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Nava?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Artis?

COMMISSIONER NAVA: Yes.

SECRETARY PORTALATIN: Commissioner Portalatin? Yes.

Vice President Russell?

VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Meeting adjourned.

(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 5:04 P.M.)

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 19th 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 17, 2026
APPROVED & SIGNED TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

Christine Russell
Vice President

James Portalatin
Secretary

Judy Nava
Commissioner

Frank Rivera
Executive Director