

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Joseph Ochoa, President
John Bakota, Vice-President
Henry Ventura, Member
Anthony Askounis, Member
Ray Lopez, Member

STAFF:

Joseph Allegretti
Alysia Dunbar
Bill Biller
Winna Guzman

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Joseph Ochoa, John
Bakota, Henry Ventura, Anthony
Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF Present in Chambers: Winna Guzman,
Joseph Allegretti

STAFF Present Telephonic: Bill Biller

MR. OCHOA: Call to order the meeting of
the Board of Waterworks. First item, approval of the
minutes of February 7, 2022. Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Next we have approval of Payroll

Warrants.

WARRANT 0020422 - \$12,784.90 - Utilities Payroll
Dates of 1-15-22 to 1-28-22

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

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MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
WARRANT 020422 - \$41,383.70 - Payroll
Dates of 1-15-22 to 1-28-22
Do I have a motion?

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Accounts
Payable, Warrant 022122 WB, amount of \$208,208.96.
Do I have a motion?

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Accounts payable, Warrant 021522 WG,
amount of \$135,598.15. Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Warrant 022122 CD, amount of
\$769.23.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Filtration report, Obed Perez. No
report.

MS. GUZMAN: There is a written report
submitted in your packet.

1 MR. OCHOA: Water Report, Winna Guzman.

2 MS. GUZMAN: No report at this time.

3 MR. OCHOA: Thank you. Distribution
4 report, Allan Lee.

5 MS. GUZMAN: He also provided a written
6 report for you today, and he should be at the next
7 meeting.

8 MR. OCHOA: Legal Counsel, Joseph
9 Allegretti.

10 MR. ALLEGRETTI: No report, Mr.
11 President.

12 MR. OCHOA: Financial report, Bill
13 Biller.

14 MR. BILLER: No report.

15 MR. OCHOA: New business, Water. First
16 Proposal is, Eurofins Project: East Chicago Compliance,
17 \$7,222.00, Filtration. Do I have a motion?

18 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

19 MR. VENTURA: Second.

20 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
21 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

22 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Next
23 proposal is Addendum to R & D Construction 1 Inc.,
24 Proposal 20201120-01 (2021 rates) Water.

25 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. VENTURA: Second.

MR. BAKOTA: I do have a question. Is
this an increase?

MS. GUZMAN: No, this is the first time.

MR. BAKOTA: Because I've got a signature
on it.

1 MS. GUZMAN: That was the previous
2 approved proposal. This was in 2020, which is for 2021,
3 to 2022. But can I add something, Mr. President,
4 actually the number is incorrect, the number is
5 20201130-02, if I can amend that.

6 MR. OCHOA: Is that the ID number?

7 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. There's a list of
8 concrete repair items, this took effect on approval.

9 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion for this
10 approval?

11 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

12 MR. VENTURA: Second.

13 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
14 the motion? (None) All in favor?
15 (All signify aye.)

16 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

17 Next is Tonkovich Oil Company, quote
18 for heavy duty spring rewind air hose reel.

19 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

20 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

21 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
22 the motion? (None) All in favor?
23 (All signify aye.)

24 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

25 Rate sheets for 2022. Thomas
Irrigation.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

MR. LOPEZ: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Next, Northwest Indiana Ford Service
Department, hourly rates. Do I have a motion?

MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

2 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions?
(None) All in favor?

3 (All signify aye.)

4 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Next ATS Municipal Schedule of
Prices, Water.

5 MR. BAKOTA: What does this serve? What
6 is the purpose?

7 MS. GUZMAN: Leak detection. If we need
to detect where a leak is, we call them. We have used
8 them in the past. They are very responsive.

9 MR. OCHOA: It's the one we discussed
last meeting.

10

11 MR. GUZMAN: That's for the City wide
program that would apply from this. There are two rate
schedules, one for four hours daily minimum and the
12 eight-hour daily minimum charges.

13 MR. OCHOA: The eight-hour, we'll go
through the eight-hour one first.

14

15 MS. GUZMAN: That's the first sheet, they
both say the same thing. It's just the four-hour and
8-hour difference.

16

17 MR. OCHOA: The first one, do I have a
motion?

18 MR. VENTURA: Motion to approve.

19 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

20 MR. OCHOA: Any questions or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

21 (All signify aye.)

22 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

23 Now, the second one, the four-hour
service. Do I have a motion?

24

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

26

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

27

1 MR. OCHOA: Any questions or comments on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

2 (All signify aye.)

3 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

4 Next we have Request for Change
Order. Hasse Construction, Inclusion of fuel in their
pickup truck rate.

5 MR. BAKOTA: This is a fuel -- sorry.

6 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

7 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

8 MR. VENTURA: Second.

9 MR. OCHOA: Any questions or comments?

10 MR. BAKOTA: Is this an increase in fuel
price?

11 MS. GUZMAN: Well, they wanted to include
the fuel for the pickup truck rate. So the fuel in
their pickup truck rate is increasing from 20 to \$25.00.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Are they going to talk to us
again when it goes up another dollar?

13 MS. GUZMAN: I don't think so.

14 MR. BAKOTA: How long is this going to
be?

15 MS. GUZMAN: I believe it's, if I'm
mistaken, I think it's till June. No, May 31st, so
we'll be back before then, probably May 31, 2022. Hasse
is real good, they print invoices and they submit
everything with attachments to their expenses.

16 MR. LOPEZ: Does anybody else have this
or do we pay for their gas?

17 MS. GUZMAN: No. I'm sure with their
truck pricing, we haven't asked about that. But I think
in some cases this is included with their truck pricing.
Hasse is very detailed as you can see, their rate sheets
are attached and I provided that for you.

18 MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

1 MR. LOPEZ: No.

2 MR. OCHOA: Yes.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

4 MR. VENTURA: Yes.

5 MR. ASKOUNIS: Yes.

6 MR. OCHOA: Four in favor on the vote,
motion has been accepted by the majority.

7 Past Due: Electric Motor Services.
Invoices were sent to me on 2-9-22 requesting payment.
8 Invoice number 75037, invoice dated 12-8-21, in the
amount of \$850.00. Do I have a motion?

9 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

10 MR. VENTURA: Second.

11 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
12 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

13 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

14 Next one is R & D Construction.
Invoices have been undergoing revision due to current
pricing and listing information. Invoice number 21208
15 and the date is 11/21, invoice amount \$15,916.44;
invoice number 21276, invoice dated 12-17-21, amount of
16 \$1,268.25; invoice number 21225, date 12-17-21, amount
of \$2,392.50; for the total of \$19,577.19. Do I have a
17 motion?

18 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

19 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

20 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?
21 (All signify aye.)

22 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Next are Adjustments. The owner has
either recently been charged and was over estimated and
23 did not notice adjustment on her bill.

24 MS. GUZMAN: We are requesting the
adjustment for Rose A. Davis, 4745 Kennedy Avenue.

25

1 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion for this
adjustment?

2 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

3 MR. VENTURA: Second.

4 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
5 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

6 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Home Connection Realty Inc., 4922
7 Homerlee Street. Owner called was requesting charges be
reviewed. The owner had been estimated twice. Current
8 bill was 63004 and final bill is 63727.

9 MS. GUZMAN: The final bill should only
reflect the base flat fee and the usage. We have
10 upgraded our system and we are making these corrections
as we go with some of these issues. The clerks have
11 been told how important it is on the account that
updates are entered correctly, and there is a handful of
12 these with pretty much the same issue. The girls put an
incorrect date, then the billers, they bill, and it just
13 crosses. So it comes out two bills that are sent.
That's some of the issues that we are correcting as we
14 go, but we are catching these that we already entered
and correcting them.

15 MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

16 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

17 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
18 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

19 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.
Next is Celestino Abreu, 510 Narva
20 Place.

21 MR. ASKOUNIS: Motion to accept.

22 MR. VENTURA: Second.

23 MR. OCHOA: This account was billed
twice. The updated version, the units, which is DCBIS
24 went into effect in November 2021. Clerk's staff are
required not to input and process the final bill
25 information versus the billers. And the dates entered

1 crossed and an additional bill was generated for this
2 account.

3 MS. GUZMAN: The next is the same
4 situation.

5 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

6 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

7 MR. VENTURA: Second.

8 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
9 the motion? (None) All in favor?

10 (All signify aye.)

11 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

12 Luis Avila, 4714 Magoun. This
13 account was billed twice. The final bill process
14 differs on the upgraded system, which is later part of
15 November 2021. The date entered crossed and the
16 additional bill was generated for this account. It's
17 the same thing?

18 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, it is.

19 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

21 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

22 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
23 the motion? (None) All in favor?

24 (All signify aye.)

25 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Luis Avila, 4712 Magoun. Again, the
same reasoning. Do I have a motion?

MR. VENTURA: Make a motion to approve.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
the motion? (None) All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

Next we have Memo from East Chicago
Controller's Office, Cancellation of Warrants. What
does that mean?

1 MS. GUZMAN: These are checks that have
2 been outstanding and unpaid for a period of two years as
3 of December 31st.

4 MR. OCHOA: These are checks received?

5 MS. GUZMAN: No, checks we issued to a
6 vendor.

7 MR. BAKOTA: They have never been
8 processed.

9 MS. GUZMAN: Well, they were processed,
10 but the receiver hasn't cashed them or they have been
11 returned to us. So I'm requesting to have these
12 outstanding warrants and checks be cleared.

13 MR. BAKOTA: These are all dated 2019?

14 MS. GUZMAN: Yes, they are.

15 MR. OCHOA: Do I have a motion?

16 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.

17 MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

18 MR. OCHOA: Any comments or questions on
19 the motion? (None) All in favor?
(All signify aye.)

20 MR. OCHOA: Motion carries.

21 Unfinished Business: None

22 Public Comment: None

23 Next meeting, regular meeting,
24 Monday, March 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., here in the Council
25 Chambers. Do I have a motion for adjournment?

MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ASKOUNIS: Second.

MR. OCHOA: All in favor?

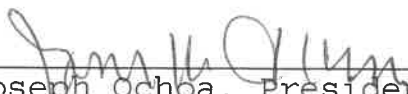
(All signify aye.)

MR. OCHOA: Motion carries. Meeting
adjourned. Thank you very much.

***** Meeting adjourned *****

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
February 21, 2022

Approved and signed March 7, 2022




Joseph Ochoa, President



John Bakota, Vice-President



Henry Ventura, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Ray Lopez, Member



Alysia Dunbar, 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 25th day of February, 2022.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR