

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

James Portalatin, Vice President
Jesse Avitia, Member
Wanda Clark, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 27, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: James Portalatin, Jesse Avitia.

Staff Present: Debbra Gritters, City Planner
Alysia Dunbar, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Monday, January 23, 2023.

Motion to approve January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting
Minutes made by James Portalatin. Second by Jesse Avitia.

Questions/Comments: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

OLD BUSINESS: Election of Officer, President

MR. PORTALATIN: Old Business. We have the Election of
Officer. Does anyone have a recommendation?

MR. AVITIA: I think probably we should have maybe Wanda
here present when we do this. Maybe we can handle this next
time.

MR. PORTALATIN: Mr. Avitia has made a motion to table
this.

1 Motion to Table Election of Officer made by Jesse Avitia.
2 Second by James Portalatin.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 NEW BUSINESS:

7 MR. PORTALATIN: New Business, Informational. We have
8 our City Planner.

9 MS. GRITTERS: This is just informational. This is the
10 Community Rewards Program for the Cline Bridge.

11 Cline Avenue Bridge kind of rewards our community
12 members to use Cline Bridge. You save a dollar for every
13 trip you make. So just letting you know.

14 MR. PORTALATIN: We also received the Redevelopment
15 Commission Minutes from January 3, 2023 and January 23, 2023.

16 Are there any questions with regard to that or
17 comments?

18 MR. AVITIA: On this minutes I saw something in here
19 about appraisals for some lots at Washington Square.
20 Anything solid on that? Any plans besides getting
21 appraisals?

22 MS. GRITTERS: We're setting up for housing. We're
23 getting appraisals on those lots to be able to sell.

24 MR. AVITIA: So are you going to start advertising for
25 them?

MS. GRITTERS: As soon as they come through, yes.

MR. AVITIA: Now, is that going to be single-family?

MS. GRITTERS: Single-family. Part of our housing
strategy.

MR. AVITIA: You're not going to do any rentals?

MS. GRITTERS: No. It's all ownership.

MR. AVITIA: The area is single-family.

1 MS. GRITTERS: Yes. We want to keep the character for
2 sure.

3 MR. AVITIA: I was curious about that because sometimes
4 we change our minds and we go rental.

5 MS. GRITTERS: No. The Mayor really focuses on
6 homeownership.

7 MR. PORTALATIN: And they'll be able to participate, the
8 homeowners that were to acquire these lots? They would all
9 be able to participate in the Homeownership Program.

10 MS. GRITTERS: I believe so. As long as they're a
11 resident. As long as they meet the criteria of that specific
12 program. It should be advertised.

13 MR. AVITIA: I serve on that Committee. It's kind of a
14 good example because I see people coming in from Hammond,
15 from Gary, South Chicago. I see a couple people coming from
16 farther down like Merrillville and Schererville coming back
17 to East Chicago.

18 Just make sure that when we start advertising that
19 announcement is included in the way it's being pushed out to
20 be merchandised so that they see \$10,000 in there.

21 MR. PORTALATIN: For new houses it's actually 25,000.

22 MR. AVITIA: It's even more.

23 MS. GRITTERS: It's a great way to have immediate
24 equity.

25 MR. AVITIA: Yes. I don't think there's anything in the
area that compares to what we have here. It's really
something. I'm a big booster for that.

That's the only question I had.

MS. GRITTERS: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.

* Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, March 27,
2023 @ 4:30 p.m.

1 Motion to adjourn was made by James Portalatin. Second by
2 Jesse Avitia.

3 Questions/Comments: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 * Meeting ended at 4:39 p.m.
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Monday, February 27, 2023

Approved and Signed March 27, 2023



James Portalatin, Vice President



Jesse Avitia, Member



Wanda Clark, Member



Alysia Dunbar, Recording Secretary

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, 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 said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 11th day of March, 2023.

Lisa Pena

Lisa Pena
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483

