

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

Val Gomez, President
William Allen, Vice-President
Winna Guzman, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Reporter by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Rene Cid
Joseph Allegretti

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez, William Allen, and
Winna Guzman

MR. GOMEZ: I would call the meeting to order. I would make a motion to approve minutes of the regular meeting, March 24, 2021 as written.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

Comments/Questions: None

Roll Call: "All in Favor": Val Gomez and Winna Guzman
Abstain: William Allen Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We have no correspondence. We'll move on to New Business. First item on the agenda is bid opening for the following from Public Works: 2021 Watering/Hanging Baskets.

MR. ALLEN: First is from Great Lakes, P.O. Box 256, Schererville, Indiana. Titled: City Planters. Total project cost is \$14,480.00.

Also from Great Lakes, P.O. Box 256, Schererville, Indiana. Mayor's office/City Hall planters: Total project cost \$1,575.00.

MR. GOMEZ: The first one was 14 --

1 MR. ALLEN: And first one was \$14,480.00
and that one was for -- titled; City Planters.

2

3 Also from Great Lakes, City Watering
proposal. We have a total seasonal cost of \$79,370.00;
4 and that is for watering and flower maintenance. So I
looks like -- oh, no -- watering and hanging baskets
5 proposal. So that's it for the watering and hanging
basket proposals.

6 MR. GOMEZ: So one is for \$79,370 and
other is 14,000?

7

8 MR. ALLEN: The \$79,370 is for watering
throughout the City.

9 MR. GOMEZ: And the other was 14,380,
seems sort of extreme.

10

11 MR. CID: That's for the watering of the
baskets, the hanging baskets.

12 MR. ALLEN: And large planters. For
example, like on Columbus Avenue and going down Chicago
13 Avenue, on Indianapolis Boulevard. So that amount is
\$14,480.

14

15 MR. CID: We are asking for Great Lakes
Landscape to do the project for watering and hanging
baskets. We're satisfied with the work. They do good
16 work. We highly recommend them for the projects.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Okay. We're going to have to
have you review the bids and make sure that the
18 paperwork is right; then you need to come back with the
recommendation.

19

20 MR. CID: My recommendation is for Great
Lakes Landscape.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Yeah, but you need to review
the paperwork first. There may be an error in there.
22 You can review them and come back during the meeting to
let us know.

23

24 We are going to move on. 2021
Landscaping.

25 MR. ALLEN: So for the 2021 landscaping

1 we have one bid from Cummings Landscape Inc., located at
2 7705 Route 30, Crown Point, Indiana. Looks like there's
3 a typo. The way it reads is -- I think there's a one
4 that's added or extra digit -- because according to
5 this, it's saying the project total is a million
6 dollars.

7 MR. CUMMINGS: \$161,331.30.

8 MR. ALLEN: So it's got \$1,161,331.30.

9 MR. CUMMINGS: No, it's \$161 --

10 MR. ALLEN: So \$161,331.30?

11 MR. CUMMINGS: Right. I have pictures of
12 the additional plantings that we did last year.

13 MR. ALLEN: You have the pictures and
14 stuff, right?

15 MR. CUMMINGS: You've got pictures of the
16 new stuff, but some are missing. These were on my desk.

17 MR. ALLEN: Can you also state your name,
18 for the record?

19 MR. CUMMINGS: Keith Cummings.

20 MR. GOMEZ: What was that amount?

21 MR. ALLEN: It's \$161,331.30, and that's
22 the only bid that we received. Same thing with the
23 first bid, you will take this and review it to make sure
24 that everything is correct. For the record, other
25 vendors were invited?

MR. CID: Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: Look at the paperwork and
we'll call you back up.

We'll move on. Next item on the
agenda is Vehicles Declared Surplus, from Public Works.
We have a letter from Public Works explaining request
for declaring 2013 Dodge Charger and 2015 Ford Police
Inceptor a surplus. The vehicles need repairs and the
repairs exceed the value of the vehicles. Included are
pictures of the vehicles, report from Police Chief, and

1 also a report of condition on each vehicle.

2 Are there any questions or comments
3 on the request from Public works? (None)

4 There being no further questions or
5 comments, I'd entertain a motion to approve Public Works
6 request to declare the vehicles as surplus.

7 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

8 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

9 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
11 Opposed: None

12 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

13 Next we have Grass Cutting and Green
14 Space Maintenance, 2021, and grass cutting, landscaping
15 and parks for the following contractors: R & D
16 Construction, Regional Services, STM Enterprises,
17 Calumet Waste & Recycling. The contracts are identical
18 from each company. These are similar contracts from
19 years past?

20 MR. CID: Yes.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Basically the contractor has
22 agreed to the amounts?

23 MR. CID: Each one has different areas in
24 the City.

25 MR. GOMEZ: Right. For the first one,
we'll start with R & D Construction, 1015 East 149th
Street, East Chicago. Contract for R & D Construction
was awarded amps, 5, 10, 15. Total for grass cutting
and greens maintenance \$62,272.27. Respect to the
section on parks, the parks would be \$112,500. The
grand total would be \$174,772.27, and that is for R & D.

MR. CID: That is correct.

MR. GOMEZ: Regional Services is next,
1220 Carroll Street, East Chicago, Indiana. They were
awarded amps 3, 13, 14, 8, and 16. Total awarded amps
is \$48,893.55. For parks section the total is \$124,500.

1 So grand total would be \$173,393.55.

2 Next we have STM Enterprises, 5001
3 Olcott Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana. They were awarded
4 amps 1, 4, 7, 9, total is \$53,403.45. Parks section
5 total is \$118,500. So grand total of \$171,903.45.

6 Final one is for Calumet Waste &
7 Recycling, Incorporated. They are at 1101 East 139th
8 Street, in East Chicago. They were awarded amps 6, 12,
9 2, total \$54,881.85. Park section is \$121,500. Grand
10 total is \$176,381.85

11 They have listed all the parks for the
12 different contractors.

13 Are there any questions or comments
14 on the East Chicago contracts for grass cutting and
15 maintenance 2021, for East Chicago, cutting and
16 landscaping? (None)

17 No further questions for comments,
18 I'll entertain a motion to approve the contracts for
19 grass cutting and green space maintenance 2021, and
20 grass cutting, landscaping and park maintenance for 2021
21 for R & D Construction, Regional Services, STM Services,
22 Calumet Waste & Recycling.

23 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

24 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

25 MR. GOMEZ: Roll Call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Outstanding
Invoices. The first invoice is for Cintas from Public
Works. We have two invoices. One dated 12/31/2020 and
the second one is 12/31/2020, which is a credit. The
first one is \$965.59. And the second is \$715.99.
Explanation was they were late due to delay in credit on
December invoice.

MR. CID: That is correct.

MR. GOMEZ: So I imagine we subtract the

1 715 from the first one, and it would be 249?

2 MR. CID: Yes.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
4 this invoice? (None)

5 There being no further questions or
6 comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Cintas
7 invoice in the amount of \$249.60, with credit given.

8 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

9 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
12 Opposed: None

13 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

14 Next we have also from Cintas for
15 City Hall. We have two invoices dated 12/24/2020 and
16 12/30/2020. One is \$155.75 and the second is \$454.05,
17 for a total of \$609.80. Explanation, regular driver
18 from Cintas was on vacation. New driver was signing off
19 on delivery forms instead of one of our staff. Our
20 office did not receive these invoices once the driver
21 signed off on them. So this is more on their part. Any
22 questions or comments on the invoice? (None)

23 There being no further questions or
24 comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Cintas late
25 invoice for City Hall, in the amount of \$609.80.

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next from STM for Redevelopment. We
have three invoices. One dated 1/8/2021, 2/4/2021 and
the other 4/12/2021. Total is \$5,467.20. Waiting for
funds to be approved from Council. Services have been

1 rendered. Any questions or comments? (None)

2 There being no further questions or
3 comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve the invoice
4 in the amount of \$5,467.20.

4 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

5 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

6 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

7 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
8 Opposed: None

8 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

9 Next we come to STM Enterprises,
10 2021 Phase 1, demolition of unsafe garages or buildings,
11 amount of \$10,088.85. The locations are 4735 Alexander,
12 4757 Alexander, 4753 Melville, 4854 McCook, 4855 McCook,
13 all in East Chicago. Any questions or comments? (None)

12 There being no further questions or
13 comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve STM
14 Enterprises proposal for 2021 Phase 1, Demolition.

14 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

15 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

16 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

17 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
18 Opposed: None

18 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

19 Next Building Department, contract
20 between East Chicago Board of Public Works and Safe
21 Environmental Corporation for asbestos abatement, in the
22 amount of \$6,650.00. Locations are 4802 Ivy, 4729
23 McCook (front and rear), 4737 McCook, 4716 McCook (front
24 and rear), 4751 Melville (front and garage), all within
25 East Chicago. Any comments or questions? (None)

23 No further questions or comments,
24 I'll entertain a motion to approve contract between East
25 Chicago Board of Public Works and Safe Environmental
26 Corporation for Asbestos Abatement, in the amount of
27 \$6,650.

1 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

5

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

6 Next we have, also from Building,
Award of Northwest Indiana Environmental, for properties
7 at 410 Prospect, 418 Prospect, 420 Prospect, 405 Spring,
407 Spring, 413 Spring, 509 School, 511 School, 410
8 Park. Any questions or comments? (None)

9 There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve award to
10 Northwest Indiana Environmental for aforementioned
properties for asbestos abatement.

11

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

12

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

13

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

14

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
15 Opposed: None

16

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

17 Next we survey request from Planning
for 5400 Cline Avenue. We have quotes from Torrenge
Engineering, not to exceed \$15,850.00, with completion
18 date of 45 days. Next is Robinson Engineering, total of
\$18,000.00. Mr. Powers, did you review these two
19 quotes?

20

MR. POWERS: I did review both quotes.

21

MR. GOMEZ: I assume we are going with
the lowest quote?

22

MR. POWERS: That is correct.

23

MR. GOMEZ: That would be Torrenge
24 Engineering, for the amount of \$15,850.00?

25

MR. POWERS: That's correct.

1 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
2 (None)

3 There being no further questions or
4 comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve proposal
5 from Torrenga Engineering, for 5400 Cline Avenue survey,
6 in the amount of \$15,850.00.

7 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

8 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

9 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

10 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
11 Opposed: None

12 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

13 Also from Planning, we have Board of
14 Public Works Resolution 2021-69. This is Access
15 Agreement for Greater Northwest Indiana, for EPA ground
16 field grant. Mr. Powers, would you like to speak on
17 this resolution?

18 MR. POWERS: I would. We are trying to
19 see what needs to be done for Phase 1 and 2 for the
20 property, and by them working with NIRPC, they are able
21 to help cover some of that cost.

22 So, what we have is the City is the
23 property owner of one of the two affected parcels. Then
24 it needs to have the President of the Board of Public
25 Works to sign off on this, so they can have access to
the property for the Phase 1 and Phase 2.

MR. GOMEZ: Description of property is
outlined in the resolution. Any questions or comments?
(None)

There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Resolution
2021-69.

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Resolution 2021-67, transfer for
2 property to Redevelopment, 900-902 East Chicago Avenue,
from Law Department. Any questions or comments? (None)

3
4 There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Resolution
2021-67, transfer of property at 900-902 East Chicago
5 Avenue, to Department of Redevelopment.

6 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

9 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

10

11 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Let's move on to Resolution number
2021-68, transfer of property known as the Northwest
12 corner of Elm and 145th Street, to Redevelopment
Department. Any questions or comments? (None)

13

14 There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Resolution
2021-68 conveying the property known as the Northwest
15 corner of Elm and 145th Street to Redevelopment
Department.

16

17 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

18

19 MS. GUZMAN: Second

20

21 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

22

23 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

24

25 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from NIES Engineering,
Exchange Avenue from Indianapolis Boulevard to Tod
Avenue.

26

27 MR. ALLEN: This is a proposal for design
28 services from NIES Engineering. We have some
deflections in the asphalt. We believe that there are
29 issues with our sewer system. So we are asking NIES to

1 provide plans, a survey, some soil borings, to analyze
2 our underground infrastructure and inform us of the
3 condition. This also includes the preparation and plans
4 of sidewalks, curbs and sewer placement, and also to
5 generate bid documents for us to go to construction.
6 Grand total amount is \$69,058.00.

7 MR. GOMEZ: This is for engineering
8 services?

9 MR. ALLEN: Correct.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
11 this proposal? (None)

12 There being no further questions or
13 comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve the
14 proposal from NIES Engineering for their services.

15 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

16 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
19 Opposed: None

20 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

21 Next we have EJ Construction, Change
22 Order #1, for 3724 Main Street.

23 MR. ALLEN: So, 3724 Main Street, which
24 currently we are gutting out and preparing the
25 individual units for potential users. It was discovered
upon inspection conducted by Nipsco, in our Building
Department -- electrical inspector -- that our
electrical breakers are outdated and need to be
replaced, with the cost of \$16,500, and that is to
correct that issue and bring that up to code.

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
(None)

There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve EJ
Construction, Change Order #1, 3724 Main Street project,
in the amount of \$16,500.00.

25

1 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

5

6 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next Rieth Riley, Change Order #2,
resurfacing sewer project from Engineering.

7

8 MR. ALLEN: This is just a series of
deducts and additions. This is Change Order #2, there
is changes in quantities for excavation and piping
9 material, and piping material that is no longer needed.
The grand total for this change order is \$62,895.64.

10

11 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
Change Order #2? (None)

12

13 There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Rieth Riley
Change Order #2, 2019 resurfacing sewer project, in the
amount of \$62,895.64.

14

15 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

16

17 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

18

19 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

20

21 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

22

23 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Before we get to right-of way
applications, we'll go back -- do you have your
recommendations, Cid?

24

25 MR. CID: After review, I would recommend
flower maintenance service throughout the City, this is
for the watering and flower maintenance throughout the
City. This is for the hanging baskets. This is for all
over the City.

26

27 MR. GOMEZ: Which company are you
recommending?

1 MR. CID: Yes. Great Lakes Landscape.

2 MR. GOMEZ: And they're from
3 Schererville, Indiana. What was their amount?

4 MR. CID: \$79,370.00.

5 MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Any question or
6 comments on the recommendation? (None)

7 There being no further questions or
8 comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Great Lakes
9 Landscaping proposal in the amount of \$79,370.00.

10 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

11 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

12 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
14 Opposed: None

15 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
16 Okay, thank you.

17 MR. CID: Next one I would like to
18 recommend, City Planters, that's installation of
19 seasonal flowers around the large planters on Columbus
20 Drive and the large planters at the intersection of
21 Chicago Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard. This is cost
22 of \$14,480.00 from Great Lakes Landscape.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
24 this proposal? (None)

25 There being no further questions or
comments, I would entertain a motion to approve Great
Lakes Landscaping's bid in the amount of \$14,480.00.

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

25

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

2 MR. CID: Next is planters at the Mayor's
office and for City Hall, in the amount of \$1,575.00. I
3 recommend Great Lakes Landscape.

4 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
None. (None)

5
6 There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Great Lakes
Landscaping proposal in the amount of \$1,575.00.

7
8 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

9 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

12 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

13 MR. CID: I have one more recommendation.
This is for Cummings Landscape. This project is
14 planting and maintenance Lakefront Park, Columbus Drive
turnabout, Unity Park, police station on Columbus Drive,
15 Healthy East Chicago, Alder Street and also turnabout,
and also on Columbus bump outs, that's the flowers. I
16 also recommend Cummings for this project. This is also
cutting the grass in the different areas.

17 MR. GOMEZ: What was the amount?

18 MR. CID: The total amount on this one
19 here is \$161,331.30.

20 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
this proposal? (None)

21
22 There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve Cummings
Landscape proposal in the amount of \$161,331.30.

23
24 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

25 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

1 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.
2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None

3 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

4 MR. CID: Thank you, Board.

5 MR. GOMEZ: Next we come to Board of
6 Public Works, permit applications, Right-of-way
application numbers 21-03835 through 21-03863. Any
7 questions or comments on these right-of-way
applications? (None)

8
9 There being no further questions or
comments, I'll entertain a motion to approve
right-of-way applications 21-03835 through 21-03863.

10 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

11 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

12 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
14 Opposed: None

15 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

16 That concludes our New business. We
have no other business. Our next regular meeting will
be Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

17 That concludes our business for
tonight. Entertain a motion for adjournment.

18 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

19 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

20 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

21 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
22 Opposed: None

23 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Meeting adjourned.

24
25 ***** Meeting Adjourned *****

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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
April 14, 2021
Approved and Signed April 14, 2021.

Val Gomez, President

William Allen, Vice President

Winna Guzman

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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 23rd day of April, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

