CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS
Val Gomez, President
Winna Guzman, Vice-President
Frank Rivera, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Reported by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.
By: Peggy S. LaLonde
Staff Present: Olga Cosme, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez
Winna Guzman
Frank Rivera

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works for May 14th, 2026. We do have a quorum.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes for the April 23rd, 2026 meeting, as written.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. RIVERA: Abstain, I wasn't present.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
We have no correspondence, we'll move on to New Business.

First item on the agenda is the Bus Transit. We have the 2026 Certifications and Assurances for the FTA Assistance Program. We also have the Certification of Financial Capacity and Local Share Availability.

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If you notice, all these forms have been signed already by the Mayor or City Attorney, and Frank Rosado. They had everything in by the last week of April, 1st week of May, so that's when he got the signatures. I said I would explain to everybody why everything was signed, for the signatures.

So right now he did include the original Plan Commission documents concerning the FTA, Federal Transit Administration. They send this out, Certification of Assurances, for completion. You have attached the Certification of Financial Capacity and Local Share Availability, Assurance checklist, and Local Share documents, which are complete. Also there's Amendment #2, Federal Operating Assistance from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2027.

As we are aware, these documents are required each year as part of the grant process, so that's what this is all about, to receive the grant. They signed these forms and we do this every year. So we need to approve it every year. We have each form signed here by the Mayor, himself, Board President, or City Attorney.

Any questions or comments on the Certification and Assurances? (None)

There being no questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the three aforementioned Certifications of Assurances for the Bus Transit.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Mechanical Concepts the proposal to remove failed contractors, capacitors, and belts and install new ones at East Chicago Health Department. The amount is $5,750.00. It shows they were testing and working on the system for a while.

Any questions or comments on this proposal?

MS. GUZMAN: Do they have the sole proprietary form?

MR. GOMEZ: I talked to the Director of Public Works and he should have put it on there, but they have been using Mechanical Concepts and they are

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satisfied with the their performance. You can save a lot of time by doing that.

Any other questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or questions, I'd like to make a motion approving Mechanical Concepts proposal for East Chicago.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to 4728 Melville. This is from the Law Department, we have a purchase agreement to purchase real estate at 4728 Melville. The buyer is Keith McKinley. The amount is $5,000.00 and this purchase is for the real estate. There's several areas where Mr. McKinley signed but he didn't initial, but it's pretty straight forward.

Are there any questions pertaining to this agreement to purchase?

MS. GUZMAN: I wanted to know, is this vacant land for us? It's vacant land.

MS. LEVINSON: I thought there was a home on it, but it might be a separate parcel. Maybe that parcel is the vacant land.

MR. RIVERA: I think it's part of the home.

MR. GOMEZ: They recorded the quitclaim deed and sales disclosure form. No other questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the agreement to purchase real estate at 4728 Melville.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next from the Fire Department. We have a request for Interstate Power Systems. We have a letter from Chief Marc Escobedo.

"Please consider my request to

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approve repairs for Engine 2518. Interstate Power Systems has identified several issues regarding Engine 2518. Attached you will find an estimate which may increase due to further issues. As of May 8, 2026, the estimates totals to $6,999.07. We have located available funds in the Vehicle Repair and Maintenance 201001-436051."

We do have Interstate's invoice. Also the request for purchase order for repairs needed to fix Engine 2518. Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the proposal from Interstate Power to the Fire Department for Engine 2518.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from the Fire Department, they'd like to declare items as surplus. There's an over the range microwave, HP 5590 scanner, large metal filing cabinet, small metal filing cabinet, metal shelf units, metal desks, wood desk, recumbent bike, UPS battery backup. These items are non-repairable or expired.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Chief's request to declare items surplus.

Next we have from the Fire Department, we have three company vendors, Interstate Power Systems, Legacy Fire Apparatus, and MacQueen Emergency. All three are from the East Chicago Fire Department emergency apparatus service policy, which we approved earlier in the year, January 22, 2026. Basically this relates to the policies not-to-exceed, which each one was $10,000.00. They are hired every year. They are asking to raise the not-to-exceed for each to $40,000.00. The policy is included, the rates, the labor and agree to the set hourly repairs.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the Fire Department's request to increase the not-to-exceed on their apparatus emergency policy for Interstate Power Systems, Legacy Fire Apparatus and MacQueen Emergency to

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$40,000.00 each.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

MS. GUZMAN: I don't think -- we didn't vote on the surplus. I don't think we did.

MR. GOMEZ: I'd like to make a motion to approve the request for the Fire Department declaring items as surplus.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Thanks for catching that, Winna.

Next we have also from the Fire Department a request to open a purchase order for Main Sporting Goods. This is for uniform items that the Fire Department, shirts, pants, etcetera. Main Sporting Goods actually put their rate schedule for these items, for the firemen. It looks like an invoice, but actually it's their rate schedule. They have a not-to-exceed of $5,000.00. So it's basically for the pants and the shirts, sweatshirts, items like that.

Any questions or comments on this? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Fire Department's request for Main Sporting Goods for their purchase order.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to outstanding invoices. We have six. I'll read each one and motion at the end.

First one is from the Fire Department. Invoice from Star Uniforms. The amount is $885.00. The reason is missed the paperwork.

Any questions or comments on this

one? (None)

The second one is from IT. The vendor is Steiner Electric, maintenance server room, invoice date 3/4/26. The amount is $117.75. Explanation: Invoice was lost in the e-mail transit.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

Next one is from Cintas from Public Works. One late invoice dated 1/2/26 and the amount is $108.00. Explanation: Invoice was not received by our office till April 24th.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The next one we have from the Law Department. The vendor is Attorney Hall. The invoice is for $2,002.50. Explanation: Invoices from Attorney Hall are e-mailed. This e-mail was not received with the batch during this timeframe.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The next one is from Police Department. It's from Power DM NEO Gov., one late invoice dated 12/24/25. The amount is $3,922.21. Explanation: Was e-mailed to the wrong person and ut was not forwarded to the Service Division in a timely manner. Purchase order #261019 was on hand to pay this invoice on time.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The next one is from Human Resources for Occupational Health. They have late invoices from 2024 to 1/2/26. The total amount is $4,978.08. Explanation: The following invoices were missed due to invoices received to incorrect e-mail.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd make a motion to approve the aforementioned six late outstanding invoices. I'd like to make a motion to approve for payment of these invoices.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have a proposal from BetterNOI with the HR Department. HR has been using

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this form for their background checks for the last five years. Basically they attached their schedule for employee reports service level, $24.50. But they do have other reports, the amount for drug testing. They have individual small ones for verification, judicial verification, and they have their own prices. There is also another one for an additional $9.00 for individual sessions.

Any questions or comments on these proposals?

MS. GUZMAN: Just to note, on page 5, it has the interest rate of five percent.

MR. GOMEZ: I'm pretty sure HR is aware of that. This company has worked for us for several years. They are aware of the interest free clause.

Any other questions or comments?

(None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving this proposal for background verification for HR.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have this from the Parks Department, we have Anthony Serna contract for professional services. I believe two meetings ago we approved this contract. I'd like to add in this motion once again to have the Parks Department take similar action by approving this contract. Basically we are approving the money, the funding for the contract, but the Parks Department approve the contract. I have no problem approving the funding, but I think the proposal should be passed by the Parks Department. We'll do both. I'll call the Park Director.

Any other questions -- it's basically to raise the hourly rate to $30.00 an hour, not-to-exceed of 30 hours. I believe the previous one was $25.00 an hour and not-to-exceed of 30 hours.

Any other questions or comments?

(None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve the Professional Service Consultant Contract for Anthony Serna, with the condition that I contact the Parks

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Department to add this to their agenda and for their Board to take similar action.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Resolution 2026-07. This is legal services for Tolbert & Tolbert.

"A Resolution of the East Chicago Board of Public Works authorizing a modification of the City's contract for legal services between Tolbert & Tolbert.

Whereas, the Board previously authorized and approved its contract with Tolbert & Tolbert for calendar year 2026, which, among other things, established a cap for fees in the amount of $75,000.00;

Whereas, the Board previously authorized and approved to extend the cap contained in that contract by an amount not-to-exceed of $200,000.00;

Whereas, the Board now desires to extend the cap contained in Resolution 2025-17 by an amount not-to=exceed of $100,000.00.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the East Chicago Board of Public Works that the Tolbert & Tolbert contract be modified so as to allow for payment for those services of an additional $200,000.00, subject to the submission of itemized statements approved by the City Controller and the Common Council."

The amount was a not-to-exceed of $100,000.00.

MS. LEVINSON: This must be cases they are handling. I'm assuming that's for litigation rates.

MR. GOMEZ: Well, the not-to-exceed is 200,000 and extending the cap by 130,000.

MR. RIVERA: That 2025-17, that's the resolution number?

MR. GOMEZ: We'll stick to that. Any questions or comments on this Resolution 2026-07? (None)

There being no further questions or

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comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Resolution 2026-07.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to our own Attorney, contract with Shana D. Levinson for legal services for Fire Civil Service for 2026 and by the Board of Public Works. Whereas, the Department of Law feels it necessary to engage an attorney on a contractual basis to assist the Corporation Counsel and the City Attorney, and provide legal advice and guidance and other law related tasks as assigned by the Department of Law. The legal services are a rate of $175.00 per hour for non-litigation services and $225.00 for services performed in connection with matters in litigation. So this contract is between Shana D. Levinson and East Chicago Civil Service Commission. There's a not-to-exceed of $25,000.00.
Any questions or comments? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the contract between Attorney Levinson and the City of East Chicago.

MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have the Interlocal Agreement between East Chicago through the Board of Works and School City.
"Interlocal Agreement between the City of East Chicago, acting through its Board of Public Works and the School City of East Chicago, acting through its Board of Trustees."
I spoke to Law Department's paralegal, I wasn't aware the City was going to buy the School City Administration Building. They've determined the cost to repair the Administration Building for future use is cost prohibitive.
"Whereas, the City has determined that the Administration Building property has value to the City and its residents as the parking lot is useful to support city-related activities

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in the neighborhood."

It says that transfer of title of the Administration Building and use of certain School City facilities, the City will pay the School City $1,000,000.00, which will also aid the School City in any future efforts to apply for secure matching grant funding."

My question was -- I spoke to Mayor's financial director and he wasn't aware of this -- my question was where we are taking this and mainly the combination of funds. I spoke to him actually just before the meeting and he has to speak with the Mayor and find out what the situation was. So the School City warranty deed for the Administration Building at 1401 East 144th Street, East Chicago, Indiana and I mentioned that the City will pay the School City. So, as soon as we find out where -- what part we are getting the funds from, I think I'll make a motion to approve this subject to finances.

MS. LEVINSON: Once it's signed? We are not signing it until -- I think the signature is on it with that condition necessarily.

MR. GOMEZ: I did mention to our financial adviser, so I was going to ask Mr. Bennett and the Mayor, but he was going to check for himself.

MS. LEVINSON: Did you get the impression or the sense he was looking to table this?

MR. GOMEZ: No. He wants to sign the contract. The last thing I heard when we were discussing the contract, that they are suggesting an MOU with the School City for the parking lot, but they are entertaining asphalt and the striping. We did use it for events and that's in their parking lot, that's what I understood.

Since I don't have that information, I'd like to make a motion approving this subject to checking with Mr. Bennett.

Any questions? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Interlocal Agreement between East Chicago Board of Works and the School City for the purchase of this school subject to funding.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

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MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have donation checks. We have donation checks from BP for $35,000.00 for Special Events; donation check from Tradebe Environmental Services for $10,000.00 for Special Events. Those two are for Special Events. We have sponsorship forms for several special events for both of their donations and we have a copy of the checks.
Any questions or comments on the donation checks for Special Events? (None)

MS. GUZMAN: Just thank you to these entities for their generous donations.
MR. GOMEZ: Okay. There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the donation checks for Special Events.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have two donation checks to the Police Department. We do have the letter from the Chief of the East Chicago Police Department attached.
"The East Chicago Police Department has received the attached two donation checks for future community outreach events: $250.00 from Tech Credit Union and $500.00 from Sims Metal.
With the Board's approval, these funds will be deposited into the Police Department's community outreach account - 901001-ADWOY."
The Chief has already put in his thank you and copies of the checks.
Any comments or questions on these? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the two police department donation checks.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

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Next we come to Sunbelt Rentals. This is for the rental of fans for our festivals and special events. Most of our events are in the Summer and it's pretty hot. So we have for the amount $9,277.55. This includes the Seniors on the Lake Festival, $1,407.29; R & S Fest, $1,375.79; Salsa Fest $1,375.79; Kielbasa Fest, $1,375.70; Viva Fest, $1,375.78; Fusic Fest, $2,367.10. The grand total for the festivals is $9,277.55.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Sunbelt's rental of fans for the festivals.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have a proposal from Special Events and this for Heavy Band, for the Senior on the Lake Event, which is August 27th at 11:00 a.m. This is from the Gaming and Contractual account. The amount is $3,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this proposal or this contract for services? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Special Events request for Senior on the Lake Event.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from five agent service agreements. As we mentioned before, Vela LLC, Luis Serrano, d/b/a Vela LLC is our contractor. He provides the acts for the City for special events. As in the past, Mr. Serrano has an agreement with us to make the arrangements for contracting these acts and he will pay the amount, plus ten percent. Starting with first one, Mi Banda El Mexicano De Casimiro & Los Ramones deVuevo Leon, for Fusic Fest, August 2nd. The amount for the artist contract is $69,000.00 and the ten percent of $6,900.00, so the total is $75,900.00.

Once again, they are just paying the agent responsible, there's a separate contract between

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them and the artist.

Any questions or comments on this first one? (None)

The next one is Banda La Autentica De Jerez and Headliner Gerardo Cornel El Jerry for Fusic Fest, August 2nd. That amount is $75,000.00, plus the ten percent of $7,500.00; total amount of $82,500.00.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The next one is Boosie Badazz and G Herbo for Saturday July 31st, 2026. All contracts are under Vela contractors. That one is $170,500.00.

Any questions or comments? (None)

The next one is Banda Carnaval for Viva Fest on September 19th. That amount is $44,000.00.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

The last one is Pacquito Acosta and Rey Sepulveda for Salsa Fest on July 18th. Total amount is $54,890.00

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion, including that the services for Boosie Badazz and G. Herbo, the account information I would say is subject to being identified for that. They have the account description on all the other ones, but not that one. Subject to identifying that, I'd like to make a motion approving the four aforementioned service agreements with Vela LLC, with the commissions, and also inquire about the funding for that.

MS. GUZMAN: There's five.

MR. GOMEZ: Did I say six?

MR. GUZMAN: No, you said four.

MR. GOMEZ: The five aforementioned acts with Vela LLC. Is there a second?

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next from FTM Consulting services regarding Ozinga Slag LLC. This is from the

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Controller's Office. This is a consulting agreement with the City to provide consulting and project management services, including grand application assistance and administrative support for the federal grant application, and associated grant scope of work for projects related to Ozinga Slag LLC.

"The Agreement is entered between FMT Consulting, Inc. And the Board of Public Works of the City of East Chicago, a municipal body organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana;

Whereas, the City desires to retain the Consultant to provide consulting and project management services, including grant application assistance and administrative support for the federal grant application, and the associates grant scope of work, related to Ozinga Slag, LLC, and any of its affiliates, as well as other projects and activities approved by by the City;

Whereas the Consultant is willing, ready, and able to provide consulting and project management services requested by the City.

Therefore, Consultant and City agree as follows:

1. Consultant's services, assignments and projects assigned by the City shall be based on the conditions of this Agreement.

2. Scope of Work: Consultant shall provide general consulting project management, grant application assistance, and administrative support services to the City in connections with the Ozinga Project. Any additional projects or assignments requested by the City must be authorized in writing by the City and accepted by Consultant, prior to commencement.

3. The City agrees to retain Consultant and the Consultant agrees to provide general consulting project management, grand application assistance, and administrative support services to the City in connection with the Ozinga Project and any other projects or assignments assigned by the City and accepted Consultant in writing.

4. Consultant's services on the Project are limited to assisting the City and Ozinga in preparing and submitting the grant application and providing administrative support related to reports and documentation of the Project.

5. The City acknowledges that Consultant has no responsibility for the design, engineering,

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construction of any projects under this Agreement, including but not limited to the sheet pile wall, foundations, geotechnical conditions, environmental conditions, or code compliance contractors engaged to do the work. Consultant shall have no liability for any errors, omissions, defects, delays, cost overruns, grant violations, or failures in design or construction or for job site safety.

6. The City shall make available such personnel staff and documents necessary for Consultant to effectively perform services under this Agreement.

7. Consultant designates Fernando M. Trevino as its point of contact for the consulting and project management services under this Agreement. The City designates Valeriano Gomez as its primary point of contact. Consultant may communicate and coordinate with other City employees as reasonable necessary to perform its services. Consultant shall provide periodic updates to Valeriano Gomez as reasonably necessary.

8. FMT Consulting is an independent contractor and not an employee or partner of the City;

9. Consultant Compensation, Fees and Expenses:

1. The Consultant's billing rate shall be $119.00 an hour, the total shall not exceed $5,000.00, without written approval by the City. Consultant's hours shall be tracked with a timesheet submitted with the Consultant's invoices.

2. The Consultant shall be reimbursed for authorized expenses such as travel outside of East Chicago, postage, etc.;

3. The Consultant may invoice on a monthly basis and City agrees to make payment to Consultant within 30 days of invoice presentation.

10. Other Work, Projects, or Assignments: Any work, projects, or assignments outside those affiliated with Ozinga Project shall require the City's written approval. Consultant shall be compensated for all authorized services rendered and reimbursed for all approval out-of-pocket expenses incurred with said services, consistent with this Agreement.

11. Neither party shall be liable for any default or delays caused by acts of God, war, terrorist, labor strikes, civil insurrection, or other forces.

12. Each party represents that, to the best of

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its knowledge, no actual, potential or apparent conflict of interest exists that would materially interfere with its performance under this Agreement, including Consultant's role as Executive Director of the East Chicago Waterway Management District. If either party becomes aware of any such conflict, it shall promptly disclose the conflict in writing to the other party. Upon receipt of notice, the parties shall meet and confer in good faith within 10 days to determine appropriate resolution measures such as divestiture, recusal, or termination of the conflicting activity. Each party agrees to cease or wind up any such activity within a reasonable period not to exceed 60 days subject to mutual agreement on ay extensions. Failure to resolve a disclosed conflict may constitute grounds for termination under Section 14.

13. The City shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Consultant and its officers, employees, and agents from and against any and all actions, claims, demands, damages, losses, liabilities, penalties, fines, judgments, costs, expenses, (including reasonable attorney fees) loss of grant funding, grant repayment obligations or penalties, arising out of or related to the Project of Consultant's performance of this Agreement. This includes, but not limited to, grant compliance, procurement of materials, equipment, or services, financial management design, engineering, construction, safety, and overall project performance, including the Ozinga Project sheet pile wall project, as well as any other services provided the Consultant in good faith under this Agreement. The provisions of this Paragraph 13, shall survive the termination, expiration, or modification of this Agreement.

14. The agreement may be amended from time to time as necessary in writing and may be terminated by either party upon a 60 days written notice. If this agreement is terminated by either party, the City shall compensate Consultant for all services performed and approved expenses incurred up to the effective date of termination and payment processed consistent with the terms of this Agreement.

15. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Indiana.

16. It is understood that any provision by this

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agreement that is in violation of any federal, state or local law or regulation shall be null and void. The invalidity or unenforceability of any term or provision herein shall in no way effect the validity or enforceability of any other term of provision of this agreement.

17. This Agreement shall be in effect as of May 1, 2026."

Basically Ozinga built the project on Dickey Road and part of this project when they first did it, was to acquire this grant. This grant was $50 million, I believe. In lieu of that grant all they needed to do was to tie it to a public entity. So when they contacted us in February, they asked us. The only other two entities would be the City or the County, and that had to be attached to the project. We had a meeting with them. We discussed the terms. We discussed what we wanted. After that meeting Ozinga sent it in and they approved it. So this is just for the record.

What happened was, when the Mayor became aware, when we got to the meeting with the contractor to start the process, we didn't hear from them. The Mayor called the County had dropped them, so they had no choice but to come back. So that's where we are at. So when specify for the record this is their grant. Their money. They are going to provide all the documentation and this is reimbursement. We are just going to allow the grant money that the federal government sends to us to be used.

The reason we got Fernando Trevino involved, he's the Chairman of the Waterway Management and they had sewers with the project with the dredging. Now they didn't bring in the trucks, they decided to barge it. They found out that was too hard and the barge couldn't go through when its full, so they needed to dredge, that's when they had this grant. The Army Corps of Engineers told them about it. That's why this is here.

So we are working through and we hope they can follow the Commission saying you have to with this big of a grant. It I can't be attached to this grant. So we working on that.

So any questions or comments on this? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the request for the Consulting Project Manager Agreement between the City of East Chicago and FMT Consulting.

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MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from JM Industrial Services, we have the 2025 Phase IV Demolition contract. This is a contract we processed. JM Industrial is responsible for the work at 1217 West 150th Street, 914 West 151st, 3942 Alder Avenue, 3742 Carey Street, 3912 Deodor Street, 3909 Deodor Street, 518 Emlyn Place, 4842 Homerlee Avenue (rear), 4833 McCook, and 4855 Northcote, and 406 Vernon, 4801 Wegg Avenue, 4850 Wegg Avenue, 4917 Wegg Avenue. All of this work is for the total sum of $281,800.00.

As I mentioned before, they did the bidding for the project, for the demolition work and they won the individual contracts for the aforementioned addresses.

Any questions or comments on these demo contracts with JM Industrial? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving JM Industrial Services contract for 2025 Phase IV Demolition.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have proposal from Miranda's Concrete from the Engineering Department. This is for thermoplastic markings on the pavement for Fire Station #2. This proposal for this project was awarded previously. However, the vendor did not have a license. Miranda's Concrete is licensed and can complete the work. Engineering would like to move forward with this contractor. It says it's for $6,000.00.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the brand new concrete proposal for thermoplastic markings at Fire Station #2 from Engineering.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

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MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have Pintos Concrete from Engineering. Pintos will perform concrete work at the following locations: Chicago Avenue and Grasselli and 148th and Grasselli. The total for that is $11,578.89. Opinion posted concrete work for the.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Pintos Concrete's proposal.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Short Elliott & Hendrickson for general engineering services not-to-exceed of $15,000.00. It says here they will be performing engineering services as needed with a not-to-exceed of 15,000.00.
Any questions or comments on this one? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like a motion approving Short Elliott & Hendrickson's proposal with Engineering.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Miranda's Concrete, this is for patching around the City. Their proposal includes different locations at a cost of $18,060.00.
Any questions or comments on this project? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Miranda's Concrete proposal for patching around the City.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from R & D

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Construction, Alley Project 2-2026. This amount is $37,904.00. It's the project on the 400-block of Ivy Street. This lists the streets and the amounts.

Any questions or comments on this project? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving R & D Construction's proposal for Alley Project 2.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Martinez Construction. It's for Alley Project 3-2026. This includes a list of addresses and amounts. Total amount for this project with Martinez Construction is $11,528.00.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the proposal from Martinez Construction.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next is JenStar change order for Alley Project 7. The old JenStar proposal is where we had the change order. The change to the proposal if for East Chicago Project #7 for locations at 4854 Homerlee, alley on the 500 block of Emlyn Place and west 144th Street, 4100 block E-W only from First to Elm Street, west 238th Place from Sheridan Place to Carey Street, 3600 block N-S between Pulaski Street to Main Street. So the amount is $15,885.28.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving JenStar's proposal for the locations.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

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Next we have from A & Z Construction LLC, reconstruction project from Engineering. The City is responsible for 20 percent of the project. INDOT has provided 80 percent for construction engineering services for the Michigan Avenue reconstruction project.

MS. COSME: This project is an 80/20 project already funded.

MR. GOMEZ: So the 20 percent that the City is responsible for is $170,714.85. We did approve this already?

MS. COSME: But you have to sign it because it's time sensitive.

MR. GOMEZ: So, this is time sensitive. Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the proposal with A & Z.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have a proposal from Butler Fairman Seufert for engineering services for school and community speed zones and truck route signage design. This is for the amount of $115,680.00. The project description is: The City of East Chicago desires to enhance safety near schools and community facilities by establishing enforceable school zones with signage, installing speed feedback signs, and by designating a truck route to reduce heavy truck traffic along Indianapolis Boulevard near school areas. The project is planned to include improvements ans signage in the following 14 locations, and they have listed all locations.

So this is a pretty extensive safety program. Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the construction proposal for school speed zone and truck signage from engineering.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

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(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to Hasse Construction. This is for sanitary sewer relocation. On this proposal it's asking for: Option 1: Relocate sewer to behind the sidewalk. Install new 8-inch PVC SDR 35 sanitary sewer, remove old sewer and manholes, install 2 new manholes, tie into existing sewer and install 5 sanitary laterals.
Option 2: Relocate sewer to under the street. Saw cut and remove asphalt. Install new 8-inch PVC SDR 35 sanitary sewer, remove old sewer and manholes, install 2 new manholes, tie into existing sewer and install 5 sanitary laterals, and restore pavement to binder.
Option 1 is $83,200.00 and Option 2 is $127,500.00. Are there any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)
Just for the record, I am going to ask that the Sanitary Board give corresponding approval of the project because it's here for the funding or the funding source. Sanitary Board has to approve the project also. Any further questions? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Hasse Construction's proposal for Sanitary District. Board of Public Works is approving funding, but also we are requesting that the Sanitary Board also approve the project. We are contacting the Sanitary Board and they have will be approving this. Any questions or comments? (None)
If there is no other question, I'd like to make a motion approving this construction proposal for Sanitary sewer relocation with Hasse Construction.
MR. RIVERA: Second.
MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we come to right-of-way applications. We have 22 right-of-way applications, 26-05415 and 26-05127.
Are there any questions or comments on these Board of Public Works permit applications? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make motion approving the

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aforementioned right-of-way applications.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

That concludes our agenda for today. Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 4:30.

That concludes our agenda, I'd like to make a motion for adjournment.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

* * * * *

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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
May 14, 2026
Approved and Signed May 14, 2026.

_____
Val Gomez, President

_____
Winna Guzman, Vice President

_____
Frank Rivera, member

_____
Olga Cosme, Secretary

Electronically signed by Peggy LaLonde (301-364-327-3860) 2466435e-6f70-465f-86bd-1b5bbdb5b92d

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 26th day of May, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde

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