

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
(Via Telephone Conference)
Monday, May 17, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: Henry Ventura, Joseph
Ochoa, Anthony Askounis.

Present Via Telephone Conference: Ray Lopez.

STAFF: Present in Chambers: Anthony Herrera.

Present Via Telephone Conference: Joseph
Allegretti, John Phipps, Abdul Zehraoui, Winna
Guzman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 3, 2021.

Motion to approve May 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Joseph
Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

MR. VENTURA: Approval of Check Warrants. Check Warrant
051721 WB in the amount of \$170,437.55.

Motion to approve Check Warrant 051721 WB made by Ray Lopez.
Second by Joseph Ochoa.

1 Questions/Comments: None.

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

4 MR. VENTURA: Check Warrant 050521 WB in the amount of
5 \$137,934.35.

6 Motion to approve Check Warrant 050521 WB made by Joseph
7 Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 MR. VENTURA: Check Warrant 051721 CD in the amount of
12 \$632.07.

13 Motion to approve Check Warrant 051721 CD made by Joseph
14 Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

15 Questions/Comments: None.

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

18 MR. VENTURA: Check Warrant 051721 WF in the amount of
19 \$18,921.

20 Motion to approve Check Warrant 051721 WF made by Ray Lopez.
21 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

22 Questions/Comments: None.

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

25 APPROVAL OF PAYROLL WARRANTS:

MR. VENTURA: Next item on the agenda is Approval of
Payroll Warrants. Payroll Warrant 051421. This is in the
amount of \$35,027.53. And this is for payroll 4/24/21 to
5/7/21.

Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 051421 Payroll 4/24/21 to
5/7/21 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Questions/Comments: None.

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

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3 MR. VENTURA: Payroll Warrant 041621 in the amount of
\$17,637.07. This is for Utilities Payroll from 3/27/21 to
4/8/21.

4

5 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 041621 Utilities Payroll
3/27/21 to 4/8/21 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony
Askounis.

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Questions/Comments: None.

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

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10 MR. VENTURA: Payroll Warrant 051421 in the amount of
\$17,682.84. This is for Utilities Payroll from 4/24/21 to
5/7/21.

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12 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 051421 Utilities Payroll
4/24/21 to 5/7/21 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony
Askounis.

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Questions/Comments: None.

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

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FILTRATION REPORT:

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17 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda is the Filtration
Report, Dr. Abdul Zehraoui.

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19 DR. ZEHRAOUI: Mr. President, we have two things. Fire
Protection. Moran, he came on-site.

20

We are working also with Austgen Electric proposal
to add a new third pump. And came around \$160,000.

21

So this is the main that we are working on right
now. Thank you.

22

23 MR. VENTURA: Thank you. Any questions for
Dr. Zehraoui?

24

Motion to approve Filtration Report made by Ray Lopez.
Second by Joseph Ochoa.

25

1 Questions/Comments: None.

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

4 MR. VENTURA: Thank you, doctor.

5 WATER REPORT: None.

6 DISTRIBUTION REPORT: None.

7 NEW BUSINESS WATER:

8 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda under New Business we
9 have a Change Order. And this is regarding DN Tanks Contract
10 Number 4, Change Order Number 3. And I believe John Phipps
11 is going to speak on this.

12 MR. PHIPPS: Yes. I am here. Tell me when to begin.

13 MR. VENTURA: You may begin.

14 MR. PHIPPS: This a fairly simple Change Order. It
15 releases the last \$25,000 of retainage on the project. And
16 it extends the time for completion to the actual date of
17 completion.

18 That's all there is to it. I'd be happy to
19 entertain any questions you have.

20 MR. VENTURA: Any questions for Mr. Phipps?

21 MR. LOPEZ: Yes. Where does it say 25,000?

22 MR. PHIPPS: On the front part. I am sorry. It was
23 accompanied by Pay Request Number 11. And if you look at Pay
24 Request Number 11, at the very bottom total payment due is
25 \$25,000. That's the release of the last retainage.

MR. LOPEZ: I don't have that paper. But I'll take your
word for it.

MR. PHIPPS: It's correct.

MR. VENTURA: Any other questions for Mr. Phipps?

Motion to approve DN Tanks Change Order Number 3 made by
Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

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1 Questions/Comments: None.

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

4 MR. VENTURA: Next on the agenda we have a rate sheet
5 for Hessville Plumbing. And that's in your packet.

6 Motion to approve Hessville Plumbing Rate Sheet made by
7 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

8 Questions/Comments: None.

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

11 MR. VENTURA: Next we have Past Due Invoices. These
12 both are for Hasse Construction. One is for \$9,125.58. The
13 second one is for \$20,596.03. For a total of \$29,721.61.

14 Reason for the delinquency vendor did not send
15 invoices until the end of April 2021. And invoices were then
16 under review.

17 Motion to approve Hasse Construction Past Due Invoices made
18 by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

19 Questions/Comments: None.

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

22 REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL:

23 MR. VENTURA: Next we have Report from Legal Counsel,
24 Attorney Allegretti.

25 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Briefly last week your staff met with
one of our outside engineering firms for the purpose of
trying to cap improvements.

As we've all heard and read in the newspaper
Congress has passed the Rescue Act. And East Chicago is due
to get approximately \$33 and a half million. Half of it is
coming this week.

Permitted uses are for work expansion and
improvement and repairs to water distribution systems for
municipal water distribution systems. That's one of the

1 permitted uses.

2 The Act requires that money to be spent, be
3 committed before yearend 2024.

4 Of course we want our utility to get our fair share
5 of this money. We have to get these projects first of all
6 identified, coordinated with other work done by the City,
7 City Engineer's Office, get the design under contract and
8 underway so that we can get our fair share because we know we
9 need it.

10 And we'll be talking about this as the weeks go on.
11 We need to make certain improvements and repairs to our
12 distribution system.

13 So I just want you to know that your staff is
14 working on it, Dr. Z with our outside engineers and in
15 coordination with the City Engineer's Office. And we'll be
16 talking about that as time goes on. Thank you.

17 MR. VENTURA: Thank you. Any questions for Attorney
18 Allegretti?

19 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Joe. Make sure they get the
20 water problem too.

21 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Okay.

22 MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

23 FINANCIAL REPORT:

24 MR. VENTURA: Is there a Financial Report?

25 MR. HERRERA: It's in your packet.

MR. VENTURA: The Financial Report is in your packet.
Any questions on the report?

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

* Next Regular Meeting Date: June 7, 2021
@ 5:00 p.m.

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1 Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by
2 Anthony Askounis.

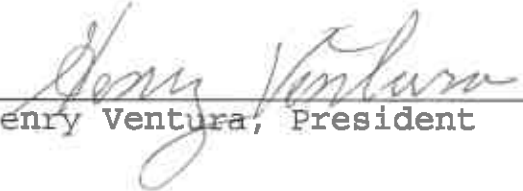
3 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.
4 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

5 * Meeting ended at 5:17 p.m.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Monday, May 17, 2021
Approved and Signed _____


Henry Ventura, President

Joseph Ochoa, Vice President


John Bakota, Member


Anthony Askounis, Member

(s) 
Ray Lopez, Member


Anthony Herrera, Board 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 30th day of May, 2021.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public, Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003484

