

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, May 26, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Reporter by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Richard Morrisroe
Carla Morgan
James Portalatin
Olga Cosme

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

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

MR. GOMEZ: We'll start the meeting.
Good afternoon. I'd like to call the order the regular
meeting of the Board of Public Works for May 26, 2021.

First item, we have the minutes of
the regular meeting of May 12, 2021. Entertain a motion
to approve as written.

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.

We have no correspondence. Move on
to New Business. First item, award proposals for
remediation of asbestos containing materials from
various locations.

MR. PORTALATIN: James Portalatin, East
Chicago Building Commissioner. First, we requested bids
for the following properties, 607 East 149th Place --

1 this is for asbestos removal -- 4716 McCook, 4826
2 McCook, 4828 McCook, 4847 McCook, and 4802 Alexander.
3 Before I begin, the property at 4826 McCook was removed
4 from the bid. Safe Environmental was the lowest most
5 responsive bidder for 607 East 149th Place, at \$1200.
6 We did get a bid from M & O, they also submitted a
7 proposal for \$2500. I recommend Safe Environmental to
8 be awarded the asbestos abatement for 607 East 149th
9 Place at \$1200.

Are we going property by property?

6 MR. GOMEZ: I'm trying to figure it out.
7 The first one was 607 East 149th Place, Safe
8 Environmental Corporation at \$1200?

8 MR. PORTALATIN: Correct.

9 MR. GOMEZ: So this sheet right here,
10 these are the recommendations then?

11 MR. PORTALATIN: Safe Environmental was
12 the lowest bidder on all the properties.

13 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you for submitting the
14 form.

15 MR. GUZMAN: You know what, you can do
16 all of them and we'll make one motion at the end when
17 you get done with all of them.

18 MR. PORTALATIN: 4716 McCook, Safe
19 Environmental bid was \$1200, M & O was 2500. 4828
20 McCook was for 6,500 Safe Environmental, and M & O
21 Environmental proposal was 9,100. 4847 McCook, Safe
22 Environmental bid the property for 1200; M & O
23 Environmental Company bid it 1400. 4825 Alexander, Safe
24 Environmental bid it for 3300 and M & O Environmental
25 was for 5200. So the total price is --

21 MR. GOMEZ: You eliminated -- which one
22 did you eliminate.

23 MR. PORTALATIN: 4826 McCook. Then I
24 recommend that Safe Environmental be awarded all the
25 properties that I stated for the total amount of
\$13,400.

24 MR. GOMEZ: Reason because they were the
25 lowest most responsible bidder?

1 MR. PORTALATIN: Correct.

2 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
the recommendations? (None)

3 No questions or comments, I'll
entertain a motion to approve Safe Environmental
4 Corporation as the lowest most responsible bidder for
these five properties, amount of \$13,400.00.

5 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

6 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

7 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

10 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

11 MR. PORTALATIN: The second proposal was
submitted by Harbor Group Incorporated, involves the
12 property located at 4235 Olcott, front and garage; 501
West 144th, 3732 Deodor, 3802 Fir, 4907 Magoun. For
13 this one Northwest Indiana Environmental submitted a bid
for 4235 Olcott, amount of 2800. M & O submitted their
14 bid -- this is also for asbestos abatement -- in the
amount of 2500. This was the only property that M & O
15 was the lowest most responsive bidder. So I recommend
they be awarded the property located at 4235 Olcott in
16 the amount of 2500.

17 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
4235 Olcott? (None) No further questions or comments,
18 entertain a motion to approve the recommendation for
4235 Olcott.

19 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

20 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

25 MR. PORTALATIN: Next we have 501 West

1 144th, their bid was 3800. M & O was 6100. 3732 Deodor
was in the amount of 10,350; M & O 13,900. 3802 Fir was
2 in the amount of 1200; M & O was 1500. 4907 Magoun was
in the amount of 4800; M & O bid this property for
3 7,000. The total amount of the four properties is in
the amount of 20,150. I recommend that Northwest
4 Indiana Environmental be awarded these four properties
in the amount of 20,150.

5

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
6 the four properties for Northwest Indiana Environmental,
which were the lowest and most responsive bidder.
7 (None)

No questions or comments, I'll
8 entertain a motion to approve the recommendation for
Northwest Indiana Environmental for these four
9 properties.

10 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

11 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

12 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

14

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

15 Now we move on to Northwest Indiana
Environmental, three agreements. First -- asbestos
16 removal -- first one is for 3809 Ivy Street, in the
amount of 4850. This is for asbestos removal. We have
17 the contract included. Any comments you'd like to make
on the first one?

18

MR. PORTALATIN: No.

19

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?
20 (None) No further questions or comments, I'll entertain
a motion to approve the asbestos removal contract
21 between the City of East Chicago Board of Public Works
and Northwest Indiana Environmental.

22

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

23

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

24

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

25

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

2

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

3 Next, also for Northwest Indiana
4 Environmental, asbestos removal contract for 1118 West
145 Street, amount of 3100. Any comments?

5 MR. PORTALATIN: No.

6 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments
7 from the Board? (None) No further questions or
8 comments, entertain a motion to approve asbestos removal
9 contract between the City of East Chicago Board of
Public Works and Northwest Indiana Environmental, 1118
West 145th Street, in amount of 3100.

9

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

10

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

11

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

12

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

13

14 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

15 The third contract between Northwest
Indiana Environmental, asbestos removal, this is for
various locations. This is for 410 Prospect, 418
16 Prospect, 420 Prospect, 405 Spring Street, 407 Spring
Street, 413 Spring Street, 509 School Street, 511 School
17 Street, 410 Park, in East Chicago, Indiana. The amount
is \$54,132.00; is that correct?

18

MR. PORTALATIN: That's correct.

19

20 MR. GOMEZ: These are all asbestos
removal. Any comments on the aforementioned properties
for asbestos removal and adjoining contracts? (None)

21

22 No further questions or comments,
entertain a motion to approve asbestos removal contract
between the City of East Chicago Board of Works and
Northwest Indiana Environmental.

23

MR. ALLEN: So moved.

24

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

25

1 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

3

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

4 Next we have contract between East
5 Chicago Board of Public Works and Calumet Waste &
6 Recycling. This is for 4832 Kennedy, East Chicago. The
7 project is from Phase 1, Board of Safety, demolition of
8 unsafe garage structures. Complete the demolition of
9 the work site and the amount is 1,920. Any comments
10 from Building?

11 MR. PORTALATIN: No. This is an award
12 from March 24th.

9

10 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments
11 from the commissioners? (None) No further questions or
12 comments, entertain a motion to approve the contract
13 between Public Works and Calumet Waste & Recycling to
14 complete demolition work at 4832 Kennedy, amount of
15 \$1,920.00.

13 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

14 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

15 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

17

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

18 Next we have demolition contract
19 with Richardson Disposal. Project is demolition of work
20 site 4916 Melville, 4948 Melville, 605 150th, 3809 Ivy,
21 3805 Pulaski, the garage only, 3810 Pulaski, 3850
22 Pennsylvania, 501 West 144th Street. Total amount is
23 \$155,125.00.

21

22 MR. PORTALATIN: These are for the
23 properties that were awarded on May 12.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Any other comments from
24 Building?

24

MR. PORTALATIN: No.

25

1 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments
2 from the Board? (None) No further questions or
3 comments, entertain a motion to approve demolition
4 contract between the City of East Chicago Board of
5 Public Works and Richardson Disposal for aforementioned
6 property in the amount of \$155,125.00.

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 Next, demolition contract between
14 the City of East Chicago and JM Industrial Services.
15 Demolition work at the sites of 4802 Ivy, 4751 Melville,
16 5019 Melville, 606 150th, 3912 Grace, 4138 Magoun, 5126
17 Tod, in the amount of \$70,933. Any comments from
18 Building?

19 MR. PORTALATIN: These also were part of
20 the 2021 Phase 1 that was awarded on May 12.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments
22 from the commissioners? (None) No further questions or
23 comments, entertain a motion to approve demolition
24 contract between the City of East Chicago Board of Works
25 and JM Industrial for aforementioned property in the
amount of \$70,933.00.

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, demolition contract between
the City of East Chicago Board of Works and Actin Inc.,
for demolition at 5010 Alexander, 4109 Magoun, 3839
Melville, 1118 West 145th, in the amount of \$39,500.00.
Any comments from the Building Department?

1 MR. PORTALATIN: It's also awarded on May
12.

2
3 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments
4 from the commissioners? (None) No further questions or
5 comments, entertain a motion to approve demolition
6 contract between the City of East Chicago Board of Works
7 and Actin, for the aforementioned property, in the
8 amount of \$39,500.00.

6 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

11 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
12 Next we have Northwest Indiana
13 Environmental change order #1, 4710 Park. Reason for
14 change order?

13 MR. PORTALATIN: There was additional
14 abatement that will need to be conducted here for
15 asbestos. It was discovered in the attic area and it
16 would be for the amount of \$4800.00.

16 MR. GOMEZ: East Chicago is the owner of
17 the building. Okay. Any questions or comments on
18 change order number 1, in the amount of \$4800.00, for
19 4710 Park? (None)

18 MR. PORTALATIN: It's approximately 400
19 square feet.

20 MR. GOMEZ: No further questions or
21 comments, entertain a motion to approve change order
22 number 1, for 4710 Park Street project with Northwest
23 Indiana Environmental, in the amount of \$4800.00.

22 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

23 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

24 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

1 Opposed: None

2 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

3 Next we have Notice to Proceed.
4 Notice to Proceed Northwest Indiana Environmental
5 asbestos removal. 410 Prospect, 418 Prospect, 420
6 Prospect, 405 Spring, 407 Spring, 413 Spring, 509 School
7 Street, 511 School Street, and 410 Park. Any questions
8 or comments on the Notice to Proceed? (None)

9 There being no further questions or
10 comments, entertain motion to approve the Notice to
11 Proceed with Northwest Indiana Environmental for
12 aforementioned properties.

13 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

14 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

15 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

18

19 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

20 This is second one from Northwest
21 Indiana Environmental, Notice to Proceed for asbestos
22 removal, 3809 Ivy Street and 1118 West 145th Street.
23 Any questions or comments on this Notice to Proceed?
24 (None)

25 There being no further questions,
entertain a motion to approve the Notice to Proceed with
Northwest Indiana Environmental for asbestos removal.

17

18 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

19

20 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

21

22 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

23

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

26

27 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

28 Okay. Notice to Proceed with STM
29 Enterprises. This is for demolition at 4757 Alexander,
30 4735 Alexander, 4753 Melville, and 4844 McCook. Any
31 comments on this Notice to Proceed? (None)

32 No further questions or comments,
33 entertain a motion to approve Notice to Proceed for STM

25

1 Enterprises for aforementioned properties.

2 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

3 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

4 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

7 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

8 Next Notice to Proceed is with Safe
9 Environmental, for asbestos removal at 4809 Ivy, 4729
10 Magoun, front and rear, 4737 McCook, 4716 McCook Avenue,
11 front and rear, 4751 Melville, front and garage. Any
12 questions or comments on the properties? (None)

13 There being no further questions or
14 comments, entertain a motion to approve Notice to
15 Proceed for Safe Environmental Corporation for the
16 aforementioned properties.

17 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

18 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

19 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

22 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

23 Next, we have outstanding invoices.
24 First we have Chicago Title Company from the Building
25 Department. We have various invoices dated from
1-14-2021 -- there is two dated 1-14-2021. We have four
dated 1-17-2021, and one from 3-12-2021, for total of
\$3,400.00, and this is for title work. The explanation,
services were rendered, unfortunately the invoices were
received late. This is from the Building Department.
Any further comments?

MR. PORTALATIN: No, that's correct.

MR. GOMEZ: No further questions or
comments, entertain a motion to approve past due
invoices to Chicago Title Company for the amount of
\$3,400.00.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

6 Next we have another invoice for
Chicago Title Company, also from Building Department.
7 This one is dated 12-14-2020, in amount of \$150.00. And
explanation, services were rendered and invoices were
8 received late. These were received over a year -- from
2020?

9

MR. PORTALATIN: Yep, it's 2-14-2020.

10

MR. GOMEZ: The work or services were
11 rendered though?

12

MR. PORTALATIN: Yes, they were.

13

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Any questions or
comments? (None) There being no further questions or
14 comments, entertain a motion to approve payment of late
invoice for Chicago Title, in the amount of \$150.00.

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 late invoice for
Northwest Indiana Environmental, from the Building
Department, dated 7-16-2020, in the amount of \$1,300.00.
22 Services have been rendered and these invoices were
received late also. Any comments? (None)

23

No further questions, entertain a
motion to approve late invoice from the Building
24 Department for Northwest Indiana Environmental, in the
amount of \$1,300.00.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

6 Next we have late invoice from Human
Resources, for Konica Minolta in the amount of \$48.50.
7 Their explanation was, never received invoice, had to
contact Konica to resubmit invoice. No other
8 outstanding invoices at this time. Any questions or
comments on this one? (None)

9 There being no further questions or
comments, entertain a motion to approve Konica Minolta
10 invoice for \$48.50.

11 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

12 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

13 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

15

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

16 Next we have late invoice from Law
Department, Smith Sersic. We have invoices dated
17 12-15-20, 1-16-2021, 2-11-2021, 3-5-2021, 4-12-2021, and
5-10-2021; total of \$8,709.72.

18

19 MR. ALLEN: The last two weren't late,
right?

20 MR. GOMEZ: I was about to say, the last
two -- they are on here, but they are just from May and
21 April. The State Board of Accounts requires any late
invoices that haven't been paid to be presented to the
22 Board within 60 days -- over 60 days, and two of these
aren't.

23

24 MR. ALLEN: Do you want to do the first
four?

25 MR. GOMEZ: Let's put them all in here.

1 This was recently brought to the attention of the Law
Department. The invoices are over 60 days past due.
2 The Board will need to approve. The invoices were
previously paid from the Building Department fund, as
3 they were all for building demo work. Since the budgets
were zeroed out, at the start of the year, the Building
4 Department in doing allocation of funds, went to process
the invoices and it was brought to their attention this
5 is for the Law Department and has been assigned to pay
them. Any questions or comments on these? (None)

6 There being no questions, entertain
a motion to approve the late invoices to Smith Sersic,
7 in the amount of \$8,709.72.

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 Next we have late invoice from
Public Works office, Schindler Elevator. We have two
14 invoices, one dated 1-01-21 -- both on the same date,
amount of \$7,825.12. Explanation, the Public Works
15 Department didn't have the funds to pay the full amount
of the bills. Any questions or comments on these two
16 late invoices? (None)

17 There being no further questions or
comments, entertain a motion to approve Schindler
Elevator past due amount of \$7,825.12.

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.

24 Next we have sale of police uniform
items. We have a letter of explanation from the police
chief. Letter from Chief Rosario stating they are in
25 possession of surplus of uniform items that were paid

1 from the Police Department General Fund, clothing and
equipment. (Letter to be attached.)

2 Basically asking permission to sell
these items in an effort to recoup some of these funds.
3 Any questions or comments on the Police Department's
request for sale of police uniforms? (None)

4 No further questions or comments,
entertain a motion to approve Police Department's
5 request.

6 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

7 MR. GUZMAN: Second.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

10

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

11

Next we have Midwestern Electric,
Change Order number 3 and 4, for Block Stadium. These
12 are submitted by Project Manager Keith Selvie. He did
submit an explanation. For change order number 3,
13 project Block Stadium, Phase 5 revised, the contractor,
Midwestern Electric. Reason for change order,
14 miscellaneous field lighting work at Block Stadium.
Change order amount is \$3,316.42. Work to be done as
15 described. Any questions or comments on this change
order? (None)

16

There being no further questions or
comments, entertain a motion to approve change order
17 number 3, Block Stadium, in the amount of \$3,316.42,
with Midwestern Electric.

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.

24

Change order number 4, also from
Block Stadium, Phase 5, also contractor Midwestern
25 Electric. This amount is \$3,000.00. This is for GFC
receptacles for Block Stadium. Any questions or

1 comments on change order number 4? (None)

2 There being no further questions or
3 comments, entertain a motion to approve change order
4 number 4, Block Stadium, Phase 5 improvements with
5 Midwestern Electric, in the amount of \$3,000.00.

6 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

11

12 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

13 All right. We come to Resolution
14 2021-71, transfer of PNC Bank property at 3701 Main
15 Street, to Redevelopment. Any questions or comments on
16 Resolution 2021-71? (None)

17 No further questions or comments,
18 entertain a motion to approve Resolution 2021-71.

19

20 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

21

22 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

23

24 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

25

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

1

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

2 Next we have Resolution number
3 2021-72. Resolution to transfer certain property owned
4 by the City of East Chicago, 3912 Main Street, to
5 Redevelopment. Any questions or comments on Resolution
6 2021-72? (None)

7 No further questions or comments,
8 entertain a motion to approve Resolution 2021-72.

9

10 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

11

12 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

13

14 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

15

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

18

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

2 Next we have agreement for
3 Engineering Services. This is for City of East Chicago
4 and DLZ Indiana, LLC and this is Engineering Department,
5 sewer replacement project on Columbus Drive to 152nd.
6 The amount of the project is \$940,850.00. This is for
7 engineering services?

8 Am I correct, Attorney Morgan, that
9 engineering services don't have to be bid out?

10 MS. MORGAN: Because it's a service, it's
11 not the actual construction work, the City can just
12 retain them.

13 MR. GOMEZ: Okay. City is choosing DLZ
14 in the amount of \$940,850. Are there any questions or
15 comments on this agreement for engineering services?
16 (None)

17 There being no further questions or
18 comments, entertain a motion to approve the engineering
19 services between DLZ Indiana and the City of East
20 Chicago.

21 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

22 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

26 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

27 Next we have right-of-way
28 application numbers 21-03906 to 21-03938. Any questions
29 or comments on these permit applications? (None)

30 No further questions or comments,
31 entertain motion to approve aforementioned Board of
32 Public Works permit applications.

33 MR. ALLEN: So moved.

34 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

35 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

38

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
That concludes our new business. Is
2 there any other business?
Please state your name for record.

3
4 MR. ARTIS: Good afternoon. I live at
443 Vernon, East Chicago Indiana. First I'd like to
commend Mayor Copeland for beautifying the City and
5 making our City safe and secure property in East
Chicago.

6 I'd also like to thank Winna Guzman.
The problem I have, I have seepage in my basement. And
7 the seepage is from the intake line of the lead line
coming from the street to the house. And what I did was
8 put concrete and sealed the property. She sent a
gentleman out and he came to make sure it was sealed
9 properly and since then, I haven't had any more seepage.
I thank you for that.

10 And I'd like to thank Mr. Allen and
Mr. Julio for coming out. I have a problem. On
11 April 10th and 11th I had a problem with water just
standing in front of my house. It just ponded in front
12 of the house, would not go down the drain. It stands
there.

13 MR. GOMEZ: Was it on the lawn?

14 MR. ARTIS: In the street. The water was
15 in the streets. It's just standing there. I showed
them pictures of -- I showed Miss Guzman that I had
16 made a little dam just to try to block the water, to
keep it from coming up because that Sunday I am out
17 there all day in the rain sweeping it down, sweeping it
down the drain, all the way down the street to the drain
18 and everything else.

19 MR. GOMEZ: This is rain water?

20 REWSIDENT: It's rain water. It's rain
water. So the next day, that Monday, Mr. Julio came
21 out. He looked at the property, and at the time he
stated that he had to go to the Council meeting to get
22 some money to rectify the area.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Councilman Hill came out to
your area?

24 MR. ARTIS: I talked to Mr. Terrence Hill
25 and I told Mr. Terrence Hill, after I talked to the

1 engineers -- because Mr. Hill is out of town during the
time it happened.

2

MR. GOMEZ: The engineers?

3

MR. ARTIS: They came out. First -- Mr.
4 Julio came out first. Maybe two days later, maybe a
week later, Mr. Allen came out with Mr. Julio and
5 identified a problem and could see I had water marks in
front. They identified the problem. Mr. Allen stated
6 that within a week or ten days we would see some type of
action over there. I was thankful.

7 At the same time Mr. Hill had come
and looked at the problem too, and he assured me that
8 after they get finished with the project on Vernon --
what they were doing, they put a couple stop signs, put
9 speed bumps out there, put water lines in a lot of
houses that had lead lines. When they get finished with
10 all of that, then they going to come and take care of
the problem.

11 So what happened, this past Friday
-- this has been six weeks ago -- this past Friday, I
12 walk every day in East Chicago back and forth, to get
exercise. The past Friday I walking down the street, so
13 happened I saw Mr. Julio. I asked him, can you give me
a timetable when you think that you all are going to
14 take care of the problem I had with the water? And Mr.
Julio stated it wasn't the City's problem, it was my
15 problem -- water seepage in my basement. And I tried to
explain to him it had nothing to do with the water in my
16 basement. That's been taken care of through Miss
Guzman. I'm talking about the amount of water in the
17 streets. That I had to explain to him four times.

This last week, I had to take my mom
18 to the emergency room four times last week, and the time
that we had the big flood out there, Superior had to
19 come through that water. My mom is in hospital now. Go
through all that water to take her to the hospital. And
20 the reason I asked, because I said, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday -- looking on the calendar -- Wednesday,
21 Thursday, and Friday suppose to get rain. At that time
Mr. Keith Selvie stated, well, Mr. Artis, I'll tell you
22 what, in a week we'll come and take a look at this. I
said to Mr. Keith Selvie, how many times you got to come
23 take a look. It's already been identified. Mr. Allen
been out there. Mr. Julio been out there several times.
24 You already identified the problem. You identified a
few problem. Seems like this is a run around. Come on
25 man.

1 MR. GOMEZ: Why was the water standing?

2 MR. ARTIS: I have no ideas. I don't
3 know. That's why I called them, they're the experts,
4 why the water is standing there. Like I got pictures.
5 When it go down the drain, it comes up the stream and
6 stands in front of my house. Okay. And what happens, I
7 put a dam -- I made a dam so wouldn't keep coming
8 because I have a mess. I made a dam out there.

9 MR. ARICHAVALA: The first thing I want
10 to say, so sorry for your problem -- for the
11 misunderstanding. But we hire R & D Construction to fix
12 this problem, because you are right, it's the City's
13 problem now. We are going to make a catch basin to go
14 to the centerline to the sewer to solve your problem.

15 MR. GOMEZ: There is no drain there?

16 MR. ARICHAVALA: No. You're right, sir.
17 June 7th, R & D start to do the job. Why they didn't
18 do before is because Mrs. Guzman is doing work with each
19 house. But now is ready and I think all --

20 MS. GUZMAN: We have to verify that, but
21 we can do that.

22 MR. GOMEZ: Are they doing the sewer line
23 replacement?

24 MR. ARICHAVALA: June 7th, R & D start
25 with the sewer construction for you.

MR. ARTIS: I appreciate that.

MR. GOMEZ: We have an agreement with R &
D.

MR. ARICHAVALA: It's ready now.
June 7th they start the work.

MR. GOMEZ: How come -- so nobody told
you that?

MR. ARTIS: No one told me anything. The
last person I talk to Mr. Selvie and he said he was
going to look at the problem again. I said, I know the
problem would have been identified.

25

1 MR. GOMEZ: Has that problem always been
there?

2

3 MR. ARTIS: That problem been there for
awhile, honestly be there for awhile. And the reason I
4 really noticed it lately is that the last few months I
had to take -- I had to take my mom to the hospital. I
5 take her to different doctors by ambulance three times a
week. That's three times a week.

6 And so what happened is that I
noticed when it rain, we are going through all this
7 water, you know, and I became aware we are going through
water with the ambulance. That's when I became more
8 aware, more than anything else. It's been there awhile.
I just think in the past I really haven't looked. When
it rains, on the other side of the street, no water.
9 The water goes right down the drain. On my side of the
street and stuff, it comes from my house next door to me
10 and right here next to it, just sets. And about three
doors -- three houses down is a drain down there. It
11 wouldn't go down the drain. In order to go down the
drain, I got to get the push broom and sweep it down the
12 drain.

13 MR. GOMEZ: Well, now we have a date.

14 MR. ARTIS: I appreciate that. I
appreciate them taking care of that and everything else.
15 I had to bring that to you all attention.

16 MR. GOMEZ: All right, I have a question
for Carla. When a citizen has a problem, is this the
17 avenue to bring it to?

18 MS. MORGAN: We used to have -- years ago
-- allowed clients. Now we usually have them call the
19 Law Department or they are directed to call the Law
Department. I'm not quite sure how you ended up with
20 Engineering. Maybe we can establish a complaint
process. It would be better if we had a formal thing
21 so people contact the Law Department or have a claim
against the City, and we process it. But we probably
22 should go back to having a more formal process.

23 MR. GOMEZ: And I wasn't sure. Since
I've been Board -- President of the Board, we never had
24 someone come in, so I wanted to make sure what is the
proper protocol. As a matter of fact, I think we should
25 find out and put it on the website what our procedure

1 is.

2 MS. MORGAN: We should, because a lot of
3 departments, especially Law, the staff has shrunk quite
4 a bit. We might consider dedicating somebody to this
5 kind of thing, but I am glad Engineering took care of
6 it.

7 MR. ARTIS: I'm glad they took care of
8 it. Appreciate it.

9 MR. GOMEZ: I wasn't sure.

10 MR. ARTIS: That's the reason I came was
11 because both engineers are going to bring it out here
12 and bring everything out right now, that's the reason
13 why I bring it here. I didn't want to go to the Council
14 meeting. That's a whole different mess. I bring it
15 here and get something done, that's the reason why I did
16 that. I didn't go to the Council.

17 MR. GOMEZ: I'm glad everything turned
18 out. I appreciate that, thank you.

19 All right. Our next regular meeting
20 will be Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. That
21 concludes our items on our agenda. I would entertain a
22 motion for adjournment.

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. Thank you
everyone, meeting adjourned.

**** Meeting Adjourned ****

1 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
 May 26, 2021
2 Approved and Signed May 26, 2021.

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4 _____
 Val Gomez, President

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7 _____
 William Allen, Vice President

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9 _____
 Winna Guzman

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12 _____
 Olga Cosme, 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 4th day of June, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

