

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 1, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.
Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: Joseph Ochoa, John Bakota,
Henry Ventura, Anthony Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF PRESENT: In Chambers: Ateria Allen, Allan Lee, Winna
Guzman, Joseph Allegretti, Bill Biller.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 18, 2022

Motion to approve July 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes made by Henry
Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None.

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

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Payroll

MR. OCHOA: Payroll. 072222 \$11,526.23 Utilities
Payroll 7/2/22 to 7/15/22.

Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 072222 Utilities Payroll
7/2/22 to 7/15/22 made by Ray Lopez. Second by John Bakota.

1 Comments/Questions: None.

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

4 MR. OCHOA: Payroll 072222 in the amount of \$41,654.02
5 Payroll 7/2/22 to 7/15/22.

6 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 072222 Payroll 7/2/22 to
7 7/15/22 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

8 Comments/Questions: None.

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

11 MR. OCHOA: Payroll Number 072922 in the amount of
12 \$12,250 Utilities Payroll 7/29/22 to 7/29/22.

13 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 072922 Utilities Payroll
14 7/29/22 to 7/29/22 made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry
15 Ventura.

16 Comments/Questions: None.

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

19 MR. OCHOA: Payroll 072922 in the amount if \$23,000
20 Payroll 7/29/22 to 7/29/22.

21 Motion to approve Payroll Warrant 072922 Payroll 7/29/22 to
22 7/29/22 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

23 Comments/Questions: None.

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

Accounts Payable

MR. OCHOA: Accounts Payable. 071922 WB in the amount
of \$24,300.23.

Motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 071922 WB made by
Anthony Askounis. Second by Ray Lopez.

1 Comments/Questions: None.

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

4 MR. OCHOA: 080122 WT in the amount of \$150.

5 Motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 080122 WT made by
6 Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

7 Comments/Questions: None.

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

10 MR. OCHOA: 080122 WB in the amount of \$28,549.28.

11 Motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 080122 WB made by
12 Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

13 Comments/Questions:

14 MR. BAKOTA: I have a question on Devine Landscaping.
15 How often do they come in the summertime?

16 MS. GUZMAN: Every week.

17 MR. BAKOTA: And that \$550, is that the cost of a weekly
18 cut?

19 MS. GUZMAN: I believe it's depending on what we're
20 having them do. They may be laying fertilizer, removing
21 weeds, trimming trees. I would have to check on that.

22 I can give you that information at the next
23 meeting.

24 MR. OCHOA: Are there any other properties that they do?

25 MS. GUZMAN: Yes. They do across at our location. So
they do the tanks. They do across the street. They also do
the Filtration Plant. And they do other areas within the
City.

MR. OCHOA: So that 500, does that include that?

MS. GUZMAN: I think that's for two. I've got to look
and see.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Because the total is \$1,765.

2 MS. GUZMAN: No. That's not for one. That's multiple
3 bills, yes. But I can give you a breakdown.

4 MR. BAKOTA: I'd like to know what they charge per cut.

5 MS. GUZMAN: Actually they're less than our previous
6 vendor. It was 500 a cut every week.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

8 MS. GUZMAN: You're welcome.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

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

12 REPORTS:

13 Filtration Report None

14 Water Report

15 MR. OCHOA: Water Report, Winna Guzman.

16 MS. GUZMAN: I just have one item to report to the
17 Board. There was a cautionary boil advisory issued on
18 Friday, July 29.

19 It was this past Friday, July 29 due to loss of
20 pressure within the system as a result of emergency main and
21 valve repair work on the areas of the 3900 block of
22 Butternut. So that was the only area affected.

23 The pressure dropped below 20 PSI. So as a result
24 the boil water advisory had to be issued.

25 And notice was issued by the Multimedia Department
via Nixle robocall type where they call your home if you're
signed up with the Nixle Program.

Notice is posted at each residence within that
block as well as posted in the Times Newspaper.

And a lift order was issued today as collected
water samples confirmed that the water quality had not been
affected and the water was safe to drink.

1 And the sampling process takes typically around 24
2 to 48 hours so you know.

3 Just wanted to advise the Board of that. I can
4 provide a copy of the boil advisory to you.

5 And that is all I have today.

6 MR. OCHOA: Thank you very much.

7 Distribution Report

8 MR. OCHOA: Distribution Report, Allan Lee.

9 MR. LEE: Well, everything is pretty much the same as
10 before. I'll just give you the report.

11 We did finish the valves over there on 143rd. And
12 we are cutting a 12-inch valve in Wednesday on Indianapolis
13 and 152nd.

14 The hydrants are completed and bid out on the
15 first. The boxes are done on that bid. We still have a 16
16 and 12-inch broke in the off position on 151st and
17 Indianapolis. Going to get that repaired.

18 Still working on the training. I wanted to get the
19 locates turned over to us by the first of August. But we
20 still need a little more training before we take it over. So
21 as soon as I feel confident with the guys. You know, it
22 takes time to run things.

23 And that's what I've got.

24 MR. OCHOA: Thank you, Mr. Lee.

25 Legal Counsel None.

 Financial Report

 MR. OCHOA: Financial Report, Mr. Biller.

 MR. BILLER: You have a Cash Report in your packet this
 month. It's for the period ending June 30.

 NEW BUSINESS WATER:

 MR. OCHOA: Resolution WD 22-15. A Resolution of the
 Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water Department

1 authorizing the transfer of appropriations into different
2 budget categories.

3 Motion to approve Resolution WD 22-15 made by John Bakota.
4 Second by Anthony Askounis.

5 Comments/Questions: None.

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

8 Request for Proposal & E-Mail Approved-Only

9 MR. OCHOA: Request for Proposal and E-Mail Approved.
10 9400 Calumet City Plumbing 3724 Fir Street in the amount of
11 \$2,027.22.

12 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing 3724 Fir Street made
13 by John Bakota. Second by Ray Lopez.

14 Comments/Questions: None.

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

17 MR. OCHOA: These are going to be all emergency work
18 that's being performed or was performed.

19 Calumet City Plumbing 150th Street and Wegg for the
20 amount of \$7,550.

21 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing 150th and Wegg Avenue
22 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

23 Comments/Questions: None.

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

MR. OCHOA: I'll just read the rest off. Calumet City
Plumbing 5521 Homerlee Avenue in the amount of \$6,750.
Calumet City Plumbing 3729 Michigan Avenue in the amount of
\$6,750. Calumet City Plumbing 4934 Walsh Avenue in the
amount of \$6,750. 3931 McCook Avenue in the amount of
\$6,750. 4502 Magoun Avenue in the amount of \$6,750. 1419
East Columbus Drive in the amount of \$12,500. 4329 Magoun
Avenue in the amount of \$6,750. 4126 Lombardy Street in the
amount of \$6,750. 1010 West 144th Street in the amount of
\$6,750. 1808 East 136th Street in the amount of \$6,750.

1 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing 5521 Homerlee Avenue,
2 3729 Michigan Avenue, 4934 Walsh Avenue, 3931 McCook Avenue,
3 4502 Magoun Avenue, 1419 East Columbus Drive, 4329 Magoun
4 Avenue, 4126 Lombardy Street, 1010 West 144th Street, 1808
5 East 136th Street made by John Bakota. Second by Henry
6 Ventura.

7 Comments/Questions:

8 MR. OCHOA: I notice that the amounts were all the same.
9 Is there a reason for that?

10 MS. GUZMAN: Those are the proposals that they
11 submitted.

12 Comments/Questions: None.

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

15 Proposals

16 MR. OCHOA: Proposals. 2022 Request for Proposals Fire
17 Hydrant and Hydrant Valve Replacement Project Number 2.

18 MS. GUZMAN: Request for Proposals was e-mailed to five
19 different vendors, Calumet City Plumbing Company, Inc., Hasse
20 Construction Company, Inc., Hessville Plumbing, Gatlin
21 Plumbing and R&D Construction One.

22 There are five locations relating to this request.
23 And we received two proposals which I will be opening up
24 today and reading before the Board, Calumet City Plumbing
25 Company, Inc. and from Hasse Construction, Inc.

So I'll open Calumet City's first.

The first proposal received was from Calumet City
Plumbing Company, Inc., PO Box 150, Calumet City, Illinois
60409.

And the total for this proposal -- I sorry.
Attachment E Proposal Form. And again this is for fire
hydrant and hydrant valve replacement. There's a total of
five in the amount of \$49,050. And that's received from
Calumet City Plumbing and Heating Company.

And I have one more proposal to open. This is from
Hasse Construction Company, Inc., 10 Lincoln Avenue, PO Box

1 300, Calumet City, Illinois 60409.

2 And the amount on Attachment E Proposal Form is
3 \$73,500. And again that's from Hasse Construction Company,
4 Inc.

5 So once Arteria submits these to me after copying
6 then we'll review them and present them before the Board for
7 recommendation and award next Board Meeting.

8 MR. OCHOA: Thank you.

9 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you.

10 MR. OCHOA: Now we have M.E. Simpson Large Meter Testing
11 not to exceed \$35,000, Water Department.

12 Motion to approve M.E. Simpson Large Meter Testing Proposal
13 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

14 Comments/Questions: None.

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

17 MR. OCHOA: Chicago Underwater Lake Water Intake Crib
18 Inspection.

19 Motion to approve Chicago Underwater Lake Water Intake Crib
20 Inspection Proposal made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony
21 Askounis.

22 Comments/Questions:

23 MR. BAKOTA: I have a question. The discrepancy between
24 these two, Underwater is 51,000 and the other --

25 MS. GUZMAN: They're quite a bit over.

MR. BAKOTA: The other one is 344,000, USA Divers.

MS. GUZMAN: Yes. Mr. Perez did reach out to two
different companies. And we have conducted business with
Chicago Underwater also known as Global Infrastructure, LLC.

And he is proposing that we go with Chicago because
they're familiar with the work as well as they have done the
work or the services. They've provided the services
previously.

1 MR. BAKOTA: I mean the discrepancy.

2 MS. GUZMAN: Yeah. I think because they're probably
3 assessing it. It's new. They've never done it. It's a new
4 company.

5 So Obed is recommending that we go ahead and move
6 forward with Global Infrastructure or Chicago Underwater.

7 Comments/Questions:

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

10 Other

11 MR. OCHOA: Selection and Passing of New Board
12 Secretary, Ateria Allen.

13 Motion to approve Ateria Allen as Board Secretary made by
14 John Bakota. Second by Anthony Askounis.

15 Comments/Questions: None.

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

18 MR. BAKOTA: Congratulations.

19 MS. ALLEN: Thank you.

20 MR. OCHOA: Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission 30-Day
21 Filing on the Repeal of the Utility Receipt Tax, Water.

22 MS. GUZMAN: This is just for notification purposes. I
23 just want to provide the Board with the previous rates for
24 comparison.

25 This was effective 2017, May of 2017. So they've
changed very minimal, very little.

So we received this on or about July 13. IURC
approved the Water Department's request to decrease the
rates.

MR. LOPEZ: So this is adjusted?

MS. GUZMAN: Yeah. So the 184 if you look at the 2017
rate at the bottom it says 2017. And then on the one that

1 was submitted in July you see the changes in the rates.

2 So say the first 10,000 gallons on the first page
3 it was 184.

4 MR. BAKOTA: It was 182.

5 MS. GUZMAN: No. It was 184. Now it's 182 because it
6 decreased.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Hopefully our rates will change when we get
8 it.

9 MR. ALLEGRETTI: It's not a loss to us. We used to
10 remit this amount. Now we just don't pay it. So it's a
11 break even.

12 MS. GUZMAN: But I just wanted to inform the Board of
13 this.

14 MR. ALLEGRETTI: We were ordered to do this by the
15 General Assembly. They passed a law. They want to give some
16 money back to our customers. So we have to do all this
17 accounting and fool around.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

19 MS. GUZMAN: You're welcome.

20 MR. OCHOA: So I don't need a motion on this?

21 MS. GUZMAN: No.

22 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

24 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, August 15,
25 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by John Bakota. Second by Henry
Ventura.

Questions/Comments: None.

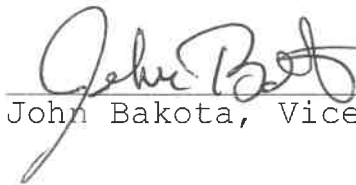
Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.

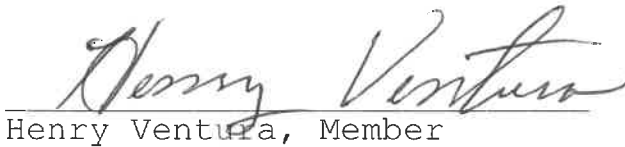
Opposed: None Motion Carries.


* Meeting ended at 5:23 p.m.

1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
2 Monday, August 1, 2022
3 Approved and Signed August 15, 2022
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6 _____
7 Joseph Ochoa, President

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9 _____
10 John Bakota, Vice President

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12 _____
13 Henry Ventura, Member

14 
15 _____
16 Anthony Askounis, Member

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18 _____
19 Ray Lopez, Member


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21 _____
22 Ateria Allen, Board Secretary
23
24
25

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 9th day of August, 2022.



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

