

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 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: John Bakota, Henry Ventura,
Anthony Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF PRESENT: In Chambers: Ateria Allen, Winna Guzman,
Rebecca Sliger

Via Zoom: Bill Biller, Joseph Allegretti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 7, 2023

Motion to approve August 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes made by Ray Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

Comments/Questions: None.

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

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Payroll

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Payroll. Warrant 081823 in the amount of \$13,317.23. This is Utilities Payroll 7/29/23 to 8/11/23.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 081823 Utilities Payroll 7/29/23 to
2 8/11/23 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

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

6 MR. BAKOTA: Warrant 081823 in the amount of \$45,405.07.
7 This is payroll 7/29/23 to 8/11/23.

8 Motion to approve Warrant 081823 Payroll 7/29/23 to 8/11/23
9 made by Ray Lopez. Second by Anthony Askounis.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

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

13 Accounts Payable

14 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Accounts Payable. 081523 WB in the
15 amount of \$16,854.46.

16 Motion to approve Warrant 081523 WB made by Ray Lopez.
17 Second by Henry Ventura.

18 Comments/Questions: None.

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

21 MR. BAKOTA: Next is 081823 WB in the amount of
22 \$28,136.34.

23 Motion to approve Warrant 081823 WB made by Henry Ventura.
24 Second by Anthony Askounis.

25 Comments/Questions: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Account 082123 WU in the amount of
\$27,114.15.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 082123 WU made by Anthony Askounis.
2 Second by Henry Ventura.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

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

6 MR. BAKOTA: Account 082123 WT in the of amount \$375.

7 Motion to approve Warrant 082123 WT made by Ray Lopez.
8 Second by Henry Ventura.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

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

12 MR. BAKOTA: 082123 WC in the amount of \$16,229.98.

13 Motion to approve Warrant 082123 WC made by Anthony Askounis.
14 Second by Henry Ventura.

15 Comments/Questions: None.

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

18 MR. BAKOTA: 082123 CD in the amount of \$994.44.

19 Motion to approve Warrant 082123 CD made by Henry Ventura.
20 Second by Anthony Askounis.

21 Comments/Questions: None.

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

24 MR. BAKOTA: Account 082123 WB in the amount of
25 \$119,304.57.

Motion to approve Warrant 082123 WB made by Anthony Askounis.
Second by Henry Ventura.

Comments/Questions: None.

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

1 MR. BAKOTA: Account 083123 WB in the amount of
2 \$307,430.14.

3 Motion to approve Warrant 083123 WB made by Anthony Askounis.
4 Second by Henry Ventura.

5 Comments/Questions: None.

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

8 (Commissioner Joseph Ochoa joined Meeting)

9 MR. BAKOTA: Let the record show that Joe Ochoa has
10 joined us.

11 REPORTS:

12 Filtration Report: None

13 Water Report:

14 MR. BAKOTA: Water Report.

15 MS. GUZMAN: Two items. I want to advise the Board that
16 at the plant there's an issue with the electrical system,
17 transform and switchgear related. It is currently not
18 operating.

19 We're working on the issues as we speak. And if
20 all goes well, it should be running, up and running this
21 week.

22 So Obed will be taking all necessary steps to get
23 that plant back up and running. So we haven't had any
24 issues.

25 But however we had another break on August 16 right
near the Gary-Michigan Plant industrial side.

There's a 12-inch drain which is causing a collapse
of the road. There was also a car that got stuck in there.
We had to pull it out.

We're having people repair that. It's been
repaired as of now. The repairs were completed at night by
Hasse. And some customers have low water pressure or zero
pressure at all.

1 So I just wanted to advise the Board of that.
2 Thank you.

3 Distribution Report:

4 MS. SLIGER: His report was handed to you at the
5 beginning of the meeting.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. The information was given.

7 Legal Counsel:

8 MR. BAKOTA: Legal Counsel, Joe Allegretti.

9 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Good afternoon. I think I distributed
10 a short memorandum of a phone conversation staff and
11 financial advisors and our consulting engineering had with
12 the Indiana Finance Authority concerning our next financing.
13 Has it appeared in front of you folks?

14 Anyway basically we enjoy an excellent relationship
15 with those folks.

16 The next transaction is two parts. The first is
17 \$10 million for our lead line, next phase of our lead line
18 replacement program. A \$5 million grant which is a gift of
19 course. And the second \$5 million is an interest free loan.

20 The second component is for our capital projects.
21 \$13 million and a little more to pay for our capital works
22 projects that we discussed previously.

23 There's some uncertainty about the replacement of
24 the Chicago Avenue Tower's standpipe. That's still being
25 investigated by our financial advisor -- I mean by our
consulting engineer.

 And I think the smoke will clear on that, whether
that money is going to be included in this transaction or
we're going to get that at a later date.

 And lastly we expect to close this transaction
around Thanksgiving time. And we'll be talking about this
transaction in the weeks to come. Thank you.

 MR. LOPEZ: I might be getting ahead of myself. But the
water rate increase and the bond issue I want to say the job
you guys did is great. It's a lot of work.

1 MR. ALLEGRETTI: It is a lot of work. The last item on
2 the agenda I think is not an action item, but information for
3 the Board.

4 But the order, the IURC Order has been signed. And
5 our new rates have officially been approved along with the
6 debt service, the money for debt service to pay our bond and
7 our debt service on future or contemplated bond issues.

8 When that's going to be incorporated, the new rate
9 is going to be incorporated into our invoices I think is a
10 work in progress. Winna knows more about that than I do.
11 But we're moving ahead.

12 MR. LOPEZ: Another thing from the whole Board I think
13 we all say thank you to you, great. And all the staff
14 people. But I think from our Board and I speak for everybody
15 you guys did a good job. Thank you.

16 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you. And I will be working with
17 Bakertilly and/or staff to get those rates in place as soon
18 as we get the go ahead.

19 And thanks to Bakertilly, Jean Wilson and her staff
20 and the Bakertilly staff also. They did a great job.

21 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

22 MS. GUZMAN: And Joe Allegretti too.

23 MR. ALLEGRETTI: I just clean the toilets.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Any other questions or comments?

25 Financial Report:

MR. BAKOTA: Financial Report, William Biller.

MS. SLIGER: It was inserted in your packet. If you
have any questions, Bill or I will be more than happy to
answer.

MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolutions:

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Resolutions. WD 23-20, a

1 Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water
2 Department authorizing the transfer of appropriations into
3 different budget categories.

4 And on your sheet here it's going from Contractual
5 Services \$70,000 to Chemicals. That transfer to Chemicals
6 the total amount is \$70,000.

7 Motion to approve Resolution 23-20 made by Ray Lopez. Second
8 by Anthony Askounis.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

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

12 MR. BAKOTA: Resolution WD 23-21, a Resolution of the
13 Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water Department
14 authorizing the transfer of appropriations into different
15 budget categories.

16 This is transferring from Employees Insurance
17 Health and Accident \$11,000 to Repairs and Maintenance. The
18 total is \$11,000.

19 Motion to approve Resolution WD 23-21 made by Henry Ventura.
20 Second by Anthony Askounis.

21 Comments/Questions: None.

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

24 Change Orders:

25 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Change Orders. If the Board
approves, I'll read all these and then ask for a motion at
the end. We'll number them 1 to 4 to it speed up.

Number 1 is Calumet City Plumbing Change Order
Number 1 for East 140th and Catalpa Street Project, Water.

This is an increase of \$495. Original amount was
\$18,500. The new amount is \$18,995.

Number 2 is Calumet City Plumbing Change Order
Number 1 for 1117 East 138th Street Project, Water.

This is an increase of \$189.90. The original

1 amount was \$8,275. The new amount is \$8,464.90.

2 Number 3 is Calumet City Plumbing Change Order
3 Number 1 for 4021 Elm Street, Water.

4 There's an increase of \$72.20. The original amount
5 was \$8,150. The new amount is \$8,222.20.

6 Number 4 is Calumet City Plumbing Change Order
7 Number 1 for Michigan Avenue and Dickey Road Project, Water.

8 An increase of \$218. The original amount was
9 \$15,100. The new amount is \$15,318.

10 That concludes the Change Orders.

11 Motion to approve Aforementioned Change Orders made by
12 Anthony Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

13 Comments/Questions: None.

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

16 Past Due Invoices:

17 MR. BAKOTA: Past Due Invoices. We have Atlas Copco
18 \$1,836.69.

19 The reason is had to get them to credit the freight
20 charges due to them being more than actual worth so they'd
21 send it to me today.

22 This is \$1,836.69.

23 Motion to approve Atlas Copco Past due Invoice made by Ray
24 Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

25 Comments/Questions: None.

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

Adjustments:

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Adjustments. Jose Martinez, 4719
Magoun Avenue, Water.

From the Water Department the front house is

1 vacant. Usage on the following bills 178804 and 187152,
2 owner will just receive the base flat fees on those two
3 bills.

3 Motion to approve 4719 Magoun Avenue Adjustment made by Ray
4 Lopez. Second by Henry Ventura.

4 Comments/Questions: None.

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

7 MR. BAKOTA: Joseph Zulaski, 5523 White Oak Avenue.
8 Owner received water rate fees. Owner payment was lost in
9 First Merchants Bank.

9 Owner paid on time and Water Department was waiting
10 for bank to reissue the payment. Late fees need to be
11 removed of 81 cents.

11 Motion to approve 5523 White Oak Avenue Adjustment made by
12 Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

12 Comments/Questions: None.

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

15 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Beatrice Williams, 4757 Alexander
16 Avenue.

17 Current customer was recipient of Energy Assistance
18 Program. And payment check was inadvertently placed on
19 previous customer's related account in the amount of \$100 on
20 7/5/23. And the bill is \$79.69.

21 Recommendation for the Board is to approve the
22 adjustment and reverse payment of \$100 applied to incorrect
23 customer account and to correct customer account, Beatrice
24 Williams.

21 Motion to approve 4757 Alexander Avenue Adjustment made by
22 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Ray Lopez.

23 Comments/Questions: None.

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

1 Other:

2 MR. BAKOTA: Other. These are FYI.

3 Indiana Utility Regulation Commission. Petition of
4 the City of East Chicago, Indiana for authority to issue
5 bonds, notes or other obligations for authority to increase
6 its rates and charges for water service and for approval of
7 new schedules of water rates and charges.

8 That's in your packet. You can read that. It's
9 FYI.

10 And the second FYI is East Chicago Fire Department
11 Equipment Report for the month of July.

12 Are there any comments or questions on that?

13 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

15 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday,
16 September 7, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

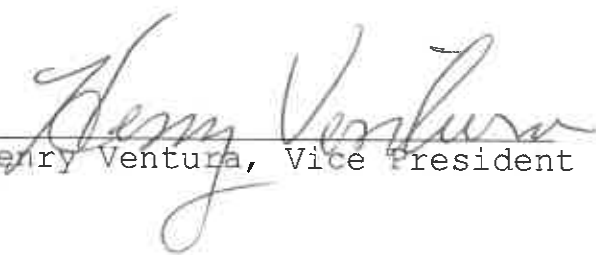
17 Motion to adjourn made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry
18 Ventura.


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


21 * Meeting ended at 5:22 p.m.
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Monday, August 21, 2023
Approved and Signed September 7, 2023

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6 _____
7 John Bakota, President

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10 Henry Ventura, Vice President

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13 _____
14 Joseph Ochoa, Member

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17 _____
18 Anthony Askounis, Member

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20 _____
21 Ray Lopez, Member

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24 _____
25 Ateria Allen, Board Secretary