

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS

Val Gomez, President
Winna Guzman, Vice-President
Douglas Powers, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 23, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.

Reporter by Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.
By: Peggy S. LaLonde

Staff Present: Richard Morrisroe
Carla Morgan
Ateria Allen

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez, Winna Guzman, and
Douglas Powers

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon. I'd like to
call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public
Works for August 23, 2021.

I would entertain a motion to
approve the minutes from Special Meeting of August 4,
2021, as written.

MR. POWERS: Make a motion to approve.

MR. GOMEZ: Second. Roll call.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": Val Gomez and Douglas
Powers Abstain: Winna Guzman Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the regular
meeting of August 9, 2021, as written.

MR. POWERS: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

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

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
2 Correspondence. There's no
3 correspondence, we'll move on to New Business.
4 First item is Polar Ice Systems,
5 Fire Department.

6 DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Good
7 afternoon. What we have here is a proposal for
8 four-year lease agreement from Polar Ice Systems to
9 install an ice machine/ice maker, at the Central Fire
10 Station.

11 MR. GOMEZ: The amount is \$119.00 a month
12 for 48 months. How much ice does it make?

13 DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Correct.
14 Yeah, about 300 pounds. It holds approximately
15 450 pounds.

16 MR. GOMEZ: Just for information, the
17 fire trucks carry ice during the summer?

18 DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: Correct.
19 Each fire truck carries Igloo cooler filled with ice.
20 They rinse it out and fill it daily. But the use ice
21 from their refrigerators in the station, but we run
22 through it pretty quick in-house.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions or
24 comments on this proposal?

25 MS. GUZMAN: Carla, maybe you can add the
attachment, the clause in the contract for penalties and
interest.

MS. MORGAN: We need to give them notice
of that.

MR. GOMEZ: Was that brought up to them
about the penalties?

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ESCOBEDO: I believe it
was.

MR. GOMEZ: So they are aware. Should we
cross that out on the one we are going to sign or wait
for a new one?

MS. MORGAN: We can cross it out on the

1 one we sign, but we need to do a formal letter to
2 explain the policy, terms of the penalty and interest
need to be taken out.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Any others questions or
4 comments? (None) Entertain a motion to approve the
5 Fire Department's proposal with Polar Ice, in the amount
of \$119.00 per month, for 48 months.

6 MR. POWERS: So move.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

10 MS. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

11 Next we have proposal from Public
12 Works, from Johnson Controls. This is for the fire
systems for all City buildings. And this is a renewal,
right?

13 PUBLIC WORKS: This is renewal for the
14 fire extinguishers.

15 MR. GOMEZ: We've had Johnson Controls
for several years, haven't we?

16 PUBLIC WORKS: Correct.

17 MR. GOMEZ: And it has a list of all the
18 buildings, with the details. Total price is \$15,983.00.
This is all fire and safety systems in all the buildings
19 that City owns. Any questions or comments on this
proposal? (None) Entertain a motion to approve the
20 proposal for Johnson Controls, Public Works for fire
safety systems in City buildings.

21 MR. POWERS: Make a motion.

22 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

1 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

2 Next we have R & D Construction,
3 Public Works. This is a rate schedule for 2021. Any
4 questions or comments? (None) Entertain a motion to
5 approve R & D Construction rate schedule for 2021.

6 MR. POWERS: 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 Outstanding invoices. First one
13 from Engineering, Gariup Construction. We have two
14 invoices dated 4/30/2021. The amounts are \$172,052.15
15 \$69,454.40, for total of \$241,506.55. These are Phase 3
16 and Phase 4 for Block Stadium. We have the architect's
17 certificate of payment, contract application for Phase
18 3; contractor's application for payment of Phase 4,
19 architect's certification for Phase 4. Any questions or
20 comments?

21 MR. POWERS: I would like to make a
22 motion that we table these two invoices because we do
23 not appear to show the retainage that should be withheld
24 from these remaining amounts.

25 MR. GOMEZ: We need to discuss this
with --

MR. POWERS: This would be with the
project manager, Keith Selvie.

MR. GOMEZ: No, the compliance --

MR. POWERS: Mr. Ruiz. I had just spoken
to him earlier and we have the amounts, they have
already been approved by the Board at a previous meeting
and notices send out. But they need to be calculated on
the payout so we are not paying them the entire amount,
that the damages are being withheld.

MR. GOMEZ: So we'll have the correct
figures for next meeting?

1 MR. POWERS: Absolutely.

2 MR. GOMEZ: Ateria, we'll table this one
to the next meeting. Move on to the next item.

3 Midwest Service Group, Building
4 Department, invoice dated 3/25/2021, amount of
\$1,790.00. Invoice was received late from vendor.
5 Services were rendered and invoice should be processed.
You agree with that statement?

6 MR. PORTALATIN: Yes. We had received
the invoice late, and then we needed to get clearance in
7 order to process this work. The work has been performed
and we are requesting payment.

8 MR. GOMEZ: This was for removal of
9 asbestos?

10 MR. PORTALATIN: Yes.

11 MR. GOMEZ: Entertain a motion for
12 payment of services to Midwest Group, amount of
\$1,790.00.

13 MR. POWERS: So move.

14 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

15 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

18 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

19 Next we have Notice to Proceed,
contractor Richardson Disposal. Contract is for
20 demolition of 501 West 144th Street. This contract was
approved by the Board previously. Any questions or
21 comments on this Notice to Proceed? (None) Entertain a
motion to approve Notice to Proceed to Richardson
Disposal.

22 MR. POWERS: 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 is JM Industrial Service,
4 Notice to Proceed, for demolition of 4713 and 4715
5 McCook. Contract was awarded previously. Any questions
6 or comments on this Notice to Proceed? (None)
7 Entertain a motion to approve Notice to Proceed, for JM
8 Industrial Services.

9 MR. POWERS: Make a motion.

10 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

11 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

14

15 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
16 Next we have Resolution 2021-79.
17 Resolution of the East Chicago Board of Public Works,
18 amending and extending the contract with Robert L.
19 Consulting Group, to July 31st, 2021. Current agreement
20 for to July 1st, 2021. This would extend services for
21 one month, same compensation, \$7,916.66. Is this to
22 close out his company?

23 MS. MORGAN: Yes. It's extended to
24 July 31st, 2021, amount of \$7,916.66. This will close
25 out that account and the contract.

MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
Resolution 2021-79? (None) Entertain a motion to
approve Resolution 2021-79.

MR. POWERS: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

23

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
25 Resolution 2021-80, quitclaim deed
and sales disclosure attached, 610 East 151st Street,
authorizes the conveyance of property transfer to

1 abutting landowner, which was acquired by the City by
2 tax default, to landowner for no consideration. Any
3 questions or comments on Resolution 2021-80?

4 MS. MORGAN: For the record, we should
5 note that the transaction pays on transfer at the time
6 the City is ready to transfer deed.

7 MS. GUZMAN: Just on the second paragraph
8 where it say --

9 MS. MORGAN: It's been corrected.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments on
11 Resolution 2021-80? (None) Entertain a motion to
12 approve Resolution 2021-80.

13 MR. POWERS: So moved.

14 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

15 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

18 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

19 Next Resolution 2021-81, quitclaim
20 deed, conveyance of property at 4315 Euclid to abutting
21 landowner. Transfer of land acquired by the City by tax
22 default and transfer to abutting landowner. Any
23 comments or questions? (None) Entertain a motion to
24 approve Resolution 2021-81.

25 MR. POWERS: So moved.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next, First Group Engineering,
Supplemental #1 for Roxana Storm Water Analysis. This
is from Engineering. First Group Engineering provides
sanitary sewer analysis and design services. Changes in
the contract are described in the Attachment A. This is

1 to secure additional equipment time for testing sanitary
2 flow and analysis of data. Additional amount of
3 \$10,295.00. Any questions or comments? (None)
Basically this is because it didn't rain enough, they
had to extend the time.

Entertain a motion to approve
4 Supplemental Agreement #1 for Roxana Sanitary Analysis.

5 MR. POWERS: 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.

Next we have Robinson Engineering,
11 survey for Dickey/129th. This is also from Engineering.
This is the preparation of route survey necessary for
12 the intersection of 129th Street and Dickey Road, in the
City of East Chicago. This would be a lump sum for
13 \$20,000. Any questions or comments for our City
Engineer?

14 MR. POWERS: I have one actually. So
15 looking at paragraph 5, it says the LCRS delivered by
August 25th. Has that been completed? And if not,
16 could that possibly effect this price or require a
change order?

17 MR. ARICHAVALA: No. We hire Robinson
18 for the survey for property and everything. The flat
price is \$20,000.

19 MR. POWERS: So my question is related to
20 how it says there is certain information that Garcia
Consulting Engineers -- which I don't see a contract in
21 front of me for -- says relative to the propose team,
proposed right-of-way -- existing right-of-way -- by
22 August 25th. Do we know if they received those
document? If they don't receive those documents by
23 then, does that require a change order or is that not an
issue?

24 MR. ARICHAVALA: Now, Garcia is working
25 with Robinson because some things Garcia does and not
Robinson. We hire Robinson to do survey for property

1 because of Nipsco. We need access to that. Garcia
2 don't have this information, that's why we hire Robinson
3 to do survey. Now the design of the roundabout is
4 ready. Now it is complete. So we are waiting for this
5 survey, nothing more.

6 MR. GOMEZ: So even though August 25th
7 will pass, the price won't change?

8 MR. ARICHAVALA: No change. No -- price
9 for them -- \$20,000 for everything, survey and plat.

10 MR. POWERS: I'm fine with that.

11 MR. GOMEZ: So we're not going to see a
12 change order or anything. This is the price -- this is
13 it.

14 MR. ARICHAVALA: This is the price, no
15 more.

16 MR. GOMEZ: I'll make a note of that.
17 Any other questions or comments on this proposal from
18 Robinson Engineering? (None) Entertain a motion to
19 approve the proposal from Robinson Engineering for the
20 preparation of local control route survey and
21 preparation of parcel plat as related to acquisition of
22 land, the right-of-way of land located at 129th and
23 Dickey Road, City of East Chicago.

24 MR. POWERS: So moved.

25 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

This is also from Engineering. We
have Robinson Engineering, design for Prairie Crossing.
This is for new roadway design between Elm Street and
Alder Street. This is basic services. The prices are
for topographic and boundary survey, \$7,400.00; for
subdivision and final plat, \$4,000.00; for Phase 1
environmental site assessment, \$3,000; for soil borings,
\$4,000.00; site engineering design of \$67,700.00; total
\$86,100.00. Page 4 and page 6 they included their

1 hourly rate schedule for any additional items as they
2 come up. This is for Prairie Crossing.

3 MR. ARICHAVAL: This is initial -- this
4 price for everything, water, sewer, sidewalks and
5 asphalt surface over there.

6 MR. GOMEZ: This is for engineering
7 services?

8 MR. ARICHAVALA: Yes, at the site,
9 include everything.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Is there a timeline when they
11 are planning on starting this? When did they plan to
12 start this project?

13 MR. ARICHAVALA: They are going to start
14 in two weeks.

15 MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions or
16 comments? (None)

17 MR. POWERS: I actually have a few
18 because I notice on here it says, subdivision final
19 plat. So you are familiar with what that means, like
20 you could potentially have a re-plat, meaning adjustment
21 of boundaries, but you would still need, there would
22 have to be a primary plat if you are creating additional
23 lots. Because the primary gets reviewed by not only the
24 Engineering and Planning Department, but Building, as
25 well as MS4 and Sanitary. So there would have to be
additional primary, not just the secondary, if you are
creating new lots to determine build ability. Because
according to our subdivision and control ordinance, the
secondary doesn't get reviewed by --

MS. MORGAN: I think there are plots in
there already.

MR. POWERS: I just want to make sure,
because if you -- a re-plat is when you are adjusting
boundaries, not creating additional lots. I want to
make sure we are all clear, when I see the final plat,
to me that suggests maybe there is an adjustment of
boundaries and not creating additional parcels.

MS. MORGAN: I suggest we have a meeting
and go over that, but I think Engineering and Planning

1 need to sit down and -- maybe tomorrow -- because this
2 is two weeks, and exchange information.

3 MR. ARICHAVALA: The one is for -- one
4 place is for four lots, that they are going to create on
5 the south side.

6 MR. POWERS: And I have a copy of the
7 pertinent pages in our ordinances, if you want to take a
8 look at it, that relate to the primary and secondary.

9 MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions or
10 comments? (None) Entertain a motion to approve the
11 proposal for Robinson Engineering for Design for Prairie
12 Crossing, with the additional comment that Engineering
13 and Building get together and go over the section on
14 subdivision and final plats.

15 MR. POWERS: 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 First Group
22 Engineering, Agreement on Exchange Avenue. Contract for
23 the engineering services required to provide topographic
24 survey, contract plans, special provisions per
25 specifications, bid documents, cost estimates; all for
the project hereafter described, which is the
reconstruction of Exchange Avenue from Indianapolis
Boulevard to Tod Avenue and short straight from Exchange
Avenue to Chicago Avenue. Services are further
described in Appendix A.

Appendix D is the compensation,
amount of payment; field survey \$16,000.00 utility
coronation \$11,600.00; design for plan \$87,900.00;
total \$115,500.00.

Any questions or comments on this
proposed agreement? (None) Entertain a motion to
approve First Group Engineering project for Exchange
Avenue project, in the amount of \$115,500.00.

1 MR. POWERS: So moved.

2 MR. 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 come to right-of-way
applications from Engineering, 2021-03974 to 2021-03979.
7 Any questions or comments on these right-of-way
applications? (None) Entertain a motion to approve
8 permit applications.

9 MR. POWERS: So moved.

10 MS. GUZMAN: Second.

11 MR. GOMEZ: Roll call.

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

13 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

14 That concludes New Business. We
come to other business. We have one item of other
15 business. We have clarification from last meeting. We
had approved the allowance with the Roxana Phase 5,
16 general trades, for a cash allowance of \$5,000. There
was some question on the proposal, because I believe the
17 pay work said for specific use. We asked for
clarification. We received clarification from the
18 architect, Varek, where they had the authorization to
make the changes in the amount. And if you recall, that
19 was existing slates on four gates and fencing located in
the bleachers, that was using \$1,573.00 of the cash
20 allowance. No motion is needed, this is just an
explanation.

21 DISTRICT COUNCILMAN GARCIA: I would like
22 to address the Board.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Yes.

24 DISTRICT COUNCILMAN GARCIA: Good
evening. Robert Garcia, District Councilman and
25 Vice-president of East Chicago Common Council.

1 I am appearing with regard to the
2 Financial Service Contract we submitted to Attorney
3 Carla Morgan, on August 3rd, for the agenda for
4 tonight's meeting. For some reason the contract was not
5 placed on the agenda as requested, it was not signed.

6 So you may know, East Chicago Common
7 Council utilizes this Financial Service Center entity
8 and company, more in particular, Steve Dawn, who has
9 helped in preparing the budget for nearly a decade. The
10 contract was always signed by the Common Council.
11 Recently, we were told by the Mayor's attorney, the
12 Mayor would no longer be processing any payment to Mr.
13 Dawn because he took issue with the Common Council
14 passing the contract. Because of this, Mr. Dawn advised
15 he would not perform any work on budget to help the
16 Common Council until the issue with his contract was
17 resolved. So we sent it for your signature. Time is of
18 the essence. Mr. Dawn's services are needed by the
19 Common Council and the City in regard to the Common
20 Council's duties in regard to the budget at this time,
21 under Indiana law. I am inquiring as to why this is not
22 on the agenda for tonight's meeting and why it has not
23 been signed.

24 Another quick comment is that public
25 comment should be added to the agenda. This is a public
meeting and it is an injustice as to why public comments
is not added to the agenda.

MR. GOMEZ: The reason, number one, why
we don't have public comments on every item, we have
limited discussion on the item. So there is no reason
for public comment because those are brought to us from
the different departments, and they are vented before
they are brought to us. We have a forum, the Board of
Public Works request form. The request form has all the
details. On these contracts here, like in this meeting,
if we would bring them up at the meeting, it would take
hours. So that's why we have this forum, where the
details are put into it, the commissioners review
everything. Anybody that had any interest in these
projects would have unlimited time to speak. At the
Council meeting, you get three minutes. We allow people
to talk as long as they want on the project. And
because the Board of Works is basically contracts and
projects, we rarely see the public here unless there is
a bid. And that's when you see department heads coming
here to speak on the project.

1 The projects are brought to us from
2 the departments. Our forum stipulates it comes from the
3 department and it's vented, and there is different
4 things you have to answer. So that's the projects. The
5 Board doesn't put things on the agenda, they are brought
6 to us.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILMAN GARCIA: Final
8 comment. I understand what you said, but if we might
9 have some residents that don't see it and they might
10 want to attend and have public comment, and that's one
11 of the things that I ask, that's why I asked. And as
12 far as --

13 MR. GOMEZ: We do have correspondence and
14 we usually get comments from people, and we do answer
15 correspondence. It enables people to put things in more
16 detail than if someone would just come in.

17 DISTRICT COUNCILMAN GARCIA: So you take
18 public comments when they are introducing those
19 contracts?

20 MR. GOMEZ: When they send us -- we have
21 correspondence on the agenda. If people have any
22 question on anything, they can watch it on TV or
23 something, they will send us correspondence and we
24 answer correspondence. So we do have -- it's not like
25 we don't answer questions. We do answer questions.

 DISTRICT COUNCILMAN GARCIA: When it says
public comment, I think there should be public comment.
This is a public meeting.

 MR. GOMEZ: Well, I know we do answer
questions. Ours is unlimited as far as talking to
people.

 DISTRICT COUNCILMAN GARCIA: Well, I am
here because the contract was not signed and not on the
agenda.

 MR. GOMEZ: I can't comment on that. We
are not ready to comment on that.

 DISTRICT COUNCILMAN GARCIA: Thank you.

 MR. GOMEZ: Any other business from
Commissioners? (None)

1 Our next regular meeting is Monday,
2 September 13, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. That concludes our
3 items on the agenda today. Entertain a motion for
4 adjournment.

5 MR. POWERS: 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. Meeting
11 adjourned.


12 **** Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.****

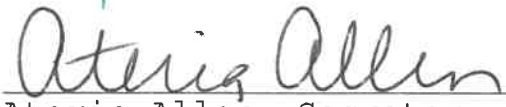
13 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
14 August 23, 2021

15 Approved and Signed August 23, 2021.

16 
17 _____
18 Val Gomez, President

19 
20 _____
21 Winna Guzman, Vice President

22 
23 _____
24 Douglas Powers

25 

Ateria Allen, Secretary

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 31st day of August, 2021.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR

