

**EAST CHICAGO COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:	Maldonado	Present
	Walker	Present
	Vasquez	Present
	Garcia	Present (late)
	Orange	Present
	London	Present
	Medina	Present
	Monroe	Absent
	Franciski	Present

The following was present:

Attorney Stephen Bower (Council Attorney)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Maldonado to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 13, 2017.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any questions on the motion?

Roll Call:	Yes (6)	Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Franciski
	Abstain (1)	Medina

Councilman Franciski – Madame Clerk is there any communication from the Mayor?

Vivian Daniels (Chief Deputy Clerk) – No.

Councilman Franciski – Is there any communication from Department Heads?

Vivian Daniels – Yes.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT 032717BD

A motion was made by Councilwoman Orange and seconded by Councilwoman Vasquez to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 032717BD.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any questions on the motion?

Roll Call: Yes (7) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT 032717LA

A motion was made by Councilman London and seconded by Councilwoman Walker to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 032717LA.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any questions on the motion?

Roll Call: Yes (7) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT 031417CC

A motion was made by Councilwoman Orange and seconded by Councilman London to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 031417CC.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any questions on the motion?

Roll Call: Yes (7) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

No (1) Garcia

Councilman Franciski -Madame Clerk for the record can you state that Councilman Robert Garcia is here.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANT 032717CC

A motion was made by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Councilwoman Vasquez to approve Accounts Payable Warrant 032717CC.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any questions on the motion?

Roll Call: Yes (7) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

No (1) Garcia

PAYROLL WARRANT BI-WEEKLY 031017

A motion was made by Councilwoman Orange and seconded by Councilman Garcia to approve Payroll Warrant Bi-Weekly 031017.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any questions on the motion?

Roll Call: Yes (8) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Garcia, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE

BOARD REPORTS – NONE

ORDINANCES 1ST READING

ORDINANCE 17-0004 (SPONSOR: COUNCILWOMAN GILDA ORANGE AND COUNCILMAN RONALD LONDON)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE VII, CHAPTER 72, TRUCK PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Orange and seconded by Councilman London to adopt Ordinance 17-0004 on 1st and 2nd reading.

Councilman Franciski – Is there any discussion on the motion?

Roll Call: Yes (8) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Garcia, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

ORDINANCE 17-0005 (SPONSOR: COUNCILWOMAN GILDA ORANGE)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE III, CHAPTER 30, COUNCIL MEETINGS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vasquez and seconded by Councilwoman Orange to adopt Ordinance 17-0005 on 1st and 2nd reading.

Councilman Franciski – Do we have any discussion on the motion?

Councilman Garcia – Yes I am just glad that we have this ordinance before us. It has been a long time coming. Especially within the last year and a half we have been having a lot of ordinances with no one showing up to talk about it. I think this has been a long time coming.

Councilwoman Orange – Councilman Garcia it was on behalf of you because I know that you do look out in the audience any no one is there. That puts that to rest. If a person puts an ordinance up including the council members they should be here to explain that ordinance.

Councilman Medina – I am totally in support of the procedure. My question is to Mr. Bower. Would we be violating any procedures that we must and shall follow according to State Law, according to Roberts Rules? Does an automatic step like this does that violate anything that we are governed by?

Attorney Stephen Bower – No. The way that your rules are written when you refer to the Roberts Rules you have specific phrase that it shall apply if it's not covered by your adopted rules. So it does not violate Roberts Rules nor is there a State requirement.

Councilman Medina – Thank you.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any other questions? Madame Clerk roll call to adopt Ordinance 17-0005 on 1st and 2nd reading.

Roll Call: Yes (8) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

ORDINANCES 2ND READING

ORDINANCE 17-0003 (SPONSOR: MAYOR ANTHONY COPELAND)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST CHICAGO AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Garcia and seconded by Councilman Medina to adopt Ordinance 17-0003 on 2nd reading.

Councilman Franciski – I believe we have Commander Taylor in the audience today. Are there any questions on the motion?

Councilman Garcia – My question was in both line items there and to other operating supplies. Can you tell us what that is? It says from machinery and equipment to other operating supplies.

Commander Al Taylor – I have no idea. That is not my department. That is Sienne who handles all of those transfers.

Councilman Garcia - Which one are you for? Is it the federal forfeitures?

Commander Taylor – I am here for the buy money, ammunition and surveillance software.

Councilman Garcia – That is not on this.

Commander Taylor – That is what they put on mine. Let me show you what I am talking about.

Councilman Garcia – He has it broken down. So the fifteen thousand is for ammunition?

Councilman Franciski - Commander Taylor can you at least break it down so we all can know?

Councilman Garcia – He’s trying to figure it out himself.

Councilwoman Orange – I was going to have you to read it.

Councilman Garcia – That is what I was just about to tell him.

Councilman Franciski - If you want to just read it out Commander so we can just kind of put it together.

Commander Taylor – The email right her says to please transfer \$15,000.00 for Local Law Enforcement Continuing Education Fund 0233 from Other Machinery & Equipment 208001-444050 and transfer to LLCEF Other Operating Supplies 208001-429090 this transfer is needed to purchase ammunition for police officers. That is what I have.

Councilman Garcia – I think you have something for the five thousand.

Councilman Franciski – Do you have something for the five thousand as well?

Commander Taylor – From out of the Police Federal Forfeitures Fund please transfer five thousand from Other Machinery & Equipment 212001-444050 and transfer to Other Services and Charges 212001-439099. This money is needed for buy money to be used by gang and narcotic bureau of investigation.

Councilman Garcia – The ammunition is supplied by the police department to the officers?

Commander Taylor – Yes we ordered new firearms to be here within the next forty to sixty days. They are 9mm instead of 40 calibers which is what we've been using before. It requires additional training for the officers to be able to carry.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any other questions?

Councilman Medina – We are going back to 9's?

Commander Taylor – Yes.

Councilman Medina – Is there any specific reason why they are doing that other than possibly capacity?

Commander Taylor – I couldn't say. It wasn't my decision. It was a departmental decision. Some of the guys were against it. Some guys were for it. I guess the majority won.

Councilman Medina – Thank you.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any other questions for Commander Taylor? Madame Clerk roll call to adopt Ordinance 17-0003 on 2nd reading.

Roll Call: Yes (8) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski

ORDINANCES 3RD READING – NONE

RESOLUTIONS – NONE

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Garcia – I got an email from Steve Segura referencing that the State of the City is going to be held with the Lakeshore Chambers and they are charging \$30 for it. I think it is ashamed that you have to be charged to go see the State of the City address by the Mayor. The State of the City addressed is made for the residents to know what is going on. The Mayor presents to the residents his beliefs and a thought

of what is going on in the city. I think it is a shame that you are going to get charged \$30 to go to an event to hear the State of the City.

Councilman Franciski – Is there any other new business?

Councilman Garcia – I believe last week the remaining residents of Calumet got a letter. I guess they have ten days to evacuate or they are going to be evicted. I think it is a crying shame that they are going to get evicted because they can't find a place to live in. A lot of families have been displaced with children. It is hard to find a place. I think it is a crying shame that you have only ten days to evacuate. It is a shame that ten days before school they were told they have to get out. Now we are almost at the end of the semester for the school year and they are being kicked out. Like I said before I think it is better served if this matter communicates with this city council. We could be all on one page. We could talk to the residents. We could go out and listen. Let's help these people but to actually kick them out and tell them you have ten day. It has been hard for the residents to try to find these places. I think it is a crying shame that they are getting kicked out in ten days.

Councilman Franciski – Is there any other new business?

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Thomas Frank – It has been a while since I came before the council. The last time I came before you I was addressing issues with BP. I had come before you on the threat of losing my position for speaking out against the BP Refinery. I subsequently lost that position within a month. I am here again because of the environmental justice issues in East Chicago are running rampant. We have several of the largest blast furnaces in the western hemisphere. We have a lot of chemical companies and waste energy projects. What's happening in West Calumet is the third neighbor in the last two decades that has been cannibalized because of toxic releases or toxic industries that have moved next to them or they have been placed on top of them. We've had the Brickyard. We've had Marktown. We now have West Calumet. I want to advocate on behalf of the Calumet neighbor, the West Calumet residents encourage you to speak out and stop the forced relocations. Many of these residents have been placed in this situation because the housing authority has failed to relocate them properly and into a safe condition. Several of the residents are being forced to go as far as out of state. They are not being asked to. They are not locating themselves. These are residents that are being harmed at no things they have not done to themselves. This is something that has happened here in this city and we need to make them whole. We need to place them in a safer and healthier place. What the residents are asking because of eight months of mismanagement within the housing authority they are asking to stay until the remainder of the school year. That is what they are asking for. And if they can be relocated in a safe area in this area certainly before then certainly they would be willing to do that. So that is what they are advocating. I also want to bring up one other issue. We have one of the largest toxic dumps in the Great Lakes region right next to our high school, the CDF that the Army Corp has built. It is also right now in the process of getting out for public comment March 31st. They want to make from a place to dredge and make it a TSCA level facility. That makes it a heavily contaminated facility. When the Army Corp approached this city about this years ago, they told the city that this would be a solution that the city could build upon in the future; that they could build on that property and use it for other uses. What they've told us this year in their permit for a TSCA level is that we would never be able to anything on that facility. So went

for to house sixty thousand cubic yards of toxic materials. They are going to permit a site as large as 4.8 million cubic yards for toxic levels. I am asking you to step forward and advocate against the CDF being permitted as a TSCA level facility.

Juan Andrade- I am a lifelong resident of East Chicago Indiana. This is an email that was received by many people I think that are represented by State Senator Lonnie Randolph. The FAFSA deadline to apply for college aid has been extended to April 15th. That is just a little public notice there. Also, to what Frank was just talking about right now in reference to the CDF I know many people throughout the years fought from the toxic dump CDF being built here in our city. Now like I said we understand. I just found out the other day that they are looking to maybe bring in outside toxic material than they are dredging and putting in there right now which only minutes away from our Central High School and from the young men and women are that are going to Westside Jr. High. So you are our council. You are the legislative body. You do have a power as a group there so I would recommend and urge on behalf of the citizens of East Chicago to put a stop from the Army Corp of Engineers to prevent them from bringing anymore toxic materials than what maybe in the Indiana Ship Canal. I have been a lifelong resident of East Chicago. I do not live in the West Calumet Area or the other two superfund sites but I have heard that many of the residents that still remain in West Calumet, I've heard their cries. The fact that they are going through bigger issues right now in addition to what Tom was saying right now. All they want to do is just wait until the school year is out. Some of them are being put out and into other locations but too far away to keep their jobs in the area. So I can't speak from experience. I didn't get from what I understand a hand delivered eviction notice that gives them ten days to be put out. I've heard many residents say the same thing. So as individuals you have some power. As a group you have a major power. Please use it for the betterment of our citizens of East Chicago.

April Friendly – I am an organizer with the Northwest Indiana Federation of Interfaith Organization. I am also working with the community strategy group. On behalf of the residents in West Calumet particularly I am urging as the city council body to work on their behalf. If there is an ordinance or an emergency injunction or something that can be done on their behalf regarding this forced relocation it is imperative. Not only are they disrupting the schools which Mr. Garcia and Mr. Frank spoke upon. They are also facing legal issues because of how the East Chicago Housing Authority is putting these residents out. As of March 2nd the Mayor responded to the Governors emergency declaration and said, yes they would relocate. The City and the Housing Authority would relocate these residents by the 31st. However there was no specific language in how this would happen. At this time the residents are being told they are being moved whether they decide to go to those locations or not. They would still be held responsible for rent at this new location as of April 1st. So my charge is for the council to get in involved. The Mayor, the mayor's office sits with these committees regularly to make these decisions. Our city council representatives also need to be a part of those conversations. The residents at this time are not even considered to be stakeholders in their own city and in their own fate. I am calling on the city council to stand up for these stakeholders.

Angel Murillo – Hello I am here to introduce myself. My name is Angel Murillo. I am from Troop 7 from East Chicago. My rank is Star in scouts. I have here for the citizenship in the community merit badge. It is eagle required and that is the goal I want to achieve. Hopefully I'll have a chance to get your contact information in the future for young people like me to resolve community issues that we personally can

achieve at my age. Hopefully, if it is okay with you I would like to take a picture at the end of the meeting with the council.

Councilman Franciski – That would be great.

Angel Murillo – Thank you.


A motion was made by Councilwoman Orange and seconded by Councilman Garcia to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Franciski – Are there any questions on the motion?

Roll Call: Yes (8) Maldonado, Walker, Vasquez, Orange, London, Medina, Franciski



Presiding Officer, Christine Vazquez

Attest: 

Adrian A. Santos, City Clerk