

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
ECONOMIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
January 23, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS:	STAFF:
Ezell Foster, President	Richard Morrisroe, Legal
James Portalatin	Debra Gritters, Planner
Jesse Avitia	Alysia Dunbar, Secretary

Reported by: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present: Ezell Foster, James Portalatin,
Jesse Avitia

Staff Present: Richard Morrisroe, Legal Counsel
Debra Gritters, City Planner
Alysia Dunbar, Recording Secretary

MR. FOSTER: I'd like to call the
Economic Development Commission meeting of Tuesday,
January 23, 2023, to order.

First item is approval of minutes.
Need a motion to approve the minutes of December 19,
2022.

MR. PORTALATIN: Make a motion.

MR. AVITIA: Second.

MR. FOSTER: Roll call.

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

MR. FOSTER: Motion carries.
Old Business: None
New Business: Election of officers.

MR. AVITIA: I would make a motion and
nominate Ezell Foster for president for second term.
Since he's doing such a good job, I think he deserves
it.

1 MR. PORTALATIN: Second.

2 MR. FOSTER: Roll call.

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

5 MR. FOSTER: Motion carries.

6 MR. AVITIA: I would make a motion and
7 nominate James Portalatin for Vice-president for second
8 term.

9 MR. PORTALATIN: Second.

10 MR. FOSTER: Roll call.

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

13 MR. FOSTER: Motion carries.

14 Next we have Redevelopment
15 Commission Minutes of December 6, 2022 and December 19,
16 2022. No comments.

17 MR. MORRISROE: I would like if I could
18 for a minute, Richard Morrisroe, your attorney for
19 Planning Board and Economic Development. I handed you a
20 product that we received from NIRPC, the Regional Plan
21 Commission entitled, Economic Recovery and Resilience
22 Plan from September '22. And this is part of an ongoing
23 program of the Regional Plan Commission. This is kind
24 of a framework.

25 Ms. Caine, who is the Director of
Economic Development is going to come and visit in
March, to the extent possible. Debbra will be arranging
that meeting and let all of us know and see what we can
contribute to making this an East Chicago product, as
well as a product with the Regional Commission.

So I have not had a chance to review
this. I did talk about this with Ms. Caine last week
and it was in the mail this afternoon. So you came just
on time. And the third one is for James, Debbra, and
myself, and it's also on the net so we'll be able to get
it that way.

You are aware of the Regional Plan
Commission and its role with the three counties?

1 MR. PORTALATIN: Yes.

2 MR. MORRISROE: It's kind of a conduit
3 for Federal monies, also State monies for our area. Its
4 history is very much tied to transportation, which as
5 you know, takes something like 94 and 65, they cover all
6 of that. They go through the counties and they are not
7 just limited to municipalities, that's why it's
8 important to have, at least from the Federal Government
9 perspective, a body like NIRPC, Northwest Indiana
10 Regional Plan Commission, to go over those lines and get
11 input from all those communities and put it together.
12 Otherwise we'd have to be managing a small amount of the
13 toll road, Hammond would be managing a bigger part, and
14 Gary a bigger part yet. But where it would meet and how
15 it would meet would be nobody knows. So we have one
16 body that coordinates that and they work very closely
17 with the State Department of Transportation and some of
18 the other State bodies.

11 MR. PORTALATIN: Thank you.

12 MR. FOSTER: Any more questions? (None)
13 Public Comments: None
14 Commissioners Comments: None
15 Our next meeting is Monday,
16 February 27, 2023. Need a motion to adjourn.

15 MR. PORTALATIN: Make a motion to
16 adjourn.

17 MR. AVITIA: Second.

18 MR. FOSTER: Roll call.

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


21 MR. FOSTER: Motion carries. Meeting
22 adjourned.


23 * * * * *

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
January 23, 2023

Approved and signed 2-27-2023

Ezell Foster, President


James Portalatin, Vice-president


Jesse Avitia, Member


Alysia Dunbar, 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 24th of January, 2023.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR



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