

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, February 20, 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,
Joseph Ochoa, Anthony Askounis

STAFF PRESENT: In Chambers: Ateria Allen, Allan Lee,
Joseph Allegretti, Rebecca Sliger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 6, 2023

Motion to approve February 6, 2023 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. BAKOTA: Next is Approval of Warrants. Payroll
021723 \$12,018.56. Utilities Payroll from 1/28/23 to
2/10/23.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 021723 Utilities Payroll 1/28/23 to
2/10/23 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

2 Comments/Questions: None.

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

5 MR. BAKOTA: Payroll Warrant 021723 \$43,292.01. Payroll
6 from 1/28/23 to 2/10/23.

7 Motion to approve Warrant 021723 Payroll 1/28/23 to 2/10/23
8 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry Ventura.

9 Comments/Questions: None.

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

12 Accounts Payable

13 MR. BAKOTA: Accounts Payable. 021423 WB in the amount
14 of \$135,629.68.

15 Motion to approve Warrant 021423 WB made by Henry Ventura.
16 Second by Anthony Askounis.

17 Comments/Questions: None.

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

20 MR. BAKOTA: Warrant 022023 WB in the amount of
21 \$235,090.78.

22 Motion to approve Warrant 022023 WB made by Joseph Ochoa.
23 Second by Henry Ventura.

24 Comments/Questions: None.

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

MR. BAKOTA: Accounts Payable 022023 CD in the amount of
\$1,264.24.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 022023 CD 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 REPORTS:

7 Filtration Report None

8 Water Report None

9 Distribution Report

10 MR. LEE: Well, if you look at the first seven things
11 that need to get done this year, but there's no funding. So
12 hopefully we'll get there.

13 All the meters were read of all the people that
14 haven't been read in the last couple of years, two or three
15 years. We have a program now where they'll be read until we
16 can get master meters in there.

17 We're reading the meters inhouse. Locates are done
18 inhouse.

19 Report on the hydrants if you look at the
20 difference in 2021 we had 478 with defects. This fall report
21 last year at the end of the year 423 hydrants with no
22 problems 147 with defects.

23 On the back we only have I think that's 16 hydrants
24 with defects. All the rest of the hydrants in the system are
25 all good to go.

Try to get the people so we can start doing more
inhouse. Hopefully exercise the valves.

The next page is our goals for February, what we
want to do inhouse, what we're working on.

Prepare the minor hydrants which we have. We've
got about eight more that we can fix and get parts. The ones
that need to be replaced we're going to hopefully get some of
those addressed.

We have a couple shutoff locations for non-pay.

1 We're working on those inhouse. Those are on the list.

2 We're working on the temp cards if you're wondering
3 what that is.

4 By October 2024 every resident's house has to be
5 exactly what it is, red galvanized copper.

6 And then each year after that we have to maintain
7 at least 3 percent of the lead removed until 2029. So
8 hopefully we'll get some of that grant money and get going.

9 So anyway we found the master cards. When the City
10 started until 1940 they kept the temp cards.

11 The temp cards mostly shows how much lead is there,
12 how much galvanized is in the house.

13 Since we're not over 50,000 we don't have to put a
14 program together online so people can look and see if they
15 have lead or not.

16 There has to be by October 24 where people can go
17 and look up their house and see what kind of material they
18 have. That's a big deal.

19 Things at the bottom are some of the goals that we
20 want to work on.

21 Those styles of meters, those are the ones we're
22 slowly working on what we can change because a lot of them's
23 rocky because those are the ones people were getting
24 estimated for the last couple of years.

25 At least we'll read them. And then slowly change a
few of them here and there, whatever is still not rotten in
the pit.

Sprinklers at the Mayor's Office so they have
better pressure.

And Indianapolis is going on. So we're going to
put service in when Hasse puts the service in. And it's 67
houses on Walsh and Homerlee that have no meters.

MR. BAKOTA: No meters?

MR. LEE: No. They don't have any meters since they
were put in four or five years ago. But we're addressing

1 that. Engineering is going to address that.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Was there a road improvement there?

3 MR. LEE: Yes.

4 MR. BAKOTA: And that's where they didn't.

5 MR. LEE: They slipped on the banana. Whole new service
6 for the main all the way up to the property.

7 MR. BAKOTA: It's incomplete?

8 MR. LEE: It was put in, but no meter pit, no meter.
9 Thank God it's not my house.

10 But we're going to address those. It's \$113,000.
11 And they assured me in the spring it will be taken care of.

12 All Hasse's work that they did last year was
13 checked. No valves were covered up there. So we'll be
14 watching like a hawk. I don't need any more valves covered.

15 That's what I got.

16 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

17 MR. LEE: Any questions?

18 Legal Counsel

19 MR. ALLEGRETTI: Rebecca has been working like crazy in
20 anticipation of the OUC.

21 The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission folks are
22 coming for a field visit tomorrow to East Chicago to
23 Rebecca's office and to the Controller's Office.

24 They're going to be there tomorrow and the day
25 after doing their research and the examining our books and
26 records. And it's kept Rebecca super busy.

27 Part of the process. Slow and painful. That's
28 all I have to say.

29 Financial Report None

1 NEW BUSINESS:

2 Proposals

3 MR. BAKOTA: Proposals. I'll number these as we go
4 along. You can attach a number on your sheet if you want.
5 That way you can use that number as a reference if you have
6 any questions on it.

7 I will read them all. And then we'll ask for a
8 motion or discussion.

9 Proposals. Trugreen, Lawn Service and Grub
10 Prevention for the Filtration New Plant \$803.10.

11 Number 2, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Pit Leak
12 Repair 4136 Magoun Avenue \$5,625.

13 Number 3, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Pit Leak
14 Repair 3931 Deal Street \$4,625.

15 Number 4, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Pit Leak
16 Repair 4422 Olcott \$4,375.

17 Number 5, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Leak Pit
18 Repair 4515 Magoun Avenue \$4,375.

19 Number 6, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Pit Leak
20 Repair 4006 Pulaski Street \$3,625.

21 Number 7, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Pit Leak
22 Repair 4115 Elm Street \$4,375.

23 Number 8, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Pit Leak
24 Repair 3818 Carey Street \$6,700.

25 Number 9, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Service
Line Leak Repair 4235 Magoun \$7,350.

Number 10, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency Valve
Repair at West Columbus Drive and Railroad Avenue \$11,500.

Number 11, Calumet City Plumbing, Emergency
Disconnect at Water Main at 4916 Melville \$7,350.

Number 12, Ash Equipment Company, Watlow Flanged
Immersion Heater \$10,377.

And on our new list we added number 13, Hessville

1 Plumbing, Emergency B-box Repair 4011 Catalpa Street
2 \$3,440.50.

3 That's concludes the Proposals.

4 Motion to approve Aforementioned 13 Proposals made by Joseph
5 Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

6 Comments/Questions: None.

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

9 Agreements

10 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Agreements. Q-Mation, Wonderware
11 Customer First One Year Agreement \$14,213.

12 Motion to approve Q-Mation Agreement made by Anthony
13 Askounis. Second by Henry Ventura.

14 Comments/Questions: None.

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

17 Change Orders

18 MR. BAKOTA: Change Orders. Calumet City Change Order
19 Number 1 for East Chicago Avenue Citgo Gate 17A, Water.

20 Motion to approve Calumet City Change Order Number 1 made by
21 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

22 Comments/Questions:

23 MR. BAKOTA: This Change Order, the original one was
24 \$7,750. And the added change was plus \$124.40. And the
25 total amount of the new bill is \$7,874.40.

Comments/Questions: None.

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

Past due Invoices

MR. BAKOTA: Past Due Invoices. Luke Car Wash, Gateway
Triangle Corporation, Water and Filtration.

1 Reason is after numerous attempts at trying to
2 contact them by telephone and e-mail to correct both November
and December invoices I had no answer until February.

3 The Water Department on this is \$32. It shows
4 Filtration at \$4.

5 Motion to approve Luke Car Wash Past Due Invoices made by
Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

6 Comments/Questions: None.

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

9 MR. BAKOTA: Calumet City Plumbing for \$10,212.28.
Funds were not available in 2022.

10 Motion to approve Calumet City Plumbing Past Due Invoice made
11 by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

12 Comments/Questions: None.

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

14 Other

15 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Memo, Cancellation of Warrants,
16 Water.

17 These are checks that were not cleared. There's a
list of them on the second page of that memo.

18 Motion to approve Memo, Cancellation of Warrants made by
19 Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

20 Comments/Questions: None.

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

22 MS. SLIGER: They're checks that we've issued to refund
23 to customers that they never cashed essentially is what it
was. That is what it looks like. It was customer deposits.

24 So we were refunding money to them for whatever
25 reason. They received the check. The checks never cleared
our bank here.

1 So after a certain period of time, I think it's two
2 or three years, the Controller's Office then issues a list to
3 remove them, to actually remove them from the books. They'll
4 delete them or void them.

5 MR. BAKOTA: So it goes back?

6 MS. SLIGER: It goes back, yeah. It goes back into the
7 accounts where it came from, where they issued them from.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you. Next are M.E. Simpson. There's
9 a Hydrant Maintenance 2022 Summary Report. There is an M.E.
10 Simpson Large Meter Evaluation Testing and Repair for 2022.
11 And there's M.E. Simpson Valve Exercising Assessment for
12 2022.

13 That's just informational?

14 MS. SLIGER: Those are informational, yes. I know we
15 gave you guys one of the other ones. I don't remember which
16 one it was. But these are the others that they performed
17 just to give you an update on what they did, what their
18 recommendations are, what they found, things like that.

19 MR. BAKOTA: That's required to show how many were done?

20 MS. SLIGER: Right.

21 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

23 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, March 6,
24 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

25 Motion to adjourn made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry
Ventura.

 Questions/Comments: None.

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

 * Meeting ended at 5:21 p.m.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of
Monday, February 20, 2023
Approved and Signed March 6, 2023



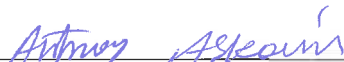
John Bakota, President



Henry Ventura, Vice President



Joseph Curcio, Member



Anthony Askounis, Member



Ray Lopez, Member



Ateria Allen, Board Secretary

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 22nd day of February, 2023.



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

