CITY OF EAST CHICAGO BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD MEMBERS
Val Gomez, President
Winna Guzman, Vice-President
Frank Rivera, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Olga Cosme, Secretary
Shana D. Levinson, Legal Counsel

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Val Gomez
Frank Rivera
Winna Guzman

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. I'd like to call to order the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works for July 23rd, 2026. We do have a quorum.

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes from the July 9th, 2026 meeting, as written.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We have no correspondence, we'll move on to New Business. First item on the agenda is A Touch of Glory 2026 rate schedule. This is for standard commercial office cleaning. They have a not-to-exceed of $50,000 for Public Works and $50,000 for other departments.

Are there any questions or comments on this rate schedule? (None)

There being no questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the

proposal from A Touch of Glory with our Public Works Department for their services.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have from Alert Alarm, this is for the Carnegie Arts fire alarm system upgrade, also from Public Works. These upgrade systems will cost $6,095.00.
I did talk to Jaylan Robinson and he said they are going with Alert Alarm because Alert Alarm has basically everything with the City. So they are going to submit a sole proprietary form.
Any questions or comments on this upgrade? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Alert Alarm's proposal for upgrading Carnegie Arts building fire alarm system.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have a donation check. It's from Bridgeport Metals at 3850 S. Racine Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The donation check is for Special Events in the amount of $2,500.00.
Any questions or comments on this donation check? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Special Events receiving this donation check.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have South Morgan Studio, LLC, this is for the Salsa Fest stage, including the back line amount of $6,820.00. This is dealing with the stage and this event was last weekend.
Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving South Morgan Studios for their Salsa stage work.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have two liability waivers. These are for Fusic Fest, both pertaining to parking lots. The first one is:

"The City of East Chicago will be hosting its annual Fusic Fest on July 31st through August 2nd at Jerose Park Beach. Ameristar Casino East Chicago, LLC, d/b/a Ameristar Casino East Chicago, has offered to allow City to utilize the parking lot located to the southeast at Ameristar's facility and referred to as the Ameristar Employee Parking Lot. Ameristar has generously donated use of this Parking Lot to the City at no cost for the temporary use for parking during the Fest during the period of use.

The City is committed to taking all precautions to safeguard the property of Ameristar and at the end of the Period of Use, will return the Parking Lot in the same or similar condition as it was at the beginning of the Period of Use.

The City shall not use the Parking Lot for any other purpose not expressly permitted herein, or at any other time outside the Period of Use, without prior written consent from Ameristar.

In consideration for the free use of the Parking Lot, the City agrees to fully indemnify, defend and hold harmless Ameristar and all its managing members, parent companies, subsidiaries, successors and affiliated entities, and their officers, directors, partners, agents, insurers and employees, from and against any losses, fines, penalties, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys; fees and costs) responsibilities, causes of action, suits, debts, liabilities, judgments, damages, claims or demands of any kind whatsoever incurred by Releases or to which

Releases may be subject by any person, third party or entity, as a result of, arising from, or related to eh use of the Parking Lot during the Period of Use, including bodily injury, damages, property damage, wrongful death, and violations of law, ordinances, rules and regulations caused by the negligence of faulty of the City, its employees or any other third parties.

The City issues this liability waiver to Ameristar Casino to fully and completely protect them from any monetary loss or damages as a result of allowing the use of the Parking Lot during the Period of Use for guest and visitor parking during the Fest."

Any questions or comments on this one between Ameristar and City of East Chicago? (None)

I'll do this other one as well and make a motion to approve both.

The second one is a similar.

"Liability Waiver, Hold Harmless, and Indemnification Agreement between the City of East Chicago and Cleveland Cliffs. Cliffland Cliffs is allowing the use of its parking lot located behind the Marina known as Lot 29/The Tear Drop lot, as well as Lot 30 where the food trucks are usually parked at it's East Chicago plant for parking vehicles during the Fest. Cleveland Cliffs has generously denoted the use of this parking lot to City at no cost to the Department for the temporary use for parking during the Fest.

The City is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to safeguard the property at Cleveland Cliffs and will return the parking lot in the same or similar condition as it was when received.

The City shall not use the parking lot for any other purpose not expressly permitted herein without prior written consent from Cleveland Cliffs.

In consideration for the free use of the parking lot, the City agrees to fully indemnify and hold Cleveland Cliffs and its officers, directors, parent company or subsidiaries, partners, agents, and employees, harmless to any person, third

party, or entity for any losses, cost and expenses, liabilities, damages, fines, penalties, settlement or claims for damages, causes of action, including reasonable attorney fees and costs, for alleged or proven or any claim or suit brought against the City or Cleveland Cliffs as a result of the use of the parking lot on July 31st through August 2nd.

The City issues this liability waiver to Cleveland Cliffs to fully and completely protect them from any monetary loss or damages as a result of allowing the use of the above-mentioned parking lot for guest and visitor parking during the Fest.

All of which is agreed between the parties on this 23rd day of July, 2026."

Any questions or comments on this agreement? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the Agreement between Ameristar and Cleveland Cliffs with the City of East Chicago for use of their parking lots.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we go to Caravan Canopy, replace tents. This is the emergency replacement of 10 10 by 15 tents lost during the storm at Salsa Fest.

MS. GUZMAN: They lost tents at the beginning and were replaced. It worked out.

MR. GOMEZ: Also to reimburse the cost of those, which we used the City credit card to buy. The amount was $9,128.98. I'm looking at the invoice and it says $8,109.98. I'm going to make a motion for the $9,128.98 amount because that's what they put on the worksheet.

Any questions or comments? (None)

There being no questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve Caravan Canopy's proposal to replace the ten 10 by 15 tents for Special Events in the amount of $9,128.98.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have an agreement with Special Events and Vela LLC. This agreement is for alcoholic beverage sales and also ticket sales. This agreement was given to the Law Department to review. The Agreement does not have any concerns.

I might add that one of our commissioners, Winna Guzman, had an affect in bringing this to us. I'm going to touch on some of the highlights on this.

"This agreement was made and entered on this 23-day of July, 2026 between Luis Serrano, doing business as Vela LLC, at 4002 Alder Street, East Chicago and the City of East Chicago.

The City is holding annual special events known as Fusic Fest at East Chicago Jerose Park, 3301 Aldis Street, East Chicago and the Kielbasa Fest at Kosciusko Park.

Whereas, the City intends to provide alcoholic beverage and ticket sales, and Vela intends to provide alcohol and bar services at the Events as described herein on the terms and condition specified below:

1. Vela represents that it is current licensed by the State of Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission with an off-premises permit under permit number CT 4532726, which allows Vela to provide all necessary alcohol and bar services.

2. Vela shall be responsible for the ordering and purchasing of all alcohol purchased for the Event.

3. Vela agrees to provide adequate staffing who will be appropriately dressed for providing bar services. Further, Vela will ensure that all persons serving alcohol are properly licensed by the State of Indiana.

4. Vela represents that its servers, sellers and dispensers of alcohol are trained in safe alcohol service and will meet all legal responsibilities related to alcohol services, and to otherwise adhere to all federal, state and local laws.

5. Vela shall also carry general

liability insurance coverage in the amount of one million dollars per occurrence and two million dollars aggregate, as well as liquor liability insurance coverage in the amount of one million dollars per occurrence and two million dollars aggregate.

6. Vela also agrees to provide the City with a copy of its alcohol permit and insurance certificates.

7. All persons engaged in the dispensing of alcohol shall be agents, employees, or independent contractors of Vela, and in no event shall be the employees or agents of the City unless approved by the City through a written agreement.

8. City employees shall provide alcohol ticket sales services. At the conclusion of each Event day, the City Controller or the Controller's designee shall reconcile the alcohol ticket sales and deliver to Vela the ticket sale proceeds together with an accounting of tickets sold."

I think number 9 is the change to this agreement.

"9. Vela shall remit to the City an amount equal to 30 percent of all alcohol and beverage sales from each Event. Vela shall also provide the City with complete ticket sales records and the total number of beverage tickets collected."

MS. GUZMAN: That was the same as the previous years. So number 10 and number 13 are what is changed.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. We'll address number 10 first.

"10. VIP Ticket Sales. Vela shall have the sole and exclusive responsibility for the sale of all VIP tickets for the Events. For each VIP ticket sold, Vela shall remit to the City the sum of $35.00

11. Accounting of VIP ticket sales within 60 business days following each Event. Vela shall provide the City with a detailed written accounting of all VIP tickets sales, including the total number of VIP tickets sold, the number of VIP tickets remaining unsold, the gross sales, and an invoice or

other supporting documentation sufficient to verify the amount due and payable to the City."

I think everything else is the same. Is 13 different?

MS. GUZMAN: Number 13 is the general ad mission preticket sales.

MR. GOMEZ: "13. General Admission Pre-Ticket Sales. Vela shall have the sole and exclusive responsibility for all general admission pre-ticket sales for the Events, including tickets sold through online platforms, retail outlets, or an other authorized sales channels. Vela shall remit to the City the following amounts for general admission pre-ticket sold: A. $18.00 for each general admission pre-ticket sold scheduled on July 31st, 2026, and August 1st, 2026, and; B. $13.00 for each general admission pre-ticket sold for the Event scheduled on August 2, 2026."

Everything else appears similar to the earlier contract.

MS. GUZMAN: Yes.

MR. GOMEZ: And the Law Department has no other objections to anything.

Are there any questions or comments? (None)

MR. RIVERA: I have a question. Are they charging for the parking?

MS. GUZMAN: No, free admission.

MR. GOMEZ: Are they charging other ticket sales this year?

MS. GUZMAN: Admission tickets only.

MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions? (None)

There being no further questions, I'd like to make a motion approving the agreement between Vela LLC and our Special Events.

MS. GUZMAN: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have City of East Chicago Board of Public Works Resolution 2026-10.

"A resolution of the East Chicago Board of Public Works concerning BP America Inc.'s donation to Special Events.

Whereas, on May 14, 2026, the City accepted a sponsorship commitment offer of $35,000.00 for the City's Special Events from BP America, Inc.; and

Whereas, May 25, 2026, Mayor Copeland wrote a letter to the members of the Common Council requesting their support for a Council resolution, sponsored by the Maor, urging BP to end the current lockout and resume bargaining in good faith with the Union, copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

Whereas, on May 27, 2026, Council did unanimously adopt its Resolution number 2026-0011 entitled, A Resolution Of Mayor Anthony Copeland And Common Council Of The City of East Chicago, Indiana, Urging British Petroleum, BP, To End The Current Lockout And Resume Good Faith Collective Bargaining; and

Whereas, the lockout, which began on March 17, 2026, continues causing significant hardship to union members; and

Whereas, Mayor Copeland has directed that, in frustration with the continuation of the lockout and in sympathy of the union members, BP's donation should be returned.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the above donation from BP America, Inc., be returned.

Certified and Adopted by the Board of Public Works of the City of East Chicago on this 23rd day of July, 2026."

Any questions or comments on this?

(None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Resolution 2026-10.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come Amendment to Frank O Carlson, rate schedule. This is from IT. We do have an explanation from our Systems Administrator, Kevin Klocek.

"This amendment is to further define the following description it approved Frank O Carlson & Company rate schedule. The rates have been approved for Frank O Carlson agreement February 26, 2026, attached, which had a not-to-exceed amount of $40,000, are to apply to any and all previous requests from the City of East Chicago Multimedia Department, which are designed to include any approved information submitted by Multimedia."

So the amendment is to apply the not-to-exceed to Multimedia, that wasn't included. IT does a lot of Multimedia's accounts payable. They have been assisting since their director left, and I think the IT Director actually has been doing the majority of the plans too.

Are there any questions or comments on this? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving the amendment to the Frank O Carlson rate schedule and use of IT and Multimedia.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have also from IT Department, it's from Seiler Geospatial, software for GPS.

"This agreement is for three annual fees that will apply to the software for the GPS locating equipment. The total amount for all three is $10,750.00. Invoicing is to apply the noted discounts shown on the quote, which will calculate the total amount due after the invoice."

The invoice does have the amount of $10,212.50, which is after the discount of $537.50. The original amount was $10,750.00. So with the discount, it's $10,212, but I'll make the motion at the $10,750

amount until we get the discount. Until IT tells us they put it in their records that there is a discount applied.

I'd like to make a motion approving the request from IT for their software for GPS in the amount of $10,750.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Now we can come to outstanding invoices. We have three outstanding invoices and they are all from the Fire Department and from MacQueen Equipment.

The first one is dated 3/5/26 in amount of $297.51. The second one is dated 11/26/25 in the amount of $10.00. For the first two the explanation, they were lost in paperwork. And the third one is dated 4/14/426, in amount of $1,650.00. Explanation: Miscommunication regarding billing and when MSA Care Class was scheduled.

Any questions or comments on the three late invoices from the Fire Department? (None)

There being no further questions on these late invoices, I'd like to make a motion approving payment to MacQueen Equipment for their late invoices for the Fire Department.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we come to Miranda's concrete, patching on the 3700-block of Deodar from Engineering.

Miranda's members will be doing the patching throughout the 3700-block of Deodar. The amount is $8,536.00.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Miranda's patching of the 3700-block of Deodar from Engineering.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Tierra, this is from the Engineering Department. It's for cleaning and televising on Chicago Avenue. They do have a second quote from National Power Rodding. Tierra's cost was $74,500.00 and National Power Rodding, their quote is for $85,400.00.

Are there any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Tierra's quote to Engineering for televising Chicago Avenue.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Pinto's Concrete LLC, various locations in the 5th District. The amount is $24,965.22. They do have a second quote from 360 Construction at $36,900.00. They are going with Pintos quote at $24,965.22.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Pintos proposal to Engineering for various locations in the 5th District.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from Miranda's Concrete, this is for patching on the north side, 1st and 2nd District in various locations. The amount is $64,530.00.

Any questions or comments on this one? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Miranda's proposal to Engineering for patching on the north side of the 1st and 2nd District, for $64,530.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have another one from Miranda. This is a proposal for two aprons on 148th Street -- replacing two aprons on 148th street, cost of $9,800.00.
Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)
There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Miranda's proposal to Engineering for the two aprons on 148th Street.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we have right-of-way applications. We have Board of Public Works permit applications 26-05515 and 26-05519.
Any questions on the aforementioned applications? (None)
There being no further questions, I'd like to make a motion approving the aforementioned five permit applications.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.
Next we go to Other Business. It's our custom, we get items that are brought to us on the day of the meeting and we put them in Other Business. Usually they are requests by department or Administration, we have to get this approved at this meeting and can't wait for the following meeting.
The first one is from the Engineering Department. It's from Morrison Construction Company, and they at 1834 Summer Street, Hammond. The proposal is for emergency replacement for two transformers at the Dickey Road Bridge Control Building. Both transformers are at the end of their service life and they say the bridge will not operate without replacing these and failure is imminent. So they can fail at any time. So the recommendation is replace them at the cost of $40,059.00.

Any questions or comments on this proposal? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Morrison Construction Company's proposal for emergency replacement of two transformers at the Dickey Bridge Control Building.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we have from JLM Productions a proposal to Special Events for stage setup for Fusic Fest at a cost of $48,238.00. It's their recommendation to approve this because this firm has previously been used for Special Events. So it's for their stage setup at the Marina.

Any comments or questions on this proposal with JLM Productions? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving JLM Productions proposal for setup at Fusic Fest in the amount of $48,238.00.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

I do have to say with this proposal, they are actually -- the total amount is $48,231.00. The agreement states for setup for $37,330.00; backline $7,901.00; consulting $3,000.00; and the total comes of $48,231.00. The reason I had to do it that way, because we had three different agreements and we had to sign three times. So I'd like to make a motion reflecting the change.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

I believe that concludes all items on the agenda for tonight.

Our next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

I'd like to make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MR. RIVERA: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor say aye?
(All signify aye.)
MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

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Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of
July 23, 2026
Approved and Signed July 23, 2026.

_____
Val Gomez, President

_____
Winna Guzman, Vice President

_____
Frank Rivera, member

_____
Olga Cosme, 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 27th day of July, 2026.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S LaLonde
Notary Public Seal State of Indiana
Porter County
Commission Number NP0710216
My Commission Expires 2/6/2034