In The Matter Of:

EAST CHICAGO REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA

ORIGINAL

REGULAR MEETING

July 21, 2020

BOSS REPORTERS

*Gary * Merrillville * Valparaiso, Indiana*

3893 East Lincoln Highway (Rt. 30)

Merrillville, Indiana 46410

(219) 769-9090

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1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF LAKE)
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4
BEFORE THE EAST CHICAGO
5 REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA
6
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8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the meeting
9 before the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission,
10 reported by Kristen K. Stokes, CSR, Notary Public in
11 and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, taken
12 via Zoom Video-Conferencing to be held at City Hall
13 Council Chambers, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, East
14 Chicago, Indiana 46312, on July 21, 2020, scheduled
15 to begin at 5:00 p.m. in the evening.
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22 GARY * MERRILLVILLE * VALPARAISO, INDIANA
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24
25

1 APPEARANCES:

2

3 Christine Russell, President

4 Christopher French, Secretary

5 Delainah Valdez-Medina, Commissioner

6 Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, Commissioner

7 Frank Rivera, Executive Director

8 Shelice Tolbert, Attorney

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I N D E X

Call to Order 4

Pledge of Allegiance..... 4

Approval of Minutes July 7, 2020..... 6

Warrant No. 072120-RD..... 7

Warrant No. 072120-RC..... 8

Warrant No. 071020-RD..... 10

RMC Harborside Aging Report..... 11

Action Item - The Times..... 12

Action Item - 5018 Alexander Avenue..... 14

Resolution No. 2020-RED-1836..... 16

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1 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: I'll go ahead and
2 call the meeting to order for the East
3 Chicago Redevelopment Commission regular
4 meeting, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, East
5 Chicago, Indiana, City of East Chicago,
6 Department of Redevelopment, July 21st,
7 2020, 5:00 p.m.
8 Pledge of Allegiance.
9 (STOOD FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)
10 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Thank you.
11 Roll call, please.
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Shelice, can
13 you call roll call. I think Mr. French is
14 disposed of right now.
15 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: I'm muted. I wasn't
16 prepared.
17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Okay.
18 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: All right. Vanessa
19 Hernandez-Orange?
20 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Present.
21 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: Delainah
22 Valdez-Medina?
23 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Present.
24 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: Christine Russell?
25 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Present.

1 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: All right.
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Christopher
3 French is not here right now, but he stepped
4 out, and Mr. Gates is gone.
5 Okay. Why don't we've give ourselves
6 five minutes for Mr. French to come back.
7 Sorry about that.
8 (ENTER MR. FRENCH.)
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: We did the
10 Pledge of Allegiance and we did the roll
11 call. So now we're just going to go to the
12 first part of the --
13 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: Okay. Christopher
14 French for roll call?
15 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
16 Hernandez-Orange?
17 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes,
18 Present.
19 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah
20 Valdez-Medina?
21 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: No, she was calling
22 you because she already went through it.
23 SECRETARY FRENCH: Oh, okay.
24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Yeah, he's
25 here.

1 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: All right. My duties
2 are done now, huh?
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Yes, now you
4 can mute.
5 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: All right.
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: All right.
7 Good evening, Mrs. President. I'm glad
8 you're on, commissioners, Attorney Shelice
9 Tolbert. Mr. Gates is not here today, but
10 hopefully he'll chime in.
11 So we're going to go ahead and start off
12 with the approval of the public hearing
13 meetings July 7, 2020. So if I could have a
14 motion for that approval, I'd appreciate it.
15 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Make a
16 motion for approval.
17 SECRETARY FRENCH: Seconded by
18 Christopher French.
19 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: The motion was made
20 by Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, seconded by
21 Christopher French.
22 Any questions?
23 (NO RESPONSE.)
24 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
25 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa

1 Hernandez-Orange?
2 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
3 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
4 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
5 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
6 Yes.
7 Christine Russell?
8 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
10 We now turn our attention over to the
11 approval of dockets. And in that approval
12 there's a warrant number, and it's the
13 accounts payable warrant report dated
14 07/16/2020. And the warrant number is
15 072120-RD. It's in the amount of
16 $43,002.25. That's $43,002.25. If I
17 could have a motion for that approval.
18 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA:
19 Valdez-Medina, motion to approve.
20 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Second.
21 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
22 Delainah Valdez-Medina, seconded by Vanessa
23 Hernandez-Orange.
24 Any questions?
25 (NO RESPONSE.)

1 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
2 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
3 Hernandez-Orange?
4 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
5 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
6 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
7 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
8 Yes.
9 Christine Russell?
10 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
12 We now turn our attention to another
13 accounts payable warrant report dated
14 7/16/2020. It is a warrant number 072120-RC
15 in the amount of $116,812.72. If I can have
16 a motion for approval.
17 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Motion for
18 approval.
19 SECRETARY FRENCH: Second by Christopher
20 French.
21 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
22 Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, seconded by
23 Christopher French.
24 Any questions?
25 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: It was

1 Delainah Medina who made the motion.
2 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Oh, I'm sorry.
3 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: It's
4 okay.
5 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: The motion was made
6 by Delainah Valdez-Medina, seconded by
7 Christopher French.
8 Any questions?
9 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: I just want to say
10 that the commissioners aren't saying their
11 names when they make the motion, so we don't
12 have that confusion. I'm sorry.
13 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Thank you.
14 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: Ready for your roll
15 call now?
16 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes, ready for roll
17 call.
18 ATTORNEY TOLBERT: Okay.
19 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
20 Hernandez-Orange?
21 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
22 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
23 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
24 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
25 Yes.

1 Christine Russell?
2 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
4 Okay. We go on to our third accounts
5 payable warrant report dated 7/16/2020, and
6 that warrant number is 071020-RD in the
7 amount of $312,229.18.
8 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA:
9 Valdez-Medina, motion for approval.
10 SECRETARY FRENCH: Second by Christopher
11 French.
12 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
13 Delainah Valdez-Medina, seconded by
14 Christopher French.
15 Any questions?
16 (NO RESPONSE.)
17 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
18 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
19 Hernandez-Orange?
20 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
21 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
22 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
23 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
24 Yes.
25 Christine Russell?

1 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
3 We are now going into the RMC Harborside
4 aging report payroll. This is the
5 Harborside Apartments vendor aging report
6 dated as of 7/16/2020, and the whole total
7 amount for that particular vendor aging
8 report is $33,540.08.
9 If I can have a motion for approval, I'd
10 appreciate it.
11 SECRETARY FRENCH: Motion to approve by
12 Christopher French.
13 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Second by
14 Valdez-Medina.
15 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Okay. The motion
16 was by Christopher French. It was seconded
17 by Delainah Valdez-Medina.
18 Any questions? Any questions?
19 (NO RESPONSE.)
20 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
21 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
22 Hernandez-Orange?
23 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
24 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
25 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.

1 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
2 Yes.
3 Christine Russell?
4 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
6 Now, we start turning our attention over
7 to some action items, and our first action
8 for the night is a motion to approve payment
9 of the past due invoices to The Times of
10 Northwest Indiana.
11 The Times of Northwest Indiana submitted
12 invoices to the Redevelopment Department for
13 payment for proofs of various legal notice
14 publications. The invoices are all dated
15 March 24, 2020. The total amount due for
16 all invoices is $1,028.32. The invoices are
17 as follows:
18 I'll go by reference number and then the
19 amount. The first reference number is 39104
20 for $128.54. The next one is 39107 --
21 number 39107. That's 39107 in the amount of
22 $127.14. The next reference number is 39110
23 at $129.24. The next reference number is
24 39114 at $131.32. The next reference number
25 is 39117 at the amount of $129.24. The next

reference number is 39118 at $126.46. The next reference number is 39120 at $127.84. And the last and final reference number is 39121 at $128.54.

Action is recommended to approve payments of the past due invoices to The Times of Northwest Indiana and authorize the Executive Director to sign the necessary documents. It is recommended that the following motion be adopted verbatim.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion to approve the payment to The Times of Northwest Indiana in the amount of $1,028.32 for publication of various legal notices and authorize the Executive Director to sign any necessary documents.

COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Vanessa Hernandez-Orange makes a motion for approval.

COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Second by Valdez-Medina.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: The motion was made by Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, seconded by Delainah Valdez-Medina.

Any questions?

1 (NO RESPONSE.)
2 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
3 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
4 Hernandez-Orange?
5 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
6 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
7 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
8 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
9 Yes.
10 Christine Russell?
11 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
13 Our last action item is a motion to
14 approve the local non-federal funds for the
15 Change Order No. 1 concerning the
16 Residential Property Repairs Project located
17 at 5018 Alexander Avenue, East Chicago,
18 Indiana 46312.
19 For the residential property repairs of
20 the property repairs of the property located
21 at 5018 Alexander Avenue, East Chicago,
22 Indiana 46312. Staff is recommending
23 approval of the funding for Change Order
24 No. 1 in the amount of $800, which will be
25 allocated with local non-federal funds and

1 does not exceed 20 percent of the original
2 contract. Therefore, it is requested of the
3 East Chicago Redevelopment Commission to
4 approve the Change Order No. 1 funding for
5 this Residential Property Repairs Project.
6 It's recommended that the following motion
7 be made verbatim.
8 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: A motion to approve
9 local non-federal funds in the amount of
10 $800 for Change Order No. 1 concerning the
11 Residential Property Repairs Project located
12 at 5018 Alexander Avenue, East Chicago,
13 Indiana 46312 and authorize the Executive
14 Director to execute any related documents.
15 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Motion to
16 approve, Valdez-Medina.
17 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE:
18 Hernandez-Orange seconds.
19 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
20 Delainah Valdez-Medina, seconded by Vanessa
21 Hernandez-Orange.
22 Any questions?
23 (NO RESPONSE.)
24 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.
25 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa

1 Hernandez-Orange?
2 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
3 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
4 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
5 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
6 Yes.
7 Christine Russell?
8 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Thank you.
10 Our last item of the day is a Resolution
11 No. 2020-RED-1836. It's a resolution of the
12 East Chicago Redevelopment Commission
13 ratifying previous actions of the East
14 Chicago Board of Public Works establishing
15 terms and conditions for the transfer of
16 certain property owned by the City of East
17 Chicago to the East Chicago Department of
18 Redevelopment commonly known as 1909
19 Broadway, Parcel No. 45-03-22304-004.000-024.
20 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Oh, no.
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: Okay.
22 Someone said, "Oh, no." Is everybody okay?
23 I can go forward; right?
24 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Uh-huh.
25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RIVERA: So whereas,

1 the Redevelopment Commission is authorized
2 by Indiana Code 36-1-4-16 to ratify previous
3 actions of the City of East Chicago if those
4 actions could have been approved in advance.
5 And whereas, the City of East Chicago
6 Board of Public Works on July 8, 2020,
7 approved the conveyance and transfer of
8 property commonly known as 1909 Broadway,
9 Parcel No. 45-03-22-304-004.000-024, from
10 the City of East Chicago to the East Chicago
11 Department of Redevelopment without monetary
12 consideration.
13 And whereas, the Redevelopment
14 Commission desires to ratify said actions
15 and adopt said actions of the City of East
16 Chicago Board of Public Works.
17 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the
18 Redevelopment Commission that, Section 1,
19 the actions previously taken by the City of
20 East Chicago Board of Public Works related
21 to the conveyance and transfer of property
22 commonly known as 1909 Broadway, Parcel No.
23 45-03-22-304-004.000-024, are hereby
24 ratified.
25 Section 2, the above actions are adopted

as actions of the Redevelopment Commission effective the date of said action by the City of East Chicago Board of Public Works.

Section 3, this resolution shall be effective on its adoption and passage. Adopted this 21st day of July, 2020.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: A resolution of the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission ratifying previous actions of the East Chicago Board of Public Works establishing terms and conditions for the transfer of certain property owned by the City of East Chicago to the East Chicago Department of Redevelopment, commonly known as 1909 Broadway, Parcel No. 45-03-22304-004.000-024.

COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Motion to approve, Valdez-Medina.

COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Hernandez-Orange seconds the motion.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by Delainah Valdez-Medina, seconded by Vanessa Hernandez-Orange.

Any questions?

(NO RESPONSE.)

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Roll call, please.

1 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
2 Hernandez-Orange?
3 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.
4 SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?
5 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.
6 SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?
7 Yes.
8 Christine Russell?
9 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.
10 Public expression?
11 (NO RESPONSE.)
12 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion to adjourn?
13 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I'd like
14 to make a motion for adjournment,
15 Hernandez-Orange.
16 COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Second,
17 Valdez-Medina.
18 PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Motion was made by
19 Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, seconded by
20 Delainah Valdez-Medina for a motion to
21 adjourn.
22 Roll call, please.
23 SECRETARY FRENCH: Vanessa
24 Hernandez-Orange?
25 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Yes.

SECRETARY FRENCH: Delainah Valdez-Medina?

COMMISSIONER VALDEZ-MEDINA: Yes.

SECRETARY FRENCH: Christopher French?

Yes.

Christine Russell?

PRESIDENT RUSSELL: Yes. Motion carried.

(MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 5:47 PM.)

1 STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF LAKE)
3
BEFORE THE EAST CHICAGO
4 REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA
5
6
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
7
8 I, KRISTEN K. STOKES, CSR, Notary Public in
9 and for the County of Lake, State of Indiana, do
10 hereby certify that I reported in machine shorthand
11 the foregoing proceedings had in the above-entitled
12 matter, at the time and place herein set forth; and
13 I do further certify that the foregoing transcript,
14 consisting of twenty-two (22) typewritten pages is a
15 true and correct transcript of my said stenographic
16 notes.
17 Signed this 24th day of July, 2020.
18
19
20
21 KRISTEN K. STOKES
CSR# 084-003723
22 My Commission Expires: 8/27/23
Notary Public: Lake County, Indiana
23
24
25

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020
APPROVED & SIGNED TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020

Christine Russell
President

Christopher French
Secretary

Vanessa Hernandez-Orange
Commissioner

Delainah Valdez-Medina
Commissioner

Frank Rivera
Executive Director