CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
ECONOMIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
August 24, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:
Wanda Clark, President
Jesse Avitia, Vice-President
Sharma Frazier, Member

STAFF:
Tracy Ailes
Sandra Favela

Reported by: Peggy S. LaLonde
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Wanda Clark, Jesse Avitia, Sharma Frazier

Staff Present: Tracy Ailes, Recording Secretary

MS. CLARK: I'd like to call to order the Economic Development Commission meeting of Monday, August 24, 2026.

I need a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, July 27th, 2026 meeting as written.

MR. AVITIA: Motion to approve.

MS. FRAZIER: Second.

MS. CLARK: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MS. CLARK: Motion carries.

Looking at our agenda, there is no Old Business, we'll move on to New Business. We have several new businesses.

MS. AILES: We have five new businesses. El Rincon de Indiana, 5012 West 151st Street, Jesus Perez Rodriguez is the owner. Eduardo Jesus Perros is the manager. This is a four multi family dwelling but the property received a variance in 2013. It continues use as a commercial location. It operates as a

restaurant/carry out, specializing in Venezuelan cuisine. Open from Sunday to Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and they received their business license on 8/6/26.

Next we have East Chicago Ink at 3929 Main Street. It's doing business business as Mulberry Tattoo Lounge LLC, used to be located down the street, now doing business as East Chicago Ink. The business owner is Angela Andolini, Zoned C3 North Harbor District, specialty body art and piercing. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Business received their license 8/6/26. They've taken over where the Hooka Lounge was.

Next we have ProMet Steel, 4407 Railroad Avenue. Owner is Kelly Laphem. Zoned M2 heavy industry. It's industrial steel processing. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Received their business license on 8/11/26. They bought out Heidtman Steel, if you are familiar with that, right over on Railroad, after the bridge.

Next we have Go Fetchh, 4712 Indianapolis Boulevard. Owner is Edna Cavillo. Zoned C2 general commercial. Specialty business of dog grooming. Open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and received their business license on 8/12/26. This makes better use of this unoccupied space that's been sitting there for awhile. She's fixed it up.

Next we have Tartan Oil, LLC, 3600 Michigan Avenue, Unit 3. Jesus Guerra is the owner and manager is Daniel Lusis. Zoned M2 heavy industry, industrial diesel exhaust fluid processing. I think they sell it too. Open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and they received their business license on 8/12/2026. They are at the far end of the long industrial building on Michigan Avenue.

MR. AVITIA: I have a question on ProMet Steel. Is that a new office that came into our area, new company?

MS. AILES: They bought out Heidtman Steel.

MR. AVITIA: Just change the name?

MS. AILES: Same location, still doing the same thing, but they bought out Heidtman Steel.

MR. AVITIA: Same address as the previous one and also with the ProLift there.

MS. AILES: Yes, sir.

MR. AVITIA: That explains the name change, they bought them out.

MS. AILES: Correct.

MS. CLARK: I have a question. Go Fetchh, was she in another city or town before she came here?

MS. AILES: So I'm not sure if it's true or not, somebody said she used to operate the one on Chicago Avenue.

MS. CLARK: That's the same one, because I just made an appointment with Royal Paws, that's on Kennedy. I'm going to text her and ask if I can come here.

MS. AILES: The owners separated. So if you want to stick with one or the other.

MS. CLARK: Royal Paws, right on Chicago Avenue. They were awesome.

MS. FRAZIER: She had more space. I went to the ribbon cutting and the City didn't recognize them or something. No city officials were there.

MS. CLARK: But you have to let people know. People aren't going to just go, you have to inform them and there was a lot going on Saturday and everything.

MS. AILES: I think there was a little confusion that we can talk afterwards about it. There is more confusion on it. It wasn't put on by the City that's why there was no City representation.

MS. CLARK: Okay. She can have another one and the City officials can come and recognize her.

MS. AILES: Anything else?

MR. AVITIA: Couple of small comments.

There was quite a few of those minutes.

MS. AILES: We are a little behind.

MR. AVITIA: It's still informational. The fact I see empty lots for sale and putting out bids for the empty lots, especially in West Calumet, and maybe some of the other small locations in the area, that tells me the City is continuing on with more activity, trying to develop. So you sell something and you use that money for capitalizing and putting up another home. I see most of them are homeowners.

MS. AILES: Correct.

MR. AVITIA: The one on Kennedy Avenue now is finished and I like the way it's facing the City. That's all I have. It shows progress.

MS. AILES: It does.

MR. AVITIA: The City keeps on doing what it started doing and continue with the progress.

MS. AILES: Right.

MS. CLARK: It's good to see businesses, like you said, come in. I guess I have one question. People that need jobs, there are still businesses here that if they look into it, maybe they can get a job at these different places. That's good to see.

MR. AVITIA: I still wonder how the company here, how many will actually use East Chicago residents for employees.

MS. AILES: It's true, there's a lot of posting on Facebook. When we first started, there was a number, but they discussed that those people would be coming from Illinois, but they have been hiring East Chicago residents. I know a number of people that have gotten hired recently and on the Facebook page it tells them where to go.

MR. AVITIA: It's a solid company.

MS. AILES: I think as it develops, you will find more and more East Chicago residents hired in that location.

MR. AVITIA: That's all I have.

MS. CLARK: Any other Commissioner comments? (None)

No more comments, our next meeting will be Monday, September 28, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Can I get a motion to adjourn?

MR. AVITIA: I'll make a motion for adjournment.

MS. FRAZIER: Second.

MS. CLARK: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MS. CLARK: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

* * * * Meeting Adjourned * * * *

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Monday
August 24th, 2026

Approved and signed SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Wanda Clark

Wanda Clark, President

Jesse Avitia

Jesse Avitia, Vice-president

Sharma Frazier

Sharma Frazier

Tracy Ailes

Tracy Ailes, 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 25th of August, 2026.

Peggy S. LaLonde

Peggy S. LaLonde