

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS:	STAFF:
Anthony Serna, President	Ateria Allen
Rick Rodriguez, Vice President	Dawn Dawkins, Legal
Valda Lewis, Secretary	Vanessa Hernandez-Orange
Gilberto Cantu	
Eugene Austin	

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

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Eugene Austin

Telephonic: Valda Lewis, Gilberto Cantu

Staff Present: Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary
Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, Director

Telephonic: Dawn Dawkin

CHIEF SERNA: Good afternoon. We have a quorum. I'd like to call to order today's meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation, for Tuesday, December 22, 2020.

Rick Rodriguez called me and said he wouldn't be able to make it, but wishes everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We'll move on to Administrative Matters. We have approval of December 8, 2020, meeting minutes. Entertain a motion to approve the December 8, 2020, meeting minutes.

MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

MS. LEWIS: Second.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

Next we have approval of payroll December 11, 2020. Entertain a motion to approve payroll.

MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

1 MR. CANTU: Second.

2 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

3 Next approval of payroll dated --

bonus check -- payroll dated December 11, 2020.

4 Entertain a motion to approve that payroll, bonus check,
dated December 11, 2020.

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MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

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MR. CANTU: Second.

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8 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

9 Next approval of Warrant 122220 PB,

in the amount of \$68,049.46. Entertain a motion to
approve warrant report.

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MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

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MS. LEWIS: Second.

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13 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

14 Next approval of encumbered
appropriations, which is any open PO will be rolled over
to 2021. Entertain a motion to approve the open POs for
next year.

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MR. CANTU: Make a motion.

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MR. AUSTIN: Second.

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18 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

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Now on to New Business. Our
director, Vanessa Hernandez. Welcome back.

20

21 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: My apologies for
not attending last meeting, I had a family emergency,
and then I couldn't get on because I didn't have the
right passcode.

22

23 The first item that we have up for
new business will be past due invoice for Cam's Tree
Service. As you can see, the reason why the invoice was
24 not accepted or now is past due, Cam's Tree Service for
some reason does not have a PO. What they do is what
25 you see in front of you. They usually scratch out the

1 job estimate, circle the invoice, and then there was no
2 signature from Cam's Tree Service. So, it was not
3 accepted by the Controller's Office and we had to ask
4 them to resubmit it, which is making it 30 days past
5 due. Now we are asking the Board to have it approved.

6 CHIEF SERNA: Any questions on the past
7 due invoice from Cam's Tree Service?

8 MS. LEWIS: They have already done the
9 work, we just need to approve the purchase order?

10 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Correct. So they
11 came and they cut some of the tree limbs that were
12 actually sticking out of the greenhouse. We were afraid
13 that they were going to actually bust the window there
14 because it was so high, so we had to make sure to get
15 that done as quickly as possible.

16 MS. LEWIS: I move for approval.

17 MR. AUSTIN: I second.

18 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
19 saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

20 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: The next item
21 that we have is the agreement for the car wash service
22 with Luke's Oil, and that starts January 1st, 2021,
23 throughout the whole year. This is an agreement that we
24 have done previously for the City of East Chicago. This
25 is the same company that we use for car wash services.
As you can see, it's \$4.00. The van, we have an
agreement with someone else because you can't fit the
van in the car wash. This is for our cars that need to
be washed.

MR. AUSTIN: Are we coming up with a new
car wash, we did have one in the City --

CHIEF SERNA: You talking about at the
City Barn?

MR. AUSTIN: Yeah.

CHIEF SERNA: That's probably been about
3 or 4 years that they have been going to Luke's to do
the car washing because it's cheaper actually than
having all the supplies on hand and paying for the

1 staff. It's not only the Parks Department, probably
2 about 7 or 8 other departments that go to Luke's. Any
other questions?

3 MR. CANTU: Make a motion.

4 MS. LEWIS: Second.

5 CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

6 Any other new business?

7 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I did just want
to make mention, in regards to the Toy Drive that we had
8 on December 11th, kind of give you an update, as well as
to give cudos to the Park and Recreation staff. So
9 first and foremost, we ended up purchasing 829 toys. We
did have around 200 that were leftover.

10 So, it was raining that day. It was
really bad, as Chief Serna knows. It poured. We did
11 have people come on Monday the next week and pick up
some of the toys. Overall we served around 200
12 families, and that was over -- about 760 toys because we
do have about 150 leftover, which we'll save and use for
13 next year for our event that hopefully we will be able
to have at Heritage Hall, if we are allowed to.

14 Again, I am extremely proud of our
Parks and Recreation staff. They were outside. They
15 were running, servicing all the cars. Very proud of the
work that was done that day. Afterwards we cleaned up,
16 social distanced, wore masks. So, again, I am extremely
proud of the staff and what we did to represent, not
17 only the Park and Recreation Department, but as well as
the City of East Chicago as a whole.

18 And my final thing is just to say to
the Board -- in general -- Merry Christmas and Happy new
19 year, and I will see you guys in January.

20 CHIEF SERNA: All right. Thank you very
much. Let me just add, on the Toy Drive it was a
21 success and we did have some high school kids volunteer.
They were running and doing their thing. Department
22 heads were involved, various other department heads were
involved, and security firm that the City employs. So
23 great team work.

24 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Also thank you
Public Works.

25

1 CHIEF SERNA: Tremendous help by Public
2 Works setting up and tearing down. A great group effort
3 to be able to provide something for the children and the
4 families. And I've got to say, that through the Special
5 Events, yourself and other members of the Special Events
6 Committee, both the Trunk or Treat for Halloween or this
7 event, you couldn't have told me you would be able to
8 pull this off. Bah, humbug. You shouldn't do any
9 events because of COVID and things like that. But you
10 have proved me wrong. Special Events staff and
11 yourself, that Trunk or Treat event was beautiful and
12 the Toy Drive was beautiful as well. And hopefully next
13 year we won't have to have so many restrictions. But if
14 we do, you know you can do it. You can do both
15 Halloween and Christmas in a safe, socially distanced
16 way, if we are still under the same predicament. Great
17 job by everybody.

18 MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: Again, like you
19 said, the fact that the school was being involved. We
20 have an MOU, Parks with the Schools. And my other hat
21 is to be representative of the schools. I am glad we
22 are finally able to work together to make sure we are
23 doing something for our community. And I continue to
24 just see the collaboration with both as we continue to
25 move forward.

CHIEF SERNA: Awesome. Thank you. I
also have the 2021 Board of Parks and Recreation meeting
schedule. Did we vote on this at the last meeting?

MS. ALLEN: No. This is just an FYI.

MRS. HERNANDEZ-ORANGE: I do have this
and we should approve the schedule.

CHIEF SERNA: So in your packet, Board
members, you should have the 2021 schedule of the Board
of Parks and Recreation meetings, every second and
fourth Tuesday, at 5:00 p.m., at the City Hall Council
Chambers. So, I'd like to entertain a motion to approve
the 2021 Board of Parks and Recreation meeting schedule.

MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

MS. LEWIS: Second.

CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by
saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

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Public Comments: None

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2021, here at the City Hall Council Chambers. Before we go, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everybody. Let's kick 2020 good-bye and let's hope for health and prosperity, and improved conditions.

MS. DAWKINS: Merry Christmas everyone. I came in late, but I'm glad I got the opportunity to at least give you my well wishes for the holidays.

CHIEF SERNA: Thank you very much, and the same to you.

I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. AUSTIN: Make a motion.

MS. LEWIS: Second.


CHIEF SERNA: All in favor signify by saying aye? (All signify aye.) Motion carries.

**** Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. ****

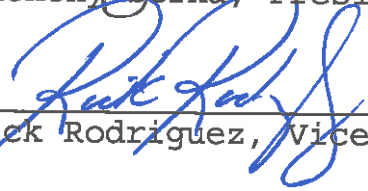
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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday
December 22, 2020

Approved and signed January 12, 2021




Anthony Serna, President



Rick Rodriguez, Vice-President

Valda Lewis, Secretary

Gilberto Cantu, Member



Eugene Austin, Member



Ateria Allen, Recording Secretary

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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 31st day of December, 2020.

Peggy S. LaLonde



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR