

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on February 3, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, City of Michigan City, on Hybrid/Zoom and streamed live on the "Access LaPorte County" Facebook page.

The meeting was called to order by President Skyler York.

On the call of roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent.

Noted present in person: Candice Antisdell, Peggy Moore, Tamiko Smith, Skyler York, Gene Simmons (5)

Absent: None (0)

Also noted in attendance:

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, Clerk of the Board of Works; Terry Greetham, Director of Special Events; Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch; Ryan Beal, Deputy City Attorney; Captain Gregory Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Brett Kelly, Director of Vector Control; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department; Mike Wolff, City Forester; Charlie Clancy, Assistant Director Vector Control; Shong Smith, Street Director; Shannon Eason, Parks Director; David Albers, Building Superintendent; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2025 meeting as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Proposals

Request for proposals for landscaping services at Franklin Square, South Franklin, Wabash, Westcott Park and the median of Michigan Blvd.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich and President York explained that the request for proposals allows the City to sit down with Contractors and negotiate before we enter into a contract and that we are combining who is mowing what land for efficiency; further explaining that we've been having weekly team meetings, and we are looking into possibly doing everything in-house in 2026.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the request for proposals, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Resolution

Resolution No. 2842 – Determining that funding for certain outstanding purchase orders from 2024 should be encumbered and authorizing the City Controller to encumber such funds.

Mrs. Smith explained the resolution, stating that some purchase orders from 2024 have not been complete and this resolution allows the Controller's office to encumber such funds and purchase orders from 2024 to finish paying off in 2025, and this does not affect the 2025 budget; further stating that the total amount is over \$5 million but \$4 million of the funds are ARPA funds.

Mrs. Moore asked if this is a yearly process, and Mrs. Smith stated yes.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Memorandums of Understanding & Purchase Agreement

The Michigan City Public Art Committee requested the following:

- Approval of MOUs between the City of Michigan City & Ray Katz to publicly display artworks "Sentinel" & "Galaxy".
- Approval of MOU between the City of Michigan City & Maureen Gray to publicly display artwork "Connected".
- Approval of Purchase Agreement between the City of Michigan City & Gary Kulak for artwork "Whoa".

Shannon Eason, Treasurer for Michigan City Public Art Committee, addressed the Board stating that the MOUs are renewals for a two-year lease of the artworks, each for \$2,000 per year, and the purchase order is an agreement for the City to obtain the artwork "Whoa" as part of our permanent collection for a total of \$4,000, but it was previously leased for the last six (6) years and the artist will be repainting it at no extra charge.

Mrs. Smith asked where the funding for the purchase agreement will come from, and Mrs. Eason stated that it will be coming out of the 2025 operating budget.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the MOUs and purchase agreement, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Agreement for professional services between the City of Michigan City & Duneland Consulting/David Albers to assist the Michigan City Planning & Inspection Department. (Subject to approval of transfer resolution pending before the Common Council for Planning Department).

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch addressed the Board explaining David Albers new position with the City, stating that this is a contract position and he will be managing the new software permitting system and the new building inspectors that we are working on getting hired, for short-term (3 months) until a new Building Superintendent is hired.

David Albers addressed the Board stating that he is no longer affiliated with Flaherty & Collins and explained his background.

Mayor Angie confirmed that the City does have the funds for his services.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that the total amount of compensation to Mr. Albers is \$21,125.00 and the approval of this contract would have to be subject to the transfer resolution in front of the Common Council.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the contract subject to approval of the transfer resolution by the Common Council, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

The Michigan City Special Events Department requested the approval of the following sponsorships for the 2025 event season:

- Sponsorship agreement with the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau for a Premier Sponsorship of \$20,000.00.
- Sponsorship agreement with the Michigan City Port Authority for a Silver Sponsorship of \$5,000.00.

Terry Greetham, Special Events Director, addressed the Board explaining the contracts, stating that they are returning sponsors.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve both sponsorship contracts, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Purchase

The Michigan City Fire Department requested the special purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe in the amount of \$52,860.00.

Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Board stating that they're looking to replace their shift commander vehicle due to age and mileage and with it being a frontline vehicle it can't have mechanical issues; further stating that the original price of the vehicle was \$58,887.00 but with the government discount it will be \$52,860 and it will be paid for with ARPA funds. He also stated that they were originally approved to spend \$59,000 and the extra approved monies will be used to outfit the vehicle.

Mrs. Smith stated that everything is in place for them to move forward with the purchase.

Mr. Simmons asked if this will be a trade in, and Chief Taylor said no.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the special purchase, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Change of Duty Shirts

The Michigan City Fire Department requested to change duty shirts from March 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025.

Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Board explaining that they're wanting to change their duty shirts during the month of March to St. Patrick's themed shirts and stated that the proceeds from the shirts will go towards a charity.

Chris Budis, Professional Firefighters Local 475 President, addressed the Board stating that these shirts can be bought online.

Mrs. Moore asked if the department will be purchasing the shirts or the workers themselves will purchase the shirts, and Mr. Budis said that the individual workers will purchase the shirts and the Department will not be paying for them.

Mrs. Antisdel asked if this is something that needs to come before the Board, and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated she will look into it but thinks it is in their contract to get approval from the Board.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the change of duty shirts, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage

Frank Anderson, 408 Martin Luther King Drive, requested signage to implement laws for cyclists to abide by traffic laws.

Nobody was present to address the request.

President York and Captain Greg Jesse discussed where Frank Anderson is wanting the signs possibly.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request until the next meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Updates – Flaherty & Collins

President York stated that they have a new project manager and he will be meeting with them this week to let them know that they will need to come before the Board once a month for updates.

Updates – Special Events

Eric Williams, Assistant Director Special Events, addressed the Board stating that they've released their full 2025 schedule and they are now also partnering with Harbor Country Adventures to host the Michigan City Food Truck and Music Festival on Memorial Day weekend in Washington Park; further stating that the 2025 season will be formally kicked off on March 15th with the St. Patrick's Day parade. Mr. Williams stated that the Food Truck and Music Festival will have a battle of the bands on that Saturday featuring bands that are 21 and younger to get the youth involved.

Updates – Parks Department

Nobody was present to give an update.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to amend the BOW Resolution for the Parks Department and the Special Events Department to give quarterly updates instead of monthly updates, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

January 24, 2025	City Payroll	\$712,364.55
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Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket as presented, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

February 5, 2024

Municipal	\$1,731,770.09
CDBG	\$13,417.85
Health & Life	\$178,475.76
Special Events	\$0.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$8,625.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$45,243.45
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$1,977,532.15

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the claims docket as presented, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Personnel – Unfinished Business

The Human Resources Department requested the approval of job description for the Intern-Arborist Apprentice in the Forestry Department. This was tabled from January 6, 2025.

Ta-Tanesha George, HR Director, addressed the Board explaining that she has updated the job description for the position to reflect that it is paid through the Federal Tree Grant that our Forestry Department has been rewarded.

Michael Wolff, City Forester, addressed the Board explaining what the intern-arborist will be doing during her apprenticeship, stating that she will help with speaking with residents on tree information throughout the City.

Mr. Wolff confirmed that all the paperwork has been submitted to amend the grant and the funding that he has isolated for the intern.

President York made a motion to approve the job description contingent upon approval of the Common Council, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage – Unfinished Business

Walter Johns, 102 Garrettson Ave, requested to place “No Littering” signs down Franklin St. from HWY 20 down to the Michigan City Public Library on both North and South sides of the street. This was tabled from January 21, 2025.

Walter Johns, 102 Garrettson Ave, addressed the Board explaining his neighborhood has been experiencing people throwing trash out their windows and it has been getting worse especially with the type of trash; further explaining that the signage should have a warning for fines for littering.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that our police force does have the authority to write citations for littering, and Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, confirmed that it is a \$171.00 state fine.

Mrs. Moore asked if there’s a certain time of day that the activity goes on, and Mr. Walters stated it could be at night but there are no cameras.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Smith asked if there are “No Littering” signs within the City, and Shong Smith, Street Director, confirmed there are none.

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to deny the request for signage, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was denied with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Road Repair – Unfinished Business

Councilman Don Przybylinski requested to have the dip in the road at 124 Willshire Ave repaired. This was tabled from January 21, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that the Sanitary Department and Water Department reported that there are no issues with the sewers or water lines in that area and that he will work with the Street Department to have the dip repaired once the asphalt plants open back up in the Spring.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request until the May 19, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Road Repair – Unfinished Business

Councilman Don Przybylinski requested to have the Board contact CSX for the following:

- To have the railroad crossing at Buffalo St. repaired due to them not completing the initial repairs and not putting in the rubber crossing pads.
- Request to have railroad ties cleaned up at Hoyt St. and Aurthur St. and have railroad ballast cleaned up on Greenwood Ave.

This was tabled from January 21, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he has contacted CSX and recommends tabling the request until the second meeting in May to wait for the asphalt plants to open back up.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to table the request until the May 19, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Special Event & Road Closure – Unfinished Business

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association requested the following:

- To host Shelf Ice Brew Fest on Saturday, February 22, 2025.
- To close 5th St. to E Michigan Blvd., Spring St. from 5th St. to 6th St. and Cedar St. from 5th St. to 6th St. beginning Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 8 a.m. to Monday, February 24, 2025 at 12 p.m.

This was tabled from January 21, 2025.

Justin Post, Michigan City Mainstreet Association, addressed the Board stating that he had submitted the Emergency Management Plan and the final layout to the Clerk.

Mr. Simmons asked if Reverend Isabelle at the Church near there had been contacted, and President York stated that he is working on getting in contact with him.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis confirmed that she has received all the paperwork.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Mrs. Antisdel asked how many attendees they bring in every year, and Mr. Post stated that it is about 2,300 people, including volunteers and vendors.

President York asked if they still keep track of their analytics with ticket sales, and Mr. Post stated that about 60% of attendees are from LaPorte County and 40% are from outside of LaPorte County.

Mrs. Smith asked how much revenue they make from the event annually, and Mr. Post stated that it's about \$10,000 after costs for the event.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the special event and road closures, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment regarding the new offices for Franciscan Hospital.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place made a comment stating that the sidewalks are blocked to get on the platform for the Southshore Line, so it's causing people to walk on the tracks.

Mr. Meland also stated that there is a broken utility pole on W Earl Rd.; further stating that it does have orange cones around it but it does not seem to be a NIPSCO pole and we should address it.

Board Comment

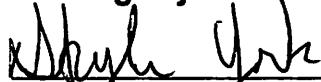
There were no Board comments.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.



BOW President Skyler York

BOW Clerk, Isabelle Galvin Ellis

