

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on March 17, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 4:00 p.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; Eric Williams, Assistant Director Special Events; Brett Kelley, Director of Vector Control; Chris Yagelski, General Manager of Sanitary District; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Chris Johnson, Superintendent of Water Works; Darrell Garbacik, Superintendent of Central Services; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of Mr. Sommons to Simmons on page one, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Awarding of Proposal

Awarding of proposal for Landscaping Services.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that Chris Yagelski, Business Manager of the Sanitary District, Darrell Garbacik, Superintendent of Central Services, and Brett Kelley, Director of Vector Control, have carefully reviewed the three (3) proposals that were submitted and have recommended that Lakeshore Landscaping LLC be utilized for the City's 2025 landscaping needs; further explaining that we had five (5) different areas of the City quoted and all five (5) areas came in within budget for the total contract amount to be \$230,452.00.

Chris Yagelski, Business Manager of Sanitary District, addressed the Board stating that they had sent out the Request for Proposals to numerous agencies and only received three (3) proposals back, and found that Lakeshore Landscaping was the most

responsive proposal; further explaining that he had met with the Vice President of the company to go over each location in the City and then we were able to provide maps of exactly what needs done at each location.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to approve the awarding of the proposal to Lakeshore Landscaping LLC, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Mr. Yagelski explained the mulch proposal with Lakeshore Landscaping, stating that it is separate because it was not included in the original proposal, but Lakeshore Landscaping is able to purchase and store the mulch for us and then apply it as needed in the designated locations throughout the City; further stating that this proposal addendum is in the amount of \$23,400.00 and the total price of the contract with addendum is in the amount of \$253,852.00.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the mulch addendum, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Michigan City and the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission for Landscaping Services to be rendered by the Vector Control Department.

President York explained the MOU, stating that Vector Control will be providing a service to take care of the Redevelopment Commission's controlled lots.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the Redevelopment Commission will be paying \$95,000.00 this year for mowing, with \$80,000.00 of it going towards salaries and wages and \$15,000.00 will be allocated for supplies and equipment.

Mrs. Antisdel confirmed that it is 20 total properties.

Mrs. Smith asked if this MOU confirms that all mowing and landscaping is done by our Vector Control throughout the City, and President York stated no because the Park Department and Sanitary District handle their own properties.

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

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that cosmetics go a long way and that this is money well spent.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Agreement between the City of Michigan City and Bakertilly for Budget Advisory Services and should not exceed the amount of \$20,000.00.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that she had reviewed the contract and recommended approval; further stating that Bakertilly has provided assistance to the Controller's Office for advisory services in the past and they were very helpful.

Mrs. Smith stated that they want to continue their relationship with Bakertilly as they go into making changes for the 2026 budget.

Mr. Simmons and President York commented on the great relationship we've had with Bakertilly, stating that they are involved with what's happening on the State level to help us prepare for our budget.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Agreement between the City of Michigan City and Development Economic Finance Consulting LLC for general consulting and statutory reporting requirements related to the Annual Financial Report ending December 31, 2024 for the designated municipal economic revitalization areas in the City.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that she had reviewed the contract and recommended approval; further stating that the contract is not to exceed \$1,225.00.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Sponsorship Contracts

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

- Silver Sponsorship (\$5,000) from Bay Logistics
- Silver Sponsorship (\$5,000) from Iron Workers Local 395
- Silver Sponsorship (\$5,000) from General Insurance Services

Eric Williams, Assistant Director of Special Events, addressed the Board stating that the sponsorships from Bay Logistics and Iron Workers 395 are new sponsors this year, and General Insurance Services is a returning sponsor; further explaining that they have surpassed the total amount of sponsorships from the previous year and are getting closer to their \$100,000 goal.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich asked how far they are from their \$100,000 goal, and Mr. Williams stated that they are currently just over \$20,000 away from hitting their goal.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Purchase

Michigan City Central Maintenance requested to purchase a 2025 Ford F-550 Crew Cab from Jordan Automotive in the amount of \$70,829.75 for the Vector Control Department with ARPA Funds.

Darrell Garbacik, Superintendent of Central Maintenance, addressed the Board stating that they have gotten multiple quotes from different companies and explained the use of the vehicle, explaining that dual cab is necessary to haul extra loads and our staff safely; further stating that if approved, they would receive it 12 to 20 weeks from now.

President York asked if the vehicle plows, and Mr. Garbacik stated that it comes with the plow allowing it to serve many purposes.

Mrs. Smith asked if they are trading in a vehicle, and Mr. Garbacik stated no.

Mr. Simmons and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that this is being paid for with ARPA money and we are getting a Government discount of \$5,300.

Mrs. Smith 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

Road Closure for Construction

The Michigan City Water Works Department requested to close Franklin St. from the intersection of 10th St. to the South Shore tracks for a water main replacement in support of the new residential tower from April 7, 2025 to May 16, 2025.

Chris Johnson, Superintendent of Water Works, addressed the Board stating that the new residential building on Franklin St. requires a larger, new water main and explained the closure with the alternate routes.

Mrs. Moore asked why the water main was not replaced during the same time the streets were being repaved, and Mr. Johnson stated that they will not be tearing up the new alignment of Franklin St., but the re-paving was done before it was determined where the service for the new residential tower would be.

Mr. Johnson also stated that the closure will depend on the asphalt plants being open and they will provide the detour and closure signage.

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

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the construction road closure, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Construction

Ziolkowski Construction requested to close Ann St. from Washington St. to Franklin St. and close off street parking on Washington St. in front of church, from April 7th through 11th, 2025 and April 14th through 18th, 2025 during the hours of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., to restore the Bell Tower at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.

Cory King, Ziolkowski Construction, addressed the Board explaining the closure and the need to repair the bell tower at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis stated that she had spoken with the City Engineer, Tim Werner, and he did approve of the closure.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the construction road closure, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Walk

Queen of All Saints Parish requested one-lane road closures from 410 W 10th St, to Wabash St down to Barker Ave, to Franklin St. down to Greenwood Ave, and then Pearl St. ending at Queen of All Saints Church on Sunday, June 22, 2025, starting at 3 p.m. for their Eucharistic Procession.

Lucia Bim-Merle, Queen of All Saints Parish, addressed the Board explaining the event, stating that this would be the second time they have hosted this procession, the first time being two (2) years ago, and the route would be from St. Mary's Church to Queen of All Saints Church.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the insurance policy expires on April 1, 2025, so we would need the renewed COI.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that this would be a moving closure, so the entire route will not be closed during the entire procession.

Mrs. Moore asked how many people they are expecting, and Mrs. Bim-Merle stated that last time they had 400 people and are expecting about the same amount.

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

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract Negotiation

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 517 requested to start negotiations for contract agreement and wage increase for 2026.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that this is an FYI, explaining that under the terms of the contract, parties need to exchange their proposals by April 1st, which Robin Tillman, Transit Director, is working on.

Payroll Claims Docket

March 7, 2025	City Payroll	\$839,723.32
February 28, 2025	Pension Payroll	\$201,789.73

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve both payroll claims dockets as presented, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

CLAIMS DOCKET

March 17, 2024

Municipal	\$1,841,145.53
CDBG	\$486.75
Health & Life	\$4,289.56
Special Events	\$2,520.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$943.38
Workers Comp	\$85,012.89
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$70,384.30
MC TIF 24 CONSTR RIF	\$115,085.00
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$2,119,867.41

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Earnie Hollyhan, 302 Gladys St., made a comment stating that the entrance of Walmart by Denny's Diner needs to be cleaned up from trash and mowed.

Mr. Hollyhan also made a comment asking who would be responsible for taking care of empty lots after homes are torn down.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment agreeing with Mr. Hollyhan that the entrance of Walmart needs to be cleaned up, and stating that the property owners are still responsible for keeping the property cleaned up.

Mr. Kulavik also made a public statement that the Michigan City Fire Department is hiring lifeguards for the 2025 season.

Dennis Hunter, with Envision You, made a comment introducing the company he works for and their products.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment about the striping on the streets and how it needs to be redone.

Mr. Meland also made a comment about the dirt at Michigan St. and 11th St.

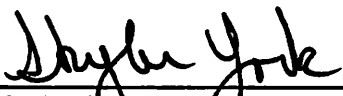
Board Comment

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



Skyler York, BOW President



Isabelle Galvin Ellis, Clerk of BOW