

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on January 21, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Tuesday, January 21, 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; Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch; Attorney Ryan Beal, Assistant City Attorney; Captain Gregory Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Councilman Don Przybylinski; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Second Amendment to 2024-2025 Contract between the City of Michigan City and Local 228/Council 962 American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich explained the contract and the language that was changed, stating that the employees subject to this union contract would be eligible to the mid-year bonus up to \$1,200; further stating that the contract was previously approved by the union.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Insurance Renewal

General Insurance Services requested the approval of 2025-2026 Self-Fund Worker's Compensation Program: Buffer Layer & Excess Layer Renewal.

Matt Weber, General Insurance Services, addressed the Board explaining the renewal, stating that the buffer layer renewed flat and the excess was able to offer another two-year renewal with a 2% increase.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the Controllers Office and herself are in support of the renewal.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Road Repair

Councilman Don Przybylinski requested to have the dip in the road at 124 Willshire Ave. repaired.

Councilman Don Przybylinski addressed the Board explaining that the dip in the road has been there for some time but has recently gotten worse and needs to be repaired.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that John Gorczyca, Sanitary District, is investigating the issue and checking for any failed laterals in that area, and should have an update by the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to table the request until the February 3, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Repair CSX

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. & Arthur St. and have railroad ballast cleaned up on Greenwood Ave.

Councilman Don Przybylinski addressed the Board explaining the rubber tracks on the railroad crossing, stating that when they repaired the crossing they did not put the rubber tracks back and there are five (5) foot gaps between the tracks causing a safety issue for residents who cross on foot or bike; also stating that the railroad ties need to be cleaned up along Arthur St. right before the Buffalo St. crossing and near the Greenwood Ave crossing.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that he has spoken to the Roadmaster for CSX and they are planning to have the crossing repaired at the same time as the Woodland Ave. railroad crossing.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

Mr. Simmons made a comment.

Mrs. Moore asked if we can contact the Senator's Office.

Mr. Werner and Mayor Angie stated that they will be reaching out to the new Senator's Office.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request until the February 3, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage

Walter Johns, 102 Garretson Ave., requested to place "No Littering" signs down Franklin St. from HWY 20 down to the Michigan City Library on both North & South sides of the street.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis stated that Walter Johns was not able to attend the meeting and asked that his request be tabled until the next meeting.

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to table the request until the February 3, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Event

Alisha Brown, Race the Region/ Extra Mile Fitness, requested to close 10th St. between Wabash Ave. & Manhattan directly in front of the school to start and finish their 5K run/walk on March 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Todd Henderlong, Race the Region, addressed the Board explaining the event, stating that they will only be closing the small portion of the road by the Highschool and volunteers and police will be helping guide runners along the route that has been done with the police.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board explaining the route and approves of the event.

Mrs. Moore asked how they navigate the crossroads and traffic.

Mr. Henderlong stated that they are working with the Police Department to help with crossroads and stop lights and will have volunteers as well.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Special Event & Road Closure Request

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association requested the following:

- To host Shelf Ice Brew Fest on Saturday, February 22, 2025.
- To close 5th St. from Pine St. to E. Michigan Blvd., Spring St. to 5th St. to 6th St., and Cedar St. from 5th St. to 6th St. beginning on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 8 a.m. to Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 12 p.m.

Justin Post, President of Mainstreet Association, addressed the Board and read aloud a letter from the Board, asking the Board for their approval of the festival and road closures.

President York asked why they are requesting to close the road for a week when the event is one (1) day.

Mr. Post stated that they wanted to make sure they have ample amount of time for setting up the tents and tear down and clean up; further stating he could amend the dates of the request to Wednesday, February 19th to Sunday, February 23rd, for them to set up two (2) tents per day from Wednesday to Friday and then explained that tear down is much easier.

Mrs. Antisdel asked if they have a site plan.

Mr. Post stated that they currently have a preliminary site plan that was given to the Board members, and they are working on a final plan that he can send on Friday after their Board meeting on Thursday; further stating that they will have enough space for emergency personnel to get all the way through on 5th St.

Mrs. Antisdel asked why they waited until the last minute to submit their request.

Mr. Post stated it was because they were told they could not have it on Franklin St. and they had to reassess and replan, and then they could not get their COI in time before the Holidays; further stating that the other planning has started.

Mrs. Smith asked if there is an Emergency Management Plan and if they have spoken to the Fire Marshall.

Mr. Post stated that he has messaged the Fire Marshall and for their emergency plan they have always had three (3) police officers and EMA volunteers, but have never had to have submit a full plan as long as an emergency vehicle can get through.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, stated that he isn't sure how the road closures would affect plowing if needed and is concerned with the weeklong request being too long.

Mrs. Smith asked how long the set up and take down would take previously, and what their plan is for trash.

Mr. Post stated that it's different every year because they are always adding new things for set up, and this year for trash and clean up they will have a roll off dumpster that they are renting for all the trash to go into.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich asked what would happen if there's a huge snow event.

Mr. Post stated that they would be the ones to shovel, snow blow and remove the snow themselves, and the tents are rated for high winds and snow.

Mrs. Moore made a comment stating that Shelf Ice is really an amazing event and is happy that we are getting everything sorted out to host the event.

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

Mayor Angie made a comment, stating that she had never met with business owners in a meeting, had an issue with the trash being left on the streets last year and the streets were still closed through Monday. Mayor Angie further stated that with the new two-way street conversion it's a safety hazard for it to be closed with tents and agrees with the new location.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Councilman Don Przybylinski made a comment.

President York and Mayor Angie asked where the money is going that they make from the event.

Mr. Post stated that they help with local businesses by providing flowers for their store fronts and they have grants for local businesses.

Mrs. Smith asked if the Board can get a final site plan and if the alcohol tents can be on the opposite side of the street from the church when they do the final design plan.

Mr. Post said yes, they can put the alcohol on the other side of the street and he will work with Terry Greetham, Special Events Coordinator, on the Emergency Management Plan.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis will disseminate the paperwork and information to the appropriate departments.

President York made a motion to approve the road closure for Thursday, February 20th at 8 a.m. to Monday, February 24th at 12 p.m. and approval for the special event pending final approval at the next meeting for the submission of the final site plan and emergency plan, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Temporary Construction Easement

Approval of Amended Temporary Construction Easement between the City of Michigan City and the County of LaPorte, Indiana for a project to reconstruct and replace Bridge 512 along Michigan Blvd. (Parcel 460134231002000022).

President York stated that this was approved at a previous meeting, but the dates needed to be amended.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the County originally needed approximately April 1, 2025 through 2026 but their letting time has changed and they now need the dates of September 1, 2027 through December 1, 2028, asking the Board to approve the amended version with the new dates.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that the County Bridge 212 is the Michigan Blvd Bridge over Trail Creek, just east of Johnson Rd.

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

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

PAYROLL CLAIMS DOCKET

January 10, 2025	City Payroll	\$692,819.33
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Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

CLAIMS DOCKET

January 21, 2024

Municipal	\$2,317,119.15
CDBG	\$130,636.07
Health & Life	\$776,982.92
Special Events	\$0.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$284,731.36
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$3,509,469.50

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

AYES: (5) Antisdell, 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.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that Personnel does not have the final version ready to be approved and asked for the Board to table the request until the next meeting.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to table the request until the February 3, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment stating that the Board should deny the request for no littering signage.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment seconding Mr. Kulavik's comment about the signage; also stating that the snowplows have scraped up the center lines on Tilden Ave. causing yellow paint to flake off and spread onto the street and sidewalks.

Earnie Hollyhand, 302 Gladys St., made a comment stating that something should be done about the littering in the City.

Councilman Don Przybylinski made a comment seconding Mr. Meland's comment about the yellow paint being scraped up from the snowplows.

Board Comment

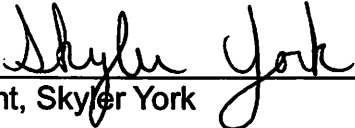
There was no Board Comment.

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

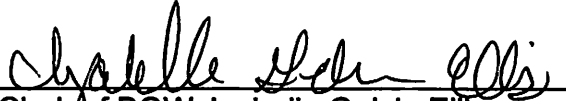
AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Smith, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.



President, Skyler York



Clerk of BOW, Isabelle Galvin Ellis