

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on May 19, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, May 19, 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, Tamiko Smith, Skyler York, Gene Simmons, Peggy Moore (5)

Absent: None

Also noted in attendance:

Deputy Attorney Ryan Beall; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, Clerk of the Board of Works; Eric Williams, Assistant Director Special Events; Christine Vanderborg; Code Enforcement Manager; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Shong Smith, Street Director; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the May 5, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the May 12, 2025 Executive Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Agreement

Agreement for Cross Access Easement between the City of Michigan City and Bomor, LLC for Cross Easement Access at 3985 N 950 W and W. 400 North.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that this parcel is a County parcel located at the Southeast corner of Cleveland Ave and Kiefer Rd. and the property owner is looking to gain access to his property on Kiefer Rd., which is owned by the City; further explaining that this Cross Easement Access allows the owner of the property to create a driveway over the easement to go onto the property and confirmed that we are not giving up the easement.

Mr. Simmons asked what is being built on the property, and Mr. Werner stated he isn't exactly sure but heard talks of it being medical related.

Mrs. Smith asked Mr. Werner what his recommendation was, and Mr. Werner recommended that the Board approve the agreement.

Michael O'Connor, Holiday Properties, addressed the Board making a comment, stating that Bomor, LLC owns Holiday Properties and they're selling it to another investor that plans to build medical offices.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Agreement

Agreement for professional services with Great Lakes Urban Forestry and the City of Michigan City for tree services in the amount not to exceed \$40,000.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that this is a six (6) month contract and this is the same company that did our Tree Inventory for the City, so they are aware of our City's forestry needs.

Mr. Simmons asked what line item is paying for this contract, and Mrs. Smith stated that this is being paid for out of the Forester's budget.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Closure for Construction

Gluth Brother Roofing Company requested to close street parking on the South side 532 Franklin St. and the sidewalk.

Joy Graves, Gluth Brother Roofing Company, addressed the Board stating that they are doing a roof replacement project at 532 Franklin St. and they are needing to close parking spaces and block the sidewalk for placement of the crane and dumpster; further stating that their anticipated start date for construction is Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, asked if they had submitted the Pedestrian Maintenance of Traffic for the closure; which Mrs. Graves and Mr. Werner discussed turning the requested item in.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Mobile Food Vendor Location Change

Moe's Fresh Mediterranean Mobile Food Truck requested to change location of his mobile food truck to the corner of Franklin and Water St.

Irene Burnett, owner of Lifestyle Properties, addressed the Board stating that she is allowing Moe's Fresh Mediterranean to conduct business both at her properties on Franklin and Water St. and at 703 E Michigan Blvd.

Moe Mroueh, Moe's Mediterranean Food Truck, addressed the Board stating that he used to be conducting business at Brix Wine Bar, and is now requesting to move to this new location at Franklin and Water St. due to Brix closing, and he would be there from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Friday through Sunday and some Mondays.

Christine Vanderburg, Code Enforcement Manager, addressed the Board stating that at this location, Moe's Mediterranean Mobile Food Truck would not be within the 300 Feet rule of a Brick and Mortar, even at the Northwest corner of the parcel it would technically be 290 feet.

Mrs. Burnett asked if the location at 307 E Michigan Blvd. is a good alternate location for Mr. Mroueh to conduct business, and Mrs. Vanderburg stated that he would need approval from other Boards due to it being in the Elston Grove Historical District.

Discussion ensued between Mrs. Vanderberg, Mr. Mroueh, Mrs. Burnett and President York on the location at Franklin and Water St.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

Mrs. Smith made a comment stating that there are ordinances in place and we should follow them, but we should follow up and see if there is a way to accommodate him while still being in compliance of the ordinance.

President York recommended referring this requesting to the Planning Department for further review and they can make a recommendation at the next Board of Works meeting.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Mroueh, President York and Mrs. Antisdel about the location at Franklin and Water St. and ordinance variances.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to refer the request to the Planning Department and table the request until the June 2, 2025 Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage

Fringe & Ink requested to put up No Parking Signs and pavement striping on the South side of Harrison St.

Lauren Peters, owner of Fringe and Ink, addressed the Board explaining her request and the issue with parking and her trash next to her building on the Southside of Harrison St.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that Shong Smith, Street Director and himself can look at putting angled parking along Harrison St. to keep it organized and leaving a space for the garbage toters to be placed so it's not blocking the ADA ramp.

President York clarified that Ms. Peter's trash pick-up is on the street and not the alleyway, and Ms. Peter's stated yes, they had changed the rules to have the pick-up be in the street because the trucks won't go down the alleyway.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

Earnie Hollyhan, 302 Gladys St., made a comment.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to table this request until the June 2, 2025 Board meeting for further review from the Engineer and Street Department, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for signage

The Michigan City Street Department requested crosswalk signs to be placed Northbound and Southbound on Oak St. and Belden St. and Westbound on Barker Ave. at Queen of All Saints.

Shong Smith, Street Director, addressed the Board explaining his request for three (3) crosswalk signs, stating that they are not typical crosswalk signs and are only utilized when school is in session.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board recommending the approval of the signage.

Mrs. Smith asked if the other schools need crosswalks, and Mr. Werner stated that they can look at the other schools.

President York asked how long it would take to have the signs installed after approved, and Mr. Werner stated three (3) days.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request to Use City Easement

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington St., requested to plant plants on the Northeast corner of Washington St. and Charles St.

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington St., addressed the Board explaining his request, stating that he currently has plants on that corner, but plans to plant indigenous plants that will not grow taller than 36 inches, per the City's code.

Mrs. Smith asked what would happen with the plants that are currently on the corner, and Mr. Przybylinski stated that he would be removing them and replanting them in his personal garden.

Mrs. Moore asked if we need approval from Vector Control, and Mr. Przybylinski stated that they do not need approve, it just needs to be approved by the Board and be at the height requirement of 36 inches.

Attorney Ryan Beall stated that this is a more line-of-sight and height issue that we need to worry about; and Tim Werner, the City Engineer, concurred and explained more in detail the requirements of height.

Mr. Przybylinski explained that trees are not to be planted on the corners, and that he is not planting trees, just small indigenous plants that won't be taller than 36 inches and won't be a line-of-sight issue.

President York stated that if the corner were to get out of control, then Vector Control would deal with the situation with Mr. Przybylinski.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Correspondence

The Michigan City Police Department and the Board recognized and congratulated Sergeant Michelle Widelski on her retirement after 26 years of service.

Mr. Simmons congratulated Sergeant Widelski on her retirement and stated that she was hired onto the force when he was Police Chief.

Disposition of Grievances

Disposition of grievances filed by AFSME Union on behalf of two (2) employees. (Note: Executive Session held on May 12, 2025)

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to reverse the decision of the Street Department for Employee 1, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith

NAYS: (0) None

President York abstained from voting due to not being present at the Executive Session held on May 12, 2025.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to reverse the decision of the Street Department for Employee 2, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith

NAYS: (0) None

President York abstained from voting due to not being present at the Executive Session held on May 12, 2025.

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Docket	May 16, 2025	\$765,147.40
-----------------------	---------------------	---------------------

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, Smith, Simmons, York, Moore

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

May 19, 2025

Municipal	\$962,961.22
CDBG	\$245,697.35
Health & Life	\$369,035.58
Special Events	\$9,432.17
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$3,983.00
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$1,590,839.32

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, Smith, Simmons, York, Moore

NAYS: (0) None

CSX Repairs Updates – Unfinished Business

Updates on repairs of CSX Woodland Ave. and Buffalo St. crossings.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he has been in contact with Jeffery Reeder, the Safety Superintendent with the CSX crews who came through our area, and stated that they will be fixing both tracks in the next two (2) weeks or so.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to table the request until the June 2, 2025 meeting for another update, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Earnie Hollyhan, 302 Gladys St., made a comment stating that he has had compost in front of his home for over a month now even after calling both the Street and Refuse Departments, stating that they will not take the items in the toter but took the compost off the ground.

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington St., made a comment agreeing with Mr. Hollyhan on services with compost and recycling, asking why residents are no longer able to dump their compost at Hitchcock st.

Mr. Przybylinski also stated that he is concerned about trees and the safety of residents in the Second Ward, stating that the Forester did not cite people for having unsafe trees; listing off trees and bushes that need to be cut down per ordinance.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment stating that the City is over regulated.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made comments stating that the City's services have gotten worse and about trees in alley ways and near fire hydrants.

Mr. Przbylinski made a comment concurring with Mr. Meland.

Board Comment


Mrs. Moore asked when the construction project at 10th St. and Franklin St. will be completed, and Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that it should be completed by the end of the week.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.



BOW President, Skyler York



BOW Clerk, Isabelle Galvin Ellis