

## Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on June 2, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, June 2, 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:** Tamiko Smith, Skyler York, Gene Simmons, Peggy Moore (4)

**Absent:** Candice Antisdell (1)

### **Also noted in attendance:**

Deputy Attorney Ryan Beall; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, Clerk of the Board of Works; Eric Williams, Assistant Director Special Events; Terry Greetham, Director of Special Events; Christine Vanderborg; Code Enforcement Manager; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Chief; Dominique Edwards, Planning Director; Chris Johnson, Water Works Director; Shannon Eason, Parks Department Director; Pat Voltz, Maintenance Manager of Parks Department; David Albers, Building Superintendent; Chris Carter, Director of Refuse; Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch; Kila Ward, Promise Scholarship and Workforce Development Director; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Drew White, ALCO.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the May 19, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the March 31, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Personnel**

Amendment to the Managed Transplant Program Policy. Change of date from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 to January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025.

Eric Gibson, General Insurance Services, addressed the Board stating that the City already has this policy in place and that there are no changes to the actual policy, just to the date because then it will be synced with the rest of the benefits policies.

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Michigan City and the Indiana Plan for Equal Employment through August 31, 2025, and should not exceed the amount of \$7,975.00.

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch addressed the Board asking to remove the request from the agenda because they plan to push the date back to October; further explaining that Indiana Plan is a gateway into the apprenticeship programs which is a two (2) week in-person training and then one (1) week online.

Mrs. Smith stated that there are funds available for this program out of the Workers Training Fund, and Mayor Angie explained further.

### **Request to move City Owned Sculptures**

The Michigan City Public Art Committee requested to move City owned sculpture "Owl and Pussycat" from Westcott Park to the Northwest Corner of Franklin St. and 8<sup>th</sup> St. for higher visibility.

Shannon Eason, Treasurer of MCPAC, addressed the Board explaining the sculpture, stating they purchased the sculpture back in 2017 and it's been at Westcott Park since but they're wanting to move it to enhance our uptown Art's District; further stating that the artist currently has it to re-paint and he will be installing the sculpture for the City.

Mrs. Smith asked if there will be a sculpture replacing "Owl and Pussycat" at Westcott Park, and Mrs. Eason stated not currently but possibly in 2026.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve moving the City owned sculpture "Owl and Pussycat", seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Change of Duty Shirts**

The Michigan City Fire Department requested the approval of two (2) change of duty shirts:

- 2025 Patriotic/Parade shirts to be worn from July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025.
- Shirts for the Dive Team to be worn as their duty shirts from April 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025.

Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that the Patriotic shirts will be worn during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and during the month of July.

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

Chief Taylor explained the Dive Team shirts, stating that these shirts will help them stand out during short-sleeve season since they do not have official shirts for it.

Mrs. Moore asked how many individuals are on the dive team, and Chief Taylor stated that there are about 17 fully certified divers.

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Request for Trade-In**

The Michigan City Police Department requested to trade-in six (6) bicycles to Bike Stop Cycling for a total amount of \$600, \$100 per bike, to obtain in-store credit to be used for the upkeep and outfitting of the Michigan City Bicycle Patrol Program.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board explaining the Michigan City Bicycle Patrol Program, stating that they use the bikes to patrol for events, neighborhoods during summer and during the Bike the City events; further explaining that Bike Stop Cycling is willing to help with the trade-in of the bikes to get a credit to purchase new items for the Bicycle Patrol program.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Bike Program is a great program for our officers.

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Transfer of Equipment**

The Michigan City Police Department requested to transfer ownership of a retrofitted trailer that can no longer function for services of MCPD to the Michigan City Parks Department for their repair and use for summer duties.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board explaining the transfer of equipment to the Parks Department, stating that it used to be used as a radar trailer but can't be fixed and used as that anymore; further explaining that the Parks Department can fix it and use it as needed.

President York made a motion to approve the transfer of equipment, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Mobile Food Vendor License Request**

BreAjah Walker, Fire Truck No. 5., requested the approval of a mobile food vendor license for one (1) year. Her truck will be conducting business at 1801 Franklin St.

Dr. Dominique Edwards, Planning Director, addressed the Board stating that the Planning staff determined that 1801 Franklin St. is not a feasible location for Fire Truck No. 5 to operate because it goes against code 26-30 Sec. B; further explaining that they've spoken with Mr. Walker, BreAjah Walker's Dad, and Ms. Walker and are working with them on a new location, asking the Board to continue the request.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that they need to have their certificate of insurance updated.

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

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request for mobile food vendor license pending a corrected COI and updated location until the June 16, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Request for Parking Space**

Dennis and Jean Guzman, 1101 Pine St., requested one (1) parking space at 1101 Pine St. for them to park on the street.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board explaining the current situation at that location and stated that he will discuss with the property owners the options they have for parking.

Dennis Guzman, 1101 Pine St., addressed the Board explaining the issues they are having with parking at the location, stating that the business next to them takes all the parking, and provided evidence.

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

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that the street parking shouldn't be private parking but should be first come first serve and agrees that there should be spots.

Mr. Werner stated that there is a curb area in front of their home that can be taken away, pulled back and leveled into a parking space; further stating that this would be the only area that somebody could park close by for the home and the business next to them has an issue with parking their vehicles incorrectly.

Jean Guzman, 1101 Pine St., addressed the Board explaining the issues they're having with the business next door to them regarding parking, stating that the business has a car parked there 24/7, not allowing them to park anywhere.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request until the June 16, 2025 meeting for further evaluation of options for parking, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

#### **Request for Traffic Signage**

Chad Norman, 2208 Normandy Drive, requested either a stop sign, yield sign or don't block business sign at the entrance of the gas station on Cleveland Ave., just North of Pahs Rd. due to cars backing up on both Cleveland Ave. and Pahs. Rd.

Chad Norman, 2208 Normandy Drive, addressed the Board explaining the issues at the intersection, suggesting the signage that is there now is too high.

Mrs. Moore asked if there is a code to not block driveways, and Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, said you can't park in front of a driveway.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request until the June 16, 2025 meeting and refer the request to the City Engineer, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

#### **Updated Job Description**

The Human Resources Department requested the approval of the updated job description for the Associate Planner.

Melisha Henderson, HR Director, addressed the Board explaining the updated job description, stating that the incumbent serves as associate planner for Planning and Inspection and is responsible for assisting the Planning Director and Building Superintendent, and the position now requires a Baccalaureate or Master's degree in either Urban Planning, Environmental Science, Community Development, Sustainable Development, Historic Preservation, Social Work or related fields with one (1) to three (3) years of experience and reports to the Planning Director.

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Request for Road Closure for Special Event**

The Michigan City LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau (LCCVB) requested the following road closures for the Great Lakes Grand Prix Boat Races:

- Road Closure on 5<sup>th</sup> St. from Spring St. to Pine St. for Emergency Vehicle Staging from August 2, 2025 at 5 a.m. to August 3, 2025 at 8 p.m.
- Road closures on Franklin St. from 4<sup>th</sup> St. to 9<sup>th</sup> St., and closures on 4<sup>th</sup> St., 6<sup>th</sup> St., 7<sup>th</sup> St. and 9<sup>th</sup> St. from Washington St. to Pine St. for the Great Lakes Grand Prix Parade and Block Party from August 2, 2025 at 6 a.m. to August 3, 2025 at 6 a.m.

Scott Miller, LCCVB, addressed the Board explaining both sets of road closures, stating that the road closure for the Emergency Vehicle Staging is the same as last year, but the road closure for the parade would be additional side roads due to more boats coming for the race, and this would allow the boats to park and people to walk around and see them after the parade.

Terry Greetham, Special Events Director, addressed the Board asking to adjust the time of the request for road closure for the parade to 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on August 2<sup>nd</sup> due to the time frame of 6 a.m. on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6 a.m. on August 3<sup>rd</sup> being too long.

Mrs. Moore asked Mr. Miller if he was okay with the changes, and Mr. Miller stated yes.

President York made a motion to approve both road closures request with the updated times and dates of the road closure for the parade stated by Mr. Greetham, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Contract**

Agreement for professional services between the City of Michigan City and Indiana Landmarks to provide technical and educational support for certain historic preservation activities within the City, from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$7,000 plus the membership fee of \$35.

President York explained the Indiana Landmark Contract, stating that Indiana Landmarks works as a nonpartisan staff and gives recommendations to the Historic Preservation Board.

Mrs. Moore asked exactly what they would be doing, and President York stated that we don't have dedicated staff in our department to serve and do the work that Indiana Landmarks will be doing for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mrs. Moore asked about the backdate of January 1, 2025, and Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that it's because of the new Public Works Director, Wendy Vachet, working with them on some changes but we have been using them since January 1, 2025.

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Change Order**

The Michigan City Department of Water Works requested a Change Order for the US-20 Annexation Area Water Extension Construction Bid Project in the amount of \$6,478.00, which increases the total amount of the project by \$655,4650.88

Chris Johnson, Michigan City Water Works Director, addressed the Board explaining the Change Order, stating that the Railroad owns parts of the land where the project is being done and they have to take the main out from under the road; further explaining that this process has been long due to INDOT and the Railroad needing permits.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that he's elated seeing the project move along.

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Updates – Building & Permits**

Dave Albers, Building Superintendent, addressed the Board and gave the following updates for the Building and Inspections Department regarding Cloudpermit:

Mr. Albers stated that since Cloudpermit has gone live on March 1, 2025 to date (June 2, 2025) the following has been done: 592 permits have been issued (About 209 permits issued per month), 35 permits are awaiting payment currently and the review of them is complete, 51 permits are in review, there are 70 new permit applications that are waiting on additional information and 405 contractors have been registered in Cloudpermit.

In total, the building permit fees collected \$197,242.00 and contractor registration fees collected \$35,050.00, totaling to \$232,292.00.

According to New World Stats last year (March 1, 2024 to June 2, 2024), only 291 permits were issued.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich asked if there is a current turnaround time for permits right now, and Mr. Albers stated that it's hard to give turnaround times due to some contractors needing to provide more information for their projects.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich gave a suggestion of creating a checklist for the standard items needed for permits, and Mayor Angie and Mr. Albers stated that they will be doing a workshop and open office hours for contractors to come in and ask questions, and to learn about the system on Wednesdays.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that it seems like things are working efficiently.

#### **Updates – Special Events Department**

Eric Williams, Assistant Special Events Director, addressed the Board and explained their five (5) major upcoming events:

June 19<sup>th</sup> is the Michigan City Juneteenth Celebration at the Guy Foreman Amphitheater at Washington Park from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

June 21<sup>st</sup> is the Kiddie Parade on Franklin St. from 9<sup>th</sup> St. to 4<sup>th</sup> St. at 11 a.m.

June 28<sup>th</sup> is the Patriotic Parade on Franklin St. starting at 10<sup>th</sup> St. at 11 a.m. and ending at Ames Field with the Grand Marshal being Michigan City Native and NFL football player Braden Fiske.

Following the Patriotic Parade on June 28<sup>th</sup>, the Braden Fiske Family Fun Day will take place at Ames Field from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

July 4<sup>th</sup> will be the annual firework show at Washington Park starting at dusk.

#### **Updates – Parks Department**

Shannon Eason, Superintendent of Parks Department, addressed the Board and explained their upcoming events for June and July:

Monday Night Food Trucks at Washington Park: June 2, 16, 30

City Party on the Plaza: June 3, 17, 24

Michigan City Municipal Band Concerts: June 5, 12, 19, 26

Bike the City: June 6, 20

Live at the Lakefront: June 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

EVP Beach Volleyball Tournament at Washington Park: June 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Brew at the Zoo: June 7

Bucket Golf Tour at Water Tower Park: June 11

Pour and Paint at Krueger Memorial Hall from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.: June 12

Pride Fest at the Amphitheater: June 14

Zoo Night Zoofari: June 14



Washington Park Zoo Father's Day: June 16  
 Zoo Camp at Washington Park Zoo: June 16-19 & 23-26  
 Juneteenth Event at Washington Park: June 19  
 Zoo Stroller Safari: June 27

**Payroll Claims Docket**

<b>Payroll Docket</b>	<b>May 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$826,963.26</b>
<b>Pension Payroll Docket</b>	<b>May 30, 2025</b>	<b>198,726.81</b>

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Claims Docket**

**June 2, 2025**

<b>Municipal</b>	<b>\$709,827.58</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>\$52,474.72</b>
<b>Health &amp; Life</b>	<b>\$299,957.96</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>\$2,487.38</b>
<b>Zoo Casino Agreement</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Workers Comp</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>ARP Local Fiscal Recovery</b>	<b>\$34,046.58</b>
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS:</b>	<b>\$1,098,794.22</b>

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**CSX Repairs Updates – Unfinished Business**

Updates on the repairs of CSX Woodland Ave and Buffalo St. crossings. This was tabled from August 19, 2024.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he has spoken to Jeff Reeder from CSX and Mr. Reeder has not heard back on a schedule for when they will be back to fix the tracks; further explaining that he has sent pictures to Brad Armstrong of CSX of the tracks that need repaired, but has not heard back from Mr. Armstrong yet.

President York made a motion to table the request to the July 7, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

#### **Request for Road Repair – Unfinished Business**

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

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that this has been completed and recommends removing it from the pending item list.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to remove the request from the pending item list, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

#### **Request for Signage – Unfinished Business**

Fringe & Ink, 2703 Franklin St., requested to put up no Parking Signs and pavement striping on the South side of their building on Harrison St. This was tabled from May 19, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board explaining their plan for parking spaces, stating that will do parallel parking on Harrison St. and then they will do yellow striping to put the trash cans so that they don't get hit.

The owner of Fringe and Ink thanked the Board and Mr. Werner for taking care of the issue quickly and effectively.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to remove the request from the pending item list, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

#### **Request for Stop Sign – Unfinished Business**

Collin Kahn, 716 York St., requested a stop sign or a crossing button on the corner of Oak St. and Belden St. to allow children and pedestrians to cross safely. This was tabled from April 21, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that they're going to have crosswalk signs at Beldon St. and Oak St. to allow pedestrians to cross safely, and they will be both Eastbound and Southbound.

Mr. Simmons asked for the Police Department to pay close attention to the playground because it is a very popular playground.

President York made a motion to table the request until the June 16, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Mobile Food Vendor Location Change – Unfinished Business**

Moe's Fresh Mediterranean Mobile Food Truck requested to change the location of his Mobile Food Truck to the Corner of Franklin and Water St. This was tabled from May 19, 2025.

Dr. Dominique Edwards, Planning Director, addressed the Board stating that the two (2) locations requested, 703 E Michigan Blvd. and at the lot of Water St. and Franklin St., go against the City Code for placement of a food truck, and recommends denying the request at this time.

Moe Mroueh, Moe's Fresh Mediterranean, addressed the Board making a comment, asking to have open conversations about Food Trucks and updating the City Code to allow more food trucks to go places.

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

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch made a comment stating that there are some things that need to be changed with Food Trucks and the ordinance, further explaining that she has tasked the Special Events Department with finding permanent locations for food trucks to go weekly and have a dedicated space for them.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that we should put a food truck at 7<sup>th</sup> and Franklin so that it is no longer vacant all the time; further commenting that their job is to enforce the ordinances that have been put in place and that the BOW does not have the authority to grant variances.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to deny the location change, seconded by President York and was denied with the following vote:

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Public Comment**

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment about the success of the Ribbon Cutting at Water Tower Park and suggested that we do an honorary street sign memorializing Neil Singleton, who was a world champion kickboxer.

Mr. Kulavik made a comment congratulating the class of 2025.

Mr. Kulavik also made an announcement of when fireworks can be discharged within City limits, stating that they can set off during the hours of 5 p.m. to two (2) hours after sundown from June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July from 10 a.m. to midnight.

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch made a comment stating that there will be a roundtable for contractors in the EOC on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.; and again on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon, for anybody who has questions and needs assistance.

Mayor Angie introduced the summer 2025 interns.


### **Board Comment**

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

**AYES: (4) Smith, Simmons, York, Moore**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.**

  
President of BOW, Candice Antidel

  
Clerk of BOW, Izabele Galvin Ellis