

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

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

Absent: None (0)

Also noted in attendance:

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, Clerk of the Board of Works; Deputy Attorney Ryan Beall; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director; Phil Graff, Acting Forester; Councilman Joe Nelson; Councilman Don Przybylinski; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the July 7, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Opening of Request for Proposals

Opening of RFPs for Tree Removal Services for 2025.

President York asked if there were any more proposals to be submitted, and there were none.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that under Indiana Statute when opening proposals they read aloud the names of vendors who submitted a proposal and withhold the amount until the City gets an opportunity to sit down to negotiate if we need to, with the vendor.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich opened and read aloud the proposals that were received for the Tree Removal Services 2025:

Homer Tree Service, Inc.

Ellis Hardwoods, LLC.

Cut-Rite Services

President York made a motion to refer the proposals submitted for the Tree Removal Services for 2025 to the Acting City Forester, Director of Public Works and the Attorney's Office, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York
NAYS: (0) None

Opening of Request for Proposals

Opening of RFPs for Tree Procurement/Planting for 2025.

President York asked if there were any more proposals to be submitted, and there were none.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich opened and read aloud the proposals that were received for the Tree Procurement/Planting for 2025:
Duneland Landscape, LLC.
Dogwood Hills Tree Farm

President York made a motion to refer the proposals submitted for the Tree Procurement/Planting for 2025 to the Acting City Forester, Director of Public Works and the Attorney's Office, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York
NAYS: (0) None

Opening of Request for Quotes

Opening of quotes for Walker Street Gardens & Park.

President York asked if there were any more quotes to be submitted, and there were none.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich opened and read aloud the quotes that were received for the Walker Street Gardens & Park concrete slab:
New Tech in the amount of \$15,000.
B&E Concrete, LLC in the amount of \$4,550.00.
Deutscher Construction, LLC in the amount of \$8,500.00.

President York made a motion to refer the quotes to Andrew Matanic, Director of IT, and the Attorney's Office, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York
NAYS: (0) None

Proposal

Approval of proposal from Reith & Riley to repave the City Hall parking lot in the amount not to exceed \$44,250.00

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that our City Engineer is working on getting a second quote from a different company and asked the Board to table the request until the first meeting in August.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to table the request for proposals until the August 4, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Purchase of Parcels

The Michigan City Park Department requested the approval to purchase Parcels 25, 26, 36 & 37 for the Singing Sands Trail in the total amount not to exceed \$22,250.00.

President York stated that these parcels are part of the Grand Beach Road area.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that these parcels are part of the third (3rd) and final phase of the Singing Sands Trail and listed their amounts: Parcel 25 in the amount of \$3,300.00, Parcel 26 in the amount of \$11,850.00, Parcel 36 in the amount of \$3,550.00 and Parcel 37 in the amount of \$1,775.00 for the grand total of \$22,250.00 for the four (4) parcels.

Mr. Simmons asked if this is the final purchase, and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that this isn't the final procurement but part of the final phase.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Temporary Signage

Pyramid Properties Inc. requested to install five (5) temporary "No Parking During Construction" signs along the South side of Birch Tree Lane from Moore Rd. to Clemens Dr. during the construction of "The Moore" development.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that the construction area along Birch Tree Lane has had cars parked along the curb and grass making it hard for the re-grading of the slope, asking the Board for permission to install five (5) temporary no-parking signs along the end of the roadway to Birch Tree Lane.

Mrs. Smith asked how long the signs are going to be up, and Mr. Werner stated until the construction is complete.

President York stated that the permits have been pulled for this project, and that he is currently waiting on a pole to be moved to create the construction entrance.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

President York asked who would be providing the signage, and Mr. Werner stated that he can have Pyramid Properties provide the signs.

President York made a motion to approve the temporary signage and to have the contractor provide the signage, seconded by Mrs. Antisdal and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Event

Michigan City High School requested to close Franklin St. from Ripley St. to Pytynia Parkway for their annual homecoming parade on Friday, October 3, 2025 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Nobody was present to address the request.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, stated that he approves of the event and closure.

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

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage or Striping

Nancy Cross, 501 Pearl St., is requesting striping or signage to stop people from parking either partially or fully on the sidewalk that is on the Northside of Elston School from Lafayette St. to Spring St.

Nancy Cross, 501 Pearl St., addressed the Board explaining the issue she is having with people parking on the sidewalk across the street from Elston School on Detroit St. from Lafayette St. to Spring St., stating that you can't even walk on the sidewalk due to people parking all the way on the sidewalk.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that he has driven by there and noticed some cars on the sidewalk, but not fully on the sidewalk and will investigate further during different times.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that striping can be done on the road to allow for street parking; further explaining that two (2) 11-foot lanes can be

striped and that there is room for a 9-foot-wide parallel parking along the curb after the striping down the middle of the road, and if not followed then “No Parking” signs can be installed along the road.

Mrs. Moore asked how the ordinance for no parking on sidewalks is being addressed throughout the City, and discussion ensued between Mrs. Moore and Captain Jesse regarding enforcement from police on the issue.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

Councilman Joe Nelson, 611 Willard Ave., made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that warnings should be given to residents whose cars are parked on sidewalks and then citations if not followed through but agrees with Mr. Werner’s assessment of the striping.

Mrs. Smith made a comment stating that there are ordinances in place for a reason and they should be followed but also agrees with Mr. Werner’s assessment.

President York made a motion to approve the City Engineer’s plan for striping, instruct Captain Jesse to have Officers patrol the area for residents parking on the sidewalk and have Captain Jesse and the City Engineer come back with an update at the September 2, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdell, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York
NAYS: (0) None

Request for Sidewalk Repair

Steven Lockridge, 302 Crestwood Dr., is requesting to have the sidewalk repaired in front of his driveway in order to repair his own driveway.

Steve Lockridge, 302 Crestwood Dr, addressed the Board asking for the City to repave his sidewalk and apron in order to repair his driveway.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that he is hoping to have this done in the 2025 or 2026 sidewalk contract; further explaining that the City’s contractor to repave the driveway, sidewalk and apron and have Mr. Lockridge pay for his portion of the driveway, so that it is all done at once and even.

Mrs. Moore confirmed that Mr. Lockridge would pay for this portion of the driveway to the sidewalk and then the City would pay for the sidewalk and apron, and Mr. Werner Confirmed.

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

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mr. Werner stated that this portion of sidewalk is already on the improvement list.

President York made a motion to table the request until the October 6, 2025 meeting for Mr. Werner to give an update, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Safety Barrier

Mellyssa Martinez, 216 W Barker Ave., is requesting a safety barrier in front of her fence on the parking lot side to stop people from hitting her fence.

Mellysa Martinez, 216 W Barker Ave., addressed the Board with the issue that she is having with her fence being hit from people parking at the bar next door to her home.

President York stated that this is a private matter between two (2) property owners and the City and Board have no jurisdiction over the matter.

Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director, made a comment agreeing with President York that this is a private matter and would need to be resolved outside of this Board.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Discussion ensued between the Board Members, Mrs. Martinez and Mrs. Vachet regarding this being a civil issue and the codes in place for requirements.

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to deny the request for a safety barrier on private property, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was denied with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage

Councilman Joseph Nelson, 3rd Ward, is requesting traffic signage recommended by the Police and City Engineer on Willard St. to help with speeding issues.

Councilman Joe Nelson, 3rd Ward, addressed the Board explaining the complaints he's been getting for people speeding on Willard Ave, stating that he is asking for a speed catcher.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, stated that there are stop signs every two (2) blocks in that area and they can put a radar trailer in that area if requested.

Councilman Nelson stated that he is getting complaints mainly from people coming from US 12 going into the 3rd Ward around the prison, and then at US 12 and 4th St. Tim Werner, City Engineer, listed the speed limit signs that are posted in that area; further stating that a speed limit sign just South of US 12 and 6th St. as you approach a park that is missing and will have it replaced.

Mr. Werner stated that they can't put stop signs up to regulate the speed of the road unless it is a school or park where it's warranted and believes that the speed limit signs are posted appropriately.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Mr. Werner, Captain Jesse and Councilman Nelson on speed limit signage, the radar trailer and enforcement in the area.

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to deny the request for signage and refer the request to Police for enforcement and placing the radar trailer, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was denied with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Event

The Michigan City Parks Department is requesting to close 7th St. between Washington St. and Franklin St., from the East side of the alley to Franklin St. for their weekly Party on the Plaza event on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

President York explained the Party on the Plaza event on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, stating that the Park's Department found it to be easier to close the road for the safety of kids running around, and this would allow for food trucks to come during the event.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Payroll Docket | July 11, 2025 | \$878,014.77 |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

July 21, 2025

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Municipal | \$1,472,479.21 |
| CDBG | \$803.90 |
| Health & Life | \$260,376.75 |
| Special Events | \$1,750.00 |
| Zoo Casino Agreement | \$0.00 |
| Workers Comp | \$0.00 |
| ARP Local Fiscal Recovery | \$15,000.00 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS: | \$1,750,409.86 |

Mrs. Smith stated that she has made an amendment to the claims docket by adding a \$15,000 payment to the Salvation Army, stating that this is ARPA money that was used for emergency housing.

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

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

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 the crossing at Woodland Ave. has been fully repaired and recommends taking off Woodland Ave. from the pending item list but keeping the Buffalo St. crossing on the pending item list.

President York made a motion to table Buffalo St. crossing repairs and remove the Woodland Ave. crossing repairs from the pending item list, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Councilman Don Przybylinski made a comment thanking everybody for staying on top of the Woodland Ave crossing repairs and asked everybody to stay on top of the Buffalo St. crossing repairs.

Councilman Przybylinski also made a comment about the issue with people parking their cars on sidewalks and explained the issues in the Eastport neighborhood and will bring the issue up at the City Council meeting as well.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment stating that St. Stanislaus Catholic Church restoration closing would only be done during business hours and it is not and is being closed 24/7.

Mr. Meland also made a comment asking why prices aren't announced during the opening of proposals, and President York explained the difference with Request for Proposals and Request for Bids.

Mr. Meland also made a comment about trash issues within the City, stating that citizens need to be educated on what to do with their trash and recycling.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment congratulating the team on finally having Woodland Ave. repaired.

Mr. Kulavik also made a comment stating that there are three (3) large trees along HWY 20 between Advanced Auto Parts and Vontobel Lumber laying on the utility lines, recommending somebody to call NIPSCO to have them taken care of.

Mr. Kulavik also made a comment recommending that the City doesn't add any new car washes, mentioning that the City even has abandoned ones.

Councilman Przybylinski made a comment on Mr. Meland's comment on waiving permit fees, stating that the City Council is who is in charge of waiving permit fees.

Board Comment

President York made a comment thanking Tim Werner, City Engineer, and Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works, for their hard work on getting the Woodland Ave. crossing repaired.

Mrs. Smith made a comment about the Midnight Hoops Basketball, stating that some of our young leaders from the Neighborhood Academy have started and it's been a great turnout; further stating that they are on Sundays at the Red Devil Gym.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that he approves and is happy that the Woodland Ave Crossing is open.

President York made a comment stating that the Party on the Plaza will be happening on the lot of 7th St. and Franklin St. on Tuesday, July 29th starting at 5 p.m.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.



BOW President, Skyle York



BOW Clerk, Isabelle Galvin Ellis