

# Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on August 4, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, August 4, 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:** 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; Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director; Jeff Bruder, Michigan City Fire Marshall; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Eric Williams, Special Events Assistant Director; Kila Ward, Workforce Development Director; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department; Drew White, ALCO.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the July 21, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to approve the July 28, 2025 special meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

## **Awarding of RFP**

Awarding the Request for Proposal for Tree Procurement and Tree Removal Services.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich explained the process for Request for Proposals and how it allows for the opportunity for negotiations; further stating that herself, Phil Graff, our acting Forester, and Wendy Vachet, our Public Works Director, went through the proposals for both the Tree Removal and Tree Procurement.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that they had three (3) proposals submitted for the Tree Removal: Homer II, LLC in the amount of \$529,425.88, Ellis Hardwoods, LLC in the amount of \$523,500.00, and Homer Tree Service, Inc in the amount of \$304,990.00; further stating that she recommends to award the Tree Removal Project for the Federal Tree Grant to Homer Tree Service, Inc. based on their history, equipment and experience, stating that she has their agreement signed and certificate of insurance ready for approval.

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

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that the contract includes both tree and stump removal.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to award the Tree Removal Project for the Federal Tree Grant to Homer Tree Service, Inc, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that they had two (2) proposals submitted for Tree Procurement/Planting: Duneland Landscaping, LLC in the amount of \$315,000.00 and Dogwood Hills Tree Farm in the amount of \$238,335.00; further stating that she recommends to award the Tree Procurement/Planting Project for the Federal Tree Grant to Dogwood Hills Tree Farm based on their history, equipment and experience, stating that she has their agreement signed and certificate of insurance ready for approval.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that there is a laundry list of trees that need to be removed throughout the City and that the removal and procurement are split up into three (3) zones.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to award the Tree Procurement/Planting Project for the Federal Tree Grant to Dogwood Hills Tree Farm, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

Request for approval of Indiana Plan contract for the Apprentice Readiness Class, and not to exceed the amount of \$13,500.00.

Kila Ward, Director of Workforce Development, addressed the Board explaining the Indiana Plan Apprentice Readiness Program, stating that it's a two-week course that

prepares individuals for the tests and applying to apprenticeships and it will be hosted at City Hall; further stating that they will host about 12 to 18 individuals and the class will be in October.

Mrs. Moore and Mr. Simmons asked if the program dictates the amount of students allowed to take the course, and Ms. Ward stated that its due to funding and budget so they have to cap it at 18.

Mrs. Antisdel asked if this was the first time the City has worked with the Indiana Plan, and Ms. Ward stated this is the first time the City has facilitated a class with the Indiana Plan.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that Indiana Plan hosted a class in Michigan City years ago but there was no turn out; further stating that the funding source is from ordinance violations from the local hiring ordinance and is to be solely used for the purpose of this class.

Mrs. Smith asked if there will be any partnerships with this program, and Mrs. Ward stated that herself and Mayor Angie are partnering with local trade unions on the program.

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

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Fire Merit Commission**

Closing of nominations for the Fire Merit Commission.

President York asked if there were any other nominations to be submitted, and there were none.

President York asked if there were any other nominations to be submitted by an active member of the Fire Department, and there were none.

President York made a motion to close nominations for Fire Merit nominations, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that two (2) nominations were submitted, Marlin Garner and Geoff Plummer, and an election will be held to determine the new appointee.

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

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis stated that she has confirmed their party status and residency.

**Request for Special Event**

Marquette Highschool is requesting to host a Welcome Back Party in their enclosed parking lot with food trucks and music on Friday, September 19, 2025 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sarah Williams, Director of Development at Marquette High School, addressed the Board explaining the event, stating that it's a private event for students and their families and will take place in Marquette's large parking lot; further stating they will not need a road closure as recommended by the police.

Mrs. Smith asked if this was the first time hosting the event, and Mrs. Williams said no.

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

It was determined amongst the Board members that since this was a private event not needing a road closure, there was no need to take a vote.

**Request for Special Event**

North American Midway Entertainment – All Star Amusement is requesting to host the Blue Chip Casino Summer Carnival at Blue Chip Casino with amusement rides, games and food concessions from August 21, 2025 through August 24, 2025. Thursday and Friday the carnival will be from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Justin Peperak, General Manager for North American Midway Entertainment, addressed the Board stating that they are hosting a summer carnival in the Blue Chip Casino parking lot with a fenced in, secure environment for crowd control and they will have rides, games and food for carnival goers; further stating that they will have on-site security from Blue Chip as well as hired off-duty police officers.

Mr. Paperak stated that they do other events like the Porter County Fair, Lake County Fair and Berrian County Fair.

Jeff Burder, Michigan City Fire Marshal, addressed the Board stating that Blue Chip Casino is required to have an amusement entertainment permit for outside events, and they have applied for that permit.

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

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mr. Peperak stated that at all fenced in events they have a minor policy, where you are required to have a chaperone adult guardian with the minor.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the special event contingent upon the state approval for permit and the final walkthrough from the Fire Marshal and Building Commissioner, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

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

Request for Opioid Awareness Month Walk for Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 5:00pm on Pine St. from City Hall to 11<sup>th</sup> Street Train Station.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis addressed the Board explaining the event, explaining that Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch is hosting the event on August 28, 2025 starting at 5 p.m. and will start at City Hall, go down Pine St. to the train station and back to City Hall; further stating that they have an Emergency Action Plan but they are finalizing the emergency contacts.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, made a comment recommending reaching out to INDOT for the closure on 12.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to approve the road closure for special event contingent upon the completed emergency action plan and possible approval from INDOT, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Request for Art Mural**

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts is requesting the following:

- Permission to paint a mural on public property, on the Michigan Blvd. Wall.
- To accept the mural as a gift of art to the City and make it part of the City's permanent art collection.

Janet Bloch, Director of Lubeznick Center, addressed the Board explaining the project and presented the images that will be painted on the mural, stating that Sullair is celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and offered to pay to have a mural painted on a public City wall; further explaining each piece of the mural and that every part has the rope and hands consistent theme. With that, Mrs. Bloch asked to start painting and for the City to accept their artwork into their permanent collection; further stating that the Public Art Committee has approved the mural, and the artist will guarantee up to seven (7) years of extreme weather.

Mrs. Moore asked if there will be information available explaining what the mural represents, and Mrs. Bloch stated that they're talking about a QR code panel next to the mural.

Mrs. Smith asked if each slideshow was a panel of the mural, and Mrs. Bloch stated yes and explained further on how it takes up an entire block.

President York and Mrs. Bloch explained that they've contacted the owners of the buildings and only heard back from three (3); further explained that they've hosted multiple meetings for residents to give their input.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Mrs. Bloch about how long the mural will be there for and the upkeep of it.

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

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Bloch stated that Sullair requested that one of their products be on the murals.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich asked if the request was to be tabled until the next meeting would it put the project behind schedule, and Mrs. Bloch stated yes.

Mrs. Moore stated that she would like to explore Sullair's help with maintenance on the mural, and discussion ensued between the Board and Mrs. Bloch on contingency monies put forth for the Public Art Committee on the maintenance on the mural.

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

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

President York made a motion to accept it into the City's permanent art collection, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Correspondance**

The Michigan City Police Department would like to recognize and congratulate Todd Pliske for his 28 years of service and Timothy Baker for his 30 years of service, and their retirements.

Mr. Simmons made a comment thanking them for their service.

### **Payroll Claims Docket**

<b>Payroll Docket</b>	<b>July 25, 2025</b>	<b>\$1,154,292.96</b>
<b>Payroll Pension Docket</b>	<b>August 1, 2025</b>	<b>\$207,500.69</b>

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

**AYES: (5) Antidel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Claims Docket**

**August 4, 2025**

<b>Municipal</b>	<b>\$1,028,119.34</b>
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Health &amp; Life</b>	<b>\$454,815.85</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>\$2,287.00</b>
<b>Zoo Casino Agreement</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Workers Comp</b>	<b>\$86,172.03</b>
<b>ARP Local Fiscal Recovery</b>	<b>\$41,220.43</b>
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS:</b>	<b>\$1,612,614.65</b>

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

**AYES: (5) Antidel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**CSX Repairs Updates - Unfinished Business**

Updates on the repairs of CSX Buffalo St. crossing. This was tabled from January 21, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that there is no update on the crossing and recommended the Board table the request for two (2) months; further stating that the same crew who worked on the Woodland Ave. crossing was not the same crew on the Buffalo St. crossing.

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

**AYES: (5) Antidel, Smith, Simmons, Moore, York**

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Proposal – Unfinished Business**

Approval of proposal to repave City Hall parking lot in the amount not to exceed \$44,240.00. This was tabled from July 21, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he has received a second proposal from a different company, but is missing information for the City to approve and is waiting on an updated proposal, recommending to table the request until the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to table the proposal until the next Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Request for Trash Receptacle & Sign Repair - Unfinished Business**

Councilman Don Przybylinski is requesting the following items:

- Installation of trash receptacle at City bus stop at Northeast corner of Barker Ave. and Franklin St.
- Reconstruction of the stop sign guard rail triangle at the corner of Chicago St., 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Kentucky St.

This was tabled from July 7, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he has spoken to Shong Smith, Street Director, about moving a trash receptacle that is on the Southeast side of the intersection to the corner by the drug store but will have an update on the next meeting for the status of it.

Mr. Werner stated that Mr. Smith advised that his team is able to repair the guard rail, but it has not been completed yet and will come back at the next meeting with an update.

President York made a motion to table the requests until the next Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Awarding of Bid – Unfinished Business**

Awarding of bid for the demolition of 901 Manhattan St.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich explained that she had notified the Board at previous meetings that the property is in receivership and she has been working with the state of Pennsylvania on it because they had identified a buyer for the property and they were to get the City a proposed remediation plan with specific time deadlines advising we have not heard anything from them; further stating that she had notified the Attorney Generals of Pennsylvania that she would be recommending an award for demolition. Attorney Lapaich stated that Marquette High School had shown interest in the property, and she had gotten them in contact with the receivership, then found out that there is a bankruptcy and we are awaiting to see if the City needs permission from the trustee office to move forward; asking the Board to table the request until the next meeting.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.  
Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment.

Brian Coleman, Board Member of Marquette High School, made a comment.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to table the awarding of Bid until the next Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

### **Public Comment**

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment stating that WNDU did a special piece on Michigan City and it's history.

Mr. Kulavik also made a comment reminding residents about the National Night Out Event tomorrow evening in downtown Michigan City supporting our police.

### **Board Comment**

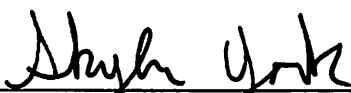
There were none.

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

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

**NAYS: (0) None**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.**

  
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BOW President, Skylar York

  
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BOW Clerk, Isabelle Galvin Ellis