

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on October 20, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, October 20, 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 and Skyler York (3)

Absent: Gene Simmons and Tamiko Smith (2)

Also noted in attendance:

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, Clerk of the Board of Works; Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Assistant Chief Dave Cooney, Michigan City Police Department; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Shong Smith, Street Director; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the October 6, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdell, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Opening of Proposals

Opening of Request for Proposals for Tree Watering for Spring 2026.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that they will be adding an addendum to the RFP and asked the Board to table the opening of proposals until the next scheduled meeting.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to table the opening of proposals until the November 3, 2025 BOW meeting, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdell, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Purchase

The Michigan City Police Department requested the special purchase of eleven (11) 2022 Dodge Durango's that are currently leased with LaPorte Chrysler for a total amount of \$220,100.65.

Assistant Chief Dave Cooney, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that they're looking to purchase eleven (11) leased vehicles a year early for a total amount \$22,100.65.

President York confirmed that there is proof of funding.

President York made a motion to approve the special purchase of eleven (11) leased 2022 Dodge Durangos for MCPD, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdell, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Event & Road Closure

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association requested the following:

- To host their annual Shelf Ice Brew Fest on February 21, 2026 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- To close 8th St. between Washington St. and Franklin St. from 12 p.m. on February 20th to 12 p.m. on February 22nd.

Justin Post, President of Michigan City Mainstreet Association, addressed the Board explaining his request for the festival and street closures, stating that the event will take place in the parking lot behind Hokkaido, on 8th St. between Washington St. and Franklin St. and in the farmers market parking lot; further stating that the road will be closed Friday through Sunday to set-up the road and then asked if the parking lots can be closed Thursday through Sunday to allow tent set-ups.

Mrs. Moore asked why the event was moved to a different location from last year, and Mr. Post stated that last years location would not accommodate the amount of people that normally attend the event and they wanted to bring it back to the downtown area without disrupting the businesses on Franklin St.

President York stated that there was internal discussion regarding location because Mainstreet had proposed a few different locations and this location was the final approved decision; further stating that police and fire have approved this location.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis stated that they have not turned in their certificate of insurance or their Emergency Action Plan yet but the Board can approve the event pending the COI and EAP; further stating that the COI would be due by the next Board meeting and the EAP would be due a month before the event.

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

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to approve the request for special event and road closure pending the Certificate of Insurance and Emergency Action Plan to be turned in by the first Board meeting in January 2026, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Sidewalk Closure for Construction

Precision Maintenance Solutions is requesting a sidewalk closure in front of 1605 Franklin St. from Ann St. to Homer St. for the demolitions and façade repair for 1605 Franklin St.

John Vode, Precision Maintenance Solutions, addressed the Board requesting to withdraw his request.

The request was withdrawn.

Road Closure for Construction

LaPorte County Project Management is requesting the closure of parking spaces on Washington St. and 7th St. along Barker Mansion from 7 a.m. on October 27th, 2025 through October 29th, 2025 at 7 p.m. to inspect the roof of the Barker Mansion with a 120-foot man lift.

Scott Cooley, LaPorte County Project Management, addressed the Board explaining the closure, stating that they need to have a man lift parked in the parking spots on 7th St. and Washington St. for them to inspect the roof for repairs needed to the Barker Mansion, but will not be closing any roads.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, and Tim Werner, City Engineer, both approve of the closure.

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

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request to Build on City Easement

Alan Moss, 502 Tremont St., is requesting to install a fence on the City easement of his home.

Alan Moss, 502 Tremont St., addressed the Board explaining his request, stating that the City Engineer and Councilman Greg Coulter have visited his residence to look where he is wanting the fence installed but they said that a sidewalk and sod will be put down; further explaining that he disagrees with the new sidewalk and provided evidence and pictures to the Board of the current state of the easement.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich and President York explained that zoning does not allow permits for building structures on the City right-of-way.

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

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to deny the request to build on City easement, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was denied with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Docket	October 17, 2025	\$759,187.01
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Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to approve the payroll docket as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

October 20, 2025

Municipal	\$1,535,457.79
CDBG	\$608.63
Health & Life	\$982,687.60
Special Events	\$3,800.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$18,728.30
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$2,541,282.32

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

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Sidewalk & Parking Space Closure for Construction - Unfinished Business

Fernando Petino, Undeclared Construction, is requesting a sidewalk closure and the closure of two (2) parking spots in front of 1605 and 1607 Franklin St. for the debris removal and preservation work of 1605 Franklin St. until December 31, 2025. This was tabled from October 6, 2025.

Fernando Patino, Undeclared Construction, addressed the Board stating that the cleanout has been successful so far and that his insurance agent is currently working with our insurance agent to get the certificate of insurance in order.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich confirmed that we do not have the COI yet.

President York asked Mr. Patino if he knows when the COI will be submitted, and Mr. Patino said that the insurance agents estimated by the end of the week.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich recommended to table the request and not approve it until the insurance has been received and verified.

Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director, addressed the Board explaining the Board of Works Compliance Plan for 1605 Franklin St. stating that phase 1, the cleanout, is currently underway, first report is due October 24th and they are on day 25 of 100; further stating that the sidewalk closure will be for the façade repair and they are still working on getting the building permit.

Mrs. Moore asked about tuck pointing on the façade, and Mrs. Vachet stated that the tuck pointing is included with the building permit and façade repair.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that she had spoken with our insurance agent before the meeting, and it is now up to Mr. Patino's insurance agent to provide us with the COI.

Mrs. Moore made a comment stating that the process for the insurance has been very frustrating when it should be very cut and dry.

President York made a motion to table the request for road closure for construction until the November 3, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdell, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Traffic Signage – Unfinished Business

Steve Novak, 120 Woodside Drive, is request a "Caution Hidden Drive" sign to be placed West bound and East bound on Barker Rd. to warn drivers that cars are entering and exiting Woodside Drive. This was tabled from October 6, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, and Shong Smith, Street Director, both addressed the Board stating that the vegetation has not been cleared and they will get with Vector Control on clearing the intersection, asking the Board to table the request until the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to table the request for traffic signage until the November 3, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Signage or Striping – Unfinished Business

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 St. from Lafayette St. to Spring St. This was tabled from July 21, 2025.

Shong Smith, Street Director, addressed the Board stating that white parking spaces were painted on the road and yellow paint was painted for no parking, explaining that the job has been completed.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, stated that there have been no more calls for service since the painting has been done.

President York made a motion to remove the request for signage or striping from the pending item list, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Traffic Control – Unfinished Business

Matt Cipolla, 156 Mayfield Drive, is requested the following: Construction zones to be posted and have a construction speed limit of 20 miles per hour. This was tabled from September 15, 2025.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board explaining that the radar trailer has been placed in the area and police have been present, stating that there have been traffic stops but he does not have a number at this time.

Matt Cipolla, 156 Mayfield Drive, addressed the Board stating that the radar trailer has helped, recommending a truck speed enforcement sign or a flashing stop sign.

Mrs. Antisdel made a motion to revisit the request at the November 3, 2025 meeting for an update on traffic stops and to keep the radar trailer in the area, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (3) Antisdel, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Earnie Hollyhan, 302 Glayds St., made a comment about illegal dumping at Springland Ave. and HWY 212, stating that it keeps getting picked up, but then people continue to dump.

Mr. Hollyhan also made a comment asking about Washington Park Boulevard being repaved and other streets in the City being repaved.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment thanking the City workers for listening to his requests and issues and all their hard work.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment complementing the City on how good of a job the City services have been with cleaning things up.

Mr. Meland also made a comment about fencing on Hitchcock Road from the Sanitary Department.

Mr. Meland made a comment about how the City had paved more roads this year than previous years.

Lastly, Mr. Meland made a comment about abandoned telephone poles being an unnecessary danger to the public.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that the abandoned telephone poles have been removed that Mr. Meland was referring to.

Board Comment

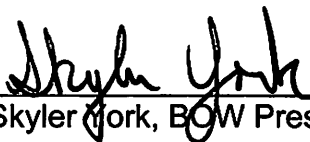
President York made a comment thanking Wendy Vachet, the Public Works Director, and the City team for their help with Werner Graf and getting the project of 1605 Franklin St. off the ground.

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

AYES: (3) Antisdell, Moore, York

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 a.m.



Skyler York, BOW President



Izabelle Galvin Ellis, BOW Clerk