

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on November 3, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, November 3, 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, Gene Simmons, Peggy Moore and Skyler York (4)

Absent: Tamiko Smith (1)

Also noted in attendance:

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Shong Smith, Street Director; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Antisdell made a motion to approve the October 20, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Opening of Proposals – Tabled from October 20, 2025

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

President York asked if there were any more submissions for the RFP for Tree Watering in Spring 2026 and there were none.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to close bidding for Tree Watering for Spring 2026, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich opened and read aloud the two (2) Request for Proposals that were submitted:

- B&M Builders LLC
- Tycol Excavating and Property Services

President York made a motion to refer the two (2) proposals that were received to the Attorney's Office, the Director of Public Works, Wendy Vachet, and our acting Forester, Phil Graf, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Contract between the City of Michigan City and Global Engineering for engineering services for 2026, in the total amount not to exceed \$225,500.00.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that this is the City's standard engineering contract with Global Engineering with the scope of services being for 2026 CCMG.

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

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Events

The Michigan City Special Events Department requested approval of the following road closures for 2026 parades:

- **St Patrick's Day Parade on March 14, 2026 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.:**
Closure of Franklin St. from 10th St. to 4th St., 9th St. from Pine St. to Washington St., 4th St. from Washington St. to Pine St. and Pine St. from 9th St. to 8th St.
- **Patriotic Parade on June 27, 2026:** Closure of Franklin St. from 10th St. to Harrison St. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Pine St. from US-12 to 9th St. and 9th St. from Washington St. to Pine St. from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Festival of Lights Parade on December 5, 2026 from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.:**
Closure of Franklin St. from 10th St. to 4th St., 9th St. from Pine St. to Washington St. and 4th St. from Washington St. to Pine St.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, approved of the closures.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the road closures for all three (3) events, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Proposal

Tim Werner, City Engineer, is requesting the approval of Lawson-Fishes Associates proposal to design the sidewalk extension in the INDOT US-12 improvement contract for a total amount not to exceed \$34,900.00.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board explaining that a sewer installation project will be done in the railroad right-of-way crossing right next to Burn'em Brewery to the East and a sidewalk will be put in; further explaining that this contract with Lawson-Fishes Associates is to improve the portion of sidewalk just West of Burn'em Brewery and bring it in front of the brewery property to the future trail on the Eastside of the brewery.

President York asked when the work on this project will be started, and Mr. Werner stated that they will most likely start work in May 2026 after the bidding is done in February.

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

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

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Change of Duty Shirts

The Michigan City Fire Department is requesting to change their duty shirt for the month of November to the November "Men's Health" shirts.

Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Board stating that the money raised from selling this shirt will go towards a local resident going through a male-type cancer and allow the firefighters to wear the shirt during the month of November.

Mrs. Antisdell asked if they are working on the verbiage for this in their contract, and Chief Taylor stated no but they are looking to do a blanket request for the shirt requests next year.

Danielle Corley, 602 Emily St., made a comment.

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

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Transit Operations

The Michigan City Transit Department is requesting to implement Zero-Fare Policy for fixed route and ADA complementary services. The adoption of system-wide Zero-Fare Policy.

Robin Tillman, Transit Director, addressed the Board stating that she is requesting a zero-fare system, explaining that the City takes in about \$73,000 a year in fare revenue and we have found that we spend more on managing the cash fare than we take in, and if we were to switch to electronic fare collection it would be triple the cost; further stating that the City receives 5307 funding and it's based on passenger count and miles traveled and the FTA does not require us to collect fares.

Mrs. Tillman stated that they will engage the public with zero-fare system and then come back to the Board for approval.

President York asked if the ridership would increase on the busses, and Mrs. Tillman stated yes, explaining that they thought of raising the fares for the buses, but it does not fit our demographic.

Mrs. Tillman clarified that she is asking the Board to conditionally approve the zero-fare system subject to a public hearing on the system, and then she will come back before the Board to report the results thereof.

President York called to order a public hearing on the Michigan City's Transit Department Zero-Fare Policy.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment in support of the zero-fare system and recommended a transit app.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment in support of the zero-fare system.

Mrs. Tillman stated that they have a policy that riders are only allowed to do one (1) complete loop and the Michigan City Police Department has always been supportive in their policy enforcement.

President York closed the public hearing.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to table the request to implement the Zero-Fare Policy pending the results of the second formal hearing and to report on the cost saved from fare collections until the next Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Employee Benefits Items

Highstreet Insurance is requesting the approval of the following Employee Benefits items:

- Bronze Plan (additional plan design forthcoming)
- Rates for all plans offered
- Amendment to secondary payer language

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that Mayor Angie would like to remove the request for amending the secondary payor language, also referred to as the spousal carve-out, after getting feedback from various unions, employees and staff, as well as timing.

Eric Gibson, Highstreet Insurance, addressed the Board explaining the approval of the Bronze Plan and rates for the new plan year, stating that the Bronze HSA Plan is higher deductibles and out-of-pocket maxes, and rates for the new plan year are premium equivalents due to being self-funded, and COBRA rates are included.

Mrs. Antidel clarified that on page 6, the 1090 employee-employer line is what the employees are proposed to pay in 2026 under the new plan.

Mrs. Antidel clarified that if they are on the \$1 plan, they can go to Northshore Health Center for their care and not have to pay anything out of pocket, essentially only paying \$12 a year out of pocket for healthcare.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mr. Gibson stated that Northshore Health Center offers a lot of programs like smoking cessation, wellness programs, etc.

Mrs. Antidel made a comment thanking the Mayor for removing the spousal carve-out, stating it was the biggest concern for the majority of employees that she heard.

Mrs. Antidel made a motion to approve the Bronze Plan and rates for 2026, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antidel, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Road & Railroad Repair

Councilman Don Przybylinski is requesting the following:

- To put the CSX Railroad Ties along Arther St. back on the Pending Item List & to give an update.
- To put the repairs of the CSX railroad crossing at Buffalo St. back on the Pending Item List & to give an update.
- To permanently repair the blacktop roadway patch at the intersection of Tilden Ave. and Gardena St. caused by a NIPSCO incident in December 2024.
- To lower the curbing to the correct height on the Northwest corner of Gardena St. and Tilden Ave.

Councilman Don Przybylinski addressed the Board stating that he first brought up the railroad issues with the Buffalo St. crossing about 18 months ago, stating that the residents in that area are the ones who are complaining about the railroad ties being left there and believes that the crossing is very dangerous without the rubber, leaving large

gaps in the roadway; asking for the Board to put both the requests back on the Pending Items List.

Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director, addressed the Board stating that there are railroad ties along the railroad across Northwest Indiana and they get them picked up all at once, and that the work at Buffalo St. crossing is different than the repairs at Woodland Ave so there is a different office they are trying to get ahold of to have them be repaired; stating that she will continue to work on this when the federal government reopens.

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

Mr. Simmons made a motion to put both railroad requests back on the pending item list for updates, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Councilman Przybylinski addressed the Board stating that there was a gas leak at the intersection of Tilden Ave. and Gardena St., stating that the City had put a temporary fix of the intersection and the permanent repair has not been done yet; further stating that NIPSCO should incur the fees of the repairs.

Shong Smith, Street Director, stated that the Street Department has begun restoring the intersection and it is currently 50% completed, and that they can repair it all in-house.

Councilman Przybylinski asked who would be incurring the costs for this repair, and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that she would speak to the staff on this.

Councilman Przybylinski addressed the Board regarding his fourth request, to lower the curbing to the correct height on the Northwest corner of Gardena St. and Tilden Ave., stating that the degree of the curb is causing vehicles to drive over the corner and believes that the curbing is too tall.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that the curb at that intersection meets the standards and was designed and installed correctly, explaining that the ADA ramps that were installed require a full height on each side for the width of the tactile but there is an inlet from a sanitary drain that is causing the pavement to drop down into the inlet; further stating that he is going to speak to the Sanitary District about fixing the issue.

President York made a motion to put the permanent repair of the blacktop at Gardena St. and Tilden Ave. on the pending item list to be heard at the next Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

President York made a motion to refer the request for lowering the Curb at the Northwest corner of Tilden Ave. and Gardena St. to the Sanitary District for the basin to be investigated, seconded by Mrs. Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request to Host Horse & Carriage Rides

Fish Camp, 12 on the Lake, is requesting to host horse and carriage rides on December 7, 14 and 21 for residents to enjoy the Christmas lights through Washington Park.

Anjanette Porter, General Manager of Fish Camp, addressed the Board stating that Fish Camp has a private horse and carriage company that they hire to come out and take Fish Camp diners through the Washington Park Christmas Lights on Sunday, December 7th, 14th and 21st from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; further stating that it's their 5th year hosting the carriage rides.

President York asked what the cost is to ride, and Ms. Porter stated that you have to have dinner at Fish Camp and then for up to four (4) people its \$50.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that they would need approval from the Port Authority and the Parks Department.

Mr. Simmons confirmed that you have to eat at Fish Camp in order to go on the carriage ride, and Ms. Porter stated that there is normally a waiting list.

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

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the horse and carriage rides pending Park Board approval, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Updates – 1605 Franklin St. Project

Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director, addressed the Board stating that she handed out the first progress report of the project to the Board, stating that Werner Graf is no longer using Undefeated Construction and is now using a contractor called Green City out of Cincinnati; further stating that the cleanout portion of the project is on schedule and the bracing is behind schedule but that is due to getting a new contractor.

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll & Pension Docket	October 31, 2025	\$1,007,523.89
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Mrs. Antidel made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket as presented, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antidel, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

November 3, 2025

Municipal	\$2,344,999.36
CDBG	\$0.00
Health & Life	\$411,279.13
Special Events	\$2,750.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$84,395.50
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$2,843,423.99

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

AYES: (4) Antidel, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Traffic Control - Unfinished Business

Matt Cipolla, 156 Mayfield Drive, is requesting 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.

President York stated that they had voted to put the radar trailer in the area.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, stated that the radar trailer is still out there and four (4) warning tickets have been issued since then; further stating that he has been in communication with Matt Cipolla, and he is happy with the outcomes of the trailer and warnings written.

Mr. Simmons stated that there is significant signage in that area and hopes that warning and citations continue to be written to those who don't follow the speed limits.

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

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, 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, addressed the Board stating that the Street Department went out and cleared the brush about 10 to 15 feet from Woodside Drive to the North with a triangular cut all the way to the Property to the East, so that now when you pull up you can see all the way to the intersection; recommending the Board remove it from the Pending Item List.

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

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Awarding of Bid – Unfinished Business

Awarding of bid for the demolition of 901 Manhattan St. This was tabled from July 7, 2025.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich asked the Board to deny the awarding of a bid due to the property being bought in a tax sale; further explaining that when the notice for demo originally went out it was not recorded, so the City was not able to provide the recorded documents to the new owner of the property and that creates a liability for the City if we were to continue with the demolition. Ultimately, Corporate Council Lapaich advised the Board not to move forward with the awarding of bid, but there is still an order to demolish which will last for two (2) years and it can be re-bid on if recorded properly.

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

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that Marquette High School did not move forward with the property due to it reaching an amount that they had decided to walk away from.

Mrs. Antisdal made a motion to deny the bid for the demolition of 901 Manhattan St., seconded by Mr. Simmons and was denied with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdal, Moore, Simmons, 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.

President York stated that Wendy Vachet, the Public Works Director, has asked the Board to remove this request due to Undeclared Construction no longer doing the project.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Antisdal made a motion to deny the closures, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was denied with the following vote:

AYES: (4) Antisdal, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment congratulating the Redevelopment Commission on getting the rails mended on the Benson Longmeyer Drive.

Mr. Kulavik also made a comment about a down tree on a utility line that needs to be taken down between Advanced Auto Parts and Von Tobel on Highway 20.

Mr. Kulavik made a comment to remove the signage on Wabash St. near the Post Office for the Wabash St. improvement due to it being rusted.

Mr. Kulavik made a comment to repair the section of sidewalk that was poured with asphalt along 8th St. next to the County Complex building.

Discussion ensued between Drew White, ALCO, President York, Corporate Counsel Lapaich and Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, about technical issues with Werner Graf not being able to talk over Zoom.

Werner Graf, Graf Dairy, made a comment about his future plans with 1605 Franklin St. and what they've done so far.

Board Comment

Mrs. Antisdell made a comment thanking the HR Department for hosting the employee healthcare meetings before the vote to hear from the employees.

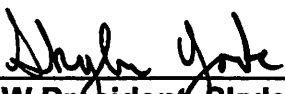
President York made a comment about how successful the Mainstreet Association Trick or Treat was on Franklin St.

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

AYES: (4) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, York

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.



BOW President, Skyler York



BOW Clerk, Izabelle Galvin Ellis