

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on December 1, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, December 1, 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, Tamiko Smith, Peggy Moore and Skyler York (5)

Absent: None (0)

Also noted in attendance:

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Phil Graf, Forester; Eric Williams; Assistant Director for Special Events; Assistant Chief Kyle Shiparski, Michigan City Police Department; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the November 17, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Awarding of RFP - Unfinished Business

Awarding of Proposal for Tree Watering for Spring 2026. This was tabled from November 17, 2025.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich asked the Board to table the awarding of RFP due to exploring an alternative route instead of awarding the project as an RFP.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request until the December 15, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Approval of contract between the City of Michigan City and Local 288/Council 962 AFL-CIO for 2026-2027.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that they have been in negotiations with the union since July and gave highlights of the changes that they had agreed upon for the next two (2) years:

- Employees that are covered under the contract include the Street Department and certain clerical positions, and the Vector Control Department has been added to the contract.
- Employees would be entitled to the two percent (2%) raise.
- The holidays have been updated to reflect the updated City Employee Handbook, including the removal of President's Day, Columbus Day and election days, and adding three (3) personal days.
- The Union has agreed to a 50/50 split for the cost of retiree insurance.
- The Union agreed that with longevity and vacation bonus, that the existing employees would be grandfathered in at their current rates and scales, but employees hired after January 1, 2026 will be using the old scale model as a cost saving measure for the City.
- Proposals will now be exchanged no later than August 1st of each year.

Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that the Union has already voted in favor of the contract so all that's left is Board approval.

Mr. Simmons asked if this is the first year for clerical positions to be in the contract, and Corporate Counsel Lapaich stated that they have been part of it for years.

Mr. Simmons and President York commented on the contract, stating they feel it's a good contract and that they are happy to see Vector Control now part of the union contract.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the contract for Local 288/Council 962 AFL-CIO for 2026-2027, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Approval of contract between the City of Michigan City and Great Lakes Urban Forestry for forestry services through December 31, 2026, in the total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that 2025 was the first year that the City went the route of utilizing Phil Graf with Great Lakes Urban Forestry as our acting Forester on a contract basis and we are extremely satisfied with his services and expertise; further explaining that he has been assisting us with our federal tree grant and conducting day-to-day operations alongside our employees. This contract would extend Mr. Graf's services through 2026 and he bills the City hourly at \$125.00 an hour but the contract will not exceed \$100,000.00.

President York stated that the Planning Department and other departments in the City have been very pleased with his services and work.

Phil Graf, Forester, addressed the Board thanking them for the opportunity.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the Great Lakes Urban Forestry contract for 2026, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

BOW Meeting Dates & Times

Approval of BOW meeting dates and times for 2026.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve 2026 meeting dates and times, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Special Purchase

The Michigan City Police Department requested the special purchase of one (1) 2024 Jeep Grand Cherokee with the necessary police emergency equipment, for a total amount not to exceed \$41,155.00.

Assistant Chief Kyle Shiparski, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that this vehicle will be for our Warrants Division and will be an unmarked vehicle that will go to a new detective next year; further stating that an officer will be helping with outfitting of the vehicle to help with cost saving.

Mrs. Smith and Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich confirmed that everything is in order.

Mrs. Smith asked if the Warrants Division received a new car last year, and Chief Shiparski stated that it was a transport van that was purchased and the Sargent that runs the unit is provided a car through HIDA.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the special purchase of the 2024 Jeep Grand Cherokee, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Sidewalk & Road Closure for Construction

Green City Demo, LLC requested a sidewalk and partial lane closure in front of 1605 Franklin St. for placement of dumpster until the interior demo is complete of the building.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the certificate of insurance is in order for the request.

Dan Thomas, President of Green City Demo, addressed the Board stating that they are requesting to close the sidewalk and a partial road closure in front of 2605 Franklin St. for their equipment, but the road will only be closed while their crew is there working and will open back up when they are not working.

President York asked what the time frame would be on the closure, and Mr. Thomas stated that it is based on the approval of the closure but once approved it will be about four (4) to six (6) weeks.

Mrs. Moore asked if the City has reviewed the formal plan put together by Green City Demo, and Mr. Thomas stated that permits have been submitted.

D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager, addressed the Board stating that the permit is still under review and has not been approved yet.

Mr. Thomas stated that they will be providing all the signage for the closure.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, stated that he approves of the sidewalk and street closure and of the detour.

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

Discussion ensued between the Board and Mr. Thomas on the permit process.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the road closure pending the approval of their permit, seconded by Mrs. Antisdel and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Correspondence

Notice for Public Comment: The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has received an application from Lavender Fields Holdings LLC, located at 402 Royal Rd., for a new source construction and Part 70 Operating Permit. If approved by IDEM's Office of Air Quality, this permit would allow Lavender Fields Holdings LLC to construct and operate a new data center facility. This notice is posted on IDEM's website with the Notice of 30-day period of public comment from November 13, 2025 to December 15, 2025.

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Docket	November 26, 2025	\$1,057,275.89
-----------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

December 1, 2025

Municipal	\$1,649,183.67
CDBG	\$0.00
Health & Life	\$693,792.41
Special Events	\$0.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$138,559.55
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$2,481,535.63

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Railroad Repair - Unfinished Business

Councilman Don Przybylinski requested the following:

- To put the CSX Railroad Ties along Arthur 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.

This was tabled from November 3, 2025.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, addressed the Board stating that he has not heard back from the railroad via email or phone, so he is currently drafting a letter to send them.

Public Comment

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment about the Festival of Lights Celebration this weekend with the tree lighting ceremony, chili cookoff and parade.

Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department, made a comment announcing that they are going to have a pancake breakfast on December 20th from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Station 4 (Cleveland Ave. and HWY 20) to raise funds for the Michigan City High School Swimming and Diving Team.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment asking why the permit process is taking so long for 1605 Franklin St.

Mr. Meland also made a comment stating that the Police Civil Service Commission meeting is not meeting this month and "Shop with a Cop" will be at Walmart on December 6th.

Eric Williams, Assistant Director of Special Events, made an announcement stating that the tree lighting ceremony will be on Friday, December 5th at 6 p.m. with visits with Santa to follow. On Saturday, December 6th the Kindle Market will be starting at 2 p.m. with the parade and the annual chili cookoff to follow and gave details on event participation.

Board Comment

President York made a comment thanking the Street Department and Vector Control for doing a great job on clearing our streets during the snow storm.

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

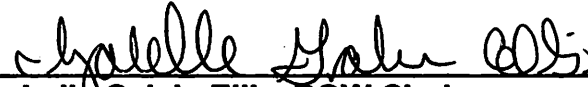
AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, York

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.



Skyler York, BOW President



Isabelle Galvin Ellis, BOW Clerk