

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on January 20, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 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 Board President Candice Antisdell.

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 Patrick Voltz (5)

Absent: None (0)

Also noted in attendance:

Ryan Beall, Deputy City Attorney; Izabelle Galvin Ellis, BOW Clerk; Eric Williams, Assistant Director for Special Events; Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director; Chief Barrett Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department; Melisha Henderson, HR Director; Skyler York, Redevelopment Director; Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the December 15, 2025 minutes as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Demolition Order Extension

Order granting additional forty-five (45) day stay of the order affirming the demolition of 1605 Franklin St.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the demolition order as presented, seconded by President Antisdell and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (1) Smith

Contract

Agreement between the City of Michigan City and Tycol Excavating Services for tree watering services for Spring 2026, for a total amount not to exceed \$129,107.50.

Attorney Ryan Beall addressed the Board stating that Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich has reviewed the contract and everything is in order, stating that this is the contract with Tycol Excavating who was awarded the RFP at the last Board meeting.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

The Michigan City Special Events Department is requesting the approval of the following contracts with Sand Lovers, LLC:

- Agreement for event management services for the Singing Sands Festival in 2026 and 2027, for a total amount not to exceed \$24,000.00 annually.
- Agreement for consulting services for the Singing Sands Festival in 2026 and 2027, for a total amount not to exceed \$13,000.00 annually.

Eric Williams, Assistant Special Events Director, addressed the Board stating that both of the contracts are a continuation with Sand Lovers, LLC, who we partner with to host the Singing Sands Festival every year; further stating that these contracts are for two (2) years instead of one (1) year due to the large success of the event and will lock us in for the next two (2) years to ensure we are able to continue the event for years five (5) and six (6).

Mrs. Moore asked Mr. Williams to describe the process and attendance of the events.

Mr. Williams stated that for the Events Management and Consulting Services contracts, Sand Lovers will bring in three (3) to four (4) of their staff and they're in charge of everything that goes on in the sand so that Terry and himself don't have to worry about it. As for attendance, he explained that it has increased every year for the past four (4) years with last year's admissions covering the costs of the contracts.

Mrs. Smith asked what the difference was between the contracts, and Mr. Williams stated that the Event Management contract is for what Sand Lovers does on the day of the events, from bringing in staff, handling everything in the sand, the speed competition and sand sculpting demonstrations, and the Consulting Services contract is for everything the Sand Lovers does in terms of the time it takes for them to recruit sculptors, contracts with the sculptors and the administrative portion side.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the Events Management and Consulting Services contracts with Sand Lovers, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Sponsorship Contracts

The Michigan City Special Events Department is requesting the approval of the following sponsorship contracts for the 2026 event season:

- Silver sponsorship from Highstreet Insurance & Financial Services in the amount of \$5,000.00.
- Silver sponsorship from Allegius Credit Union in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Eric Williams, Assistant Special Events Director, addressed the Board stating that Allegius Credit Union is a new sponsor this year and Highstreet Insurance is a returning sponsor.

Mrs. Smith asked Mr. Williams what the sponsorship levels are, and Mr. Williams stated that there is the Premier Sponsorship at \$20,000 but they are no longer offering that because we already have two(2), the Gold Sponsorship at \$10,000, Silver Sponsorship at \$5,000 and single event sponsorships for their Oktoberfest or the Singing Sands Fest that is \$2,500.

Mrs. Moore asked why we are no longer offering the \$20,000 sponsorship, and Mr. Williams stated that it's because there is exclusivity to it in terms of events being presented to the two groups.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the Allegius and Highstreet Insurance sponsorships, seconded by Mr. Voltz and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Easement Agreement

Agreement between the City of Michigan City, through the Board of Public Works & Safety, and Harold C. Fryar for a permanent easement to allow access to the property and driveway at 800 Johnrue Ave.

Attorney Barry McDonnell, 601 Franklin St., addressed the Board on behalf of his client, Harold Fryar, regarding his request for a formal easement agreement to access his currently landlocked home at 800 Johnrue Ave., stating that the Board approved them to do survey work and establish exact location of the existing gravel driveway that feeds off the East end of Tulip Tree Drive and ends up at Mr. Fryar's house; further stating that all of that has been completed and they've established a legal description for the easement which has been approved by Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich.

Attorney McDonnell explained that this property at 800 Johnrue Ave. is essentially an island because over the last 45 years that Mr. Fryar's family has owned their property, the City has purchased the land surrounding it; further stating that Johnrue Ave. is a physical gravel road going to Mr. Fryar's property but there is no legal existence of it, and that is why we have put this agreement together, to establish a permanent right of way for Mr. Fryar and any of his successors to access the property and places responsibility onto Mr. Fryar for any maintenance, liability issue and plowing.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract Amendment

First amendment to 2026-2027 contract between the City of Michigan City and Local 288/Council 962 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, regarding the position of "Accounts Payable/Receivable Specialist" which currently reads as \$24.74 per hour but is incorrect. For the purposes of the 2026 budget and salary ordinance, the hourly rate for the position should be \$22.30, which is inclusive with of the 2% raise for 2026 for City employees.

Attorney Ryan Beall stated that Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich has reviewed the amendment and approves of it.

Mrs. Smith stated that when the contract was written for Local 228, there was an error when typing up the pay for the Accounts Payable Receivable Specialist showing that they were supposed to get paid \$24.74 an hour, but the salary order shows \$22.30 an hour; further stating that this amendment is to make the correction for the Payable Receivable Specialist pay to \$22.30 an hour. Explaining that the Union also agrees with the amendment to match the \$22.30 an hour that the Salary Ordinance shows.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract Amendment

Amendment to agreement for tree removal services between the City of Michigan City and Homer Tree Service for tree and stump removal, which is paid for by the Federal Tree Grant, for additional time to complete all tree removal and stump removal work before March 1, 2026.

Attorney Ryan Beall explained that contract services for tree removal were due to be completed by December 31, 2025, but due to weather they were not able to finish in time, stating that this contract extends the timeline for tree removal services.

President Antisdell clarified that this contract with Homer Tree Service was bid out and awarded to Homer Tree Service.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract Amendment

Amendment to Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Michigan City and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, amending the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the employees in the Central Maintenance Department, effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029, to include a two percent (2%) wage increase and for the employer to appoint a Mechanic as a Crew Leader.

Attorney Ryan Beall addressed the Board stating that Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich has reviewed the amended contract and approves of it and the Local 150 Attorney has signed off on it as well.

Mrs. Smith made a comment stating that the contract clearly states that employees received the 2% starting January 1, 2026 even though the contract started January 1, 2025.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Interlocal Government Agreement between the City of Michigan City and Michigan City Area Schools for School Resource Officer for 2026 through 2027 in the amount not to exceed \$165,000.00 annually.

Attorney Ryan Beall stated that Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich has reviewed the contract and approves, stating that this is a renewal for the future school year.

Mrs. Moore stated that this contract is not for just a single police officer; further stating that the school is paying \$93,000 for the first officer, \$15,000 for training and certification and the second police officer is at \$57,000.

Mr. Simmons made a comment stating that he is glad to continue the resource officer contract with the schools with the times that we are living in.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Honorary Street Name

Andrea Mason, 3200 Sal Ct., is requesting an honorary street sign of "Rev. Dr. Stanley Mason" in front of Zion Hill MBC Church on Helen St. to honor Rev. Dr. Stanley Mason for his 30 plus years of being a pastor at Zion Hill MBC Church.

Andrea Mason, 3200 Sal Ct., addressed the Board explaining the purpose of the honorary street sign, stating that Rev. Dr. Stanley Mason was the longest serving pastor at Zion Hill MBC, and made a great impact on the City by being an advocate, youth mentor, Truant Officer for 15 years at Michigan City Area Schools, and a spiritual leader and member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Antonio Conley, 362 Southwood Drive, made a comment.

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

Shakana Young, 609 Poplar St., made a comment.

Marie Taylor, 723 Fairfield Ave., made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a comment in support of the signage and believes that Rev. Dr. Stanley Mason deserves the signage.

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the honorary street signage, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Event

Burn'Em Brewery is requesting a street closure on F Street from US HWY 12 to the South end of their parking lot for their annual 4/20ish Bash on Saturday April 18, 2026 from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Steve Murray, owner of Burn'em Brewery, addressed the Board stating that this is similar to the event they're hosting this January; further stating that instead they are doing the road closure starting at HWY 12 for safety purposes.

Madam Clerk Izabelle Galvin Ellis stated that she has received the COI and is waiting approval from Highstreet Insurance.

Mrs. Smith asked if Burn'Em Brewery sent out post cards to the neighbors, giving them notice of the event and closures, asking if he is going to do it for the 4/20ish bash as well, and Mr. Murray stated yes, he did send out postcards and will be doing it for this event as well.

Captain Greg Jesse, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Board stating that he had amended the closure for the upcoming event in January and the 4/20ish bash for safety of cars pulling off of HWY 12.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

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

Madam Clerk Galvin Ellis explained the fees for events, stating that there are only fees for festivals, fairs, circuses, etc. and not road closures; further stating that his event does not fall under one of those categories.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the road closure for special event, seconded by Mrs. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Policy Revision

The Human Resources Department is requesting a revision to Policy #301 – Sick leave, to add language for retirees who meet the rule of 85.

Melisha Henderson, HR Director, addressed the Board explaining the policy change, stating that currently when you retire you only receive 10 days of pay for longevity, but after further discussion we are wanting to have the rule of 85 through IMPRIS which means if your age plus your years of service with the City of Michigan City equals 85, then the City would pay the retiree for their unpaid leave, whatever they have in their bank, up to the maximum.

Mrs. Smith asked what the current policy is and asked to explain more about when employees retire, and Mrs. Henderson stated that retirees get paid for 10 days if they have been with the City for 10 years currently and most retirees are at retirement age, excluding the Fire Department, but they have managed to build a bank of sick-time so they would have the opportunity to be paid out for the sick time they've accrued based on their longevity to equal their years of service plus their age.

Mr. Voltz made a comment asking about employees who have left and come back to work for the City, but Mrs. Henderson stated that they have not discussed that and only discussed consecutive years. Discussion ensued between the Board members and Mrs. Henderson on consecutive and break in service for the policy change. Mrs. Henderson stated that she can bring it back to the committee for further review on this.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment.

Mrs. Smith asked if the new language added to the policy specifically states City of Michigan City workers, and Mrs. Henderson stated yes.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Docket	January 9, 2026	\$759,514.23
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Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket as presented, seconded by Mrs. Moore and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

CLAIMS DOCKET

January 20, 2026

Municipal	\$2,130,946.38
CDBG	\$224,587.52
Health & Life	\$527,580.51
Special Events	\$17,300.24
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$0.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$6,299.00
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$2,906,713.65

Mrs. Smith made a motion to approve the claims docket as presented, seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Public Comment

Werner Graf, 117 Boyd Circle, made a comment giving an update on his project at 1605 Franklin St., stating that he will to be removing the safety concern of the second floor and making it a one-level building, and further explained the project.

Tommy kulavik, 1316 Ohio St., made a comment regarding the demolition projects that were awarded in the summer of 2025, but they never came down, and continued to discuss the cost of demolitions.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, made a comment about demolitions orders and the rush into demolition orders.

Board Comment

Mrs. Smith made a comment stating that our City employees and Board have worked with everyone who has come before this Board when their property is being demolished and have been very accommodating in spite of many things, referring to 1605 Franklin St.'s 45-day extension.

President Antisdal made a comment agreeing with Mrs. Smith.

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

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

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.



BOW President, Candice Antisdal



BOW Clerk, Izabelle Galvin Ellis