

Regular Board of Works Meeting In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on April 6, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, April 6, 2026 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 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:

Corporate Counsel, Amber Lapaich; Gianna Galante, BOW Clerk; Ryan Beall, Deputy City Attorney; Terry Greetham, Special Events Director; Eric Williams, Assistant Director for Special Events; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Barret Taylor, Fire Chief; Shong Smith, Street Director; Melisha Henderson, Human Resources Director; Kyle Shiparski, Assistant Chief of Police; Kila Ward, Director of Education and Workforce Development; David Albers, Building Superintendent; Chris Johnson, Water Department; Greg Jesse, Captain of Uniform Patrol MCPD and Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the March 16, 2026 Regular minutes as presented; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes from December 15, 2025 as presented; seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Workshop meeting minutes on March 9th, 16th, and 23rd of 2026; seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Resolution

Approving a new policy manual for the Michigan City Police Department.

Kyle Shiparski, Assistant Chief of Police made a comment about the new policy manual stating that the new manual was tailored to meet the needs of the Police Department as well as the community.

Ms. Moore and Mr. Simmons made comments thanking the Police Department.

Ms. Antisdell made a comment that the workshops were informative, thanking the Police Department for all of their hard work,

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the new MCPD policy manual as presented; seconded by Ms. Moore and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Opening of Proposals

Opening of Request for Proposals for Tree Planting for Spring 2026

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that she does not intend to share the amounts until the contract is awarded.

Attorney Lapaich stated that she reviewed three request for proposals: one from Davey Tree Service, one from Lakeshore Landscaping, and the one from Duneland Landscaping.

Ms. Moore made a motion to refer the Requests for Proposals to the Legal Department and City Forester for further review; seconded by Mr. Voltz and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Opening of Bids

Opening of Bids for the 2026 Road Improvements Project

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich turned the opening of the Bids over to Jeanette Hicks with Global Engineering and Land Surveying.

Ms. Hicks stated that one of the bids that was received is from Rieth-Riley, with the second bid being from Milestone.

Ms. Hicks stated that for each of the bids, she intends to read the total base bid, stating 8 alternates were received. Ms. Hicks continued to read the bids.

Ms. Smith made a motion to refer the bids to the Street, Legal, and Engineering Departments for further review; seconded by Ms. Moore, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Stop Sign Request

Stacy Westphal is requesting a stop sign at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and Sanborn or Greenwood Avenue and Oak Street.

Ms. Westphal (606 Greenwood Ave.) made a comment that people fly down Greenwood Avenue and pass other people recklessly due to a lack of a stop sign or speed limit sign.

Captain Jesse explained that there is one speed limit sign on the South side of Greenwood Avenue and none on the North side. Captain Jesse stated that he would connect with Tim Werner, City Engineer and Shong Smith, Street Department Director about getting another speed limit sign on the North side of the street. Captain Jesse read traffic report statistics, and discussion ensued regarding the request.

Ms. Smith made a motion to deny the stop sign request to allow the Police Department to make remedial efforts; seconded by Mr. Simmons, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Ms. Smith made a motion to install a speed limit sign on the North side of Greenwood Avenue; seconded by Mr. Simmons, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Approval of Emergency Fees

Request for approval of emergency fees incurred under Unsafe Building Act for 1504 E. Barker Avenue (Tabled from the 2/16/2026 meeting)

Ryan Beall, Deputy City Attorney, confirmed that proper service has been conducted on the property owner, both by certified mail and personal service. Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich opened the matter for a hearing.

D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager, was sworn in, and the hearing began. Attorney Beall cross-examined Mr. Briscoe and asked a series of questions referencing the property.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the emergency fee for 1504 E. Barker Avenue; seconded by Ms. Smith, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Event Request

Burn Em Brewing is requesting a road closure for the 2026 Burn Em Psychfest to take place on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m to include a small section of F Street next to building from Hwy 12 to the Peru Street Intersection

Captain Jesse commented that Burn Em Brewery has already had this festival last year and there should be no problems this year.

Mr. Kulavick (1316 Ohio St.) made a comment.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl.) made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a comment that the neighbors in the area were made aware of the event.

Ms. Moore asked if there will be a police presence, Captain Jesse confirmed that there would be an off-duty officer there.

Mr. Simmons requested that the officer working the Burn Em Brewing Event come back to the Board with any complaints or information that the Board should be made aware of regarding the event. Captain Jesse confirmed that the officer could do that.

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the request for a road closure; seconded by Mr. Voltz, and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Event Request

The Laporte County Convention & Visitors Bureau is requesting a road closure for the Great Lakes Grand Prix Block Party and Boat Parade to take place on August 1, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to include Franklin St. from 4th to 9th along with closures of Washington and Pine Streets

Scott Miller with the Laporte County Convention & Visitors Bureau stated that slight changes have been made to the parking and road closure plan; noting that he will do a soft closure on Washington Street this year so that the boats can more easily be transported; advising that there would be a 7th Street closure from Washington to

Franklin and from Franklin to Pine. Mr. Miller stated that Franklin Street would stay open until 4:30 p.m. that Saturday.

Mr. Simmons made a comment that there were no complaints last year about the Great Lakes Grand Prix Block Party and Boat Parade and that this is an annual event that the City looks forward to having every year.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the request for the Grand Prix Block Party and Boat Parade; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Special Event Request

Janet Bloch is requesting a road closure for the Lubeznik Arts Festival beginning at 8:00 a.m. August 14th through the 16th at 7:00 p.m. to include the intersection of Washington Street North of U.S Hwy 12 including Franklin Street and Second Street

Ms. Bloch stated that this request is an annual event and that 3000 people are expected to be in attendance. Ms. Bloch noted that last year, the emergency management volunteers were present at the event as well.

Mr. Simmons inquired about the property owner with discussion ensuing regarding use of property. Ms. Antisdell stated that the Redevelopment Commission owns the property and could advise about any fencing concerns.

Mr. Kulavick (1316 Ohio St.) made a comment.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl.) made a comment.

Ms. Antisdell made a motion to approve the road closure for the special event request; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Construction Request

Flaherty and Collins is requesting a road closure to perform the removal of the tower crane April 13th-16th from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the intersections of 9th Street and Pine Street and 10th Street and Pine Street.

Jason and Nick with Flaherty and Collins stated that they intend to start the crane removal on April 13th and end on the 16th.

Ms. Smith asked about safety protocols. Captain Jesse stated that he met with City Staff to ensure that the request is safe for the public.

Ms. Moore motioned to approve the road closure for construction request; seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Construction Request

Christopher Johnson, Water Department, is requesting a road closure to perform a water main extension to Tryon Meadows at the intersection of Tryon Road between Karwick and Royal Roads on April 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chris Johnson, Water Department Director, stated that the plan for this request is to close Tryon Rd. just west of Mayfeild Dr. while keeping it open to traffic. Mr. Johnson stated that all safety measures have been considered.

Mr. Simmons motioned to approve the road closure for construction request; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

Contract

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

- Silver sponsorship from the Michigan City Port Authority in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Eric Williams, Special Events Department stated that this contract would push the Special Events Department past their \$100,000 goal up to 102, 000 contracted and confirmed.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the contract; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Approval

The Michigan City Public Art Committee is requesting the approval of the following items:

- Lease renewal: Tim Adams-Set Sale at 823 Franklin St.
- Lease renewal: Kyle Fokken-High & Dry at the NW corner of Franklin and 7th Streets
- Lease renewal: Ken Fokken-Song of the Flying Dutchman the NW corner of Franklin and 6th Streets

- New Lease and installation: Pam Reithmeier-Helios at the NE corner of Hwy 12 and Michigan Blvd.
- New lease and installation: Micheal Alfano-Liquid Sunshine at the SW corner of Franklin and 7th Streets

Shannon Eason, Parks Department stated that this request is for the Public Arts Committee's Revolving Sculpture Exhibition called Sculpt Fusion. Ms. Eason noted that the leases are for two (2) years and they revolve to keep the arts district fresh and new.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the request for approval; seconded by Ms. Moore and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Request for Approval

Michigan City Park Department is requesting permission to scrap obsolete Park Department Equipment

Shannon Eason, Parks Department stated that there are three pieces of equipment in the maintenance yard, noting the Park Board approved the disposal of the three pieces already.

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

ABSTAIN (1): Voltz

Agreement

Shannon Eason, Michigan City Park Department, is requesting approval of the Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with Bulter, Fairman, and Seufert for the design and engineering of the Singing Sands Trail Phase III

Shannon Eason, Park Department noted that DNR denied her permit, so the requested agreement will be for the fees for redesigning the trail.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the agreement; seconded by Ms. Moore and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Contract between the Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Michigan City for street sweeping services in an amount not to exceed \$22,320.00

Shong Smith, Street Department Director, stated that this request is for purposes of attempting to sweep portions of U.S. 20, U.S. 12, and U.S. 421.

Ms. Moore asked if this is a new process. Mr. Smith stated that this is a standing process.

Discussion ensued regarding the matter between Board members and Mr. Smith.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl.) made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the contract; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Contract

Contract between Lochmueller Group, Inc. and the City of Michigan City for Professional Engineering Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the purpose of this contract is for the engineering services for the Safe Streets for All Grant, but without the City Engineer present, she could not give much more information.

Discussion ensued regarding the contract.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl.) made a comment.

Ms. Moore made a motion to table the contract to the next meeting; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Mr. Werner arrived, so Ms. Smith made a motion to bring the item back to the table; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Ms. Smith asked who Lochmueller Group Inc. is and what the purpose of the contract is for.

Mr. Werner stated that Lochmueller Group Inc. has been and is currently involved in a few projects for the City. Mr. Werner stated that the contract is for the Safe Streets For All Grant for safety improvements for the City. Discussion ensued between Board members and Mr. Werner regarding the contract and the services to be provided.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl.) made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the contract; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Amended MOU

Approval of the Amended Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Michigan City and the Indiana Plan for Equal Employment, Inc. for a two-week pre-apprenticeship readiness program in an amount not to exceed \$14,825.00

Ms. Ward noted that this request is for Indiana Plan to provide a two-week training program for people interested in the building trades; stating that this is the second year doing the program

Discussion ensued among the Board members and Ms. Ward regarding the program.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that this request is not an amendment but rather a new contract for 2026.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl.) made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve to the contract; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Professional Service Agreement

The Michigan City Police Department is requesting a professional service agreement for professional grant writing services in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.

Kyle Shiparski, Assistant Chief of Police, noted that the Sustainability Commission brought forward a grant opportunity for EVs for the Police Department. Asst. Chief Shiparski stated that Drive Clean Indiana was selected by the Police Department as they have proper knowledge and can support future growth for purposes of building the grant application.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the Professional Service Agreement; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Special Purchase

Emergency tree removal at 321 Pleasant Avenue, 719 Union Street, 205 W 9th Street, and 909 Elm Street in an amount not to exceed \$6,950.00 with Knoll and Sons Tree Service

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that in 2025 the Board of Works awarded Homer Tree Service the request for proposal for tree removal. Attorney Lapaich noted that Homer failed to return communications with the City Forester, noting that the contract was terminated, but there still remains work to be done.

Attorney Lapaich noted that Knoll and Sons have committed to completing the remaining work outlined in the contract within the next few weeks following this Board of Works meeting.

Mr. Kulavick (1316 Ohio St.) made a comment.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl.) made a comment.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the contract; seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket:

April 6, 2026

Municipal	\$3,145,042.74
CDBG	\$0.00
Health & Life	\$561,561.65
Special Events	\$2,400.00
Zoo Casino Agreement	\$18,534.00
Workers Comp	\$0.00
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	\$0.00
TOTAL CLAIMS:	\$3,727,538.39

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the claims docket as presented; seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Claims Docket	March 20, 2026	\$773,287.70
Payroll Claims Docket	April 1, 2026	\$192,438.56
Payroll Claims Docket	April 2, 2026	\$766,968.93

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the payroll claims dockets as presented; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:

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

NAYS: (0) None

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business to be discussed at this time.

Board Comment

There were no Board comments at this time.

Public Comment

Mr. Kulavick (1316 Ohio Street) made a comment thanking Jeff Bruder and D'Marcus Briscoe for their urgency in fixing the canopy at the Old Gabby's Tavern building which collapsed over the weekend. Mr. Kulavick requested that the Old Gabby's Tavern sign be removed, and the Burnham Glove Factory is now the Magic Factory. Mr. Kulavick thanked the Refuse Department for a special pickup.

Terry Greetham, Special Events Department gave a recap of the weekend event for the Easter Egg Hunt which was changed to a drive through event due to weather conditions. Mr. Greetham mentioned that 22,000 easter eggs were stuffed at the Senior center and 200 cars were present at the event. Mr. Greetham mentioned that the remaining eggs were taken to the Washington Park Zoo. Mr. Greetham thanked all the people and departments for their help in stuffing all the easter eggs for the event.

Mr. Meland (200 Kenwood Pl) noted that there is mud that has been tracked onto the street due to ongoing work where heavy equipment is being operated on 7th Street and Wabash Street. Mr. Meland noted that there is a drinking ordinance that should be read at the next meeting; he also mentioned that several curbs still need to be marked.

Steve Lockrage (302 Crestwood Drive) inquired about the timeline for completing the sidewalk at his property. Mr. Werner stated that he would follow up with Mr. Lockrage after the meeting.

Tim Werner, City Engineer stated that the tree grant applied for is limited to city trees and city-owned properties and cannot be used for private properties; he also provided an update on the Safe Streets for All grant and the sidewalk contract.

Public Hearing

Continuation of the Public Hearing on the Demolition Order and Progress of 1605 Franklin St. following the 45-day extension granted per the BOW order dated January 21, 2026

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich stated that the hearing is no longer necessary, as the Planning Department will be filing a motion to dismiss the order since the required work has been completed.

Mr. Albers, Building Superintendent, confirmed that the work at 1605 Franklin Street has been completed to stabilize the building, and Planning is recommending dismissal of the order; he also stated that the fence and dumpsters will be removed.

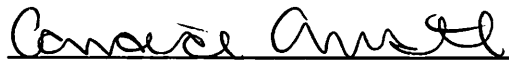
Adjournment

Ms. Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:

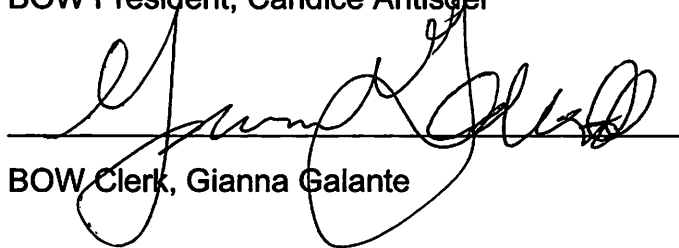
AYES: (5) Antisdell, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz

NAYS: (0) None

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.



BOW President, Candice Antisdell



BOW Clerk, Gianna Galante