Regular Board of Works Meeting
In Person and Hybrid/Zoom on
June 1, 2026

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, June 1, 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 Antisdel.

On the call of roll, the following Board Members were found to be present or absent.

Noted present in person: Candice Antisdel, 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; Barret Taylor, Fire Chief; Terry Greetham, Special Events Director; Eric Willaims, Assistant Special Events Director; Skyler York, Redevelopment Director; Darrell Garbacik, Central Maintenance Superintendent; Phil Graf, City Forester; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Tim Werner, City Engineer; Melisha Henderson, Human Resources Director; Kyle Shiparksi, Assistant Police Chief; Shannon Eason, Parks Department Superintendent; and Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes
Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the May 18, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Awarding of RFP
The City of Michigan City is awarding Request For Proposals for the Spring 2026 Stump Removal, Log Removal, and Debris Hauling

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapacih asked Darrell Garbacik, Central Maintenance Superintendent and Phil Graf, City Forester to make a recommendation.

Mr. Graf stated that he met with the contractor who submitted the lower of the two costs and interviewed the contractor last week; stating that he is comfortable with the contractor's level of experience and approach to the work.

Attorney Lapaich stated that two RFPs were received, the first was from Jon's Tree Service, and the second was from CA Harris. Attorney Lapaich stated that the recommendation is to award all three components of the RFP to CA Harris.

Attorney Lapaich recommended awarding all three components and reminded the Board that the project will be paid for through the Federal Tree Grant; advising Mr. Graf has forwarded the agreement to the proposed contractor, and they are currently reviewing it.

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

Tommy Kulavick (1316 Ohio Street) made a comment.

Attorney Lapaich stated for the record that Mr. Graf sent the RFPs to roughly 11 different contractors, including all local contractors; further stating that one local contractor did not comply with the RFP requirements and, therefore, could not be considered.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the contract for CA Harris pending the COI and performance bond; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Awarding of Bid
The City of Michigan City is awarding bids for the Ameriplex Drive Roadway Reconstruction (Phase 2)

D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager, stated that out of the three bidders, one was disqualified as they did not produce the right materials for exhibit G.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table this to the last item on the agenda for today; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Tim Werner, City Engineer, arrived and presented a recommendation for the award of a contract. Mr. Werner explained that the bidder originally identified as the lowest responsible bidder was determined to be non-compliant with the bid requirements; advising staff reviewed the next lowest responsive and responsible bid and recommended awarding the contract to Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of $510,837.72.

Discussion ensued among Mr. Werner, Mr. York, Attorney Lapaich, and members of the Board regarding the contract and related project details.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the awarding of Ameriplex Drive bids to Reith & Riley in the amount of $510,837.72; seconded by Mr. Voltz and was approved with the

following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Traffic Safety and Street Maintenance Request
Tommy Kulavick is requesting the review of traffic safety and street maintenance concerns at the intersections of Ohio Street and Ripley Street, including the possible installation of additional stop signs, yellow curb painting near the intersection, increased enforcement of illegally parked and expired-registration vehicles at 1505 Ohio Street, and the removal of trees located between the sidewalk and curb in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Ohio Street

Mr. Kulavick stated that this request is to prevent accidents and that there are several vehicles around the City that are abandoned and broken down. Mr. Kulavick also stated that the City does not have the capacity to maintain the trees located between the sidewalk and curb in the requested blocks.

Assistant Chief Shiparski, speaking on behalf of Captain Greg Jesse, noted that cross-traffic stop signs are unnecessary in this area, according to the traffic report for the intersection at Ohio and Ripley streets.

Mr. Simmons made a comment that the City should redo the yellow curb painting. Mr. Simmons stated that the Police Department should come up with an initiative to address the issue of abandoned cars.

Mr. Briscoe mentioned that his team has been actively addressing the issue of abandoned cars. Discussion ensued between Mr. Briscoe, Assistant Chief Shiparski, and the Board about the details of the process for abandoned vehicles.

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

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

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a comment that he does not want the issues presented by Mr. Kulavick to become a culture, but he appreciates everything City staff is doing to remedy these issues.

Ms. Moore asked if there is a process in place for tracking curbs that need painting or if the City could initiate a policy to that effect.

Ms. Smith motioned to refer the installation of the cross traffic signs to the Street Department; seconded by Mr. Simmons, and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Ms. Smith motioned to have the yellow curb at Ripley and Ohio Streets painted and to have the Street Department report back to the Board with a maintenance plan for painted curbs and crosswalks; seconded by Ms. Moore, and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Ms. Smith motioned to have Code Enforcement and the Police Department provide a follow-up report at the first meeting in July regarding the progress being made on abandoned vehicles; seconded by Mr. Voltz, and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Ms. Smith motioned to deny removal of the trees located between the sidewalk and curb in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Ohio Street and to refer maintenance to the City Forester for feedback; seconded by Mr. Voltz, and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Request for Approval of Additional Employees

Ron Landtroop is requesting additional employees for his second mobile food truck "A Slice of Heaven" in Michigan City, Indiana

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

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the request for additional employees; seconded by Ms. Smith, and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Special Purchase

The Michigan City Police Department is requesting to purchase one (1) 2023 Chrysler 300 that is currently outfitted for a total cost not to exceed $32,529.00

Assistant Chief Shiparski stated that this request would be the most financially advantageous option for the City and would support the operations of the Investigative Division.

Ms. Smith made a comment that the Common Council approved Ordinance 4797 in support of vehicles for the Police Department and that money was appropriated from the Riverboat Fund.

Ms. Moore asked what it would cost to purchase a new vehicle. Assistant Chief Shiparski stated that the purchase of a new vehicle would cost approximately $50,000 to $60,000 and provided the Board with additional details regarding the requested purchase.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the special purchase request; seconded by Ms. Smith, and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Request for Approval

Chief Barrett Taylor requesting approval of Policy #211-Light Duty Assignments for the Michigan City Fire Department.

Chief Barret Taylor, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Board regarding the proposed Light Duty Policy, providing additional information and responding to questions raised during the previous City Council meeting. Chief Taylor outlined the purpose, benefits, and requirements of the policy. Discussion ensued among Chief Taylor, Human Resources Director Melisha Henderson, and Board members regarding various aspects of the policy, including time limitations, benefits, and other Human Resources-related matters.

Tommy Kulavick (1316 Ohio Street) made a comment.

Scott Meland (200 Kenwood Place) made a comment.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve Policy #211-Light Duty Assignments; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Request for Approval

Shannon Eason, Parks Department Director, is requesting approval of the acquisition of an easement from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gary, Indiana (Notre Dame Church) for Phase III of the Singing Sands Trail.

Ms. Eason explained that the trail will run along the south side of the church property and that the total acquisition cost is $108,900; further noting that a fence has been negotiated between the trail and the playground area to enhance safety.

Discussion ensued among Ms. Eason and Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich regarding the terms of the agreement.

Mike Vincent (67 Devonshire Ct) made a comment.

Scott Meland (200 Kenwood Place) made a comment.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the request for approval; seconded by Ms. Moore and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

<u>Claims Docket</u>

<u>June 1, 2026</u>

Municipal	**$879,412.04**
CDBG	**$154,654.00**
Health & Life	**$369,229.62**
Special Events	**$24,000.00**
Zoo Casino Agreement	**$0.00**
Workers Comp	**$0.00**
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	**$0.00**
TOTAL CLAIMS:	**$1,427,295.66**

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the revised claims docket as presented; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

<u>Payroll Claims Docket</u>

Payroll Claims Docket	**June 1, 2026**	**$202,005.41**
Payroll Claims Docket	**May 29, 2026**	**$885,856.61**

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket as presented; seconded by Ms. Moore and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (5) Antisdel, Moore, Simmons, Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business at this time to be discussed by the Board.

Board Comment

Ms. Antisdel stated that she believes limiting or cutting off public comment is not appropriate and noted that the Board of Works has taken several steps to provide more flexibility and leniency within its public comment procedures.

Ms. Smith noted that the Board's public comment resolution is included on meeting agendas for informational purposes and public awareness. Ms. Smith discussed the process for addressing requests made during public comment and agenda items, emphasizing that established procedures are in place for bringing matters before the Board.

Ms. Moore stated that public input is welcomed, raising the question if the Board must follow the established agenda and review process.

Public Comment

Mr. Kulavik (1316 Ohio Street) commented on an abandoned platform structure located near property owned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR); expressing concerns regarding the condition of the structure and reported receiving information that individuals have been using the area for shelter.

Scott Meland (200 Kenwood Place) commented on roadway striping along Springland Avenue between Tilden Road and Karwick Road, noting that the centerline pavement markings have deteriorated. Mr. Meland expressed his belief that concerns raised during public comment should not always require placement on a future agenda to receive attention. Mr. Meland further commented on public comment procedures, noting that while comments are generally limited to three minutes, the presiding officer has discretion to allow additional time, and shared his views regarding the public comment process.

Mike Vincent (67 Devonshire Ct) commented on the Singing Sands Trail and ongoing construction along U.S. Highway 12; noting that both a lane of the highway and a portion of the trail were closed and recommended additional signage to better direct cyclists through the area.

Tim Werner, City Engineer, commented that staff is working to develop a pavement marking plan and noted that funding will need to be finalized through the budget process before implementation.

Councilman Don Przybylinski raised concerns regarding the railroad ties matter. Ms. Antisdel clarified that the item had not been removed from consideration but had instead been tabled for discussion at a future Board of Works meeting. Councilman Przybylinski also reported numerous decorative streetlights in the downtown area that are not functioning, stating that he conducted an inventory and identified approximately 44 burned-out lights. Additionally noting that trees throughout the downtown area are in need of trimming.

Adjournment

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

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

NAYS: (0)

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

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BOW President, Candice Antisdel

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BOW Clerk, Gianna Galante