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

The Board of Public Works and Safety met in regular session on Monday, July 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 Vice President Peggy Moore.

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

Noted present in person: Tamiko Smith, Gene Simmons, Peggy Moore, and Patrick Voltz (4) **Absent:** Candice Antisdel (1)

Also noted in attendance:
Corporate Counsel, Amber Lapaich; Gianna Galante, BOW Clerk; Captain Jesse, Captain of Uniform Patrol; D'Marcus Briscoe, Code Enforcement Manager; Tim Werner, City Engineer; David Albers, Building Superintendent; Robin Tillman, Transit Department Director; Shong Smith, Street Department Director; Shannon Borders, Assistant Fire Chief; Chris Carter, Refuse Department Director; and Drew White, ALCO.

Approval of Minutes
Regular "HYBRID/ZOOM" meeting on July 6, 2026

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the July 6, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Awarding of Bids
Awarding of Bids for 2026 Fuel Procurement

Corporate Counsel, Amber Lapaich noted that three sealed bids were received to create a pool of vendors for the 2026 Fuel Procurement. The three fuel suppliers who submitted their sealed documents were Keystone Cooperative, Inc., Petroleum Traders Corporation, and Al Warren Oil Company, Inc.

Attorney Lapaich noted that all three have submitted the necessary paperwork to qualify to serve as vendor, noting that Petroleum Traders still needs to submit their COI.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the awarding of bids as presented pending receipt of a COI from Petroleum Traders Corporation; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Honorary Street Sign
Kameeliah Dillard-Sims is requesting to have an honorary street sign named after the late Evangelist Brenda D. Patrick to be added to the corner of Bethel AME Church – Note: Tabled from the 7/6/2026 meeting

Ms. Sims noted that she is following Mayor Angie's recommendation and requesting that the honorary street sign to be placed at the corner of Bethel AME Church given that Ms. Patrick was a strong and active member of the Church.

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

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

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the honorary street sign as requested; seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Construction
Hunter's Precision Construction and Roofing, Inc. is requesting the closures of the sidewalks and parking spaces along East 6th and Franklin Streets as well as the alley along Trinity Church for reroofing purposes for an approximate time period of August 17th to September 30, 2026 – Note: Tabled from the 7/6/2026 meeting

Tim Werner, City Engineer, noted that the sidewalk closure plan submitted by Hunter's Precision Construction did not include signage for pedestrian detours; stating that he contacted the applicant to request clarification and provided the standard INDOT drawings for street and sidewalk closures. Mr. Werner also requested additional clarification regarding the proposed parking space closures; recommending tabling the request until the next Board of Works meeting to allow the applicant time to provide the necessary information.

Corporate Counsel, Amber Lapaich noted that there was also a concern regarding the updated COI. Board of Works Clerk, Gianna Galante, noted that the updated COI was received and approved by Highstreet Insurance.

Attorney Lapaich further noted that there was a concern brought up at the last Board of Works meeting regarding garbage pickup and how the Refuse Department would be affected due to the requested closure of the alley along Trinity Church. Attorney Lapaich noted that Chris Carter, Refuse Director, clarified that any construction work should be avoided on Mondays due to trash collection.

Ms. Moore made a motion to table the request until the next meeting; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Request to Utilize City Owned Property for Construction
Rase Building Services LLC is requesting to utilize City owned property to supply concrete to a job site for the construction of a new home on Lot 5 of the Kehoe Subdivision near the intersection of Warren Rd. and Moorman Rd. on 8/18/26, 8/25/26, 9/25/26, and 6/15/27.

Joel Wadas, property owner, noted that he recently purchased the 5th lot in the Kehoe Subdivision and noted that the HOA restricts the use of heavy equipment on the road leading to the lot. Mr. Wadas advised that he needs to use this heavy equipment in order to supply concrete to a line pump.

Corporate Counsel, Amber Lapaich recommended that his request be tabled until the next meeting and asked the contractor, Juan Ramierz if he would be willing to do a limited license agreement. Mr. Ramierz indicated that he would be willing to do that.

Ms. Smith made a motion to table the request until the next meeting; seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for Sign Installation
Legacy Sign Group is requesting the closures of the Eastern most lane of Franklin St. between E. 10th St and E. 11th St. for the installation of a sign on August 12, 2026 at 7 a.m.

Ms. Moore asked what the requested sign will be. No representative was present from Legacy Sign Group to speak on the matter.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to table the request until the next meeting; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Road Closure for a Special Event
Dig the Dunes and Zorn Brewery is requesting a street closure of 9th and York Streets for the Mac and Cheese Festival to take place on October 4, 2026 from 12.pm. to 4p.m.

Eve Wierzbicki (1 Cedar Trail, Ogden Dunes, IN) with Dig the Dunes noted that the request is for a Mac and Cheese Fest, which they have held in the past, with the same location.

Gianna Galante, Clerk for the Board of Works, noted that the COI was received but had deficiencies, so she will send it over to Charlie with Highstreet Insurance and work with him.

Ms. Smith asked if the Emergency Action Plan was up to City standards. Captain Greg Jesse, Captain of Uniform Patrol, confirmed that if there are issues, he will work with the applicant to get them resolved.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the request for a special event pending the COI; seconded by Mr. Simmons and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Request for Approval of an Annual Event
Terrance Allen, Director for the Minority Health Partner of Laporte County, is requesting the approval of their annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on September 19, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The route will start on the sidewalk of Bethel AME Church and go west onto 7th St. to Wabash St., then to 5th St. turning right onto Franklin St, left on 7th St., and finishing back at the Church

Albertine Allen noted that she is speaking on behalf of Terrance Allen and is requesting approval of the annual Breast Cancer Event as it has been a reoccurring event for the last 15 years.

Captain Jessie noted that the event is held entirely on the sidewalk and therefore should not be an issue.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the request for an annual event; seconded by Ms. Smith and was approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Change Order
Michigan City Transit Department is requesting approval of a change order for driver containment/safety barrier and rear door ajar/alarm previously approved by a special purchase of new buses in an amount not to exceed $190,305.27

Robin Tillman, Transit Director, noted that she observed the buses were lacking driver safety shields and a backdoor emergency alarm; requesting that they be added to the unit at a cost of $1,500.

Ms. Smith asked if this cost will still be covered by the grant. Ms. Tillman confirmed it would be.

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

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

Ms. Smith asked Ms. Tillman to provide an update on the transit app. Ms. Tillman commented that the transit app is currently in the works with Google maps and RTAP.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Tillman and the Board regarding the transit triangle project and other transit related matters.

Mr. Voltz made a motion to approve the change order as presented; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Board Approval of Findings of Fact
Approval of the Findings of Fact and Order Affirming the Michigan City Planning and Inspection Department's Order to Demolish 512 Holiday Street

Corporate Counsel, Amber Lapaich noted that at the last BOW meeting an Administrative Hearing was held wherein the Board affirmed an Order from the Planning Department to demolish 512 Holiday Street. Attorney Lapaich advised that the order was reduced into a written Finding of Fact to be voted on. Attorney Lapaich noted that if approved, the documents will need to be recorded in the Laporte County's Recorder's Office.

Mr. Simmons made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact as presented; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Request from the Mayor's Office
Mayor Angie Nelson Deuitch is requesting approval to temporarily suspend consideration of any additional speed bump requests throughout the City until the Temporary Speed Bump Pilot Program has been completed.

Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich noted that Mayor Angie implemented a pilot program for temporary speed bumps, explaining the locations of the currently temporary speed bumps.

Discussion ensued between Shong Smith, Street Director, and the Board regarding the specifications of the Pilot program.

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

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

Mr. Simmons made a motion to suspend additional speed bump requests until the completion of the Speed Bump Pilot Program; seconded by Ms. Smith and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Claims Docket

July 20, 2026

Municipal	**$1,740,044.46**
CDBG	**$123.98**
Health & Life	**$236,038.91**
Special Events	**$1,500.00**
Zoo Casino Agreement	**$11,143.48**
ARP Local Fiscal Recovery	**$7,300.00**
TOTAL CLAIMS:	**$1,996,150.83**

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the claims docket as presented; seconded by Mr. Voltz and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Payroll Claims Docket

Payroll Claims Docket	**July 10, 2026**	**$886,208.12**

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the payroll claims docket as presented; seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved with the following vote:
AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz
NAYS: (0) None

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business at this time.

Public Comment

Tommy Kulavick (1316 Ohio Street) made a comment thanking Mr. Voltz and the Parks Department as well as Brett Kelley, Vector Control Director, for removing the fencing before the 4th of July Fireworks, noting upcoming events in Michigan City.

Robin Tillman, Transit Director, made a comment regarding the delivery dates of the proposed units for the Change Order request.

Scott Meland (200 Kenwood Place) made a comment regarding the Transit Department, noting the benefits of the Michigan City bus system particularly for College students.

Board Comment

There were no Board comments made at this time.

Adjournment

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

AYES: (4) Moore, Simmons Smith, Voltz

NAYS: (0) None

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Candice Antisdel

BOW President, Candice Antisdel

Gianna Galante

BOW Clerk, Gianna Galante