The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in REGULAR SESSION on Monday morning, November 3, 2003, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers, in the City Hall Building, located at 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana - a regular meeting room of this Board.

The meeting was called to order by Anthony Metzcus, who presided.

**Noted Present:** Anthony Metzcus and Mayor Charles Oberlie (2).

**Absent:** Controller John Schaefer (1).

**A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.**

Also noted in attendance:
- John Espar, City Attorney and Board Counsel
- Ron Plencner, Code Inspector
- Charlie Cate, Superintendent, Central Maintenance
- Bill Phelps, City Engineer
- John Pugh, City Planner
- Al Walus, General Manager, Sanitary District
- Captain Ken Drake, Traffic Commander
- Deputy Chief Steve Jesse, Police Department
- Nancy Widelski, Director, Human Rights
- Jim Elwell, Superintendent, Central Services
- Terry Farmer, Director, Street Department
- Amanda Haverstick, News-Dispatch
- Ron Miller, Radio Station WEFM
- Chuck Lungren, Councilman, 1st Ward
- Paul Przybylnski, Councilman, 2nd Ward

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Oberlie moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2003, the Special meeting of October 8, 2003, and the Regular meeting of October 20, 2003, be approved as printed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzcus and carried as follows:

**AYES:** MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2).  **NAYS:** None (0).

**AWARDING OF BIDS**

**Per Resolution No. 2771 – Police Cars**

Bids received were as follows:

- Erik’s Chevrolet, Kokomo ............................................................ (1) $19,250.00 — (17) $327,250.00
- Siemen’s Ford, Bridgeman ........................................................... (1) $19,990.36 — (19) $379,876.84
- Hirsch Ford, Michigan City ........................................................... (1) $20,905.00 — (17) $355,385.00
- Harbor Chevrolet, Michigan City ...................................................... (1) $17,591.86 — (19) $334,245.34

Chief Jesse recommended accepting the bid of Harbor Chevrolet and purchasing 18 squad cars and one administrative vehicle, for a total of 19 vehicles. In addition, he recommended awarding contracts to Ace Autobody for installation and removal of equipment from other squad cars – $1,600.00 per unit, Waymire (Indianapolis) for electronics – approximately $25,000.00, and Crismar for graphics. Mayor Oberlie moved to accept the recommendation of the Police Department, also noting that the Human Rights office has indicated that all vendors met their requirements. Mr. Metzcus seconded the motion, which carried as follows: **AYES:** MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2).  **NAYS:** None (0).

**Demolition - 302 Bolka Avenue (Diana Lynn Zuinga, owner)**

Bids were received as follows:

- Joel Harbor ........................................................................... $4,825.00
- Eastport General Construction .................................................. $6,500.00
- Andy Salat ............................................................ $5,300.00

Ron Plencner recommended awarding the bid to Joel Harbor, at $4,825.00. Mayor Oberlie moved to accept the recommendation, noting that the EEO officer had indicated all bidders are acceptable. Mr. Metzcus seconded the motion, which carried as follows: **AYES:** MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2).  **NAYS:** None (0).
Per Resolution No. 2774 – City-owned real estate (former Memorial Hospital site)

The following bids were received:

- **Horizon Bank** .............................................. $90,400.00
- **John Espar** .................................................... $50,000.00

Mayor Oberlie noted no action is required on this; the statute requires the property disposition be approved by the Common Council, since its original value was over the statutory limits. There is a Resolution scheduled for Council consideration at their next meeting.

**FIRE MERIT COMMISSION ELECTION**

Held on October 17. Mark Huffman was certified to serve another four-year term and has been sworn in.

**PUBLIC HEARING**


Chief Jesse advised that the grant – approximately $33,900 – will be used toward the purchase of laptop computers for the rest of the officers, 29 more computers at approximately $1,300 each, which will total more than the grant.

The public hearing was opened, no one responded. The public hearing was closed.

**RELAY RACE**

Luke Becknell [Race Coast to Coast (of Indiana)], Warsaw, Indiana, wrote as follows:

I am organizing a bicycle race to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. This will be a two-stage, four-person relay race from Michigan City to Evansville with the inaugural race being June 5 & 6, 2004.

Our wish is to start the race Sat. am. at Washington Park. I have spoken to Laura New about the availability of a shelter for registration and parking space for the participants. Participants will not be leaving vehicles at the park because of the race finishing its first stage in Crawfordsville.

Help will be needed to assist the bicycles out of town by the quickest route. Since it is a race the cyclists will be close together so it shouldn’t take much time for the race to be south of town. We could start the race as early as 9:00 am or as late as 10:00 whatever would be simplest for you.

Our hope is that this will become a popular event which will then of course, bring cyclists to Michigan City to spend the night on Friday.

I have spoken to Corporal Al Green and will be sitting down with him to go over details for a smooth start to the race.

Other details about this race would be that the entry fee per team will be $200 with at least 2/3rds of that amount going to C.F.. Registrations this first year will be limited to 100 teams and each team will need to have their own support vehicle. Team members can ride one at a time or any combination of their 4 members as they choose for their race strategy.

Captain Drake said they have been in touch with Mr. Becknell. He said the race probably would not stay within the City for more than 15 or 20 minutes, since it is a timed race. They have no objection.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the request subject to receipt of proof of liability insurance from the agency sponsoring the event, waivers of claims from all participants, and approval from the Park Department for use of the park. Mr. Metzcus seconded the motion, which carried as follows:

**AYES:** MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2). **NAYS:** None (0).

**VETERANS’ DAY OBSERVATION**

Anthony Sadowski, Commander, Frank & Edward Skwiat Post No. 451, The American Legion, wrote on October 14, 2003,

On Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11th, the Frank & Edward Skwiat American Legion Post 451 is again planning a program honoring our veterans and will be held at the Post Home, 121 Skwiat Legion Ave.

Veterans organizations from the Michigan City area and the public are being invited to attend these ceremonies which will take place from 10:30 to 11:00 AM outside the front entrance to the Post Home.

As in the past, we are again requesting your permission for barricades to be placed at the entrance to Skwiat Legion Ave. from Washington St. and on Skwiat Legion Ave. just east of the Post Home.

Your granting this request will be greatly appreciated.
Captain Drake reported that this is an annual event and there have been no problems in the past.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2). NAYS: None (0).**

**HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES**

The Mainstreet Association submitted the following on October 29, 2003:

**Horsedrawn Wagon Rides on Mainstreet**

To: Members of the Board of Works and Public Safety

Last year, the Mainstreet Association provided free horsedrawn wagon rides through Michigan City's Mainstreet district. We were pleased with the initial response from citizens, especially families, and from businesses. Last year was a learning experience and because of this, we have made some changes:

- We will only be offering the rides on Sunday, December 7, and Saturday December 13 and 20.
- We have adapted the route to avoid Wabash Street, using the area between Washington, Ninth, Franklin, and Fourth streets.
- We received support and cooperation from Alliance Bank, Melinda Nagle (Edward Jones), St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mainstreet Theatre, The Brickstone Bed and Breakfast, Trinity Episcopal Church, Moose Family Center 980, Top Dog/Great Lakes Catering, Lighthouse Place, and Carlisle Funeral Home.

For 2003, we are requesting approval for the following:

- **Dates:**
  - December 7 Yuletide Splendor Parade and rides after the parade
  - December 13 (Saturday)
  - December 21 (Saturday)

- **Times:** 5:30 or 6:00 PM until 8:30

- **Length of planned route:** approximately 20 minutes

- Leave from 6th and Wabash streets (The Brickstone Bed and Breakfast) -- two routes:
  - Sixth to Washington, Washington to Ninth, Ninth to Franklin, Franklin to Sixth.
  - Sixth to Franklin, Franklin to 4th, 4th to Washington, Washington to Sixth.

We will again be cooperating with the LaPorte County Drafhorse Association which will have liability insurance. The Mainstreet Association insurance will provide secondary coverage.

Related Activities:
- Caroling along the route
- Christmas tree, wreath and garland sales
- Open houses by Mainstreet members during the month of December

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association hopes to continue to make this an annual family event and looks forward to expanding activities in the future. We hope you will continue to support this event through granting your permission of the Yuletide Splendor Parade and the wagon rides.

Captain Drake advised that this, too, is an annual event and there have been no problems previously. The Traffic Division has no objections.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the wagon rides and the Yuletide Parade. Mr. Metzcus seconded the motion, which carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2). NAYS: None (0).**

**PARKING POSTS**

Lynn E. Haverstock, Ott/Haverstock Funeral Chapel, wrote on October 29, 2003:

At the scheduled board of Public Works meeting on Friday, I'm requesting that the old parking posts on the tree lawn in front of the funeral chapel be retained in their places a 51 use those for promoting parking for the funeral chapel. The professionally done signs that I made say funeral chapel parking. There are (4) posts, which (1) I use to promote handicapped parking for those in need. We don't restrict anyone who wishes to park in those few spots, but most respect that area for those families that we are serving. When we replaced the sidewalks in 1986 we had to remove one of those posts, and the concrete foundation is approximately 3' x 3' x 3'. It would be quite an undertaking to remove. We maintain and keep that area as appealing as possible and would hope that you would allow us to continue to keep those posts for our use. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Mr. Pugh advised that he had reviewed the situation and they have no objections to removing the posts in place for the use requested.

Mr. Lungren rose to plead for approval of the request.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2). NAYS: None (0).**
MEER ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

John A. Doyle presented final paper work on this project and a contract to be signed. He also reported on the progress of the Shawmut Avenue project (nearly completed) and the Meijer Drive project (worked Saturday and Sunday).

SPEED CONCERNS

Complaint of Erinn M. Connelly, 10 Bristol Drive – held over from October 20 meeting.

Mr. Phelps reported that Mr. Doyle had done a survey on June 20, 1997, for this Board. There is a 40-foot right-of-way on most of the road site, and within that corridor, the road meanders – practically touching the west side in one area and the east side in another area. He could not justify reconstructing about 900 feet of road. He reviewed the new Uniform Traffic Control manual and came up with some warrants. He recommended the situation be corrected by placing a three-way stop. Justifications were (1) road user after stopping cannot see conflicting traffic and is not able to safely negotiate the intersection unless conflicting is also required to stop and (2) intersection of two residential collectors of similar design and operating characteristics where multi-stop stop control would improve traffic operational characteristics.

Mr. Pugh and Captain Drake both said their departments had no objection.

Mayor Oberlie moved to accept the Engineer’s recommendation, finding that the recommendation of a three-way stop conforms with the Federal manual relating to “engineering issues.” Mr. Metzcus seconded the motion, which carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2). NAYS: None (0).

COUNCILMAN LUNGREN’S CONCERNS

Mr. Lungren relayed a letter from Karl Kintzele, 1411 Lake Shore Drive (Lake Shore Drive and Turner Court), who feels a larger stop sign should be installed for traffic going east on Lake Shore Drive. The current sign is hard to see due to its placement and foliage. In addition, the “stop ahead” sign warning drivers of the sign in question is at least two to three blocks west of the corner. The Street Department was asked to look into this matter and remedy the situation.

Mr. Lungren recalled that street lights had been approved in May for the 200 block of Springland Avenue and the intersection of Rose and Carroll Streets. The Clerk’s office was requested to follow up on this.

A constituent wondered if the proposed bicycle path in the Canada area would be illuminated by Hansen Park. (Mayor Oberlie stated we are still looking at routings and have not gotten into issues of design, so we cannot answer this question.) This constituent also wondered if there would be a hand railing replaced on the E Street bridge. This is the responsibility of LaPorte County, according to Mr. Phelps. Mayor Oberlie requested Mr. Phelps follow up with the County Commissioners, requesting repairs.

WASHINGTON/RIPLEY INTERSECTION

Mr. Pugh said he had spoken with the principal of St. Stan’s School and received his input. They are dealing with increased enrolment and are anticipating more activities. It would not be unusual, keeping with past practices, to put a stop sign there and make it a four-way stop.

Speaking to the situation were Councilman Przybylinski and Captain Drake.

Mayor Oberlie moved to accept the recommendation of Mr. Pugh and place a four-way stop at this intersection, subject to a review of the situation as a part of the redesign of Washington Street when we get to that construction project and review immediately of the access to that building for emergency purposes for fire lanes. Mr. Metzcus seconded the motion, which carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2). NAYS: None (0).

PROBLEM PROPERTIES REPORT

Mr. Plencner submitted the following written report:
Mr. Plencner advised the situation of several items on the list. Mayor Oberlie inquired about a house on Manhattan Street that had fire damage. Mr. Plencner said the house had been bought by Vassillio Karrallis, who is in the process of obtaining permits and rehabbing the property. The property has been secured and the grass is cut. Mr. Przybylinski inquired about a house on Ripley Street that had suffered fire damage. Mr. Plencner stated that this house (119 West Ripley Street) has been secured and cleaned up. It went to Sheriff's sale on October 23 and he has heard nothing more about it. It is being monitored closely. He feels it can be rehabbed.

CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Mayor Oberlie moved that the claims set forth in the Register of Claims (in possession of the City Controller) and appearing in the Register be severally allowed and ordered paid and proper warrants for payment thereof hereby ordered issued in the stated amounts to person(s) and/or firm(s) as set forth, and payrolls approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzcus and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus and Oberlie (2). NAYS: None (0).**
The Board signed: Payroll Items in Register of Claims for informational purposes (which Register is in the possession of the City Controller) as follows:

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<tr>
<td>1 of 9</td>
<td>10-17-03</td>
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$956,030.57

Allowance of claims as set forth in the Register of Claims as follows:

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<td>10-31-03</td>
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The presiding officer inquired whether there was anything else to be considered by the Board at this time and, there being none, declared the meeting ADJOURNED (approximately 10:00 a.m.).

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Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk