

# REGULAR MEETING - MAY 21, 2007

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in REGULAR SESSION on Monday morning, May 21, 2007, 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, Mayor Charles Oberlie, and Controller John Schaefer (3).

**Absent:** None (0).

**A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2007, be approved as printed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzcus and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0).**

Also noted in attendance:

John Espar, City Attorney and Board Counsel  
Bill Phelps, City Engineer  
Cpl. Ken Havlin, Traffic Division  
Jim Elwell, Supt., Central Services  
John Pugh, City Planner  
Al Walus, General Manager, Sanitary District  
Walter Gipson, Director, Municipal Coach Department  
Sgt. Mark Krauklis, Traffic Division  
Brandon Brooks, Fire Marshal, Fire Department  
Jack Kahn, Street Director, Central Services  
Charlie Cate, Superintendent, Central Maintenance  
Thomas Fedder, City Clerk  
Carla Adams, Deputy City Clerk

Amanda Haverstick, News-Dispatch  
Ron Miller, Radio Station WEFM  
Andre Steele, Access LaPorte County

## PARADE ROUTE

Mr. Robert L. Hock, Adjutant for Roger Storey, Commander, American Legion JFM Post 37, wrote the following on May 18, 2007:

We are requesting a change in the parade route this year due to street and sewer construction on May Ave. And in the immediate vicinity. This fact was brought to our attention at our Memorial Day Planning Meeting last nite at the Post. We now wish to assemble at Pytynia Parkway by Ames Field and then march to Franklin St. and then north on Franklin St. to Decatur St. then right on Decatur St. proceeding to Greenwood Cemetery as usual. We hope you understand and agree with the need for this change in our itinerary. See attached map for specific changes.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter.

Mr. Joseph Doyle, representing John Franklin Miller Post No. 37, explained the request to the Board.

Sgt. Mark Krauklis, Traffic Division, said the Traffic Division did not foresee any problems with this request.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the request by John Franklin Miller Post No. 37, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Oberlie, Schaefer, and Metzcus (3). NAYS: None (0).**

## BLUE CHIP CASINO

For Informational Purposes: Mr. Ted Bogich, Executive Vice President & General Manager, would like the following correspondence, dated April 26, 2007, Re: Traffic Control (E Street exit) read into the record:

As you know, Blue Chip Casino is currently in the process of building a new hotel. The construction project is impacting our patron parking lots and the flow of traffic, particularly during periods of peak business activity.

Therefore, to better manage vehicular traffic, reduce congestion and ensure safety, Blue Chip intends to resume using the E Street exit. The E Street exit will be used as necessary, primarily when special promotional events attract larger crowds. We will route exiting traffic to E Street, south to 8<sup>th</sup> Street and over to U.S. 35.

If you have any questions, please contact Gene Simmons, Manager of Security, at 219-861-4871 or myself at ext. 2113

## **RUNNING WILD 5K RUN & WALK**

Mr. Johnny Stimley to explain and receive approval from the Board regarding "Running Wild 5K Run & Walk" (scheduled for Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.).

**(Matter held over from the May 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.)**

This is my 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> year to have this run and never had any problems before. Most runs only have a lead car to direct the race.

Attached is a map of the course which two (2) miles on the road and one (1) mile is ran on the beach. I have also attached a list of the people that are going to assist me with this event.

Sgt. Mark Krauklis, Traffic Division, said he spoke with Emergency Management Director John Jones and he assured him that he would have enough personnel to provide lead and end cars for the run.

Mr. Schaefer moved to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Schaefer, Metzcus, and Oberlie (3). NAYS: None (0).**

## **AWARDING OF BID**

Re: Medium Duty Bus for the Municipal Coach Department.

Mayor Oberlie spoke about the only bid received at the last meeting by Midwest Transit Equipment, Kankakee, IL, and the Board would like to receive a Cost Analysis to confirm this is an acceptable bid, being there was only one (1) bid.

Mr. Walter Gipson, Director, Municipal Coach Department, said that was an FTA requirement and he would submit to the Board at the next meeting a Cost Analysis.

Mayor Oberlie moved to table this matter to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0).**

## **BUS ROUTE CHANGES**

Proposed Bus Route changes for the Municipal Coach Department were taken under advisement on July 17, 2006.

Mr. Walter Gipson, Director, Municipal Coach Department, asked for the Board's approval for the route changes that were taken under advisement on July 17, 2006.

Mayor Oberlie said because of the length of time that has elapsed the Board should allow the public another opportunity to be heard. He said the Board should hold a second **public hearing** at the next meeting. Mayor Oberlie spoke on routes versus schedules.

There was discussion among Mayor Oberlie and Mr. Gipson regarding the route changes and schedules.

Mayor Oberlie requested the Clerk's Office to issue a legal notice to be published in the News Dispatch regarding a public hearing at the next scheduled Board of Works meeting, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Robert Kuchik spoke to the Board regarding extended Bus service.

Mayor Oberlie moved to establish a public hearing at the next meeting to receive the public input on the proposed route changes, change of hours of operations and any fare recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzcus and carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Oberlie, Schaefer, and Metzcus (3). NAYS: None (0).**

### COMMENDATORY STREET SIGN

The Pleasant Hill Family, Rev. Ronald Jones, Pastor, requests an additional sign be put up on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Maple Street in honor of Rev. Ernest Jones. Rev. Jones is a leader in our community and was Pastor at Pleasant Hill Church for 25 years.

(At the May 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting this matter was referred to Planning, City Engineer & Traffic.)

City Planner John Pugh reported on the commendatory sign request by Pleasant Hill Church. He inform the Board of similar requests. Mr. Pugh distributed an example of a sign to the Board and said technically it is possible to add a sign.

Since the date of the program by the Church was missed, City Planner Pugh recommended tabling this request.

Mayor Oberlie informed Mr. Pugh the request was to have a permanent sign and questioned Mr. Pugh about the coloring of the sign (a different color of the standard sign). There was discussion regarding this matter.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the request, but to ask the Street Department to work with the City Engineer to determine what the actual color of the sign should be. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzcus and carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Schaefer, Metzcus, and Oberlie (3). NAYS: None (0).**

### MYSTICAL MAGIC SHOW

Pat Lucero, Marketing Director, Awakening Productions, wrote the following on May 11, 2007:

In lieu of phone conversation Friday, May 11, 2007, and due to information given to me by Fire Marshall, Brandon Brooks, I am responding to the Michigan City Board of works for approval to bring our "Mystical Magic of the Endangered" Show to the Marquette Mall, June 27 through July 1, 2007.

Awakening Productions is a Magic Show and Exotic animal exhibit that is a (dba) subsidiary of the G.W. Exotic Animal Foundation Park in Wynnwood, Oklahoma. We are classified as a USDA Rescue facility and park for endangered and abused animals. Our park is a non-profit organization that holds a 501(c) 3 status. Awakening Productions travels all over the United States providing an exhibit of exotic animals to people who would not get the chance to see them in the wild, or even a zoo. The exhibit is inside the Mall and is available for viewing during mall hours. We contact animal Control and the Missouri State Vets office with up to date Health certificates and recent show/park inspections, and we also contact local Fire Marshalls and can do a demonstration of the theatrical flash prior to the shows for permitting purposes.

The magic show is a free presentation in the evenings, Wednesday through Saturday at 6pm and lasts for approximately one hour. The show and the animals are used to teach the kids (and others) the dangers of drugs, alcohol and driving while drunk, it also stresses the reasons to stay in school as well as teaching about the environment and the endangered species.

The show uses Theatrical Flash (a copy of the material safety data has been faxed to the Fire Marshall and one is attached to this letter). We have three fire watchers on staff and the height of the flash is 3 feet, and we have a ten (10) foot fire line where the flash is used.

We want to comply with the rules and regulations of the State of Indiana and Michigan City. We are asking for your permission to allow us to present the show to your community.

Brandon Brooks, Fire Marshal, Fire Department, addressed the Board and explained the request. He was informed by the Board this matter did not need the approval of the Board of Works.

### BLOCK PARTY

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Paul, 1015 Tennessee Street, wrote the following on May 11, 2007:

This year on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 I am proud to say that my son Ramone Paul will be in the graduating class at Michigan City High School. I along with all the proud parents of students applaud all the graduates!!!

For me it is a really special occasion for my son, Ramone suffers from a very rare and severe form of congenial heart disease. As an infant I was told he would not live 6 weeks, after taking him to the heart institute in Houston, Texas where surgery was performed by world renound heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley, (reconstructive surgery or transplant was not an option for him) we were then told that he would only live until the age of 15 years.

He's still here we have been back and forth to Texas, flown to Riley's Children's in Ind., and have been to Mayo Clinic are in the process of going back in June. My son has been in and out of Hospitals all his life and still has some battles before him. He has endured and is and has been a good student and sport throughout his life. I want this to be special occasion for him.

Therefore I beg of you to allow me on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to have blocked off the alley between 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Street between the hours of 3pm and 9pm for an open house (our yard is small) for Ramone. We live right on the corner of Tennessee St. So this alley is right behind us. I have gone to all our neighbors and asked their permission and they happily give it.

I beg of you to please allow us to do this for our son.

Mr. Schaefer moved to approve the Block Party, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0).**

(Note: Mayor Oberlie instructed the Street Department to provide barricades.)

### **TRUNK SALE (TIME REVISION)**

Roger F. Potratz, President of Mainstreet Association, wrote the following on May 15, 2007:

**(Clerk's Note: Mainstreet Assoc. had previously requested the following time schedule: 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.)**

I am writing to you as the President of the Michigan City Mainstreet Association. On June 23, 2007, the Association would like to help expand the planned activities of the day, which already includes the Kiddies Parade in the morning and the Auto Cruise in the afternoon, by hosting two additional events. These are: a kid's activities day (Kid-O-Rama) possibly to be held in the playground of St Paul's Church with such activities as face painting, games, balloon tying, etc... and, in conjunction with that an automobile trunk sale to be held on Franklin Square on the east side only, between the 800 and 700 blocks on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets.

It is my understanding that this type of event (trunk sale) was held in Laporte and was very successful in helping to bring people downtown for a full day of activities. Here in Michigan City we can tie it into the Kiddie Parade on the morning side and end the day with the cruise in the afternoon, adding an extra draw to bring people into the 'downtown' or the Mainstreet section of our City. During this time, there will also probably be food and drink vendors in the area.

The Board of Directors of the Mainstreet Association and I, as President, are therefore making a request that the East side only of the 700 and 800 blocks of Franklin Square and the entire width of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets from Washington to Pine be blocked off from 8:00 A.M. Saturday, June 23, until 4:00 P.M. of the same day to allow space for a trunk sale.

Thank you for your consideration of our revised request.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the request by the Mainstreet Association, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Oberlie, Schaefer, and Metzcus (3). NAYS: None (0). NAYS: None (0).**

### **PERMISSION TO USE FIELD**

Mr. Allan Whitlow, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Michigan City, wrote the following on May 16, 2007:

The Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City respectfully requests permission to use the field bounded by 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Spring Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Pine Street again this year for summer program activities. Our summer program will begin June 12 this year.

We will provide a copy of our liability insurance coverage term and limits as soon as our renewal statement is received.

Mayor Oberlie moved to approve the request by the Boys and Girls Club, seconded by Mr. Metzcus. The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Schaefer, Metzcus, and Oberlie (3). NAYS: None (0).**

### **INTERSECTION STUDY**

City Planner John Pugh reported on the following two (2) intersection studies:

#### **Fairfield Avenue and Holliday Street - Citizens request for traffic control.**

City Planner Pugh explained to the Board the existing conditions, accident analysis, speed data, traffic volumes, and suggestions by the Planning Department.

Mayor Oberlie moved to table this matter until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer and carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Schaefer, Metzcus, and Oberlie (3). NAYS: None (0).**

#### **Washington Park Blvd. and Beachwalk Subdivision Entrance Roadway - Citizens request for traffic control.**

City Planner Pugh explained to the Board the existing conditions, accident analysis, speed data, traffic volumes, and suggestions by the Planning Department.

Mayor Oberlie moved to table this matter until the next meeting and ask that the pole numbers for the two (2) poles be provided so the Board can make a recommendation on a street light. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer and carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0).**

#### CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Mr. Schaefer 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, Oberlie and Schaefer (3). 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:

Page	Date	Amount
1 of 8	05/11/07	\$398,052.25
1 of 4	05/18/07	\$64,452.85

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

Page	Date	Amount
1 of 6	05/21/07	\$1,558,125.68

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 9:45 a.m.).

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Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk

*Thomas F. Fedder*