

REGULAR MEETING - JUNE 18, 2007

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in REGULAR SESSION on Monday morning, June 18, 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 June 4, 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
Deputy Chief Mark Swistek, Police Department
Jim Elwell, Supt., Central Services
John Pugh, City Planner
Dave Lamb, Fire Chief
Sgt. Mark Krauklis, Traffic Division
Joseph Siegel, Zoning Administrator
Russell Hatfield, Code Officer
Al Walus, General Manager, Sanitary District
Walter Gipson, Director, Municipal Coach Department
Darrell Garbacik, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Dept.
John W. Jones, Director, Emergency Management
Thomas Fedder, City Clerk
Carla Adams, Deputy City Clerk

Rick Richards, News-Dispatch
Ron Miller, Radio Station WEFM
Andre Steele, Access LaPorte County

STATUS/INSPECTION REPORTS

508 W. 11th Street - Mr. James Spsychalski, owner.

Mr. Russell Hatfield, Code Officer, spoke on the copies regarding the Plumbing, Electrical and Inspection reports, and a timetable submitted by Mr. Spsychalski on July 21st of 2005. He said this property was purchased by Mr. Spsychalski with the understanding the repairs be made in a timely manner. Mr. Hatfield said on July 21, 2005, the Inspection Department met with Mr. Spsychalski and discussed rehabilitation on the structure. He said at that time Mr. Spsychalski submitted a timetable to the Planning and Inspection Department. Mr. Hatfield said his target date for rehabilitation to be completed was the end of December 2005. Code Officer Hatfield said in the eighteen (18) months since his target date little progress has been made. Mr. Hatfield said the Inspection Department met with Mr. Spsychalski on May 24, 2007 to re-evaluate the condition of the structure. He said the structure was found to be in worst condition then it was two years ago. Mr. Hatfield said it is his recommendation that Mr. Spsychalski be required to submit a complete work scope, with a second completion date, and also submit a Performance Bond.

There was discussion between Code Officer Hatfield, Mr. Schaefer, and Metzcus regarding 508 W. 11th Street.

Mr. James Spsychalski spoke to the Board regarding his plans for rehabilitation of 508 W. 11th Street. He said his projected completion date would be around November or December.

Mayor Oberlie moved to accept the recommendation of the Inspection Department with the July 21, 2005 schedule being accepted as the schedule for 2007 and have the Board receive a Status Report at the first meeting in September (09/04/07). The motion, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Oberlie, Schaefer, and Metzcus (3). NAYS: None (0).**

A WARDING OF BID

Demolition 109 Combs Street - Mary Patterson, owner

Phelps Construction	\$9,945.00
Piper Excavating (incomplete bid)	\$6,815.00

Code Officer Hatfield recommended awarding the bid to Phelps Construction.

Mayor Oberlie, noted that EEO had approved Phelps Construction, moved to accept the recommendation and award the bid to Phelps Construction at \$9,945.9090. The motion, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Schaefer, Metzcus, and Oberlie (3). NAYS: None (0).**

IMPLEMENTATION OF ROUTE CHANGES

Proposed Bus Route Changes for the Municipal Coach Department.

There was discussion between Mayor Oberlie and Municipal Coach Director Walter Gipson regarding the implementation date. Director Gipson informed the Board the changes would not take effect for another two (2) weeks because of manpower. Mr. Gipson said the Route Changes will go into effect July 9, 2007. He said all information regarding the Route Changes will be posted and published in the News Dispatch.

Mayor Oberlie moved that the proposed Route Changes as presented to the Board at the previous meeting be approved with the implementation schedule set for Monday morning, July 9, 2007. The motion, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0).**

Municipal Coach Director Gipson and Mayor Oberlie responded to questions by Mr. Robert Kuchik regarding Route Changes.

TRAFFIC FLOW PATTERN

Sergeant Mark Krauklis would like to inform the Board of the traffic flow pattern for the Michigan Boulevard corridor on the evening of the annual city fireworks (also restricting any parking along Michigan Boulevard from US 12 to Carroll Avenue).

Sgt. Krauklis, Traffic Division, said the Fireworks display has become a major event here in Michigan City. He said the last few years they have continued to grow with the amount of people who attend. He said they want to everyone out of the Park as quickly as they can and as safety as they can. Sgt. Krauklis said they are not changing a great deal with the flow on exit. He said they want to restrict parking on Michigan Boulevard from Hwy. 12 to Carroll Avenue. Sgt. Krauklis explained the previous parking situation of the past and explained his proposed plans for this year to the Board.

Sgt. Krauklis responded to questions by Mayor Oberlie concerning various traffic restrictions.

Mr. Metzcus asked if there were any questions or comments by the public and Mrs. Hazel Thomas, 120 N. Woodland Avenue, expressed her concerns regarding the traffic restrictions.

Mr. Schaefer moved to approve the recommendation by the Traffic Division regarding the Traffic Flow Pattern of the Annual City Fireworks. The motion, seconded by Mr. Metzcus, was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS , Oberlie, Schaefer, and Metzcus (3). NAYS: None (0).**

STREET CLOSING

Mrs. Francis Metcalf, 903 E. Michigan Boulevard, wrote the following on the 13th day of June 2007:

I am asking for permission to close off 10th Street and Oak Street, the north side of the street only, and the corner of Oak and 9th, leaving 9th Street open, for my husband's 50th birthday party on June 23, 2007, from 7:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. We have Mr. John Newcomb's permission to use the parking lot of Newcomb Printing.

Sgt. Krauklis, Traffic Division, said the Traffic Division does not have any problems with this request. He said Mrs. Metcalf has a letter from Newcomb Printing stating their approval of the use of their parking lot.

There was discussion between Mayor Oberlie and Mr. Schaefer regarding the requested time of the event.

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

STREET CLOSING

On behalf of the Mainstreet Association, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, City of Michigan City, wrote the following on June 8, 2007:

Our office has received a request from the Mainstreet Association to close the 500 block of Franklin Street on June 23, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. as part of the old Towne Fund Fest.

Please place this item on the next Board of Works agenda.

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

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

INTERSECTION STUDY

Re: Two (2) intersections - **Fairfield Avenue & Holliday St. and Washington Park Blvd. and Beachwalk Subdivision Entrance Roadway** (Citizen request for traffic control).

(Note: Matter continued from the May 21, 2007 Board meeting.)

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 said regarding Fairfield Avenue and Holliday Street the Planning Department is recommending pavement markings, so you can define the edge of the pavement. He said the department believes if this Board authorizes the Street Department to paint the white line along the edge it will give the street some definition.

There was discussion between Mayor Oberlie and City Planner Pugh regarding traffic control.

Mayor Oberlie recommended a "Yield" or "Stop" sign on Fairfield Avenue. After considerable discussion, it was recommended that a "Yield Sign" be installed at Fairfield Avenue.

Mayor Oberlie moved to authorize the Street Department to paint the pavement edging on Fairfield Avenue and Holliday Street to establish the intersection and that a "Yield Sign" be placed on Fairfield Avenue traffic at Holliday Street. The motion, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Oberlie, Schaefer, and Metzcus (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.

City Planner Pugh said the department wanted to provide the Board as requested with the pole numbers (**#243/182**) and approximate distance between the poles. He said the department is recommending the installation of an Overhead Street Lamp on the southside.

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

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, 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 6	05/25/07	\$407,734.54
1 of 9	06/08/07	\$426,561.45
1 of 2	06/13/07	\$41,527.18

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

Page	Date	Amount
1 of 6	06/18/07	\$3,581,750.88

Dave Lamb introduced himself to the Board of Works. It was noted, as of Friday, June 15, 2007, he was appointed by Mayor Charles E. Oberlie as new **Fire Chief** of the City of Michigan City. Fire Chief Lamb said he would like to extend their services and assistance to the Board, Department Heads, and the citizens of Michigan City.

MILLENNIUM PLAZA

Park Superintendent Darrell L. Garbacik requested approval from the Board of Works of renewing the Maintenance Contract with De Lau Maintenance, Inc. for Millennium Plaza (and the addition of maintaining the adjoining Old Lighthouse Museum grounds) for 2007. (Clerk’s Note: a five (5) year agreement is also included for ‘08 thru ‘12 and that the Park Board will approve it at a future meeting and such will be budgeted for within the Parks budget for future years.

Mayor Oberlie moved to accept the proposal of the Park Department. The motion, seconded by Mr. Metzcus, was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Oberlie, Schaefer, and Metzcus (3). NAYS: None (0).**

PLEASANT AVENUE/ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS

Mayor Oberlie submitted a request from Mr. & Mrs. Fly for evaluation for additional street lights on North Pleasant Avenue between Thomas Street and the South Shore Rail Crossing.

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

SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS GRANT

Mayor Oberlie said the Michigan City Area Schools will be submitting an application for improving school safety: Safety Schools/Healthy Students Grant. Mr. Oberlie said the application looks for a signatory from a Public Safety entity, in this case the Michigan Area Schools would be looking for either the Police Department or someone from this Board.

Mayor Oberlie moved that the Board authorize the Board President or the Mayor to sign this application, stating our support for the School Safety Program. The motion, seconded by Mr. Metzcus, was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Schaefer, Metzcus, and Oberlie (3). NAYS: None (0).**

CXS CROSSINGS

For informational purposes, City Engineer Phelps submitted the conditions of fourteen (14) CSX crossings within the corporate limits of the City of Michigan City, as follows: Roeske Avenue, Carroll Avenue, Wabash Street, Meer Road, Woodland Avenue, Franklin Street, Hitchcock Street, Tryon Road, Royal Road, Greenwood Avenue, Buffalo Street, Jackson Street, Tilden Avenue, and Ohio Street. Mayor Oberlie said the Planning Department received an email from Angela Fegaru, Public Relations Officer for INDOT, in relationship to studies the City requested at U.S. Hwy. 12 & Willard Avenue; U.S. Hwy. & Wabash Street; and U.S. Hwy. 20 & Ohio Street. He said his concern is the terminology of the emails for both Willard Avenue & Wabash Street. Mayor Oberlie said he thought the Board had asked for a Signal Analysis Study, but her letter relates to a signal ahead sign not being warranted, when in fact he thought the Board asked them to evaluate if the signals were needed.

Mayor Oberlie moved to ask the Planning Department to follow up with INDOT and ask for a formal copy of the analysis so this Board knows exactly what took place and if we should take issue with this matter we can bring it back to this Board. The motion, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, was carried by the following vote: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0).**

Mayor Oberlie responded to questions again by Mr. Robert Kuchik regarding the new bus routes.

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 9:50 a.m.)

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk

