

REGULAR MEETING – January 20, 2009

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in REGULAR SESSION on Tuesday morning, January 20, 2009, 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, President; Mayor Charles Oberlie, Member; and John Schaefer, Member (3).

Absent: None (0).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.

Also noted in attendance:

John Espar, Corporate Counsel
Sgt. Jeff Loniewski, Traffic Division, M.C.P.D.
Joe Siegel, Zoning Administrator
Russ Hatfield, Code Inspector
Bill Phelps, City Engineer
John Pugh, Director, Planning and Inspection
Dave Lamb, Fire Chief, M.C.F.D.
Asst. Chief John Kintzele, M.C.P.D.
Shelley Dunleavy, Personnel Director
Jim Elwell, Superintendent, Central Maintenance
Monique Cook, Office Manager
John Jones, Director, Emergency Management

Thomas Fedder, City Clerk
Kim Sliwa, Asst. Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2009 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). Motion carries.**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - Memorandum of Understanding between Coolspring Township and the City of Michigan City, Indiana

Mayor Oberlie explained the Memorandum of Understanding to the Board stating Coolspring Township will provide the hardware cost for the extension of a water main, which has been estimated at \$17,812.00, and the agreement would cap their obligation to that figure. The Mayor went on to explain that in exchange for the donation for the hardware the City would provide Coolspring Township with free use/no cost access of the new training tower, located on Hitchcock Street. The Mayor stated the

Memorandum has already been signed by the Coolspring Township Board members, and by the Trustee, Mr. Dennis Metheny, and moved the Board authorize it's members to execute the agreement as well; the motion was seconded by John Schaefer and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

Mr. Dennis Metheny, Coolspring Township Trustee, thanked the Board for allowing the Training Tower to be built. Mr. Metheny stated that he and the Board members felt since this is a safety item and if it's going to benefit everybody that it's for the betterment of the community.

DEMOLITION REVIEW

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer, addressed the Board regarding: 513 N. Pleasant Avenue, 1410 E. 8th Street, and 1026 Green Street stating that all three (3) demolitions were awarded to KTM Services. As per bid requirements KTM Services removed all the debris, backfilled, leveled and seeded each of the properties. Mr. Hatfield informed the Board that he has made his final inspections on each property and finds that KTM Services has satisfied his contract with the City of Michigan City.

STREET CLOSING-ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Johnny Stimley, 401 Franklin Street, wrote the following letter on January 8, 2009:

We are asking to close Franklin Street between 11th and 4th Street on Saturday, March 14, 2009 for the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade. The time of this event will be at 1:00 p.m. (standard time) so we would need Franklin Street closed between 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sgt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division spoke on behalf of the Michigan City Police Department. Sgt. Loniewski informed the Board that this is an annual event, and recommends approval of the request. Mr. Schaefer made the motion to authorize the date and time requested; the motion was seconded by Mayor Oberlie and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHTS

The following letter was received in the Clerks Office on January 8, 2009 from Mr. Bill Bolding, 630 White Oak Drive, M.C.:

Could we get more street lights on White Oak Drive in the 600 block, it is very dark at night.

John Pugh, Director, Planning and Inspection addressed the Board and requested more time to look into this request.

Mayor Oberlie made the motion to refer the matter to the Planning and Inspection Department to report back at the Board's next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

REQUEST FOR HANDICAP PARKING

This request has been held over from the January 5, 2009 meeting.

Mary Brown, 1710 Kentucky Street, requests a handicap parking space and road repair in front of her residence. Ms. Brown submitted the following letter:

I am writing to you about a problem we have. I live in the 1700 block of Kentucky Street. At the end of our property I have gravel and then the street. My house also has a ramp on it because I use a wheelchair. I am still able to stand up to get into a van because I don't drive. On several occasions I have lost my footing on the gravel and I also have fallen. In the winter the gravel gets pushed away by the plows and in the spring the gravel gets washed away by the rain. The gravel is gone and you can see two or three inches of the road. And that is not safe for anyone. I really would like to know how I can get the gravel paved and a handi cap parking. I really am afraid of the gravel. The gravel is not my property. I have problems with the street department in the winter that they don't want to plow the gravel. So it becomes a hazard to anyone that walks on it because of ice and snow. If I fall and hurt myself, who will pay for my hospital bill? I have tried in the past to get someone to inspect the problem, and we never received a call back. I truly believe this matter needs to be looked at before someone really gets hurt bad.

Mr. John Pugh, Director, Planning and Inspection Department, addressed the Board stating that on the question of the road/berm repair due to weather conditions the Planning Department has not had the opportunity to look into that. The City Engineer and the Planning Department request that this be continued again, so they can take a look at the road/berm repair, as well as the roads in that area. Mr. Pugh advised the Board that as far as the handicap sign, it appears to be warranted; and the M.C.P.D. Traffic Division and the Planning Department recommend the installation of the sign.

Mayor Oberlie made the motion to authorize the Street Department to install the handicap parking sign; and also authorizes the Engineer and Street Department to proceed with a study and do what is necessary to correct any issues they find from a safety issue standpoint. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

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). Motion carries.**

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 4	01/16/2009	\$1,254,236.20

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

Page	Date	Amount
1 of 7	01/20/2009	\$394,722.12

Dennis Metheny addressed the Board expressing his “Thanks” for allowing public comment after every item. Mr. Metheny advised that he doesn’t see that at a lot of meetings he attends.

UPDATE ON M.C.P.D. MOBILE DATA PROJECT

Asst. Chief John Kintzele, M.C. Police Department, updated the Board on the timeline regarding the mobile data canopy project, and submitted it to the Board.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Dave Lamb, M.C. Fire Department, addressed the Board and “Thanked” the Coolspring Township Trustee, Mr. Dennis Metheny and the Coolspring Township Board of Directors for their generosity in helping with the new Training Tower. Chief Lamb stated the Training Tower will benefit the whole county, and is available at no charge to departments for training exercises. Chief Lamb also commented on the January 8, 2009 fire at the N.I.P.S.CO facility and expressed his “Thanks” to Chief Kintzele, Chief Neitzel and Chief Swistek of the M.C. Police Department for their assistance at the scene, for bringing the command center to the scene, and for allowing a police squad car at each fire station during the incident to help the volunteers who filled in. Chief Lamb reported that the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department filled in at Station 2 on Hwy US 12, Westville Volunteer Fire Department filled in at Station 1, and Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department filled in at Stations 3 & 4; Coolspring also brought a truck to the scene to refill air tanks as needed. (This “fill in” scenario is what the “MAYVIS” system is like.) Chief Lamb also commended the firefighters of the Michigan City Fire Department for the excellent job they did stopping the fire from entering N.I.P.S.CO’s building; John Jones of Emergency Management; the Mayor’s Office; and the Red Cross.

SNOWPLOWING/SNOW REMOVAL IN HANDICAP AREAS

Sgt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division, addressed the Board regarding the Board’s request to be updated on snowplowing/snow removal in handicap areas. Sgt. Loniewski informed the Board that working with the Street Department whenever a handicap placard or handicap license plate is encountered every effort will be made to contact the citizen who owns that vehicle to make arrangement for that vehicle to be moved without towing it or issuing a citation. Sgt. Loniewski hopes this will elevate some of the concerns that the handicap citizens have with our snow removal policy.

Mayor Oberlie expressed the Board's appreciation in the thought process that went into this; and will relieve a lot of concern that citizens have expressed trying to get out and move their vehicles.

Mayor Oberlie asked Asst. Chief Kintzele if this would become a part of the departments S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedures).

Sgt. Loniewski also reported to the Board an issue that was discovered during the snow removal efforts, that being E. 9th Street between Pine Street and Michigan Blvd. is heavily signed with Snow Route signage. Sgt. Loniewski informed the Board that there is no provision in the Snow Removal Ordinance that lists E. 9th Street as a Snow Route. Sgt. Loniewski has conferred with the Street and Planning Departments, and have come to the conclusion that there isn't enough reason for E. 9th Street to continue to be a snow route. Sgt. Loniewski recommends the removal of the Snow Route signs on E. 9th Street.

Mayor Oberlie made the motion to authorize the Street Department to remove the signs, being they are not consistent with the City Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzcus and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MICHIGAN CITY CENTRAL SERVICES AND AFSCME LOCAL 228

Mayor Oberlie informed the Board that a Memorandum of Agreement relating to AFSCME Contract, Local 228, where they have offered for the duration of the current snow season when two (2) scheduled shifts are running, that the night crew be allowed to start their work week on Sunday evening. This has been reviewed by all parties. The Mayor moved to proceed with the execution of the Memorandum to the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

SNOW REMOVAL UPDATE

Mayor Oberlie addressed Jim Elwell, Superintendent, Central Maintenance, asking for an update on the Snow Removal Phase II progress. The Mayor asked if the snow removal has progressed enough to call the Snow Emergency off.

Mr. Elwell reported to the Board that there were still cars that needed to be moved and suggested the City stay in Phase II for the next twenty-four (24) hours, lifting the Phase II Snow Emergency at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 23, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

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 9:22 a.m.).

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk