The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in REGULAR SESSION on Monday morning, February 6, 2012 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 President, Michael Palmer, who presided.

Noted present: Michael Palmer, Steve Janus and Mayor Ron Meer (3).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.

Also noted in attendance:

John Espar, Corporate Counsel
John Pugh, Director, Planning and Inspection
Nathan Anderson, Zoning Administrator
Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division
Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer
Sgt. Chris Yagelski, Michigan City Police Department
Yvonne Hoffmaster, Deputy City Controller
Donna Pappas, City Controller
Pam Long, Administrative Assistant
Shannon Eason, Admin. Director, M.C. Parks & Recreation Department
Jan Orlich, Superintendent M.C. Parks & Recreation Department
Jeremy Kienitz, Recreation Director
Bob Zondor, Superintendent Central Services
Charles Peller, City Engineer
Connie Adams, Refuse Inspector
Judy Pinkston, Community Development Director

Gale Neulieb, City Clerk
Kim Sliwa, Deputy Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Meer moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 17, 2012 be approved as printed. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

STREET CLOSURE

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on February 1, 2012 from Johnny Stimley:

The Michigan City St. Pat’s Day Parade will be on Saturday, March 10th. The parade will start at 1:00 p.m. The Committee is requesting the closing of Franklin Street from 11th Street to 4th Street from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thank you for your consideration.
Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board informing them that this is a well organized annual event; last year overtime costs incurred were approximately $730.00 to staff this event. Lt. Loniewski explained the Police Department does not anticipate exceeding that amount this year, and recommended approval of the request.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Vice-President Janus made the motion to approve the event. The motion was seconded by Mayor Meer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

REQUEST FOR CURB SIDE PICK UP – St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on January 27, 2012 from Dave Pfeiffer:

I would like an item added to the February 6th, 2012 agenda. St. Paul Lutheran is holding its 2nd annual Jonas Fish Fry on March 30th, 2012 from approximately 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the church and school location.

Our request is to duplicate what we did last year and that is to utilize the parking lanes on the north side of 9th street between the alley between Franklin and Pine on the west and Pine St. on the east for a “drive-up” lane. We implemented traffic cones and signage last Year and we will have an attendant present to assist traffic.

There were no problems last year, and we expect none, with the normal traffic flow on 9th Street. All regular dine-in patrons will utilize the normal church/school parking areas.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation, and if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Dave Pfeiffer of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School addressed the Board regarding the request.

Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board regarding the 2nd annual fish fry, and informed the Board that the Street Department provided the cones and barricades to establish the loading/unloading zone for the pick-up. Lt. Loniewski further stated there were no problems with the last event and recommended approval.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Mayor Meer made the motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

REQUEST FOR “NO PARKING SIGN”

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on January 31, 2012 from Richard Smith, 111 Liberty Court:

An encroachment was put into place about 50 years ago in front of 111 Liberty Court for Emergency vehicles, mail vehicles and Fire Department vehicles as a turn around – the problem is that the neighbors at 121 & 122 Liberty Court are using this area for parking. I request “No Parking” signs be posted to stop this from happening.
Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board stating the Traffic Division has no issues with the request; it would make it easier for the emergency vehicles to turn around in the cul-de-sac. Lt. Loniewski recommended the Board TABLE this request for two (2) weeks to allow the City Clerk’s Office to send correspondences to the residents directly affected by this to allow them to remonstrate against this.

Discussion ensued regarding public access to Trail Creek for fishing.

Mayor Meer made the motion to TABLE this request for two (2) weeks as recommended by Lt. Loniewski. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus.

President Palmer called for public comment. Mr. Henry Osley, 124 Liberty Court addressed the Board regarding the request, and presented the Board with photos of the area.

Mayor Meer amended his motion to include referring this request to the Planning Department and the City Engineer to look at all the off-street parking in that cul-de-sac. Vice-President Janus amended his second and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

REQUEST TO HOLD WALK

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on February 1, 2012 from Courtney Targos:

To whom it may concern, I am a student at Indiana University Northwest in the Geology Department. The Geology Club is putting together an event called the “Walk for Water.” The purpose is to raise awareness about the lack of clean water in Africa. We will walk from Hansen Park (pending) to Lake Michigan, where we will fill up an empty mild jug of water, each; and then trek back to Hansen Park. All money raised will be donated to The Water Project and will go to drilling a well for a village in Africa. This will supply many people with clean water.

The event will be held on April 21, 2012 (the day before Earth Day) at Hansen Park (pending) From 12-6 pm. Several students and I were wondering if there was a chance that we could Come and talk to the town board about the event. We would like to know about security Precautions, parking issues and more. We appreciate may amount of time that you could give us.

If you would like to visit our website and see what The Water Project is all about, visit www.thewateproject.org/community/profile/courtney-targos

Ryan Venturelly, President of I.U. Northwest Geology Club addressed the Board regarding the event. Ms. Venturelly informed the Board they will have volunteers to man the route, and that they have talked to the Sheriff’s Department and Park Department.

Discussion ensued regarding staffing needs for the event, the route to be taken.

Dr. Erin Argylian addressed the Board explaining that Michigan City was chosen largely because they have been supportive of other environmental events, and wants to help highlight the Trail Creek Project.

Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board explaining that he has spoken with Ms. Targos to establish the route to be taken for the event. Lt. Loniewski advised the only commitment from the M.C. Police Department would be to provide an officer
at US Hwy. 12 and Michigan Boulevard to provide a crosswalk for the participants to cross the highway.

President Palmer addressed the group asking if they have a “Certificate of Liability” Insurance to cover the participants of the event.

Dr. Argylian stated that would be taken care of by the University, and that they will work with the City Clerk’s Office and the City Attorney. Dr. Argylian informed the Board that they have an agreement with Blue Chip for overflow parking, and will supply a letter of support as well.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Mayor Meer made the motion to approve the request upon receipt of the “Certificate of Liability” Insurance and letter of support from the Blue Chip for overflow parking in the City Clerk’s Office before the event takes place. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

**REQUEST TO TRANSFER/DONATE EQUIPMENT**

Sgt. Chris Yagelski, M.C. Police Department addressed the Board requesting to transfer some old surplus radios to the Emergency Operations Center for their use, and to also be able to donate some surplus radios for parts to the a local Ham Radio Operator Group; and to have the remainder of the scrap items as well removed from the M.C. Police Department’s inventory. Sgt. Yagelski provided the Board with a list of the items.

Vice-President Janus made the motion to approve the distribution as requested. The motion was seconded by Mayor Meer.

Corporate Counsel John Espar addressed the Board regarding the designation of the second (2nd) group of items that are to be donated to the Ham Operators Club, in that the Board finds that these items are surplus property of “no value”.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

The motion was amended by Vice-President Janus to add “surplus property with no value to the Department”. The motion was seconded by Mayor Meer and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

**TRAFFIC RECOMMENDATIONS – Marsh Elementary School On-Street Parking**

Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board stating that last year the Traffic Division started working with Dave Williamson, Director of Plant Planning, Michigan City Area Schools on several of the schools with traffic issues, especially where parents are parking in the roadway to drop off and pick up students. Lt. Loniewski explained the recommendations to the Board for Marsh Elementary School that would include placing “No Standing” signs along the eastside of Oak Street between Homer and Belden Streets. Lt. Loniewski further explained that with the placement of the signs it makes it clear to the parents that park there, so that when there is a violation the Police Department can act on it.
Discussion ensued between the Board members and Lt. Loniewski regarding the other streets surrounding the school and the students’ point of entry/exit; along with other recommendations that have already been implemented. Lt. Loniewski explained that the “No Standing” sings are part of the Uniform Traffic Control Devices Manual, which is why they were selected. Lt. Loniewski made the suggestion to have the signs say “No Stopping or Standing” to help clarify the intent.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Mayor Meer made the motion to accept the recommendations of Lt. Loniewski. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

STREET CLOSURES

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on January 24, 2012 from Jeremy Kienitz, Recreation Director:

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, along with Lighthouse Events and Marketing, is hosting our 4th Annual Triathlon on Friday, August 10 and Saturday, August 11, 2012. The triathlon will consist of a swim, bike and run. The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department is requesting the closure of roads for this event on Friday from 5 pm – 6:30 pm and on Saturday from 8 am – 11 am.

We have already contacted Lt. Jeff Loniewski, Michigan City Police Department, and he is on board with this request and their assistance in our event. We will also be contacting Chief Sulkowski, Long Beach Police Department, the Long Beach Town Council, the Duneland Beach Town Council, LaPorte County Board of Commissioners, for their approval of the routes and for their given consent to shut down the requested roads for the triathlon.

Upon approval from the Board of Works, we are requesting the following closures of roads for the MC Triathlon:

Kids Bike Route:
From Transition area (Washington Park) to Parker Parkway
East Parker Parkway past Senior Center through Fedder’s Alley to Lakeshore Drive
Left on Lakeshore Drive to Turner Court (Stop 9)
Turnaround at Stop 9 back to Fedder’s Alley
Fedder’s Alley past Senior Center
Right on Parker Parkway to Lot #1 Washington Park

Adult Run Route:
2nd St to HWY 12 (around Police Station)
Washington to 9th St
9th St to Pine St
Pine to Bridge/Lake Shore Dr.
Lake Shore Dr. to Washington Park Main Entrance
Lake Shore Dr. (Fedder’s Alley) into Long Beach
Moore Rd. (from Lake Shore Dr. to Notre Dame Church/School)

Adult Bike Route:
Washington Park Lot #1 to Lakeshore Drive
Lakeshore Drive to Michiana Drive (stop 37)
Turnaround through triangle back to Lakeshore Drive
Left on Lakeshore Drive back to Washington Park

All businesses, restaurants and home owners will be notified via press release and flier well in advance of the event. If you have any further questions, I can be reached at (219) 873-1506. Thank you for
Jeremy Kienitz, Recreation Director Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department addressed the Board explaining the event and requested street closures.

Discussion ensued between the Board members and Mr. Kienitz regarding the event.

Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board stating approximately two (2) years ago the route was modified to minimize the impact on the residents of Lake Shore Drive; and recommended approval of the request.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Vice-President Janus made the motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mayor Meer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

STREET CLOSURES

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on February 2, 2012 from Jeremy Kienitz, Recreation Director:

The Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department is teaming with the Northwest Athletic Club to host the 2nd Annual Dyngus Day Dash 5K on Monday, April 9, 2012. The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department and Northwest Athletic Club is requesting the closure of roads for this event from 6 pm – 7 pm. We have already contacted Lt. Jeff Loniewski, Michigan City Police Department, and he is on board with this request and their assistance in our event.

The roads being used is Kieffer Road (400 N) and 1100 W. The course is set up to be an out and back course. We are expecting 250 participants and want to ensure their safety throughout the event. We will present press releases through the local media outlets to notify the public of this event and the road closure. Thank you for your consideration in assisting our event.

Jeremy Kienitz, Recreation Director Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department addressed the Board explaining the event and requested street closures.

Discussion ensued between the Board members and Mr. Kienitz regarding the route and time of the event as well as approval from the County for use of their road.

Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board explaining that last year the event was staffed with On-duty Traffic Officers and On-duty personnel and did not incur any overtime costs; and recommended approval of the event.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Mayor Meer made the motion to approve the event. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.
CERTIFIED RESOLUTION – “Authorize Signatories”

President Palmer explained that the Certified Resolution is to authorize Donna Pappas, who is now the City Controller, to sign and execute documents on behalf of the City of Michigan City effective February 6, 2012.

Vice-President Janus made the motion to authorize the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Meer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

LPA PROJECT COORDINATION CONTRACT – Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail Phase 1, Porter County to Michigan City

Shannon Eason, Michigan City Park Department addressed the Board with a presentation on the State of the Michigan City Trails System. Mrs. Eason explained to the Board the Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail Phase 1, Porter County to Michigan City, in that the trail is approximately 3 miles in length and connects the Calumet Trail to Washington Park. Mrs. Eason further explained the NIPSCO Greenway Phase 1 East, which is approximately 2.7 miles in length and connects Ames Field to the Karwick Nature Park; this project has been placed on hold until the completion of the Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail Phase 1. Mrs. Eason explained the Peanut Trail, which is .3 miles in length and connects with the Peanut Bridge out to US Hwy 12. Mrs. Eason explained the High School Trail, which would go from near Gardena Park out to the High School via Woodland Avenue. Mrs. Eason stated that after meeting with the Common Council, it was tentatively decided to put all the Trails on hold with the exception of the Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail due to the City’s investment of $300,000.00 to date.

Jake Dammerrel, Butler, Fairman & Seufert addressed the Board and further explained the LPA Project Coordination Contract for the Singing Sands Lighthouse Trail Phase 1, Porter County to Michigan City. Mr. Dammerrel stated the reason the project has been delayed was due to the negotiations with NIPSCO for the use of their land, which has now been resolved. Mr. Dammerrel informed the Board that 2.17 million dollars can be utilized for this project at eighty (80%) percent Federal match, with the remaining twenty (20%) percent coming from the City.

Discussion ensued between the Board members and Mrs. Eason and Mr. Dammerrel regarding the proposed trail route and the NICTD realignment, timeline on the Grant money and any realignment of the trail that may be needed, along with any additional appropriations that may be needed from the Common Council.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Vice-President Janus made the motion to approve the LPA Project Coordination Contract. The motion was seconded by Mayor Meer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – Fiber Optic Cable Installation

Andrew Matanic, IT Manager addressed the Board and explained the Request for Proposals for Fiber Optic Cable Installation from Com Control (Brian Baker). Mr. Matanic explained that the RFP is a very preliminary rough draft, and that it would be another three (3) to four (4) weeks before the locations are entered into the RFP. Mr. Matanic stated that City locations have been submitted and Com Control is in the process of mapping them; and figuring out how they will align with the existing fiber that is in place by the Michigan City Area Schools. Mr. Matanic further explained this will allow most of the City buildings to be connected with each other via fiber optic cable. Mr. Matanic explained the current configurations and the limited ability of this system.

Discussion ensued between the Board members and Mr. Matanic regarding this being a co-op with the M.C.A.S. system, pricing, timeline, and the benefits of this type of system and how the private sector can become involved in this.

Note: For Informational Purposes Only.


Charles Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board regarding a contract for the 2012 Paving Program. Mr. Peller informed the Board that Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. has agreed to use last year’s pricing for an additional year. Mr. Peller recommended the Board approve the reinstatement of last year’s contract with Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.

Mr. Peller advised that the Board will be going through the 2012 Sidewalk Program and that the prices from last year are extremely good, and that it would be to the benefit of the City to extend that contract also.

Mayor Meer advised the Board that he has done some research on these two (2) contracts and expressed to the Board that these are good prices. Mayor Meer addressed Corporate Counsel regarding renewing the contracts.

Corporate Counsel John Espar advised that is correct, as the statute cited in the cover letter from Rieth-Riley which authorizes a renewal of contracts for materials or supplies as is in this case and it can be renewed indefinitely on an annual basis as long as the Board finds that the terms remain competitive and advantageous to the City. Counsel Espar advised the Board that under the provision IC 5-22-17-4, it authorizes a Political Subdivision or State Agency to renew a contract that was once submitted to the public bidding process.

Vice-President Janus inquired if it had to be bid out.

Mayor Meer added that last year this was in the competitive bidding process and was the lowest bid.

President Palmer called for public comment. No comments were made on the request.

Mayor Meer made the motion to approve the contracts for the 2012 Paving Program and the 2012 Sidewalk Program with Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.
CONTRACT – NIPSCO Electric Service Contracts

Yvonne Hoffmaster, Deputy City Controller addressed the Board explaining these contracts were just a formality as the contracts that the Board approved last meeting, NIPSCO had found some formatting errors and they were corrected, so they just need to have the revised contracts signed.

Discussion ensued between the Board members and Mrs. Hoffmaster as to whether this was an increase or decrease, what locations were included, having a NIPSCO representative present to answer questions at the next meeting and the contract that was for the Parks Department.

Note: For Informational Purposes Only.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – 2011 Annual Code Enforcement Report

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board and presented the following report:

CODE ENFORCEMENT YEAR END STATUS
REPORT – 2011

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ORDERS ACTIVELY IN FILE PROCESS

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CITATIONS ISSUED FOR CODE VIOLATIONS

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Does not include citations issued by Refuse Department, Vector Control, Zoning Administrator or Police Department.

NOTE: All fines and court costs are collected by LaPorte County Superior Court 4.

Mayor Meer addressed Mr. Hatfield and asked for a list of the nineteen (19) properties on the Order Repairs in Progress.
Discussion ensued between Board members and Mr. Hatfield regarding properties at: 700 E. Michigan Boulvard, 200 Blk E. US Hwy 20 – Wells Chair Company, Blank Management building and the home on Washington Street.

Discussion ensued between Board members and Mr. Hatfield regarding “fire” damage properties.

Mr. Hatfield addressed the Board regarding pending Demolitions from 2011 at 614 Dupage Street and 219 Emma Street and reported they have been completed.

STATUS UPDATE – 3019 Cleveland Avenue

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board regarding the property at 3019 Cleveland Avenue; informing the Board that the owner Mark Knopf passed away leaving the property to his son. Mr. Hatfield further explained that the son did not want anything to do with the property, and that he was contacted by two (2) of Mr. Knopf’s sisters who requested that a temporary hold be placed on the demolition to give them time to open an Estate to transfer ownership to them. Mr. Hatfield stated that the Inspection Department has agreed to this request as long as it takes place in a timely manner. Mr. Hatfield informed the interested party to keep him up to date on a regular basis and stressed the fact that the structure needed to be brought up to code as quickly as possible.

Discussion ensued between the Board members, Mr. Hatfield and Corporate Counsel Espar regarding this structure, insurance and a current timeline for the completion of the repairs. Mr. Hatfield informed the Board that the taxes are up to date. The Board asked Mr. Hatfield for a Status Update on the property at the next meeting.

Note: For Informational Purposes Only.

CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Vice-President Janus 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 Mayor Meer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (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:

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

Mayor Meer introduced Mr. Robert Zondor, who is the new Central Services Superintendent. The Mayor stated there has been some restructuring in that department, which includes a Director of Municipal Operations and a Director of Street Operations.

Mayor Meer introduced Mrs. Donna Pappas, who is the new City Controller.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Palmer addressed the Board regarding the list of pending items from 2011.

John Pugh, Director, Planning and Inspection Departments addressed the Board regarding the request for a traffic study at Lumber Center Road stating this was referred to INDOT, and that when the results are available he will bring them back before the Board.

John Pugh, Director, Planning and Inspection Departments addressed the Board regarding the request for a traffic light at Moore Road and US Hwy 12 stating he will have to check with INDOT to see what the status is with this request.

President Palmer addressed Mr. Pugh regarding a request for a “Dusk to Dawn” light on 4th Street, asking if any of the suggestions were ever followed through with and if the neighbors were ever contacted. Mr. Pugh indicated that the Board did not approve a light for that location. The Board asked for a follow through on the status of this request.

President Palmer addressed Mr. Pugh regarding the request from the Solid Waste District to restrict parking on Cole Court. Mr. Pugh informed the Board that after the neighbors came before the Board asking that the parking restriction not be put into force; it was decided not to do anything. Mr. Pugh further stated the item was referred to the Planning and Traffic Departments to continue to monitor the situation; and that the decision stands to not restrict parking on one side of Cole Court and cause hardship to the residents.

Lt. Jeff Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board stating it was advertised to the neighbors and that at the following meeting several of the neighbors did show up at the meeting expressing opposition to the parking restrictions. Lt. Loniewski further stated that at that time there was discussion that the request be referred back to the Solid Waste District. This matter was closed/no action taken.

Mayor Meer made the motion to close out the request. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Janus and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Meer, Janus and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.
Vice-President Janus addressed the Board regarding the request to vacate a portion of the alleyway at 624 Main Street.

Corporate Counsel John Espar advised that any right-of-way alley or right-of-way vacation is subject to and within the providence of the Common Council and does not belong in front of this Board or in the office of the City Clerk.

Mayor Meer addressed Mr. Pugh asking him to contact INDOT officials in regards to the US Hwy 12 Bridge over the creek with regards to graffiti.

President Palmer addressed Lt. Loniewski regarding the Moore Road and Westgate Way project, advising the request was TABLED.

Lt. Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board and explained it was denied by the Board of Public Works and Safety, which the Traffic Division recommended denying the request.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Miller, WEFM, 1903 Springland Avenue addressed the Board once again regarding the newly implemented stop signs and traffic island at Springland and Roeske Avenues; asking the Board to review this intersection.

Discussion ensued between the Board members, Mr. Pugh and Lt. Loniewski regarding the request, the number of pedestrians who use the intersection and truck/delivery routes. The M.C.P.D. Traffic Division and the Planning Department will continue to monitor the intersection and be sure appropriate signage is in place.

Corporate Counsel John Espar addressed Mr. Pugh asking if traffic counts were done prior to the installation of the stop signs. Mr. Pugh did not think numbered counts were done.

Further discussion ensued between the Board members and Mr. Pugh regarding the pedestrian traffic, proper signage posted.

Lt. Loniewski, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board stating that traffic counts were done at the intersection on both sides. Lt. Loniewski further explained the reason for the narrowing of the intersection was due to encroachment on private property, as the intersection became wider over the years because of the re-paving projects. Lt. Loniewski further reiterated one of the major reasons for the redesign of the intersection was the pedestrian traffic to and from the school. Lt. Loniewski explained that Roeske Avenue between Springland Avenue and Michigan Boulevard is not a truck route, it’s considered a delivery route; there is a difference between a primary truck route and a delivery route. Lt. Loniewski advised the primary truck route is Michigan Boulevard up Roeske Avenue to GAF and back.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice-President Janus addressed the Board inquiring about the "City Hall" upgrade that was presented in the last Common Council minutes.
Mayor Meer explained there is an Ordinance for Additional Appropriation that would go before the Common Council for an upgrade to the audio system in the Council Chambers, and to construct a partition between the public and staff in the City Clerk’s Office and the Mayor’s Office.

Vice-President Janus addressed the Board and Corporate Counsel regarding the number of Day Care Centers in Michigan City, asking if there are inspections performed.

Corporate Counsel John Espar advised there is no state regulation of Day Care facilities, and they are not licensed on the local level.

Discussion ensued between the Board members, Corporate Counsel and the Planning Department regarding business licenses, health department regulations, and zoning.

Mr. Pugh, Director, Planning and Inspection Departments advised the Board there is a distinction that involves the number of students; explaining that if there are less than twelve (12) students, it is considered a residential Day Care which can be done in any structure. Mr. Pugh further explained that if there are more than twelve (12) students it is considered a commercial Day Care, and there are regulations on commercial Day Cares in terms of commercial zoning. Mr. Pugh stated that when it’s a commercial Day Care the Fire Marshal and the Fire Department along with the Inspection Department inspect the facilities.

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 10:30 a.m.).

______________________________
Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk