REGULAR MEETING – November 18, 2013

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in REGULAR SESSION on Monday morning, November 18, 2013 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, Steve Janus, who presided.

Noted present: Steve Janus, Sharon Carnes and Michael Palmer (3). Absent: none (0).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.

Also noted in attendance:
John Espar, Corporate Counsel
Donna Pappas, City Controller
Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer
Terry Borolov, Code Enforcement Officer
Officer Kevin Urbanczyk, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division
Officer Tim Teska, M.C.P.D.
Bob Zondor, Superintendent Central Services
Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer
Shannon Eason, Asst. Director, Parks & Recreation Department
Sojo Atwater, Human Rights Department
Craig Phillips, Planning Director

Gale Neulieb, City Clerk
Kim Sliwa, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Janus asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Regular meeting of November 4, 2013.

Vice-President Carnes made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 4, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows:
AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

OPENING OF BIDS – Old Lighthouse Museum Lantern Room Restoration Project Request for Quotes

President Janus asked if there was anyone present who wanted to submit a bid for the Old Lighthouse Museum Lantern Room Restoration Project. There was no response.

Vice-President Carnes made the motion to close the acceptance of the bids. The motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

Corporate Counsel Espar addressed the Board and opened the one (1) bid that was received for the project as follows:
Property MD’s Home Improvements, LLC  $52,500.00
Alternate bid for a copper roof  $4,500.00

Counsel Espar informed the Board that there was no “bidder’s bond” or “certified check” in the amount of ten (10%) percent of the bid enclosed, and that all other paperwork appeared to be complete. Counsel Espar recommended the Board refer the matter to the appropriate departments for further review and recommendation.

Mike Palmer made the motion to refer the bid to the appropriate departments for their review and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Carnes and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

REQUEST FOR TREE DECORATIONS – Arturo Pozos, Michigan City MainStreet Association-holiday lights on Franklin Street between 4th and 9th Streets

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on November 6, 2013 from Arturo A. Pozos, Michigan City MainStreet Association:

Type of Request: Tree Decorations

We would like to put Holiday lights on the trees on Franklin Street from 4th to 9th Streets.
In the beds with power.

Shem Khalil with the Michigan City MainStreet Association addressed the Board regarding the request explaining that the MainStreet Association would like to be allowed to place Holiday lights on the trees along Franklin Street between 4th and 9th Streets from December 6, 2013 to early January 2014 pending funding through the MainStreet Association.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Mr. Khalil regarding past practices and who would be responsible for the payment of the electrical bill. Mr. Khalil explained that the lights would be plugged into the City outlets and paid for by the City; and informed the Board that LED lighting would be used around the trunks of the trees. Mr. Khalil stated the Michigan City MainStreet Association will provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance to the City when the lights are installed.

Vice-President Carnes made the motion to conditionally approve the request for Tree decorations by the Michigan City MainStreet Association conditional on them receiving funding and providing a insurance certificate. The motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

REQUEST FOR STOP SIGN – James Guerrucci, Executive Director for the Social and Learning Institute requests Stop signs on York Street at the intersection of Garfield and York Streets

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on November 12, 2013 from James Guerrucci, Executive Director, Social and Learning Institute, 201 E. Garfield Street:
Type of Request: Stop signs on York Street at the intersection of Garfield and York Streets

Social & Learning Institute for mentally disabled adults work with developmentally and physically disabled adults in a day school environment. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parents/Guardians bring each student to class and pick them up. The a.m. hour is not as congested as they arrive at various times before class starts at 10:00 a.m. Due to the enlarged size of enrollment each year additional students are added. At this time 28-30 attend. Therefore, parents begin forming a line off York and extends to Harrison St and around. Issue currently York is wide open and cars leaving Greenwood and York travel at speed not aware of what is going on and students are dismissed by a teacher at the front door entrance seeing each student goes home in correct car. Because these young adults do not have mental ability to look what is coming, I am requesting some school markings and a “Stop” at York and Garfield (201 E. Garfield). Your cooperation will be most appreciated. Let’s work together and avoid a serious problem and/or accident.

Please note: I have been to the police and talked to Traffic Control – he likewise will support this sign request.

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board stating he has received the request and has the accident reports, and will report back to the Board at their next meeting with a “warrant study”.

Officer Kevin Urbanczyk, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed the Board reiterating what Mr. Peller stated.

President Janus stated the item will be held over until the next meeting.

AGREEMENT – Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Michigan City and the Michigan City Firefighters’ Local #475

President Janus asked if there was anyone present to explain what the Board was to do with the Agreement. There was no response.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Corporate Counsel John Espar and the City Clerk Gale Neulieb regarding changes that may have been made; compensation or it being an extension of the previous contract.

President Janus stated the item will be held over until the next meeting.

AGREEMENT – Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Michigan City and the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council

President Janus asked if there was anyone present to explain what the Board was to do with the Agreement. There was no response. President Janus stated the item will be held over until the next meeting.

CITY STREET SIGNS – Request approval for the design for replacing regular and commemorative City street signs throughout the City

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board regarding the request for approval for the design for replacing regular and commemorative City Street signs throughout the City. Mr. Peller explained that the MUTCD (Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices) has required a new design for street signs; further explaining at this time the Planning Department is
seeking approval of the MUTCD requirements. Mr. Peller stated the Planning Department along with his department is looking at using the blue with white lettering signs with the lighthouse logo on the left-hand side of the sign. Mr. Peller explained the commemorative signs would be brown with white lettering.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Corporate Counsel John Espar, Charles “Spike” Peller City Engineer, Craig Phillips City Planner and Shem Khalil Global Engineering regarding the design for the regular and commemorative City street signs throughout the City, making the blue with white lettering the standard for regular City street signs and the brown with white lettering for the commemorative City street signs to conform with the new MUTCD requirements. Mr. Khalil informed the Board that a grant has been applied for through HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Planning grant) for $180,000.00 and will be used for regulatory signs which include speed limit, stop sign and street name signs.

Mike Palmer made a motion to use brown and white for the commemorative signs. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Carnes and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

President Janus stated the blue with white lettering regular signs will be discussed at a future meeting when more information is available.

WAY FINDING SIGNS – Shirley Heinze Land Trust Inc. requests installation of four (4)
Way Finding signs to the Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve

The following correspondence was received in the City Clerk’s Office on November 13, 2013 from James Erdelac, Education and Volunteer Manager, Shirley Heinze Land Trust Inc., 109 W. 700 N., Valparaiso, IN:

It is the intention of Shirley Heinze Land Trust Inc. to apply for a permit that would allow us to place way finding signs along roads within the Michigan City boundary. These signs will help visitors find their way to Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve. This property is owned and managed by Shirley Heinze Land Trust and is a state dedicated nature preserve that is open to the public. We would like to install a total of (4) way finding signs. All will be the standard speed limit size of 24” tall X 18” wide. Locations of the signs, as well as a layout are attached. We will purchase and install the signs. All sign parts, except hardware will be made from aluminum. Grade 5 hardware will be used to fix the sign to the aluminum square post. We hope this meets with the City’s approval.

James Erdelac addressed the Board regarding the request; asking for their approval.

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Board stating he has spoken with Mr. Erdelac regarding the request, and keeping with the standards of the MUTCD the sign will be brown with white lettering. Mr. Phillips stated the Planning Department has reviewed the locations for the placement of the signs and they are the proper locations for placement of the signs.

Vice-President Carnes made a motion to approve the request to install four (4) way finding signs to the Ambler Flatwoods Nature Preserve. The motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.
CITY HALL – Global Engineering & Land Surveying proposal LED sign-City Hall

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Board informing them of the idea of a new decorative identification sign for City Hall to replace the signs/banners that are placed in the front lawn of City Hall. Mr. Phillips asked that the Board sign an application to the Board of Zoning Appeals allowing him to seek a variance for the placement for this type of sign. Mr. Phillips explained the type of sign proposed and what the variance would be for. Mr. Phillips further explained that the Redevelopment Commission is willing to pay for the sign once the Board of Public Works and Safety approves the installation of the sign on city property; and that this is part of the North End Lake Michigan Gateway Strategy improvements, who will be involved in the placement and design of the sign.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Corporate Counsel John Espar, Craig Phillips City Planner and Shem Khalil, Global Engineering & Land Surveying regarding the proposal to install a new ground LED sign at City Hall and the variance being sought. Corporate Counsel Espar advised that the residents of Congress Park Condominiums be notified of the request for the variance. Corporate Counsel Espar stated the Board could clearly state that they are simply authorizing an application for a variance and reserving design and whether to install the sign at a later date.

Mr. Khalil explained the request is for the Board of Public Works and Safety to agree to be the owner of the sign and will regulate the sign as well as the design and all of the operations of the sign.

Counsel Espar advised that the Board needs to be provided more information about precisely what’s going in, how it’s going to be used and what look it’s going to take.

President Janus stated the item will be held over until the next meeting when more definite information is available for the Board.

STATUS UPDATE – Inspection Department to report on status of 113 Dole Street

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board regarding 113 Dole Street providing them with photos of the property as it sits as of 8:15 a.m. this morning. Mr. Hatfield reviewed the status of the property stating a fire took place in 2010 which made the structure uninhabitable; the demolition hearing that took place in October, 2013; the awarding of the bid for the demolition; the bankruptcy proceedings where the bankruptcy court had no jurisdiction over Municipality policing powers; the decision of the Board to allow Mr. Miller an additional forty (40) days to complete the exterior repairs to the structure and address the falling retaining wall on the property; and the Board’s decision to demolish the structure if the exterior work was not completed as specified. Mr. Hatfield went through the photos explaining them to the Board; and explained that Mr. Miller was approximately 50-60% finished with the exterior work at this time.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Corporate Counsel Espar, Mr. Hatfield, Attorney David Ambers representing Mr. Miller and Mr. Miller regarding the rehabilitation of the structure. Mr. Hatfield recommended the demolition of the structure as the agreed specifications that were given to the Board by Mr. Miller were not fulfilled.

Vice-President Carnes made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Inspection Department and continue with the demolition process of the structure at 113 Dole Street. The
motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

Mr. Hatfield asked the Board to allow Mr. Miller one (1) week to remove any of the usable items he has installed in trying to make the structure weather tight (i.e. windows and door).

Vice-President Carnes amended the motion to allow Mr. Miller one (1) week to remove any of the usable items that were installed at 113 Dole Street. The amended motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Mike Palmer 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 Vice-President Carnes and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes 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 for the Board of Public Works and Safety and the Department of Redevelopment as follows:

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Pending Items

Pending Item – Johnny Rockets Fireworks Display

President Janus inquired about the Summer Festival with regards to the 2014 Fireworks Display asking if the Board of Public Works and Safety would be putting out a Request for Bids.

Corporate Counsel John Espar addressed the Board stating that Mr. Tom Schultz of Johnny Rockets Fireworks Display asked to submit a proposal for the City’s 2014 fireworks display; and that Mr. Joe Doyle of the Summer Festival Committee provides to the Board vendors to be considered for their approval and this Board remains the contracting party for the Fireworks Display.
President Janus stated he would contact the Summer Festival Committee.

Pending Item – Smoking in City Vehicles

Corporate Counsel John Espar addressed the Board stating he has inquired with a couple of Department Heads and learned in fact that smoking does take place within City vehicles, and with the various restrictions of smoking in public places the Board may want to create a policy.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Corporate Counsel Espar regarding the Board having the authority to establish a policy for individual departments or all departments, and it was recommended that any policy instated be uniform throughout the City.

Pending Item – Lighthouse painting

Corporate Counsel John Espar addressed the Board regarding the painting of the Lighthouse stating the Port Authority has taken over the process, not the financial cost of the project, and is continuing with the due diligent work; and at this time they are testing the paint that is on the Lighthouse for lead, and checking to see what precautions need to be taken so it does not enter the lake. Counsel Espar further informed the Board that the Port Authority is actively engaging outside counsel and the project is moving forward.

Pending Item – Handicap parking requests

President Janus inquired if there was anything new to report on Handicap parking requests.

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board stating he has inquired with the official ADA Federal Government Agency regarding the handicap parking issues. Mr. Peller stated that the Agency informed him if the request is reasonably close to an intersection the petitioner could use the intersection ramps. Mr. Peller then asked the Agency if the request was for a handicap parking sign in the middle of the block how should it be addressed; the Agency advised it would need to be taken care of but did not state how it should be done.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Corporate Counsel Espar and Mr. Peller regarding the requests and how the City will handle requests for handicap parking signs located in the middle of the block. Counsel Espar expressed that the City Common Council may need to consider an ordinance that establishes how these signs and the cost to make a handicap accessible mid-block parking place be handled; or the Board of Public Works and Safety may be the governing body who creates a policy for the placement of these types of handicap parking accessible areas in which the petitioner shares the cost. Counsel Espar state he could begin working on drafting a policy once the Board has decided on what they would want to be included in such a policy.

Pending Item – Signage identifying US Hwy 12 and Michigan Boulevard

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer stated he has reached out to INDOT as they are the ones who control this area and they have not gotten back to him yet.
Pending Item - Retaining Wall & Stairs 202 Hilltop

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board advising that he is still working with Corporate Counsel Espar regarding what the City can or cannot do with that parcel.

Corporate Counsel Espar addressed the Board stating the research with the Title Company has lead them to the original plat for the Lakeview Park edition to Michigan City wherein the public walkway was originally laid out as a part of that subdivision and the original plat recorded reads as it relates to the public streets and walkways. Counsel Espar stated the plat reads as follows: The above description embraces all the property included and to be known as Lakeview Park edition to Michigan City Indiana which is held in trust by Merchants National Bank and Trustee; the streets and alleys as shown on this plat are hereby dedicated to the public for their use forever. Counsel Espar explained that the streets and alleys, which he would suggest includes the public walkways and right-of-ways of this subdivision were dedicated to the City as part of the original subdivision after approval, so it is the City’s property. Counsel Espar went on to discuss that this process began when a homeowner petitioned the City to shore up the retaining wall adjacent to the stairs/walkway, and possible alternatives of what the City could do with the property.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Counsel Espar and Mr. Peller regarding what the City could do with this property, the amount of use the stairway gets and the homeowners who utilize any portion of the stairs. Mr. Peller stated he could come up with a solution and bring it to the Board with drawings and possible costs, and the Board can make a decision.

Pending Item - Turner Court

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board and presented them with the Plan and Profile for Turner Court that the Sanitary District has proposed; stating that Mr. Tom Moss now has some concerns with what the City is proposing to do there and he has been in conversations with the Sanitary District and his concerns have been dealt with.

Pending Item - truck traffic on Ripley Street

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board informing them that the signs have been installed and this item can be removed from the pending item list.

Pending Item – 210 N. Lake Avenue, access road

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board stating he is working on this access and others in the area through the Right-of-Way program, and should have some kind of a report in 2014.

Pending Item – Crosswalk for Michigan City High School and Canterbury House Apartments

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board regarding the crosswalk for the Michigan City High School informing the Board that he is still waiting to hear something about the funding.
President Janus asked if the road the County is proposing to install off of US Hwy 20 to Pahs Road is built will it have any effect on the City’s proposed crosswalk for the High School.

Mr. Peller stated he didn’t believe it would and that the County wants to put a bus stop in there with a shelter and the crosswalk would be primarily for the students who live at the apartment complex and attend Michigan City High School.

Discussion ensued between Corporate Counsel John Espar and Mr. Peller, City Engineer regarding the City’s boundaries in that area.

Pending Item – Street lights on Roeske Trail, Providence and Salem Streets

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board regarding the street lights for Roeske Trail, Providence and Salem Streets reporting that he is still working with N.I.P.S.Co. to get the project underway and is waiting to hear back from them with cost estimates and timelines.

New Item – DeWolfe and Franklin Street parking issue

Mike Palmer addressed Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer regarding an email from the Mayor’s office pertaining to parking at DeWolfe and Franklin Streets. Mr. Peller stated he will investigate this and report back.

Pending Item – CSXT Railroad crossing

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board regarding the CSXT Railroad crossing stating the project is completed and the area has been striped.

Pending Item – Daniel D. Bruce Memorial corrections

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Board stating he has not received any further information on this since the last meeting, and his department has not reached out to them.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Phillips and Corporate Counsel Espar regarding the fundraising that is taking place as well as the research that was being done through the Michigan City Public Library. Counsel Espar stated the Mayor has made clear his intentions to make sure this project moves forward and that he would seek to assist the veterans in their efforts to get this done. Counsel Espar explained that if the City is to make financial contributions to the project, the City is going to need to gets quotes from three (3) responsible business engaged in this type of work. Counsel Espar expressed that the Planning Department can begin the process of getting the quotes as the project’s completion date is Memorial Day 2014 for a re-dedication ceremony.

The Board directed Mr. Phillips to reach out to Mr. Gruber and Mr. Bruce, and get quotes for the work that has been decided upon to correct the Danny D. Bruce memorial.
Pending Item – Sale of property adjacent to Cleveland Avenue Fire Department

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Board regarding the possible sale of City owned property adjacent to the Cleveland Avenue Fire Department; stating he didn’t receive the appraisals in time for today’s agenda, and that he did receive two (2) appraisals. Mr. Phillips informed the Board that the appraisals came in under $50,000.00 and he will work on the process with Corporate Counsel Espar, and bring this back to the Board hopefully in December on how to proceed.

Pending Item – Ice Cream Parlor

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Board regarding the property stating he remains in communication with the perspective buyer who is still trying to purchase the property and has secured at his own risk materials to complete some of the roof work on the property and has basically stored that on the property. Mr. Phillips explained that the perspective buyer is still seeking State approvals for the construction, and he has notified the perspective buyer that unless he takes possession of the property the demolition process will continue. Mr. Phillips stated if at the December 2, 2013 Board of Public Works and Safety meeting the ownership has not changed and substantial progress has not been made he will be asking to work with Corporate Counsel Espar to continue the demolition process.

Pending Item – 124 Green Street

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board regarding the property stating he will be scheduling a meeting with the owner to discuss plans for the property. Mr. Hatfield informed the Board that the owner is researching what he can do with the property, and the possibility of joining this property to one he owns.

Pending Item – 910 Green Street

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board regarding the property stating this will be before the Board in December, and that he had to push several of the demolitions back due to budgeting issues and will now be working with the 2014 budget.

Pending Item – 915 Green Street

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board regarding the property stating notices have been issued and returned, and he is researching any type of mortgage that may be involved there and get the proper notices out to the proper parties of substantial interest.

Pending Item – 812 Manhattan Street

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board regarding the property stating this property will be before the Board in December.
Pending Item – 113 Dole Street

Russ Hatfield, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board regarding the property stating the outcome was taken care of earlier in this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Janus asked if there were any comments from the public.

John Chalikan, 609 Franklin Street addressed the Board regarding a sidewalk that was installed by the City that is five (5) inches high in front of his driveway which blocks his parking lot and the entrance to the garage at 704 W. 9th Street; asking the Board to correct this issue as it is causing damage to his vehicles.

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board and Mr. Chalikan stating he has contacted Reith Riley and Haas & Associates and informed them that they need to correct the problem.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Peller and Mr. Chalikan regarding the access to the parking lot. Mr. Peller stated there will be a driveway entrance/access.

President Janus asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Victor McCully, 121 Liberty Court addressed the Board regarding an issue he has with his neighbor at 111 Liberty Court, Mr. Richard Smith, with off street parking; asking the Board to resolve this recurring problem. Mr. McCully provided the Board with a Beacon photo of the area that was provided to him by Terry Borolov, Code Enforcement Officer.

Discussion ensued between the Board, Corporate Counsel Espar, Craig Phillips City Planner and Mr. McCully regarding the issue and possible solutions. Mr. McCully suggested the following: 1) Improve the entire block of Liberty Court with new pavement, sidewalks and other improvements equal to other improvements that have been made to other areas in the City of Michigan City; 2) Clearly mark and identify City owned property where it is legal to park or not to park on Liberty Court; 3) Counsel Mr. Smith who resides at 111 Liberty Court as to his right and his limitations as property owner of 111 Liberty Court in regards to any parking of vehicles in front of 111 Liberty Court. Mr. McCully stated he believes if this Board addresses this problem on Liberty Court future problems will possibly be eliminated or finally resolved on Liberty Court in Michigan City.

Terry Borolov, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the Board stating he has spoken with Mr. Smith on a few different occasions, and Mr. Smith believes that he owns twenty (20) feet to the middle of the road. Mr. Borolov suggested the area be improved with pavement or even surveying the property to identify what is city property and what is not.

Charles “Spike” Peller, City Engineer addressed the Board stating one possibility would be to have the area surveyed and then put posts up to identify the right-of-way.

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Board regarding the issue and possible solutions.
Corporate Counsel Espar will send a letter to Mr. Smith regarding public parking once the Planning Department provides him with a copy of the plat of the subdivision.

President Janus asked if there were any other comments from the public. There was no response.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Janus asked if there were any comments from the Board.

Vice-President Carnes addressed the Board regarding the issue of Building Permits being issued without expiration dates. Vice-President Carnes read the following to the Board:

Michigan City Common Council:

The Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety in conjunction with the City Inspection Department is responsible for enforcing certain ordinances as it relates to protecting and ensuring the safety of the public and their quality of life. Recently we have encountered several situations where the lack of specificity of certain building codes and ordinances has hindered our efforts.

The Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety requests that the Common Council of Michigan City review the sections of the Municipal Code that deal with building permits. Specifically, the Board of Public Works would like to see an expiration date requirement added to the building permit ordinance as well as appropriate sanctions for anyone violating the terms of the various building permits and codes.

Blighted buildings and unfinished construction projects have cast our city in a negative light and devalues the property of adjacent property owners. The Michigan City Board of Public Works and Safety requests the Michigan City Common Council address the deficiencies in these ordinances.

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Board regarding the request from Vice-President Carnes advising he has had a conversation with Councilwoman Pat Boy regarding this and similar other concerns, and his department will be working with the Council to implement the requested expiration of the issued building permits along with violations pertaining to this matter.

Vice-President Carnes made the motion to forward this request to the Common Council. The motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.

President Janus asked if there were any comments from the Board. There was no response.

ADJOURNMENT

President Janus inquired whether there was anything else to be considered by the Board at this time and, there being none, declared the meeting ADJOURNED (approximately 11:35 a.m.). Vice-President Carnes made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mike Palmer and carried as follows: AYES: MEMBERS Janus, Carnes and Palmer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.