

REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 26, 2007

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in REGULAR SESSION on Monday, morning, November 26, 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, President; Mayor Charles Oberlie, Member; and John Schaefer, Member (3).

Absent: None (0).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 5, 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). Motion carries.**

Also noted in attendance:

John Espar, City Attorney and Board Counsel
Boyd Phelps, City Engineer
Jim Elwell, Superintendent, Central Services
Jack Kahn, Director, Streets
Sgt. Mark Krauklis, Traffic Division
Al Walus, General Manager, Sanitary District
John Pugh, Director, Planning & Inspection
Chuck Greis, Fire Department
Ron Miller, WEFM
Jason Miller, News Dispatch
Gerald Peters, M.C. Mainstreet Association

Thomas Fedder, City Clerk
Kim Sliwa, Assistant Deputy Clerk

2008 PAVING PROGRAM

Bill Phelps, City Engineer addressed the Board with regards to Reith-Riley's offer to extend their existing contract for the proposed 2008 paving program using the same unit prices. Mayor Oberlie moved to approve; the motion was seconded by John Schaefer, and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

SALT STORAGE BUILDING - CHANGE ORDER

Bill Phelps, City Engineer addressed the Board with regards to Change Order No. 1 - being a one (1) year extension to this contract. The City has a credit on this contract and the final payment will be \$568.95 less. John Schaefer moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mayor Oberlie and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

SALT STORAGE BUILDING – CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION

Bill Phelps, City Engineer addressed the Board with regards to the signature required for the Substantial Completion. A final inspection was held on November 14, 2007. John Schaeffer moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mayor Oberlie, and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

CORRESPONDENCES

SNOWFLAKE PARADE

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 20, 2007 which read:

Please consider this letter as a request to hold our Snowflake Parade, in downtown Michigan City on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007 at 4pm. The parade will start at the intersection of Franklin and 10th Streets and proceed down Franklin to end at the library at Fourth Street. The line up will be along 10th Street back to Washington and north on Washington, if necessary. On behalf of the Mainstreet Association, I am therefore requesting that Franklin Street be closed to auto traffic from 3:30pm until 4:45pm between the streets noted above and also, if possible 10th Street between Franklin and Washington for the same time period.

Thank you for your consideration. Roger F. Potratz, President of Mainstreet Association

Sgt. Mark Krauklis, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division reported to the Board that this is an Annual Event; and Traffic approves. John Schaefer moved to approve; 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 ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHT-Salem Court and Welnetz Road

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 6, 2007 which read:

First, I would like to thank the Board of Works for approving a street light to be installed at the corner of Sal Ct. and Welnetz Rd., It has helped to see better when walking home in the evening. Today I am requesting the lighting be extended to include the corner of Salem Ct. and Welnetz Rd. I feel adding this street light would complete the lighting needed to be able to walk safely down Welnetz Rd. and avoid being hit by a car or falling in the ditch that is on both sides of the street.

Please approve a street light to be placed on the corner of Salem Ct. and Welnetz Rd. Thank you, Jeff Laws

John Pugh, City Planner reported to the Board that they are aware of it and are looking at it; and will report back to the Board in a few weeks.

PARKING REQUEST

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 6, 2007 which read:

I own the former Franklin Pharmacy building at 1517 Franklin Street and it is my desire to sell the building. Every time we have a potential buyer, they have decided against the location because of lack of parking.

Please put ANGLE PARKING on the Ann Street side as it has been for 65 years. Do not put any handicapped parking as 2 parking spots are on the South side of Ann Street.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. John R. Marszalek

Mayor Oberlie moved to refer this to the Planning Department, who will report back; the motion was seconded by John Schaefer, and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

SAFETY CONCERNS

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 7, 2007 which read:

This letter is in response to a request from Natasha Steward, a resident of Michigan City. While she did not contact me initially, we discussed the problem and I told her I would follow up for her. The problem is that there is no crossing guard at the school crossing at Lafayette Street and the South Shore tracks at 11th Street, but a large number of children cross there. Because they are still children, they have no fear of standing in the middle of the tracks, and without adult supervision, that's what they do. Even parents who are able to take their children to school cannot supervise the entire group, and not all parents have the luxury of being able to take off work to do so.

Ms. Steward has already approached the Michigan City Area Schools administration. She was referred to Sarah Fine because it was considered a safety issue. Ms. Fine told her that the school corporation could not put a crossing guard at every intersection, and there was nothing she could do about it. In the interest of public safety, is there anything the City of Michigan City can do to improve the safety of that intersection during the hours that school begins and ends? Please refer this to the MCPD Traffic Department if appropriate. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Patricia Boy, Councilwoman, 4th Ward

Sgt. Mark Krauklis, MCPD Traffic Division addressed the Board stating that the City of Michigan City does not provide crossing guards for the Middle Schools. Mayor Oberlie asked if there was adequate signage and pedestrian markings to designate the cross walk areas; Sgt. Krauklis will check and report back to the Board. Mayor Oberlie passed the motion to authorize the Engineering, Traffic and Street Departments to investigate the signage and markings and take appropriate action; the motion was seconded by Mayor Oberlie, and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

STREET SIGNAGE

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 19, 2007 which read:

During my police patrols I have found several issues that need to be looked at.

The Post Office has requested street name signs be placed at the Silverlake, Geneva Lake, Winnepeg and the new road. There is some confusion of what the name of the new road is.

The one way signs at Pine and Michigan need to be place on the traffic signal pole. They are very hard to see in their current location.

The median on US 20 in front of Arby's use to have a no turn sign posted. Since the reconstruction, it has not been replaced. Cars should not be stopping in the middle of a fast moving highway without a turn lane.

There should be a no turn sign placed on the median for southbound traffic in front of Speedway gas at 421/20. I constantly see cars backed up into the intersection of 421 and 20 due to cars trying to turn into Speedway gas.

There should be a no turn sign placed on the median on 20/421 for eastbound traffic near the entrance for Speedway/Big Lots parking lot.

Cpl. Mike Elkins, Michigan City Police Department

Sgt. Mark Krauklis, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division addressed to Board stating he informed Cpl. Elkins that the signage on the State Highways is taken care of by INDOT. Sgt. Krauklis also reported that the signage for the new road and the three (3) referenced streets do not have any street signs. Mayor Oberlie stated that items 1 and 2 relating to the posting of the street name signs and the one-way signs will be taken care of by the Street Department. Sgt. Krauklis spoke with INDOT when construction was completed and was told they do not put signs in the median because it causes the median to break up. Mayor Oberlie asked Sgt. Krauklis to prepare an accident report for that area/intersection. Mayor Oberlie moved to TABLE this matter until the Traffic Division submits their accident findings for the US Hwy 421/20 grid. Notation the Street Department needs no authorization for items 1 and 2 above.

MYSTICAL MAGIC SHOW

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 14, 2007 which read:

Our company was at the Marquette Mall in June of this year hosting a magic show on drug and alcohol awareness. We are the company that has the baby lions and tigers on display. We are needing to get approval from the Board of Public Works and Safety before the dates listed, December 5th thru December 9th, 20067. I know that they meet on the first and third Mondays of each month. I was hoping that I could get this in the agenda and get approval. To follow is the letter of approval from you back in June along with a copy of our USDA license and certificate of Insurance.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to call me at any time. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Michelle Higdon, Marketing & Promotions Director, Awakening Productions

Sgt. Mark Krauklis, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division reported to the Board that this event is on private property and there have been no previous incidents reported from their last show in June. Mayor Oberlie moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Tony Metzcus, and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

FREE WAGON RIDES

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 9, 2007 which read:

Once again the Michigan City Mainstreet Association requests permission to provide free wagon rides through Michigan City's downtown. The dates of the rides would be Saturday, December 8, and Saturday, December 15, from approximately 5:00 PM to 8:00 or 8:30 PM. The rides will be provided by the LaPorte County Draffhorse Association which has liability insurance to cover its wagons and riders.

The wagons would load at the corner of Seventh and Franklin Streets and travel a route between Fourth and Ninth Streets on the north and south and Washington and Franklin Streets on the east and west. Duneland High School has agreed to open during the time of the rides as a waiting and refreshment area.

This will be the fourth year we have provided these rides for area families. We appreciate your support in the past and look forward to continuing this attraction.

For the Michigan City Mainstreet Association, Roger Potratz, President, Mainstreet Association and Gerald Peters, Bd. Of Directors

Sgt. Krauklis, M.C.P.D. Traffic Division requested that the carriages have lights as it will be dark for this event. Mr. Gerald Peters addressed the Board and informed them that the carriages do have lights. John Schaefer moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mayor Oberlie, and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS

The following documents were presented to the Board for approval:

- Contract for 2008 between Michigan City Firefighters Local #475 and The Civil City of Michigan City, In
- Contract for 2008 Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge #75 and The Civil City of Michigan City, In

John Schaefer moved to approve both contracts; the motion was seconded by Mr. Metzcus and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

RETIREMENT

A correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 13, 2007 which read:

The Michigan City Fire Department announces that Captain Frank Pawlik has submitted his 34 year retirement notice. His retirement date is 12-5-2007.

Thank you, Dave Lamb, Fire Chief

CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

John 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 Mayor Oberlie 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 8	11/21/2007	\$415,529.05
1 of 1	11/21/2007	\$46,357.51
1 of 1	11/21/2007	\$27,651.22
1 of 1	11/21/2007	\$10,318.67
1 of 1	11/21/2007	\$2,252.32
1 of 8	11/9/2007	\$414,922.66

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

Page	Date	Amount
1 of 5	11/21/2007	\$2,442,562.60

FRANKLIN STREET BRIDGE CLOSURE

Mayor Oberlie received the following correspondence:

Re: Official Closing of Bridge 505-Franklin Street Bascule Bridge over Trail Creek

This is to inform you that the Franklin Street Bascule Bridge over Trail Creek (Bridge 505) is scheduled to officially close Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 6:00 A.M. The bridge will be scheduled to reopen Monday, March 12, 2007 at 6:00 A.M. The bridge will be opened for vessels if at least 12 hours advance notice is provided prior to the intended time of passage. Mariners will be required to contact LaPorte County 911 Center at (219) 362-6205 or (219) 879-6700 to provide advance notice.

Mayor Oberlie asked that this item be referenced into the records for information purposes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Oberlie addressed the Board regarding a no parking request from the last meeting for the property located at 217 W. Homer Street, in front of Dr. Contri’s Office and asked what the final action was on this request. John Pugh, City Planner reported to the Board that they have looked at this and recommend that the yellow could be widened on both sides of the driveway. Bill Phelps, City Engineer addressed the Board regarding the area and will work with the Street Department on this. Mayor Oberlie moved to authorize the Street Department to extend the yellow curbing east and west on Homer Street at 217 pursuant to the recommendations of the Engineers Office and to cover the manhole west of the driveway; the motion was seconded by Tony Metzcus and carries as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Metzcus, Oberlie, and Schaefer (3). NAYS: None (0). Motion carries.**

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 9:25 a.m.)

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk