

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

August 8, 2025

The Board of Public Works and Safety of Valparaiso, Indiana met August 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in City Hall. Present were Mayor Costas, Bill Oeding and Katrina Spence. Mayor Costas called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The July 25, 2025 minutes incorrectly stated Katrina Spence was absent. This has been corrected.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2025 meeting as amended. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the claims be approved for payment subject to appropriation balances. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request for Street Closure - Hayes Leonard

Paving contractor Rieth Riley is requesting a full road closure on Hayes Leonard Rd between US 30 and Joliet Road for milling and paving work from August 6th (Wednesday) to August 9th (Saturday), daytime hours only. Engineering department staff coordinated with Porter County Staff regarding this closure and recommended approval of this street closure request.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that Rieth Riley's request for street closure of Hayes Leonard Road be approved. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Request for Street Closure – SR 130

Paving contractor Rieth Riley is requesting a full road closure on SR 130 between the Canadian National Railroad to Froberg Rd for milling and paving work from August 18th (Monday) to August 22nd (Friday), night-time hours only. This is a planned closure part of the CCMG 25 project; the Engineering department recommends approval of this street closure request.

MOTION: Bill Oeding moved that Rieth Riley's request to close SR 130 between Canadian National railroad and Froberg Road from August 18th (Monday) to August 22nd (Friday), night-time hours only be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

IDEM Community Recycling Grant Program – Compact Loader

Katie Travis presented a Grant Application Checklist. The grant will be used for a compact loader with a grapple bucket to increase efficiency for curbside brush/yard waste pick up.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the request to submit for an IDEM Community Recycling Grant be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Service Agreement – MJ Thomas & Associates

Holly Taylor presented a Service Agreement with MJ Thomas & Associates. The services to be provided by Contractor are local, state, and federal grant management assistance, as directed by the Clerk-Treasurer.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the Service Agreement with MJ Thomas & Associates be approved. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

101 Lincolnway – Awning Approval

The owners (Turners) of 101 and 103 Lincolnway are requesting the Board of Works approval for an awning that will extend into the city right-of-way along Franklin St. This is for a side entrance to the 101 Lincolnway building (former Chase Bank). An awning may extend into the city right-of-way if constructed at least 8 feet above the sidewalk but not closer than 2 feet from the back of the curb. Awning must be professional grade material of a solid color or striped with 2 colors only. The proposed awning is metal and approved material within the UDO, 9ft.-6 in. above the sidewalk and only extends from the building 3ft.-6in. Recommend approval of the awning request to extend into the city right-of-way. Staff will place a stipulation at permit time that the awning must be maintained in quality condition.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved that the awning installation at 101 Lincolnway be approved. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Street Closures

- Valpo Parks Night ride, August 9, 2025
- Pepper Ridge Block Party – September 20, 2025

These have been reviewed and approved by all impacted departments.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the requests for street closure. Seconded by Bill Oeding and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Policy on Dedication of Private Residential Streets as Public Streets

Bill Oeding – There are a number of private streets in the City. Some of them we do a lot of work on them – snow plowing, trash pickup, brush pickup. These people are paying taxes and the same fees as everyone else. The streets are well built and well maintained. His goal is to slowly eliminate some of the private streets and make them public streets and maintain them

at the level they should be maintained. This document lists how they will look at private streets for consideration.

MOTION: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Policy of Dedication of Private Residential Streets as Public Streets. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Agreement -Turnover and Acceptance of Streets – Pepper Creek Subdivision

Bill Oeding – These roads were built 20 years ago and are beginning to show wear. They were built to County standards. This Agreement establishes that the City will take over these roads after the next paving. The City will pay 25% of that cost. The City will take over just the asphalt surfaces only. The medians, curbs etc will remain under the care of Pepper Creek.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the Agreement for Turnover and Acceptance of Streets – Pepper Creek Subdivision. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Goodrich Road – Speed Limit Sign

The Engineering Department staff has evaluated the Goodrich Road extension project and recommends the installation of a 25-mph speed limit sign along this new stretch. They request the Board's approval to proceed with the installation.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the installation of a 25-mph speed limit sign on Goodrich Road. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Public Assembly Request

This request is made by Deb McLeod. The NWI Activists/NWI NOW group is assembling in support of 50501 rally protest. They are requesting to organize on the southwest and southeast corner of Courthouse Square on August 17, 2025 from 4:45pm – 7:15pm. They are expecting 150 to attend. This has been confirmed with Valparaiso Police Department. The Group will not go into the street; will not block pedestrian traffic; and will not create any unsafe conditions. Any signs, banners, or displays must be carried and not placed on sidewalk or against traffic light pole. Given the close proximity of the public assembly to a busy intersection, no microphones/other amplifying devices are allowed. Groups will not encourage cars to honk their horns and will abide by the quiet zone policy. If number of participants changes to more than expected, Applicant will notify VPD. The County has approved this request. She was reminded no whistles and no megaphones.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the request for Public Assembly on August 17, 2025. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

NIPSCO – Right of Way Silhavy-Audubon Pathway

Bill Oeding – He presented a License Agreement for a right of way for a sidewalk along Silhavy Road. The path will run from the Roundabout to Audubon.

Motion: Mayor Costas moved to approve the License Agreement with NIPSCO. Seconded by Katrina Spence and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

TO HEAR CITIZENS' FULL COMMENTS, PLEASE REFER TO THE WATCH CITY MEETINGS SECTION OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO'S WEBSITE (WWW.CI.VALPARAISO.IN.US)

Ron Mory – 960 West Street. He thanked the City for the sidewalk in front of his home. He asked who is responsible for mowing along West Street on the South side of the street. He was advised the City will look into it and make sure it is taken care of.

James Ferguson – 303 Indiana. There is a public safety issue with the protests on Tuesdays. There is a police report about someone pulling a taser on someone else at the protest.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned.