

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY  
CITY OF HOBART, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA  
February 18, 2026**

**Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag:** Mayor Huddlestun called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held with the building open to the public and a call-in number for remote public participation.

**Roll Call:** The following members were present: Ms. Galka, Mrs. Longer, and Mr. Huddlestun. Also present: City Attorney McCarthy.

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. Galka, seconded by Mrs. Longer, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2026 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

**Correspondence:** Lake Station Fire Chief Chuck Fazekas presented Hobart Firefighter, Jordan Counter who works part-time with Lake Station Ambulance and on December 17<sup>th</sup>, he was on call and delivered a baby and presented him with an award on becoming a member of the Stork Club. Jordan stated he was grateful to experience a call like that and is even more grateful that mom and baby are doing just fine.

**Approval of Register of Claims and Payroll Claims:** Motion by Ms. Galka, seconded by Mrs. Longer, to accept and sign the register of claims and payroll claims as presented. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Ms. Galka, seconded by Mrs. Longer, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

**APPEAL OF PLAN COMMISSION DECISION:** of February 5, 2026 authorizing a fill permit; Vance Thompson & Susan Thompson, 5588 E. 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Merrillville: City Attorney McCarthy stated that with this particular appeal, we were able to properly notice and amend the agenda. There were more appeals made, but they were not turned in until late Friday afternoon and will be on the agenda for the next Board of Works meeting on March 4th. Mr. Huddlestun stated that the weekend and President's Day affected the 48-hour deadline.

Susan Thompson stated that she is appealing the process due to the following: wells may be affected, a site plan was not done ahead of time, property values decreasing, safety concerns, elderly concerned with their wells and property values. She stated she went to New Carlisle and visited the data center site, and she said it is massive. She said there aren't any neighborhoods by the data center, but only a few homes. Susan stated that Hobart has been a close-knit family and we do not need this. She asked the Board to think about these things when they go to sleep at night. She stated that Vance, her husband, was at work and could not attend. Susan provided the documentation that she had to the Board.

Attorney McCarthy stated that there is a process that must be followed according to the Ordinance and the Board of Works will issue a written decision that will be made specifically to her based on the concerns expressed today. Attorney McCarthy stated that in order to expedite the process, there will be a special meeting of the Plan Commission next Thursday so the Board of Works can see their findings regarding the fill permit and review them. She stated that the process may take a couple of weeks.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Tabled: Consideration of Contract Renewal: Indiana Landmarks:** Mr. Huddlestun as that this remains on the table as staff is still working on this.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

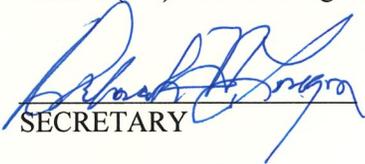
Request for use of 5-6 parking spaces for seating/parking for events (06/20, 11AM-11PM, 07/18, 11AM-11PM, and 09/26, 11AM-11PM): Tavern on the Lake, 200 Main St.: Tommy Forbes was present and stated that his request is the same as previous years. Tommy stated that they added an additional date this year as the July and September events went so well last year. Tommy asked if the certain areas of parking/road belonged to the City or the apartments, and Mr. Huddlestun stated that it belongs to the apartments. Tommy stated that he already went to the Park Board and his request was approved. Motion by Mr. Huddlestun, seconded by Ms. Galka to approve the use of the 6 parking places for the 3 dates as presented. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

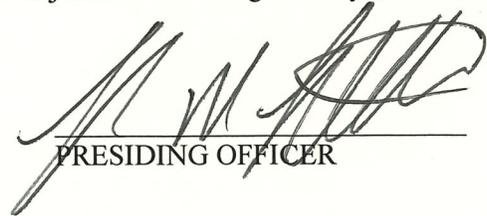
**UNSAFE BUILDING AUTHORITY BUSINESS:**

Update: Unsafe Building Order re: 6895-6897 Colorado St.: No one was present for this matter. Building Official Felix Perry stated he has not been able to make contact the property owner. He stated that the property is cleaned up and is satisfied with the work that has been done. Felix stated that he would recommend that the Board remove this from the Unsafe Building Agenda and place a lien on the property for the costs of the board-up. Attorney McCarthy stated that there are specific noticing requirements that need to happen before a lien is placed and if those are in place, the Board can approve his recommendation. Motion by Mrs. Longer, seconded by Ms. Galka to lien the property contingent on legal review that the proper notices have gone out and remove this from the Unsafe Building Authority agenda. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

**Announcements:** Mr. Huddlestun asked if there was anyone who wished to address the Board and there was no response.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ms. Galka, seconded by Mrs. Longer, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (3-0) The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

  
SECRETARY

  
PRESIDING OFFICER