

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
CITY OF HOBART, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
January 7, 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 December 17, 2025 as presented. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

Correspondence: Police Chief Ciszewski announced the retirement of Reserve Officer Don Kosmatka. Don was a Reserve Officer for 6 years and has donated over 8,000 hours to the City of Hobart. Chief Ciszewski presented Don with a plaque thanking him for his service to the City of Hobart.

Police Chief Ciszewski announced that there were 6 promotions in the department: 3 Lieutenants, 1 Sergeant, and 2 Corporals. Lieutenants: Lt. Kevin Garber has served over 13 years with HPD, promoting to Corporal in April 2018 and Sergeant in 2025. Lt. Cody Riggle has served HPD for 13 years, promoted to Corporate in June 2019 and Sergeant in 2025. Lt. Zach Crawford has served 18 years in law enforcement and 12 with HPD, promoted to Corporal in February 2025 and Sergeant in January 2025. Sergeant: Sgt. Christopher Sipes has served over 17 years with HPD, 16 as a full-time officer and 1 year as a reserve officer. He was promoted to Corporal in January 2024. Corporals: Cpl. Joseph Taylor served over 8 years with HPD with his first year being a reserve officer. Cpl. Matthew Stutler has served HPD for over 8 years with his first year being a reserve officer.

Mrs. Longer reported that the Board received a copy of the 2025 transfers and encumbrances.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There is no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Acceptance of Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement: Mrs. Longer stated that this was for the Mayor as he has family members that work for the City. Motion by Mrs. Longer, seconded by Ms. Galka to accept the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Statement. All aye, motion carried. (2-0) Mr. Huddlestun abstained.

UNSAFE BUILDING AUTHORITY BUSINESS:

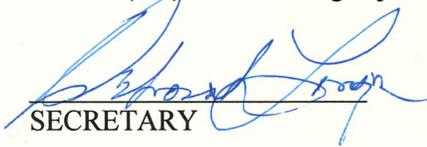
Update: Unsafe Building Order re: 3161 E 84th Pl.: No one was present for this matter. Director of Fire Prevention Jody Taylor stated that the owners are fixing the building, it is not occupied, but they are having issues with the sprinkler system. Jody stated that they are waiting for parts to come in to get the issues resolved and once that is done, the Fire Department will do a sprinkler test. Motion by Mrs. Longer, seconded by Ms. Galka to remove this from the Unsafe Building Authority agenda and turn it over to the Building Department. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

Update: Unsafe Building Order re: 6895-97 Colorado St.: Elyssa Meade from US Bank, who is the mortgage holder on the property was present telephonically. Building Commissioner Felix Perry stated this duplex was boarded up and since that time, the owner has taken care of the exterior code violations and per the last meeting was supposed to meet with the owner to do a walkthrough, but this has not happened yet. Felix is okay with the board-up coming down. He was in contact with NIPSCO to connect the gas and electric, but they needed access to the property. Felix stated that the restitution for the board-up will need to be paid before occupancy is permitted. He stated the cost of the board-up is \$2,300.00. Mr. Perry stated that the owner has not scheduled a meeting to do a walkthrough of the property. Motion by Mr. Huddlestun, seconded by Mrs. Longer to continue this matter to the February 4, 2026 meeting. All aye, motion carried. (3-0)

Announcements: Mr. Huddlestun advised that tonight's Council meeting will be held at the Hobart High School Auditorium at 6:00 pm and can enter through door 21.

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

Adjournment: Motion by Mrs. Longer, seconded by Ms. Galka, to adjourn the meeting. All aye, motion carried. (3-0) The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.


SECRETARY


PRESIDING OFFICER