



**CITY OF GOSHEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2026 MEETING**

Convened in the Goshen Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson St., Goshen, Indiana

Present: Mayor Gina Leichty, Mike Landis, Mary Nichols, Orv Myers and Barb Swartley

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Leichty called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES: Mayor Leichty presented the minutes of the May 28, 2026 Regular Meeting. Board member Mary Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Board member Barb Swartley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

REVIEW/APPROVE AGENDA: Mayor Leichty presented the agenda as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer with the addition of agenda item #7, *Fire Department request: Accept the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti, with an effective date of June 16, 2026.* Board member Nichols made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Board member Swartley seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

1) Police Department request: Accept the retirement of Police Chief José Miller, effective June 12, 2026 with June 11, 2026 as his final day of active service

Interim Police Chief Andy Stephenson asked the Board to accept the retirement of Chief José Miller from the Goshen Police Department, effective June 12, 2026. Chief Miller's final day of active service will be June 11, 2026. Chief Stephenson said Chief Miller has served the Goshen community with dignity and a passion for service for more than 30 years. Chief Miller began his policing career with the Goshen Police Department in 1995 and progressed through various roles and ranks, including detective, motorcycle officer, drug unit officer, SWAT team commander, and Assistant Chief. He was named the 22nd police chief of the Goshen Police Department in 2018.

Chief Stephenson read an excerpt from Chief Miller's retirement letter and concluded as follows:

"Chief Miller's service and commitment to our department, the residents of Goshen, and the policing profession are greatly appreciated. We thank Chief Miller for his leadership, and we wish him the best as he begins a new adventure. He will be missed."

In his letter of retirement to the Mayor, the Board and Goshen residents, Chief Miller wrote:

"I am formally announcing my intention to retire as Chief of Police, effective June 12, 2026. By that date, I will have served the City of Goshen for more than 30½ years.

"This decision did not come lightly. Serving this department and this community has been the honor of a lifetime. I have always believed in leading with integrity, standing firm on what's right, and upholding the trust that the badge represents—not for personal gain, but for the good of the city as a whole.

"During my tenure, we've faced difficult challenges and celebrated hard-earned victories. I'm proud of the men and women who I serve alongside – officers who show up every day with courage, professionalism, and an unwavering sense of duty. Together, we've worked to strengthen public trust, reduce crime, and build a department that respects both tradition and accountability.

"While it is time for me to step aside, I do so with confidence in the future of this department and the leadership that will follow. The values that shaped this city – duty, respect, service – must remain at the heart of everything we do.

"To the citizens of Goshen, thank you for your support, your expectations, and your partnership. And to the Mayor and City Council, I am grateful for the trust you placed in me and the support you have shown to the department.

"Though I may be retiring from the badge, I will always remain committed to the well-being and safety of this city. With respect and gratitude."



In response to the Interim Chief's request, Mayor Leichty said, "I will just echo those sentiments. I have greatly appreciated working with Chief Miller over the last three years and appreciated his steadfastness. I also miss his smile during business meetings. He was always quick with a smile and very helpful during business meetings and through tough negotiations and a lot of challenging situations as well. So, I do wish him all the best."

Nichols/Swartley made a motion to accept the retirement of Police Chief José Miller, effective June 12, 2026 with June 11, 2026 as his final day of active service. The motion passed 5-0.

3) St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church request: Approve the use of City streets and sidewalks for the annual Corpus Christi Procession, noon to 1:30 p.m., on Sunday, June 7, 2026

Jonathan Evangelista Rios, the Pastoral Associate for St. John, submitted a request for its annual Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday, June 7, 2026 from noon to 1:30 p.m. He said this event brings parishioners together for worship and fellowship, "which brings spiritual growth and goodness."

Evangelista said the procession will begin inside the church and will be exiting through the main door (opposite Main Street), take a slight right turn to be on Monroe Street, until reaching the intersection of South 3rd Street. and Monroe Street. He said that at intersection, the church will need barricades to stop traffic for parishioners to cross towards River Race Drive. Once the parishioners cross, Evangelista said parishioners will go straight to the street adjacent to River Race Drive and then go on Rive Race Drive until arriving at stop sign by the Hawks Building. He said the procession will then take a right on West Madison Street and the church will need barricades at the intersection of the West Madison Street and South 3rd Street. Evangelista said the procession will then enter the north parking lot and take a slight right into the alley, which will lead parishioners back to the church.

Evangelista said he notified the Street Commissioner about the request, which he said was approved last year using the same route as proposed this year. He said he was told the street barricades are available.

Evangelista responded to questions about the impact of the procession on traffic. He said the procession will move quickly. He also said barricades will be removed when the procession passes by closed intersections.

Evangelista provided the Board with a map, showing the route of the procession and indicated the locations of the requested barricades. He said traffic will stop for about 10 minutes at each intersection.

Nichols/Swartley made a motion to approve the annual St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church Corpus Christi Procession, from noon to 1:30 p.m., on Sunday, June 7, 2026 with use of City streets as proposed on the requested route and the use of barricades. Motion passed 5-0.

3) NIPSCO request: Approve he closure of Firethorn Drive, at Hackberry Drive, on June 8, 2026 for a Distribution Automation (DA) project, which is part of a broader project in progress

Nick Bogucki, a NIPSCO senior project manager for the Distribution Automation Program from Valparaiso, requested a road closure for an upcoming NIPSCO Distribution Automation (DA) project.

He requested closure of project Area 4 – Firethorn Drive at Hackberry Drive – to replace Pole 1062096 (a 45-foot wooden pole) and 3-300 KVAR CAP(a capacitor bank) on June 9, 2026.

Bogucki said this will be a one-day closure and a detour route has been developed. He also said NIPSCO would communicate with local businesses about the closure.

In March, the Board approved NIPSCO's request for lane restrictions and street closures on collector and arterial roadways – pursuant to a Right-of-Way Permit issued by the City Engineering Department – to replace five utility poles and related equipment, including conductors and wires. The traffic control included full road closures for AREAS 9 (113 East Lincoln Avenue), 12 (202 South 5th Street), 13 (308 East Douglas Street) and 14 (309 East Monroe Street). Traffic control also included single lane closures for AREAS 3 (1802 East Lincoln Avenue), 5 (202 Blackport Drive), & 11 (416 Steury Avenue). All of this work was scheduled during April 2026, with lane restrictions or closures only in effect from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the days of work indicated, weather permitting.



Nichols/Swartley made a motion to approve the closure of Firethorn Drive at Hackberry Drive on June 9, 2026 for a Distribution Automation project. Motion passed 5-0.

4) Legal Department request: Approve and authorize Mayor Leichthy to execute Amendment #1 to the contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation for Street Sweeping Services

City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann said the City and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) entered into a contract on Oct. 7, 2025, under which the Goshen Street Department agreed to sweep 20.6 curb miles of state highways within the city limits a minimum of two times each year.

Stegelmann recommended that the Board approve and authorize Mayor Leichthy to execute Amendment #1 to this Contract. He said Amendment #1 increases the amount of compensation to the City for services rendered from \$360 to \$450 per curb mile per year, effective July 1, 2026. In addition to the increase in compensation, INDOT has also made revisions to other Contract provisions.

Stegelmann said these revisions have been reviewed and are acceptable. He said copies of the Oct. 7, 2025 Contract and Amendment #1 were provided to the Board.

Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre congratulated the Legal Department for securing an increase in the payment to the City. He said the State had maintained the same compensation for many years, but it has now been increased.

Nichols/Swartley made a motion to approve and authorize Mayor Leichthy to execute Amendment #1 to the contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation for Street Sweeping Services. Motion passed 5-0.

5) Environmental Resilience Department request: Approve balancing Change Order No. 1 increasing the contract by \$822.72, for a final contract amount of \$105,365.97 for the 2026 Spring Tree Removal Project
Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley, Director of the City Department of Environmental Resilience, said he had provided the Board with Change Order No. 1, a balancing change order, for the Spring Tree Removal Project.

Kingsley said Change Order No. 1 increased the contract price by \$822.72, making the final contract amount \$105,365.97. This amount is 0.79% over the original bid amount of \$104,543.25.

Original contract amount	\$104,543.25
Change Order No. 1	\$ 822.72
Revised contract amount	\$105,365.97

Nichols/Swartley made a motion to approve the balancing Change Order No. 1 increasing the contract by \$822.72, for a final contract amount of \$105,365.97, for the Spring Tree Removal Project. Motion passed 5-0.

6) Engineering Department request: Approve the closure of Chicago Avenue, from Pike Street to Indiana Avenue, from June 8, 2026, until July 2, 2026

City Civil Engineer Brad Minnick said Niblock Excavating requested permission to close Chicago Avenue, from Pike Street/US Highway 33 to Indiana Avenue, from Monday, June 8, 2026, until Thursday, July 2, 2026.

Minnick said the road will be closed for Niblock to replace galvanized water services as part of the City's North Goshen Service Line Replacement and Utility Improvements project. The road will be closed to thru traffic, with a rolling full closure, as work progresses from Pike Street to Indiana Avenue. He said all appropriate traffic control devices will be utilized.

Nichols/Swartley made a motion to approve the closure of Chicago Avenue, from Pike Street to Indiana Avenue, from June 8, 2026, until July 2, 2026. Motion passed 5-0.

7) Fire Department request: Accept the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti, with an effective date of June 16, 2026



Fire Chief Anthony Powell requested the approval of the resignation of **Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti** from the Goshen Fire Department, effective June 16, 2026.

Chief Powell said **Firefighter/Paramedic LoPresti** has chosen to take another job that will be closer to his home. **Firefighter/Paramedic LoPresti** submitted a resignation letter in which he wrote, "As we discussed, here is my letter of resignation for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the Goshen Fire Department effective June 16, 2026. I appreciate my time with GFD and all it has done for my family."

Chief Powell thanked **Firefighter/Paramedic LoPresti** for his service, dedication, and contributions to the department and the community during his tenure and wished him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

Mayor Leichy asked the Chief to extend the Board's gratitude to **Firefighter/Paramedic LoPresti**.

Nichols/Swartley then made a motion to accept the resignation of **Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti** from the Goshen Fire Department, effective June 16, 2026. The motion passed 5-0.

NOTE: Before the meeting, Fire Chief Anthony Powell distributed to Board members a memorandum, dated June 4, 2026, asking the Board to accept the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti from the Goshen Fire Department, effective June 16, 2026 (EXHIBIT #1).

Privilege of the Floor (opportunity for public comment for matters not on the agenda):

Mayor Leichy opened Privilege of the Floor at 4:16 p.m.

Mayor Leichy said some special guests – Fire Department recruits – were present and she asked that they come forward and introduce themselves. She also asked a recruit to explain the tradition of the recruits guarding the flag. The following recruits introduced themselves: **Eduardo Montoya, Christopher Anderson, Malik Macon, Kael Hooley, Javin Lowe, Brett Smith and Jackson Hamilton.**

Eduardo Montoya explained that each academy recruit class has a flag and it's the job of the recruits to guard the flag. He said if anyone takes the flag, recruits have to do all they can to recover the flag and they have a week to do so. Montoya said **Chief Powell** took the flag today, so recruits went to the Board meeting to retrieve the flag.

Mayor Leichy joked, "So I don't know how you feel about this Board, but their punishment was sitting through a Board of Works meeting." **Montoya** responded, "It's an honor to be here."

Mayor Leichy then invited the recruits to come forward and have their photograph taken with the Mayor, Chief Powell and Interim Police Chief Stephenson.

Mayor Leichy closed the public comment period at 4:19 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CIVIL CITY AND UTILITY CLAIMS

Mayor Leichy then made a motion to approve Civil City and Utility claims and adjourn the meeting. Board member **Swartley** seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Leichy adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

EXHIBIT #1: A memorandum, dated June 4, 2026, by Fire Chief Anthony Powell asking the Board to accept the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti from the Fire Department, effective June 16, 2026. Chief Powell distributed the memorandum to Board members before the meeting. The request was added agenda item #7.




APPROVED:



Mayor Gina Leichty



Mike Landis, Member



Orv Myers, Member

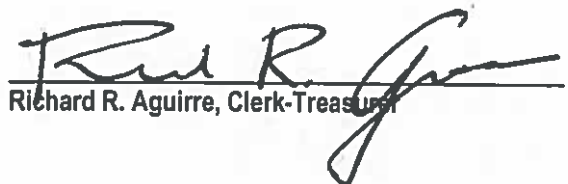


Mary Nichols, Member



Barb Swartley, Member

ATTEST:



Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

Exhibit #1



ANTHONY D. POWELL, FIRE CHIEF
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June 4, 2026

To: Board of Works and Public Safety
RE: Resignation of Andrew LoPresti
From: Fire Chief Anthony Powell

To the Goshen Board of Works & Public Safety,

I respectfully present the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic **Andrew LoPresti** from the Goshen Fire Department.

Mr. LoPresti has submitted a letter stating:

"Chief Powell, as we discussed, here is my letter of resignation for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the Goshen Fire Department effective June 16, 2026. I appreciate my time with GFD and all it has done for my family.

Sincerely,

Andrew LoPresti"

On behalf of the Goshen Fire Department, I would like to thank Firefighter/Paramedic LoPresti for his service, dedication, and contributions to the department and the community during his tenure. We wish him and his family the very best in their future endeavors.

At this time, I respectfully request that the Board of Works and Public Safety accept the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti, with an effective date of **June 16, 2026**.

Recommended Motion

"I move to accept the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew LoPresti from the Goshen Fire Department, effective June 16, 2026."

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Powell