



GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Feb. 12, 2024 Joint Meeting with the Goshen Community Schools Board
Convened in the Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana**

Assisted by Mayor Gina Leichty, Kid Mayor Lincoln Tolin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Lincoln helped help facilitate the meeting.

Accompanied by the Mayor and Kid Mayor, Shelby and Hudson Weddell, the children of Bradd and Kelsey Weddell, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kid Mayor Tolin asked Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre to conduct the roll call for all of the groups:

City Councilors:

Linda Gerber (At-Large)
Phil Lederach (District 5)
Doug Nisley (District 2)
Megan Peel (District 4)
Donald Riegsecker (District 1)
Matt Schrock (District 3)
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)
Absent: None

Youth Council

Jessica Velázquez-Valdes
Sara Lozano
Jennifer Olvera-Morgado
Antonio Perez
Skye Steury
Frida Luna Gallegos
Absent: None

School Board:

Jose Elizalde (District 3)
Mario Garber (At-Large)
Ryan Glick (District 1)
Maria Sanchez Schirch (District 2)
Bradd Weddell (At-Large)
Absent:
Board President Roger Nafziger (At-Large)
Allan Kauffman (District 4)

Kid Mayor & Council:

Lincoln Tolin (Mayor)
Christopher Budiardja
Phillip Gingerich
Ainsley McPhail
Absent:
Amari Stoll, Elyana Rojas-Lopez

City of Goshen employees present included:

Deputy Mayor Mark Brinson; Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Tanya Heyde; Chief of Police José Miller; Assistant Chief of Police Shawn C. Turner; Fire Chief Dan Sink; Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Powell; Director of Public Works & Utilities Director Dustin Sailor; City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann; and Kent Holdren and Marv Shepherd, the current and incoming Superintendent of the City Water Treatment and Sewer Department

Goshen Community Schools employees present included:

Superintendent Dr. Jim DuBois; Associate Superintendent Alan Metcalfe; Assistant Superintendent Tracey Noe; Assistant Superintendent Bob Evans, Goshen High School Principal Cathy DeMeyer; and Director of Transportation Donald Graves



1) Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Kid Mayor Tolin presented the meeting agenda for approval. Councilor Nisley moved to accept the agenda as submitted. Councilor Peel seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.

2) Welcome from Superintendent Jim DuBois

Superintendent Jim DuBois welcomed students, parents, Board members and community members. He thanked Mayor Leichty, City Department heads and Council members for holding the joint meeting, which he said was a good learning experience for students. He said the meeting was a good opportunity to share the great work taking place between the City and the school district. He said it was "unique" for a City and a school district to be working together so well to benefit students on their journeys toward becoming contributing adults in the community.

3) Parks 2024 Programs for Kids and Families (City Parks and Recreation Superintendent Tanya Heyde)

City Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Tanya Heyde gave an overview of her department using an eight-page PowerPoint, "Goshen Parks and Recreation (EXHIBIT #1). Heyde discussed the following:

- **The 2024 Goshen Parks & Recreation Activity Guide.** She invited meeting attendees to take home copies of the provided department guide for the coming year. It includes a listing of facilities, activities, lessons, youth and adult programs and other events.
- **The organization of the department.** Heyde said the department has 13 full-time employees and four permanent part-time employees. The department also hires many part-time seasonal employees during the spring, summer and fall to help maintain and staff facilities, including the pool, as well as to operate programs. The department has a five-member board – four members appointed by the Mayor and one by the School Board.
- **An overview of parks, facilities and trails.** She said the City has 26 miles of trails which are open year round for community recreation purposes as well as for students to walk to and from schools.
- **Partnerships with Goshen Community Schools.** Besides sharing the trails system, Heyde said the City has other partnerships with Goshen Schools. These include the sharing of facilities, including Rogers Park for baseball and softball games and Shanklin Park for cross country meets. In turn, the City uses school facilities for indoor youth and adult basketball, volleyball games and pickleball.
- **The department's five-year master plan.** Early last year, she said the Parks Department began work on a new five-year master plan. Heyde said a steering committee, including a Goshen schools faculty member, was formed and has been developing the plan. She said the "pillars" of the plan are inclusiveness, connectivity, engagement and sustainability.
- **The department's new maintenance facility.** She said the new maintenance building, beside Plymouth Avenue and between 9th and 10th streets, is nearly completed and is expected to be open by the spring. She expressed appreciation for the support on the City administration, the Common Council and the Redevelopment Commission.
- **The proposed renovation of the Shanklin Pool.** Heyde said a master planning process has been completed to replace the pool, which was constructed in the 1960s. She said a design phase is underway and the City hopes to begin the construction in 2025 with the reopening of the pool in 2026.



Heyde thanked the school board for its support of the Parks and Recreation Department. And she invited questions. **Councilor Nisley** asked about the status of the East Lincoln-Westside Pavilion. **Heyde** said concrete work has started and the pavilion should be erected this spring. In response to a question from **Councilor Schrock** about the status of the Eastside pavilion, **Heyde** said the structure has been ordered and it should be installed next year.

4) Police Department Special Resource Officer presentation (Assistant Chief Shawn Turner)

Assistant Police Chief Shawn Turner provided an overview of the work of the Police Department's Special Resource Officers. He began by praising the strong relationship between the Police Department and Goshen Community Schools. He said **Goshen High School Principal Cathy DeMeyer** and **Goshen Middle School Principal Jan Baker** have been especially helpful.

Assistant Chief Turner said he believes it's reassuring to parents when they drop off their children at school and see a police car parked outside and an officer standing by. While some people might think of school resources officers as "kid cops," he said they are much more than that. He said they are intertwined with the school system and serve a wide variety of roles including as counselors, administrators, enforcers, friends, role models, legal experts and crime deterrence. He said these officers also are an important part of the Police Department;

Assistant Chief Turner briefly described the backgrounds of the Special Resource Officers, who include:

- **Officer Tommy Steele** has 20 years of law enforcement experience, including 14 at the junior high school level. He has completed advanced SRO training and is vice president of the Indiana School Resource Officer's Association, which has more than 400 members.
- **Officer Tara Powell** has 26 years of law enforcement experience, including 20 with the Goshen Police Department. She has been an SRO since 2015. She has completed advanced SRO training and is an advanced safety school specialist. She is assigned to Goshen Intermediate School and assists at Goshen High School. Officer Powell can help at elementary schools as needed and has great relationships with teachers. She also is a training officer and has helped train new School Resource Officers.
- **Officer Don Cramer** is the Police Department's newest SRO and the most senior officer. He has 39 years of law enforcement experience, primarily with the Elkhart County Sheriff's Office. He has been an SRO for seven years and a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program officer for 10 years. He was hired to replace Officer Jeff Eaton and is assigned to Goshen High School.

Assistant Chief Turner discussed initiatives that the Police Department has been working on with Goshen Schools. These safety initiatives include:

Installing sliding barriers that would prohibit an intruder from being able to look into classrooms as a way to enhance safety. They have been installed at the middle school and the goal is to install them at all schools.

Camera systems at the schools that have been upgraded thanks to a grant. He said the Police Department relies on good video evidence to solve crimes, and that is being provided in Goshen.

Safety and Security window film is being installed at all ingress and egress points to keep broken windows intact and can help delay intruders from entering buildings.

All school doors are locked and have welcome centers with one entry point, which adds to the safety and security of each building.

Schools utilize the Raptor School Safety System to identify who is in the building and tracks attendance.



At Goshen High School, Goshen Police conduct random drug sweeps with trained drug detection canines. He said marijuana vaping has become a serious problem and random drug sweeps are an effective response.

SchoolGuard, a mobile panic button app, provides a more immediate response in extreme emergencies. He said the app quickly and directly connects school personnel with Goshen police.

Assistant Chief Turner also talked about how the School Resource Officers go beyond providing security by connecting with students, often in their free time.

For example, he said Officer Steele has volunteered as a 7th grade basketball coach and during the summer is an 8th grade basketball coach.

Every morning, Officer Powell greets all of the students who arrive at the intermediate school on 17 buses. He said Officer Powell does that to make all of the students feel safe. Officer Powell recently was given a live saving award for aiding a student in the cafeteria who began choking while eating.

Assistant Chief Turner said Officer Cramer is a head basketball coach for a Special Olympics team. He said some of the games take place at the high school. He has been coaching for 10 years.

Assistant Chief Turner concluded his presentation by saying, "This is just a snapshot of our Police Department SROs. We have been fortunate to have them in our school system. We are even more fortunate that they are completely dedicated to their schools, the administration, the kids, the educators and the community they serve."

5) Introduction of Kid Council and Kid Mayor (Wendy Clark)

Parent and Communication Liaison Wendy Clark provided an overview of the Kid Mayor and Kid Council program and this year's participants.

Clark said fourth-graders applied to be Kid Mayor and submitted brief videos about what they hoped to accomplish if elected. All fourth-graders had an opportunity to vote for the Kid Mayor. Lincoln Tolin was elected and represents all of the City's fourth-graders. The five runners-up serve as the City's Kid Council.

Clark said the students will soon begin meeting and will plan a project that they will complete this spring.

All of the students introduced themselves and their schools. Those present were:

- Lincoln Tolin (Mayor) of Model Elementary
- Christopher Budiardja of Chandler Elementary
- Phillip Gingerich of Chamberlain Elementary
- Ainsley McPhail of Prairie View Elementary

Elyana Rojas-Lopez of Parkside Elementary and Amari Stoll of Chamberlain Elementary were unable to attend. The audience responded with applause for the students.

Mayor Leichty thanked the students for being present and their parents for allowing them to attend.

6) Introduction of Youth Councilors (Mayor Leichty)

Mayor Leichty said that one of the initiatives that Mayor Jeremy Stutsman began was a youth adviser program, which was based on his belief that the City needed to listen to young people and involve them in City governance. Initially, a single youth adviser served on the Common Council. The program has now been expanded to six, with four high school students serving on City boards and commissions and one on the Goshen School Board.

Mayor Leichty invited the students to introduce themselves and say what has impressed them about their service.



- **Skye Steury** of the Mayor's Environmental Committee said the group meets monthly and he has enjoyed the opportunity. He said he enjoyed attending a sustainability conference in Indianapolis.
- **Jennifer Olvera-Morgado** of the Park and Recreation Board said she has been impressed by the way the board functions and the many details involved in managing the City's parks. She said she was thankful to be able to attend the meetings.
- **Antonio Perez** of the Shade Tree Board said he has enjoyed being a member of the Arbor Day Committee. He said he is helping plan the celebration on May 3.
- **Sara Lozano** of the Community Relations Commission said she has enjoyed learning about what Goshen is really like, learning more and informing her family and the Hispanic community.
- **Frida Luna Gallegos** of the Goshen Community School Board said she has been surprised by the team that is working to improve school safety. She said the team has welcomed her and taken her opinions seriously. She also said that she appreciated the opportunity to serve.
- **Jessica Velázquez-Valdes**, the Common Council youth adviser, said she has appreciated the opportunity to learn about new City projects and about the City. She said this has allowed her to inform her family and Goshen High School. As part of the Youth Caucus Club, she said the students have participated in projects, including a voter registration drive. She said she hopes to do more projects like that soon.

Mayor Leichty said this is an important project and a wonderful bridge between the Goshen schools and the City. She said she was honored to be able to continue the program. She said the students will continue their terms through the end of the school year and there will be an election for new advisers in the spring. The Mayor added that the new youth advisers will begin in June.

Mayor Leichty thanked the youth advisers and was joined by the audience in offering them a round of applause.

7) School Transportation update (Don Graves)

Goshen Schools Director of Transportation Donald Graves provided an overview of the district's transportation system using a PowerPoint presentation titled "GCS Transportation; Transporting GCS Students to their Future" (EXHIBIT #2)

Graves said he and his staff view transportation as a way to start students every morning in a positive way. Drivers are encouraged to greet each child and welcome each on the bus, adding, "We believe that we are the foundation in the beginning of their day and set them up for either failure or success and we want to choose success every day."

Graves said the beginning of the school year brought a few changes to GCS Transportation:

Goshen schools introduced the **BusQuest App**, which allows parents to register and make changes to their student's transportation and update addresses and pick-up areas. Parents can also receive an alert when the bus carrying their child is getting close to their home.

Students in grades 7-12 are now required to register for transportation so the district can determine how many buses are needed. This was new for 7th and 8th-graders, but high school students have always been required to register for transportation.

In another major change, **the schools instituted a one pick-up and one drop-off policy.** In the past, the schools accommodated multiple drop-off locations in the afternoon. However, he said it was felt this compromised student safety, so there is now a requirement for a single pick-up and drop-off location. He said there have been "some growing pains," but most parents are supportive of the change.



Graves provided the following statistics about the Goshen transportation system:

Number of students transported: 4,009 out of 6,100 total students

Elementary: 1,482

Intermediate: 868

Junior High School: 748

High school: 911, which has been an increase from last year

Routes/Buses/Trips

- 30 buses for the morning and afternoon routes
- 5 special needs buses
- 177 total trips per day (including a shuttle to Elkhart for homeless students)
- From Aug. 1 to Dec. 11, 240 athletic, music and school trips were taken, which will increase in the spring

Graves said a major technology upgrade has been providing bus drivers with navigation tablets, which were recently installed. He said the tablets provide drivers with:

- Turn-by-turn route instructions, which have replaced printed instructions
- The ability to track students by scanning their identification cards when they board and depart buses. Transportation staff can provide the location of students if parents call requesting that information. Staff will even be able to report when students board buses and when they leave them.
- Transportation staff will be able to monitor how drivers are progressing through their routes, where they stop along the way and can later make any adjustments.
- The new system will also help in creating routes each school year.

Graves said his department has 35 full-time drivers, four substitutes, two mechanics (who also drive when needed), one driver in training and three office staff members.

In conclusion, Graves said, "The GCS Transportation Department is continually striving to better the level of service we provide for our students, parents, and staff to enhance the education for our GCS students ... "We take our jobs very seriously ... and we hope that we can continue to serve the Goshen community the way we do."

Youth Adviser Frida Luna Gallegos asked how long schools will be testing the new ID scan system. Graves said his department will be testing the new system at Model and Waterford elementary schools. He said after a few weeks, he hopes to fully implement the program by the end of the semester.

Board member Jose Elizalde asked if the card scanning will cause delays in the routes. Graves said at the start of the program there will be some delays and some bus adjustments may be necessary, but it should improve.

8) Goshen Community Schools Pathways Program (GHS Principal Cathy DeMeyer)

Goshen High School Principal Cathy DeMeyer began her presentation by thanking the Goshen Police Department and Mayor Leichty for the School Resource Officer program. She said Officer Cramer is kept busy every day. She also acknowledged Kid Council members and said she was proud of the youth advisers.

DeMeyer said she wanted to discuss some of the pathway programs that are growing the fastest at Goshen High School. She said all students have the opportunity to pursue any of the pathways but they can also earn an honors or a technical honors diploma and pursue whatever path they would like after high school. However, DeMeyer said pathways offer opportunities for students to gain "real world" work experience before leaving high school, which can be beneficial in helping determine a future career.



DeMeyer said a **leadership academy** is being developed as part of a business administration pathway. She said **President & CEO Nick Kieffer of the Goshen Chamber of Commerce** has helped develop the program, which will connect students with local businesses.

DeMeyer said the **Business Administration Pathway** will have pathways in accounting, marketing, entrepreneurship and supply chain logistics and many opportunities within that for dual credit. She said students will be able to earn credits through Ivy Tech Community College and within a few years, students will be able to graduate from the high school with associate degrees. She said the supply chain logistics pathway will be offered at the Goshen Alternative Program, which was formerly known as "Merit" and now is housed at the former Chandler Elementary School. She said that program will allow students to enter the work force early or transfer to college.

DeMeyer said the **Advanced Manufacturing Pathway** has received a significant donation of \$300,000 which has been used to purchase equipment. She said the school is offering instruction in hydraulics and pneumatics, laser and plasma cutting, Computer Numerical Control lathe, manual milling; robotic arms; plastics injection and basic electricity. She said some items produced are being sold in the school store. Welding is also being taught and students can earn up to 21 Ivy Tech credits in that program. She thanked the City for its \$100,000 contribution to the program.

DeMeyer said the high school was excited about the newest pathway for **Fire and Emergency Medical Services** at the former Chandler Elementary School. Students who complete the program will earn associate degrees and will graduate with the credentials needed to be hired as Goshen firefighters. She thanked **Mayor Leichty and former Mayor Jeremy Stutsman** for their partnership and support for this program and for paying the salary of an instructor.

The audience was then shown a brief video about the history, goals and benefits of the new **Fire and Emergency Medical Services Pathway**. It featured school and City officials. The video was produced by Goshen High School student Greta Miller and overseen by Goshen TV teacher Brian Sapp.

Speaking as a Goshen native and Goshen High School graduate, **City Fire Chief Dan Sink** said he was excited about this opportunity and collaboration. He thanked **Mayor Leichty and Principal DeMeyer**. He added that he's learned that it's important to get out of the way when a bright person advances a great idea.

City Assistant Chief of Operations Anthony Powell said the program could not have been created without the support of the City and the schools and the teams assembled for this project. He also announced that **Chief Inspector of Public Safety Education Travis Peak**, a 1995 Goshen High School graduate, will direct the program.

Mayor Leichty thanked Kid Mayor Tolin for leading the meeting. At 7:05 p.m., she declared a recess to allow children and parents to leave the meeting if they wanted to depart.

9) Discussion: How do we continue to strengthen the relationship between the City of Goshen and Goshen Community Schools? (All Council and Board members):

At 7:13 p.m., Mayor Leichty resumed the meeting. She thanked Board members and Councilors for engaging the students in such a meaningful way. She said this time had been set aside for Board members and Councilors for discussion – to make suggestions or ask questions or discuss ways to work together. She said no topics were off limits. The Mayor asked speakers to limit their comments to one minute each.



Councilor Gerber congratulated **Parent and Communication Liaison Wendy Clark** for developing the Kid Mayor and Kid Council program. She said it is impressive and has been done outside of her normal work. She said the students were fantastic and came up with great ideas. Gerber said Clark deserves great praise for her work.

Councilor Lederach said great cities need great schools and educational research is very clear in proving that putting outstanding teachers in front of students year after year will close the achievement gap. He said the problem is finding those qualified teachers and getting them to stay. Lederach said that people are doing innovative things across the nation to attract and retain teachers in cities and schools. He communities in Michigan and California offer housing subsidies for new teachers. California also offers housing incentives to retain teachers. He said in Goshen, Lacasa has a program for first-time homeowners that offers up to \$5,000 for a down payment. Lederach asked why Goshen isn't offering such incentives to attract and retain teachers. He said if Goshen has long-term, high-quality teachers, the schools will get better and the community will get better.

Mayor Leichty thanked **Councilor Lederach** and said she looked forward to conversations come budget time.

Councilor Nisley thanked the Goshen school system for helping kids who don't want to go to college or can't go to college so they can go on and do something.

Councilor Peel said it was her great pleasure to work for the Goshen Community Schools for eight years. She left in October and now works for Lacasa. She said it was a huge benefit to work for the schools and to simultaneously serve on the Council. She now works on housing issues at Lacasa and has believed that teachers should take Lacasa's housing education classes. Councilor Peel said she was "super excited" to learn about the new firefighter education program. She said Goshen needs to keep on the cutting edge of such great ideas.

Council President Weddell said he was impressed with the pathways programs. When he attended Goshen High School, he said there was an auto mechanics class and a metal shop, but they went away. He said when his brother, Bradd, ran for the school board, one of the things he promoted was bringing the trade programs back to the school. He said there has been a lot of work behind the scenes to make that happen. Council President Weddell said he was excited about the new Fire/EMS pathway. He also said he was excited that a younger Goshen High School classmate, Travis Peak, will be running the program. He said he is impressed whenever people who grew up in Goshen have stayed in the community and are working to make it a better place.

Youth Adviser Velazquez Valdes said she likes how the pathways programs are developing at the high school. She said she does feel said that some of the International Baccalaureate programs will be going away next year. Without them the school will not be as strong. Still, she said she appreciated there were multiple career options for students who don't want to go to college.

Councilor Schrock affirmed the comments of **Youth Adviser Velazquez**, **Councilor Nisley** and **Council President Weddell** about how good it is to provide opportunities for students who might not be able to go to college but still want to learn a profession. He said Goshen High School used to have a great vocation program and it appears to be coming back. He said the pathways program was a great benefit for the City. Councilor Schrock also asked if there were any youth programs scheduled for the new Riverdale Park.



City Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Tanya Heyde said nothing had been decided yet, but department staff members will go back to the neighborhood this season and develop plans for that park. She said City staff will be asking neighbors what activities they would like to see at that park.

Councilor Riegsecker said he agreed that college is not for everybody and that it is good to bring back some of the trade programs and teach young adults how to balance a checkbook and perhaps do their taxes. He said he has been surprised to learn that grown adults who worked with him have been unable to do fractions. Councilor Riegsecker also said the new Firefighter pathways program was excellent and exciting and he hoped there could be similar new programs designed to meet employment needs and keep people in Goshen.

Council President Weddell endorsed **Councilor Lederach's** comments about housing. He said the building trades program at Goshen High School used to have a history of building houses for teachers. He said hopefully this can happen again.

Superintendent DuBois said the construction program is still going strong. He said students are building a home, which he believes has already been sold.

Superintendent DuBois then introduced School Board members for their comments.

School Board member Weddell said it's rare for a school district in Indiana to be contained within a city's limits as it is in Goshen. He said the school district's partnership with the City is critical and has been taken seriously for a long time and makes the community better. He said **Councilor Lederach** said it best – "you can't have a good community without a good school system." He said it has been exciting to learn about the new housing being developed in the City because that will benefit everyone by bringing new families into the community and providing students with a world class education. He added that it has been an honor for him to be part of the school' district's partnership with the City the past eight years and he is excited about the future.

Youth adviser Sara Lozano said she was excited about the new Firefighter and EMT program. Although she will graduate this year, she said many underclassmen will utilize these pathway programs. She said these programs will give many students a reason to go to school and to be involved in the community.

School Board member Elizalde praised the pathways programs. He said when he was a community organizer at Lacas, he spoke to **Police Chief Miller** and **Assistant Chief Turner** about the importance of the Police Department and the Fire Department mirroring the makeup of the community. He said that makes a community stronger. He added that many jobs in the City could use more diversity, including bilingual inspectors and employees. He said the Firefighter/EMT program could be the beginning and there's more the schools and the City can do to make the community stronger.

Mayor Leichty responded that the City recently hired a bilingual building inspector, adding, "(It's) one and we have a ways to go but it's certainly a positive step in the right direction."

Youth Adviser Gallegos said that along with the building trades program, Goshen High School also has an architecture class that allows students to create blueprints for the houses that are being built. "Not only are we helping to build the houses, but we're creating a bright future for the students," she said.



Youth Adviser Gallegos asked if it would be possible for the City to create more GIS (Geographic Information System) resources.

City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor said that would be possible and the City has begun creating that. A meeting was held at the end of last year with school staff about setting up some mapping for effective walk zones. He said an interactive map will be available.

Mayor Leichty told **Youth Adviser Gallegos** that she didn't know of her future career path, but that fact she was excited about GIS excited the Mayor. "So, come see us when you're looking for a job someday," she said.

School Board member Garber said there are good opportunities being offered at Goshen High School for the City of Goshen. He also said the school should also continue to offer rigorous classes. He said Goshen needs to continue to distinguish itself from other high schools. He also said it's important to spread the word about all the good things happening in Goshen schools.

School Board member Glick thanked **Superintendent DuBois** for coordinating with the City and for his work connecting with others.

Youth Adviser Perez said that besides the new pathways programs, he wanted to thank **Principal DeMeyer** for her continued support for the other classes at Goshen High School. He singled out her support for the music and theater departments, which he said are programs that motivate many students.

Youth Adviser Steury thanked the **Goshen Police Department** and **Principal DeMeyer** for their responses to threats at the high school this year. "Some of the threats have not phased me, but there was one this year that really scared me and I really appreciate how fast you dealt with it overnight and how reassuring that was," he said. He also asked if it would be possible for the City to advertise its summer jobs for students at the Shanklin Pool.

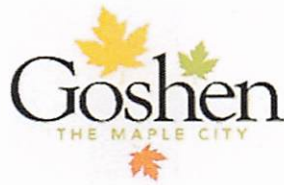
City Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Heyde responded that she would love to do so through the school system. She said jobs are posted on the City's website; She said many youths have their first jobs at Shanklin Pool. She said **Youth Adviser Steury** has worked at the pool and she would love for others to have that opportunity.

School Board member Sanchez Schirch said this is the first meeting where she has felt more comfortable about the partnership of various City departments as well as the Council with Goshen Community Schools. "We cannot work alone. We have to work together," she said. "If the students are not successful, the community is not going to be successful." She said it has been positive to see the success of so many diverse students. She also thanked **Principal DeMeyer** for her work.

Mayor Leichty said she wanted to give **Council President Weddell** time to talk about an issue he wanted to raise and allow **City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor** an opportunity to respond with a presentation.

Council President Weddell said he had sent an email to **Mayor Leichty** and **Director of Public Works & Utilities Sailor** and others about walking and walk zones. He said he was seeking information on two specific areas.

Council President Weddell said one such area is the Berkey Avenue Hill, which has a dedicated crosswalk to the walk zone that runs along Indiana Avenue. However, he said if any pedestrian wants to walk along Berkey Hill, they have to walk in the middle of the road because there is no sidewalk there.



Council President Weddell said he also asked for information about a location across from Goshen Middle School and near the new apartment complex at Plymouth and Indiana avenues. More specifically, he referred to the mid-street crossing on Plymouth Avenue (Indiana 119) versus continuing the sidewalk 200 feet to connect with the current sidewalk that is by the apartments so that kids and pedestrians can cross at a dedicated intersection with a crosswalk vs. trying to cross in the mid-intersection area. He said while driving there, he has had people walk in front of him, not paying attention to traffic. He said it is one of the most dangerous places in the City.

Council President Weddell said he asked **Director of Public Works & Utilities Sailor** to discuss both situations.

Associate Superintendent Alan Metcalfe said the walk zone for the junior high school has been eliminated from the east, so students coming from the Shanklin Park area are not using an official walk zone. He said it was eliminated for the safety reasons that Council President Weddell raised.

Director of Public Works & Utilities Sailor discussed both locations with the aid of a seven-page PowerPoint presentation, titled "Goshen City Council and School Board Meeting," which concerned the Berkey Avenue and Plymouth Avenue locations and pedestrian safety issues (**EXHIBIT #3**).

Regarding Berkey Avenue, from Dewey Avenue to Indiana Avenue, **Sailor** said there have been many discussions about adding a sidewalk to that stretch of road. He said the roadway grade ranges from 10.7% to 7.4%, which is why it's called "Berkey Hill." He said Americans with Disabilities Act requirements only allow sidewalks when there is a slope grade of 8% or less, unless the sidewalk followed the existing grade, so one could be installed.

Sailor said that corridor was surveyed in 2021. He said there are four homes along that stretch of road, all without City water and sewer service. He said the road is at the lowest rating level of quality and needs improvement, but it's now a matter of funding.

Sailor said it would cost between \$700,000 and \$900,000 to repair the road. This year, the City expects to spend \$2.5 million to maintain roads throughout the City and the City has applied for \$1.5 million in state assistance for streets. So, to fund this street project he said would require restrictions on the 2025 paving program or allotments from another City fund to make that improvement.

Councilor Nisley asked if the \$700,000 and \$900,000 included the sewer and water improvements. **Sailor** said it would not, adding that homeowners would need to pay those costs. **Councilor Nisley** said if the City could still reduce the grade of the hill. **Sailor** said perhaps a little, but if that was done, it would affect other properties and the City might need to build a retaining wall to protect two properties.

Council President Weddell said this was one of the City's most challenging roads. **Sailor** agreed and said that may be why the situation hasn't been addressed. However, he said given the poor condition of the road, it now needs to be repaved or reconstructed.

Councilor Nisley asked if the home on the top of the hill, on Dewey Avenue, had water service. **Sailor** said it did and that there are now only three homes on that stretch of road without water service.

Regarding the Plymouth Avenue pedestrian path extension, **Sailor** said the City and the school district joined in a partnership in 2016 to install a crosswalk on Plymouth Avenue to the junior high school. He said there were multiple improvements in that area, including the widening of the road, the installation of a road haven (island) and there also were stormwater improvements. He said the project cost about \$980,000.

Now that apartments have been built at Plymouth and Indiana avenues, **Sailor** said what is now being proposed is connecting sidewalk segments on the west side of Plymouth Avenue. A multi-use path extension would bridge a 212-foot gap in front of 815 West Plymouth Avenue, so that students could more safely cross Plymouth Avenue, to and from the junior high school, at Indiana Avenue.



Sailor said the City would have to acquire a right-of-way or easement across 815 West Plymouth Avenue to extend the sidewalk and remove the mid-block pedestrian crossing. Since there is an existing Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) right-of-way, **Sailor** said the City would also need to work with INDOT to make that improvement. He the preliminary cost of the project was about \$100,000, which would involve filling in the crosswalk.

Council President Weddell thanked **Sailor** for his presentation and his work. He said these were good issues for the Council and School Board to discuss "because one entity making a decision on this makes no sense." He said he was interested in knowing what School Board members and administrators thought about this because many children use these areas to walk to school and he had safety concerns.

Associate Superintendent Metcalfe said the school district would rather students cross the street at a dedicated stop. He said the pedestrian crossing on Plymouth Avenue was placed mid-block because it was better than the alternative at that time, but it does require students to push a button to activate lights and motorists stopping their vehicles to allow students to cross. Metcalfe said that doesn't always happen, so a dedicated path to the stop light at Plymouth and Indiana avenues would be in the best interests of the students.

School Board member Weddell said adults will always have to contend with the fact that "kids will be kids and they will go the shortest distance, and I think that is something we will always struggle with. We may be able to remove it (crosswalk), and kids will still ride their bikes right in the middle of the road."

Council President Weddell recalled that when he attended Goshen High School, students would walk across U.S. 33 to get to the athletic fields. "It was the path of least resistance," he said. "There was a big push later on to force everyone to cross at the intersection, at the crosswalk."

Associate Superintendent Metcalfe commented on further ideas to enhance safety.

Council President Weddell said he wasn't expecting answers tonight, but just a conversation.

Mayor Leichty said she looked forward to more conversations come budget time.

Council President Weddell and **Mayor Leichty** thanked **Director of Public Works & Utilities Sailor** and **Associate Superintendent Metcalfe**.

Mayor Leichty said that concluded discussions for the evening.

10) Privilege of the Floor (opportunity for public comment):

At 7:48 p.m., **Mayor Leichty** asked **City Communications Manager Hannah Scott-Carter** if anyone had signed up to speak during Privilege of the Floor. She said no one had asked to speak.

11) Adjournment

There was no further business, so **Councilor Nisley** made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Councilor Schrock** seconded the motion. By a 7-0 voice vote, **Councilors** unanimously approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Leichty adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

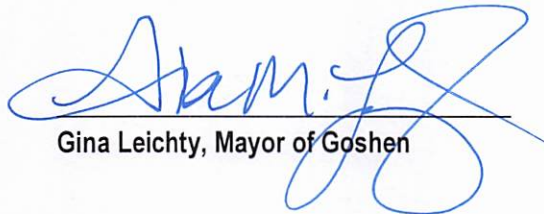


EXHIBIT #1 (8 pages): A PowerPoint presentation by City Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Tanya Heyde. The presentation, "Goshen Parks and Recreation," provided an overview of the department, parks, facilities and trails, partnerships with Goshen Community Schools; the department's five-year master plan; the new maintenance facility and the proposed renovation of Shanklin Pool.

EXHIBIT #2 (5 pages): A PowerPoint presentation by Goshen Schools Director of Transportation Donald Graves. The presentation, "GCS Transportation; Transporting GCS Students to their Future," provided an overview of the district's transportation system.

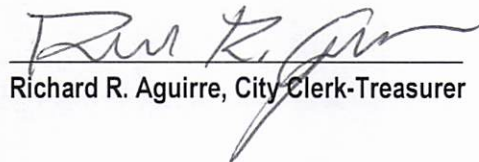
EXHIBIT #3 (7 pages): A PowerPoint presentation by City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor. The presentation, "Goshen City Council & School Board Meeting," provided information on traffic and pedestrian safety issues on Berkey Avenue and Plymouth Avenue.

APPROVED:

A blue ink signature of Gina Leichy, Mayor of Goshen, written over a horizontal line.

Gina Leichy, Mayor of Goshen

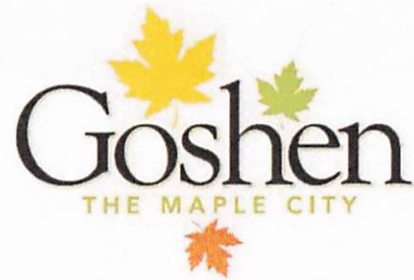
ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer, written over a horizontal line.

Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer

EXHIBIT #1

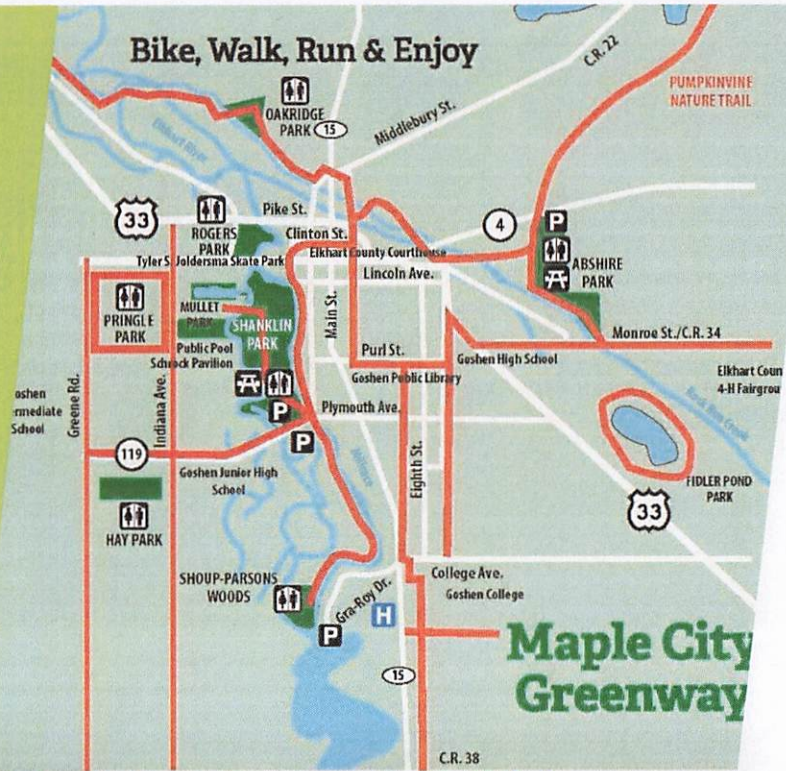
Parks and Recreation



Introduction

- ▶ Organization
- ▶ Board of Goshen Parks and Recreation
 - ▶ Five members
 - ▶ Mayoral appointments
 - ▶ School Board appointment
- ▶ Parks, facilities, trails

Bike, Walk, Run & Enjoy

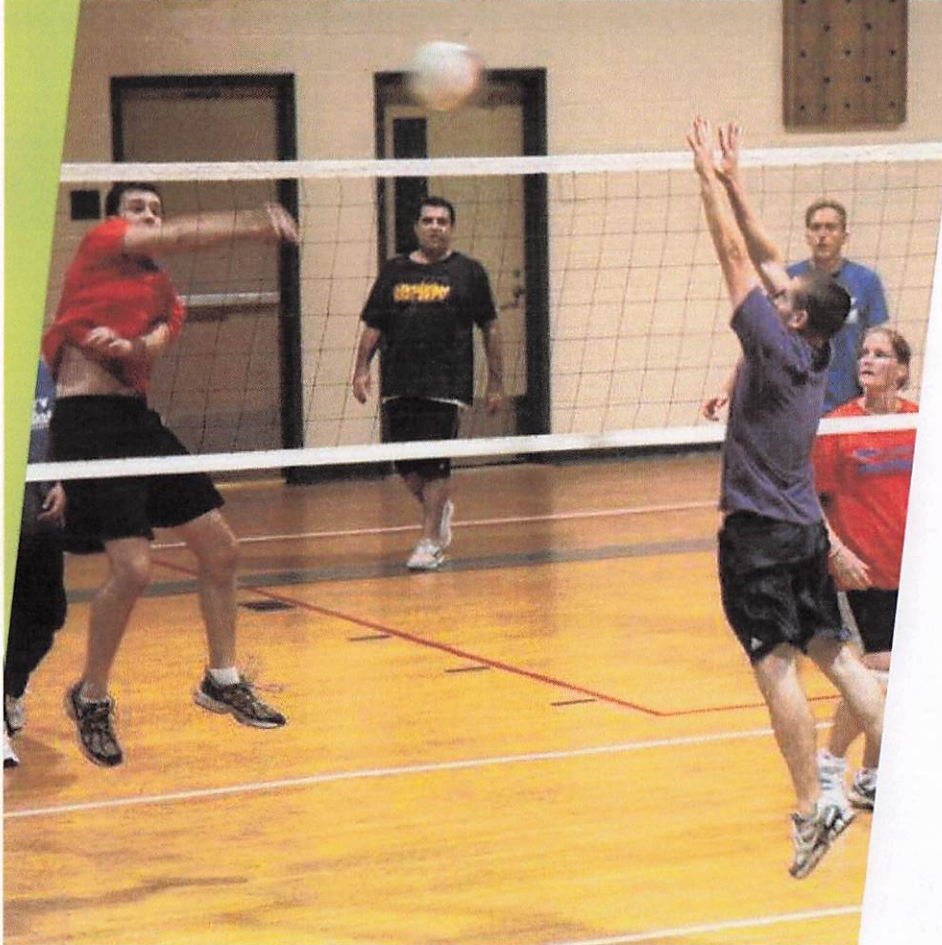
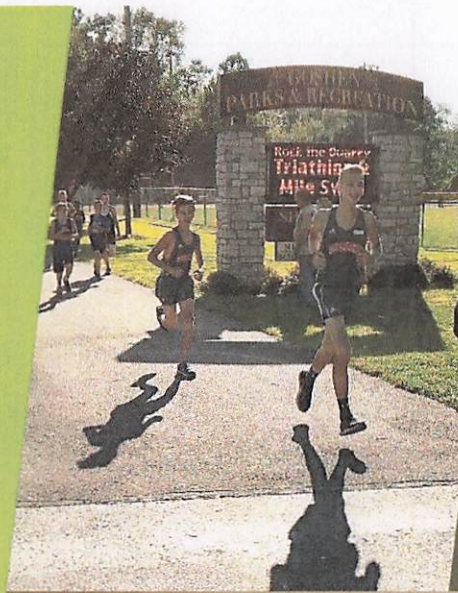


Trails



Partnerships

- ▶ Facility Sharing



Partnerships

- ▶ Facility Sharing



Goshen Parks Five-Year Master Plan

- ▶ Steering Committee
- ▶ Pillars
- ▶ April 15, 2024

GOSHEN PA

5 YEAR
MASTER
PLAN (2019-2023)

Parks and Recreation New Maintenance Facility

- ▶ Project Overview
- ▶ Location
- ▶ Timeline



A photograph of a swimming pool with children playing. In the foreground, a boy in a blue shirt and red shorts stands near a white water play structure. Other children are swimming in the pool. In the background, there is a building with a green roof and trees under a clear blue sky. The image is framed by green geometric shapes on the left and right sides.

Shanklin Pool Renovation

- ▶ Project Overview
- ▶ Timeline
- ▶ Benefits

EXHIBIT
#2

GCS Transportation



*Transporting GCS students
to their future.*

Inspiring Innovation...Empowering Potential...Enriching Our World

New Beginnings

The beginning of the school year brought a few changes to GCS Transportation.

- BusQuest App
- Students grades 7-12 are required to register for transportation
- Instituted a one pick-up and one drop-off policy

GCS by the numbers

Number of students transported: 4009 out of 6100 total students

- By level
 - Elementary: 1482
 - GIS: 868
 - GJHS: 748
 - GHS: 911
- Routes/Buses/Trips
 - 30 buses for AM and PM
 - 5 Special needs buses
 - 177 total routes per day
 - From 8/1 to 12/11, 240 athletic, music and school trips were taken.

Technology Upgrades

Navigation Tablets were recently installed and provide:

- Turn-by-turn instructions for the driver
- Tracking students by scanning ID's
- Stop on route info for the router
- On-the-go route building

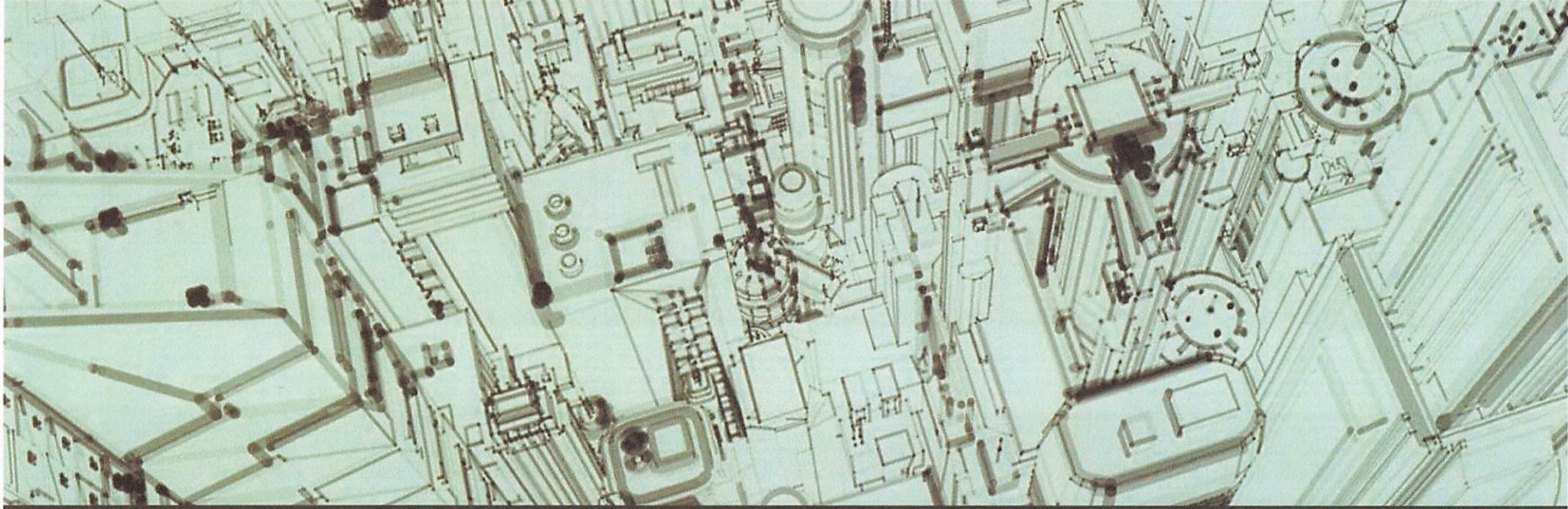
In Conclusion



GCS Transportation Department is continually striving to better the level of service we provide for our students, parents, and staff to enhance the education for GCS students.

Inspiring Innovation...Empowering Potential...Enriching Our World

Exhibit
#3



Goshen City Council & School Board Meeting

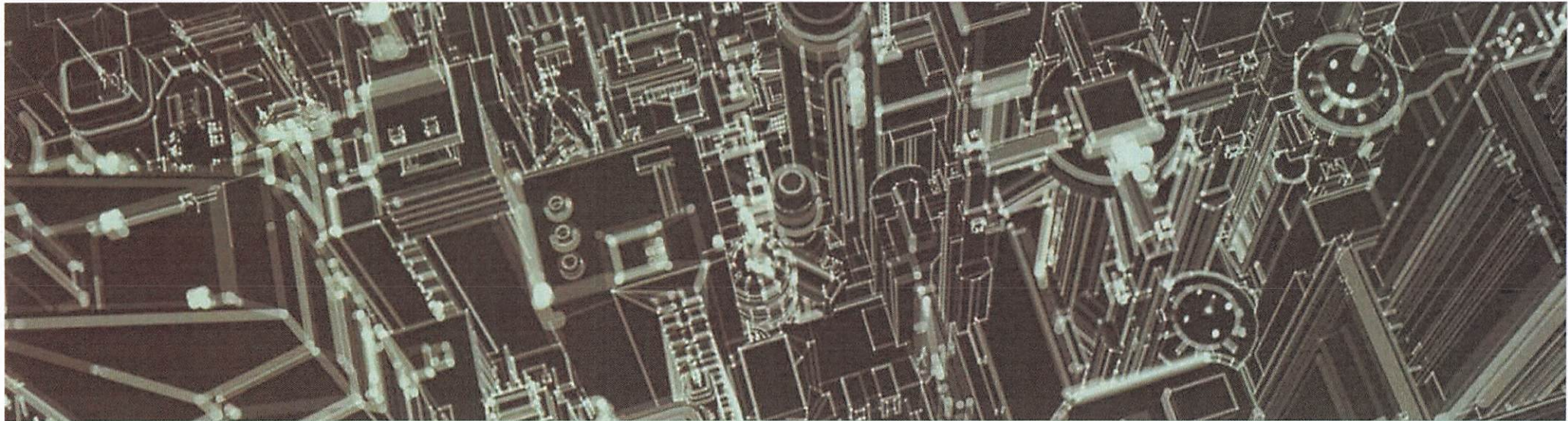


Presentation Items

- Berkey Avenue
 - Dewey Ave. to Indiana Ave.
- Plymouth Avenue Pedestrian Path Extension & Mid-block Crossing Removal

Presenters

Dustin Sailor, City of Goshen
Dir. of Public Works and Utilities



Berkey Avenue Pedestrian Access



Berkey Avenue Reconstruction

- Roadway Information

- Surveyed in 2021
- Roadway length from Dewey to Indiana: 756 ft
- Roadway grades: 10.7%, 7.4%, and relatively flat
 - ADA allows for a maximum slope of 8.3% unless there is controlling grade
- Current Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating: 1

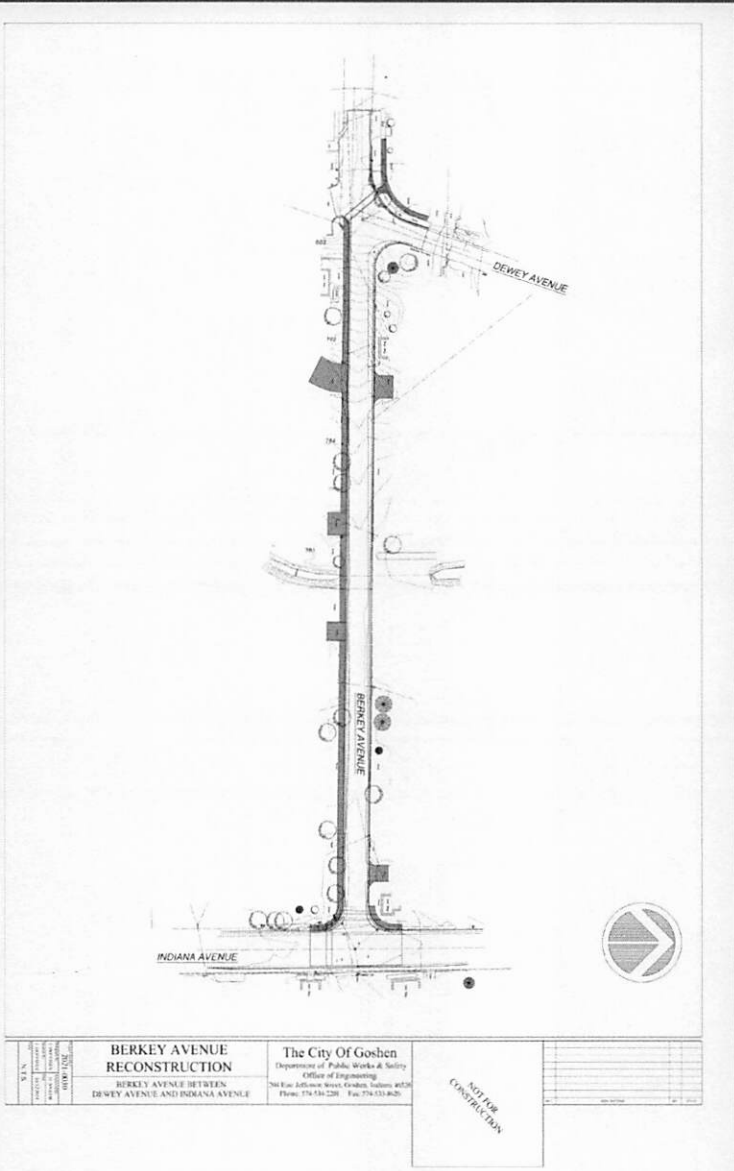
- Project Goals

- Rebuild roadway pavement
- Add sidewalk on one side of the road
- Add curb & gutter and storm sewer to manage stormwater runoff
- Provide water and sewer to four (4) residential properties



Joint Council & School Board Meeting

Berkey Avenue Reconstruction

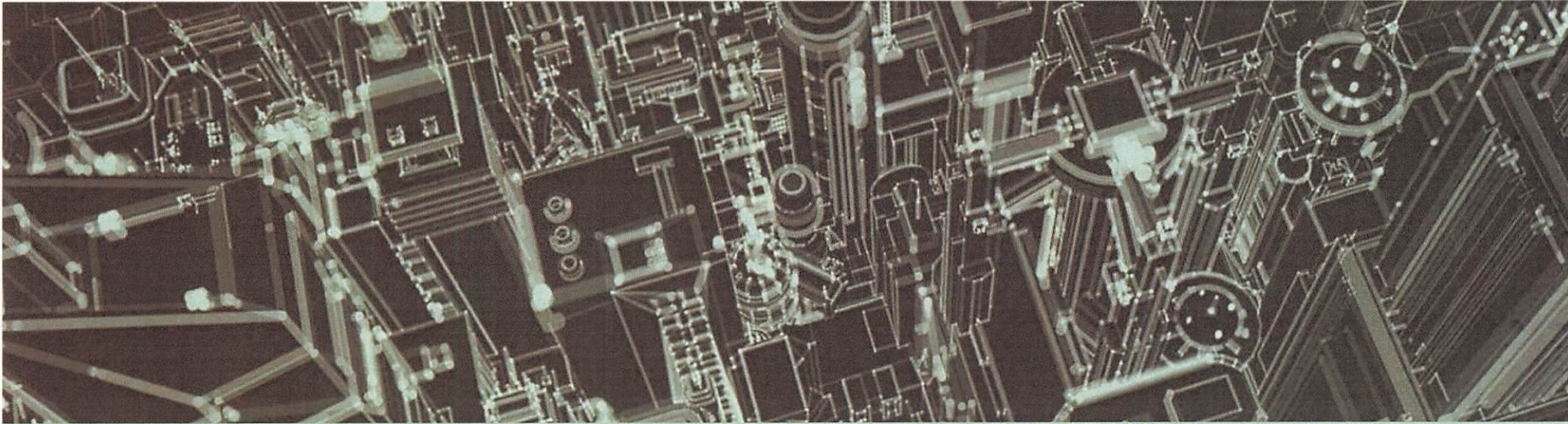


Engineer's Pre-Design Construction Estimate
Project: Berkey Avenue Between Dewey Avenue and Indiana Avenue

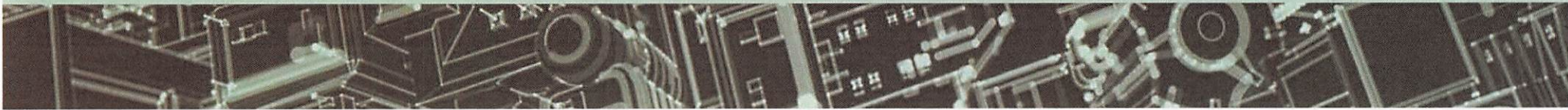
Item No.	Estimated Quantity	Unit	Description	Engineer's Estimate	
				Unit Price	Total Price
1	1	LSUM	Mobilization and Demobilization	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
2	1	LSUM	Construction Engineering & Record Drawing	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
3	1	LSUM	Construction Notice Board	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4	1	LSUM	Erosion & Sediment Control	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
5	1	LSUM	Traffic Control	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
6	1	LSUM	Clearing of Right of Way	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
7	10	EA	Tree Removal	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 12,000.00
8	2,500	STC	Pavement Removal, All Types	\$ 10.00	\$ 25,000.00
9	30	STC	2" Mill Removal, All Types	\$ 8.00	\$ 240.00
10	30	STC	1" Mill Removal, All Types	\$ 8.00	\$ 240.00
11	1	LSUM	Site Grading	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 120,000.00
12	100	CYD	Common Excavation (Unsanitary)	\$ 32.00	\$ 3,200.00
13	100	CYD	Bottom (Unsanitary)	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,500.00
14	3	EA	Manhole Casting Adjustment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
15	4	EA	Storm Catch Basin, 48" w/ Chaining	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
16	3	EA	Storm Inlet, 30" w/ Chaining	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 10,500.00
17	120	LFT	Storm Sewer, RCP, Class III, 18"	\$ 220.00	\$ 26,400.00
18	70	LFT	Storm Sewer, RCP, Class III, 12"	\$ 190.00	\$ 13,300.00
19	50	LFT	Storm Sewer, RCP, Class III, 12"	\$ 110.00	\$ 5,500.00
20	1,700	LFT	Concrete Curb & Gutter, 6"	\$ 40.00	\$ 68,000.00
21	345	LFT	Concrete Retaining Wall	\$ 200.00	\$ 69,000.00
22	252	TONS	HMA Surface, 9.0 mm, Type B	\$ 120.00	\$ 30,240.00
23	420	TONS	HMA Binder, 18.0 mm, Type B	\$ 90.00	\$ 38,800.00
24	671	TONS	HMA Base, 24.0 mm, Type B	\$ 90.00	\$ 60,380.00
25	3,350	SVD	Geogrid	\$ 6.00	\$ 20,100.00
26	1,010	TONS	Recycled Concrete, No. 53, Compacted, 9"	\$ 48.00	\$ 48,480.00
27	320	SVD	Concrete Drive Approach, 6"	\$ 140.00	\$ 44,800.00
28	595	SVD	Concrete Sidewalk, 4"	\$ 56.00	\$ 56,500.00
29	5	EA	ADA Ramp	\$ 780.00	\$ 3,900.00
30	220	LFT	6" Lira, White, Thermoplastics	\$ 2.25	\$ 495.00
31	12	LFT	12x Sign Bar	\$ 12.00	\$ 144.00
32	6	EA	Manhole Reinforcement	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,200.00
33	1	LSUM	Landscape Restoration	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Construction Estimate				\$	\$ 737,229.00
Engineering Services (11%)				\$	\$ 81,095.19
Contingency (25%)				\$	\$ 193,684.84
Engineer's Estimate (+/-)				\$	\$ 991,989.03

Assumptions:
No water or sewer services are assumed
Geotechnical information is unknown at this review stage

Joint Council & School Board Meeting



Plymouth Avenue Pedestrian Path Extension & Mid-block Crossing Removal



Plymouth Avenue Pedestrian Path Extension

- Roadway Information
 - Original right-of-way improvements built in 2016
 - Proposed multi-use path extension 212 ft
 - Right-of-way or easement acquisition anticipated from property owner of 815 W. Plymouth Ave.
- Project Goals
 - Extend multi-use path across 815 W. Plymouth Ave.
 - Remove existing mid-block crossing
 - Work with INDOT to evaluate island's future
- Preliminary Estimate
 - \$100,000



Joint Council & School Board Meeting