

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission
303 Franklin Street
February 24, 2026

The Town of Porter Redevelopment Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: President Russ Erwin, Vice President Peter Sawochka-Dalton, Laura Madigan, Jamie Hogan, and Beth Mehling.

Absent: Allison Hultman

Also Present: Director of Development Michael Barry and Recording Secretary, Karen Spanier

Approval of Minutes

Peter Sawochka-Dalton made the motion to approve January 27, 2026 meeting minutes, with Laura Madigan making the second.

Motion passed 4-0.

Consideration of Claims

Jamie Hogan made a motion to approve February claims, Peter Sawochka-Dalton seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

Audience Participation

None

Reports

Building Commissioner/Director of Development

Michael Barry stated all documents for the Mnoke Trail were all signed and the pre-construction meeting is March 3rd, at 11:30 a.m. He spoke with Burns Harbor, and their bids are due on March 4th. After bids are complete, they want to discuss having a groundbreaking ceremony.

Tree clearing must be done by March 31st, so we are not disturbing the bats.

He did confirm with Next Level Trails contact, Gary Schultz, that this is not a reimbursable grant, they will pay us half up front and the other half to be determined later. We do spend close to half on the match.

Jamie Hogan asked where we are with the Johnson Inn. Michael Barry states the purchase agreement has been approved.

Old Business/New Business

None

New Business

Approval of Contracts

Russ Erwin mentions we have two contracts to approve, Baker Tilly Advisory Group and MCR Partners.

Laura Madigan asked if they have been reviewed by the Attorney, and Michael Barry answered they have been approved.

Laura Madigan made a motion to approve MCR Partners and Baker Tilley Advisory Group with scope appendix contracts. Jamie Hogan made the second.
Motion passed 4-0.

Commission Comments

Russ Erwin announces we did get authorization to use grant money to purchase property for the Trail, so we need to schedule an executive session to discuss this. He asks if March 10th at 6:00 p.m. would work for everyone.

Laura Madigan stated the Council has an Executive Meeting already scheduled for that time.

Russ Erwin then asks if March 10th at 5:30 p.m. is good. All agreed to set an Executive meeting for March 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Beth Mehling mentions that Dr. Petit has submitted his resignation for end of this school year. And Robert McDermott, the Assistant Superintendent, will be replacing him. Over the next couple of weeks, they will determine what is happening with all the retirements and things.

Laura Madigan congratulated them both.

Adjournment

Laura Madigan made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-2.9, this meeting was livestreamed to youtube.com/porterindiana. A recording of the livestream will remain publicly available for a minimum of ninety (90) days following the date of the meeting. Meeting agendas, minutes, and any memoranda, may be viewed at townofporter.in.gov.

Approved the 24th day of March, 2026

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF PORTER

/s/ Russ Erwin, President

/s/ Peter Sawochka-Dalton, Vice President

/s/ Allison Hultman, Secretary

/s/ Laura Madigan, Member

Attest: /s/ Karen Spanier, Recording Secretary