

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission
303 Franklin Street
January 27, 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 Allison Hultmen, Russ Erwin, Peter Sawochka-Dalton and Laura Madigan.

Absent: Jamie Hogan and Beth Mehling

Also Present: Director of Development Michael Barry, SEH Consultant Glen Peterson, and Karen Spanier Recording Secretary.

Organizational Appointments

Peter Sawochka-Dalton nominated Russ Erwin as President, all in favor 4-0

Laura Madigan nominated Peter Sawochka-Dalton as Vice President, all in favor 4-0.

Russ Erwin nominated Allison Hultman as Secretary, all in favor 4-0.

Laura Madigan nominated Karen Spanier as Recording Secretary, all in favor 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

Peter Sawochka-Dalton made the motion to approve November 25, 2025, meeting minutes, with Allison Hultman making the second.

Motion passed 4-0.

Consideration of Claims

Russ Erwin mentions that Karen Spanier emailed a last-minute invoice from Baker Tilly and we are going to hold off approving until next meeting. We are only approving the original claims in packet. Allison Hultman made a motion to approve January claims, Peter Sawochka-Dalton seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

Audience Participation

None

Reports

Building Commissioner/Director of Development

Michael Barry noted on the Mnoke Trail agreement with NPS for the construction part of the project, there are two agreements, one for Porter and one for Burns Harbor. Ours has been approved, however he just received it and states it will have to be pushed off until February 10th Council meeting as it will need to be signed by the Town Council.

Michael Barry mentions the agreement for I-94 Bridge Document will also be at the February 10th Town Council meeting.

He is still waiting for a written confirmation on RDA monies for purchase of property. Allison Hultman asked if appraisals can expire. Michael Barry responded they are good for a year.

Allsion Hultman asks if there is any update on Johnson Inn. Michael Barry states the Judge has ok'd the agreement to purchase but it is still in probate. Mr. Williams still wants to demo.

Laura Madigan asks if property is going to be allowed to be sold and the property transferred. Michael Barry mentions they have worked out all details with family members.

Old Business/New Business

New Business

Marquette Greenway Trail Bid Award

Michael Barry announced we received three bids from Reith Riley Construction, Milestone Contractors LP, and Gariup Construction.

The bids were very close together and were all within our 2023 estimate. The lowest bid was \$1,668,400.00. The recommendation is to award bid to Milestone Contractors LP for \$1,668,400.00. If the Commission approves, we can sign all the documents.

Laura Madigan made a motion to award bid contract to Milestone Contractors LP in the amount of \$1,668,400.00. Allison Hultman made the second.

Motion passed 4-0.

2026 Brownfields Coalition Grant Participation

Michael Barry mentions there are two separate Grants going on, one with NIRPC and one with RDA. After talking with each other they found it best to have two separate applications and the RDA is asking us to join, however they need theirs back by tomorrow.

Basically, they are going to put a group of communities together to try to get some brownfield funds, so potentially some extra money.

Laura Madigan asks what RDC role is. Michael Barry states RDC owns the property, and the Town Council is the signing authority.

Allison Hultman made a motion to join the 2026 Brownfields Coalition Grant, Peter Sawochka-Dalton made the second.

Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Contracts

Michael Barry noted that both contracts have been reviewed by our Attorney.

Abonmarche Consultants

Allison Hultman made a motion to approve the Abonmarche contract. Laura Madigan made second.

Motion passed 4-0.

Global Engineering & Land Surveying

Laura Madigan made a motion to approve the Global Engineering & Land Surveying contract, with Peter Sawochka-Dalton making second.

Motion passed 4-0.

SEH (Short Elliott Hendrickson)

Michael Barry states this Contract is for the Trail Construction Service phase only. Glen Peterson from SEH went through and made a more thorough list for a total Not to Exceed amount of \$163,000.00.

Barry said that we need to approve it tonight as the other contract has expired.

Peter Sawochka-Dalton asks what if something additional came up and asks if we are protected by the NTE.

Glen Peterson responded that if it is something out of our scope we will notify you for additional approval.

Laura Madigan made a motion to approve the Marquette Greenway Mnoke Trail Construction Service Contract with SEH for a not to exceed total of \$163,000.00.

Allison Hultman made second.

Motion passed 4-0.

Michael Barry mentions that our match for the Next Level Trail Grant is \$520,000. This expense is not reimbursable and is paid in phases.

Michael Barry indicates that the Abonmarche contract needs to be initialed everywhere there is DK per Attorney.

Commission Comments

None

Adjournment

Laura Madigan made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:28 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 January, 2026

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF PORTER

/s/ Russ Erwin, President

/s/ Peter Sawochka-Dalton, Vice President

/s/ Laura Madigan, Member

Attest: /s/ Karen Spanier, Recording Secretary