The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, January 17, 2017 at the hour of 6:30 p.m., local time in the Common Council Chambers, located in the lower level of the City Hall Building, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Schwanke.

Roll call was authorized and the following were noted present and/or absent.

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Tim Bietry, Pat Boy, Sharon Carnes, Bryant Dabney, Ron Hamilton, Don Przybylinski, Chris Schwanke, Candice Silvas and Allan Whitlow (9).

ABSENT: None (0)

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Meyer – Council Attorney; Gale Neulieb – City Clerk and Kim Sliwa – Deputy Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Schwanke inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2017.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes held on January 3, 2017; second by Councilman Dabney. The minutes were approved as printed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Schwanke gave a Liaison Report for the Michigan City Animal Control Board; stating they met last Thursday to review the Ordinance that was Tabled by the Council; advising the Animal Control Board has set up a committee at the recommendation of Dr. Bailey to review the ordinance; the committee will consist of Dr. Rex Bailey, Aljah Hunter of the Animal Control Division and himself, who will make a recommendation to the Animal Control Board, who will forward their recommendation to the Council.

Councilwoman Boy presented the following Finance Committee meeting minutes: Minutes of the Council Finance Committee Meeting for Claims, 6:00 pm on January 17, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm in the Council study to discuss the claims for 1/17/2017. Committee members Carnes and Przybylinski, and chair Boy were present, as was Controller Murphy. A quorum was present. Total claims for 1/17/2017 from Boyd Development were $8,276.55 for 3 months work on the Flood Plan Map Revisions; and from Riverboat, $198,867.00 for a Tandem Mack Truck after a trade-in of $17,000 for a 2000 truck, and $950.00 for pavement study and report on Fire Station 3, for a total of $207,143.55. Controller gave us an update on funds. Carnes made a motion to recommend approval of the claims. Przybylinski seconded. With unanimous approval, the claims docket will be forwarded to the Council with a positive recommendation. With no other matters to discuss, the committee meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 pm. Submitted by committee chair, Pat Boy.
Councilwoman Boy presented a breakdown of the claims as follows: Boyd Development fund #0417: Haas & Associates - $8,276.55 for Floodplain Map Revisions. Riverboat fund #9000: Pozzo Truck Center - $197,917.00 for a Tandem Mack Truck; Haas & Associates - $ 950.00 for Fire Station 3 pavement report. For total claims of $207,143.55.

Councilman Przybylinski commented on the Finance Committee and his discussion with Controller Murphy about updating the Council on the 2016 encumbered funds and where they stand; and also will present a report on the Final Tax Payment for 2016 and the Financial Status of the City around the end of February.

Councilman Przybylinski gave a Liaison Report on the Michigan City MainStreet Association; stating they met last week Wednesday and Police Chief Mark Swistek attended and gave a report on what the Police Department is doing to help out to deter crime in the MainStreet and UpTown areas; a presentation was given by the Arts Committee on the “U R Beautiful” project, which was also presented to the Redevelopment Commission at their last meeting; explaining the project and how he would like to see it incorporated in Michigan City; further explaining funding for the project and his desire to see a Michigan City business benefit by making the pieces for the project; asking everyone to support this.

President Schwanke asked if there were any other Standing Committee Reports; there was no response.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Councilman Przybylinski gave a brief update as Liaison to the Human Rights Commission commenting on the Indiana Plan and the testing, explaining how the Indiana Plan works; advising there will be testing for this program on January 23 thru 27, 2017 in Gary and anyone can register on line or you can call Jeff Dueitch of the Human Rights Department at (219) 874-1429 ext. 2019.

REPORTS of OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Council with an update on the Eastport Plan; turning the presentation over to Councilwoman Carnes and Councilman Dabney; thanking the Council for supporting this.

Councilwoman Carnes stated this was a lengthy process and there was good participation from our community members; advising Rose Scovelle will be giving the presentation and facilitated the meetings they had; further commenting on the project and the “Property of the Month” that was initiated by Councilman Dabney.

Rose Scovelle, Director of Capacity Building for Prosperity Indiana, formerly known as the Indiana Association for Community Economic Development addressed the Council giving a presentation on the Eastport Neighborhood Quality of Life Plan.

Councilman Dabney commented on the process, and the amenities throughout the Elston Grove Neighborhood (street signs, lighting, etc.); commenting on the future of the Eastport Neighborhood/1st Ward/5th Ward and funding for projects in these neighborhoods.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Dabney, Craig Phillips and Rose Scovelle regarding the Eastport Neighborhood amenities.

Craig Phillips, City Planner addressed the Council regarding the MidTown Neighborhood Plan, and future reporting on this to the Council.
CLAIM DOCKETS

President Schwanke stated the Claims for Fund #9000 – Riverboat was $198,867.00 and Fund #0417 – Boyd Development $8,276.55.

President Schwanke asked if there were any comments and hearing none, a motion was made by Councilman Przybylinski, second by Councilwoman Boy, and was approved. **Motion carried 9 – 0.**

PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications received.

RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk read the following Resolution by title only,

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION 4666

**A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF THE SANITARY DISTRICT STORM WATER FUND #8201 FOR THE YEAR 2016, IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, there exists certain circumstances within the budget of the Sanitary District Storm Water Fund of Michigan City which require increasing and decreasing of appropriations for the line items in Fund #8201 for the year 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana, that:

**Section 1.** It is deemed advisable and necessary, in order to meet the circumstances facing said Sanitary District Storm Water Fund, that the Common Council approve the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:

Sanitary District Storm Water Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>A/C #8201 0000 04 444.005</th>
<th>Other Machinery &amp; Equipment</th>
<th>$25,036.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>A/C #8201 0000 03 439.011</td>
<td>Contractual Services</td>
<td>$25,036.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 2.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage and approval by the Mayor.

**INTRODUCED BY:** /s/ Chris Schwanke, President
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Pat Boy, Member
President Schwanke explained this was just a simple transfer within their budget to clean it up for 2016; no additional dollars.

Councilwoman Boy made a motion to approve the proposed Resolution; second by Councilman Hamilton.

President Schwanke asked if there were any other questions or comments from the general public or Council and hearing none the proposed Resolution passed by the following vote: **AYES:** Council Members Bietry, Boy, Dabney, Carnes, Hamilton, Przybylinski, Schwanke, Silvas and Whitlow (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Schwanke stated the Resolution is approved.

**ORDINANCE**

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only, **CREATING SEC. 2-344 IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO DESIGNATE THE PURCHASING AGENCY FOR THE CITY PURSUANT TO I.C. 5-22-4-5**

**Introduced by:** Chris Schwanke  
Candice Silvas  
Don Przybylinski  
Pat Boy

Councilwoman Boy explained right now the Board of Public Works and Safety is the designated contracting authority, but we don’t have any ordinance that says they are, so we’re just cleaning up.

President Schwanke asked if there were any comments from the public; there was no response.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council; there was no response; advising the proposed Ordinance will be held over for second reading at the February 7, 2017 meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only, **AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4343 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “2017 SALARY ORDINANCE” TO CREATE THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Introduced by:** Ron Hamilton

Councilman Hamilton advised that Chief Tim Richardson and Sgt. Chris Yagelski were here this evening to answer any questions if the Council has any.

President Schwanke asked if there were any comments from the public; there was no response.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council.

Councilwoman Boy explained this is changing two (2) secretary positions into administrative assistant positions, rather than adding more hires.
President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council; there was no response; stating he will be referring this to the Finance Committee for review; advising the proposed Ordinance will be held over for second reading at the February 7, 2017 meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only, **APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RIVERBOAT FUND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PHASE II OF VILLAGE GREEN STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND STORM SEWER REPAIR PROJECT & FUNDING FOR ENGINEERING FOR THE COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANT PROJECT**

**Introduced by:** Pat Boy
Don Przybylinski
Tim Bietry

(DECREASE Riverboat Fund # 9000 Unappropriated balance $ 1,250,000.00
INCREASE ACCOUNT # 9000 0000 04 443.001 Streets & Alleys $1,250,000.00)

Councilwoman Boy explained this is Phase II, which was delayed by a year, but they are going to finish the streets finally.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Przybylinski and Attorney Jim Meyer regarding the funding for the project.

President Schwanke asked if there were any comments from the public; there was no response.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council.

President Schwanke commented on Phase I and that it turned out very nice, and that the engineering work was awesome, and that the project has turned out better than some expected and the residents seem to be very happy with the results.

Councilwoman Boy commented this is a lot less money than the last appropriation for this, because they don't have to fix the sewers that are connected to it right now.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council; there was no response; stating he will be referring this to the Finance Committee for review; advising the proposed Ordinance will be held over for second reading at the February 7, 2017 meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only, **APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RIVERBOAT FUND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PAVING AND MAINTENANCE OF STREETS AND SIDEWALKS**

**Introduced by:** Chris Schwanke

(DECREASE Riverboat Fund # 9000 Unappropriated balance $ 550,000.00
INCREASE ACCOUNT # 9000 0000 04 443.001 Streets & Alleys $ 550,000.00)

President Schwanke explained the proposed ordinance is expending essentially $550,000.00 for repairs to streets and sidewalks that are not included in the LOIT Special Distribution the City received last year, and the City basically put that distribution up and got a matching 1million dollar grant, so that's the City's 2million dollars for streets and sidewalks, but in that grant process there are only certain roads that are allowed to be paved and those were all spelled out in the grant itself, and had to qualify to be a part of that grant, so this takes care of some of the roads that disparately need repaired and sidewalks that need to be replaced or repaired; further commenting on the funding.
President Schwanke asked if there were any comments from the public; there was no response.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council.

Councilman Przybylinski requested to be a Co-Sponsor on this ordinance.

Councilwoman Boy also requested to be a Co-Sponsor on this ordinance.

Councilman Przybylinski commented on the $550,000.00 being spent on sidewalks and streets; further commenting on the need to continue to fix the sidewalks throughout the wards to make neighborhoods accessible for people to utilize them; commenting on Cleveland Avenue and the sidewalk project that is taking place there and other sidewalks that need to be completed; also commenting on the brick streets in Michigan City that need to be looked at and repaired, and a recent water break on York Street, specifically between Barker Avenue and Homer Street.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council; there was no response; stating he will be referring this to the Finance Committee for review; advising the proposed Ordinance will be held over for second reading at the February 7, 2017 meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE CEDIT FUND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ALCO SERVICES

Introduced by: Tim Bietry
Chris Schwanke
Candice Silvas
Bryant Dabney

(DECREASE Riverboat Fund # 9000 Unappropriated balance $ 41,000.00 INCREASE ACCOUNT #0227 0000 03 439.011 Contractual Services $41,000.00)

Councilman Bietry commented on the meeting on this on November 21, 2016 and the need for funding; further commenting on the presentation given by Mr. Mike Dempsey, Director of Operations for ALCO; also commenting that Mr. Dempsey is going to the City of Laporte and the County as well to secure the much needed funding.

President Schwanke noted that Mr. Dempsey was in attendance this evening if anyone had any questions.

President Schwanke asked if there were any comments from the public; there was no response.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council; there was no response; stating he will be referring this to the Finance Committee for review; advising the proposed Ordinance will be held over for second reading at the February 7, 2017 meeting; thanking Mr. Dempsey for attending tonight’s meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE BOYD DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR ENGINEERING COSTS FOR PHASE III OF THE SINGING SANDS TRAIL

Introduced by: Chris Schwanke
Pat Boy
Tim Bietry
Bryant Dabney
Councilman Bietry commented on the funding and the INDOT Grant that will cover 80% of this project; further commenting on the time sensitivity of this and moving this forward; commenting on the work that has already been done for this project; commending Shannon Eason, Assistant Park Superintendent of the Michigan City Parks Department for her work on this; expressing his support of this additional appropriation.

Councilwoman Boy commented on questions she addressed with Mrs. Eason, and that the project has been going on since 2003; if we drop the ball now there are three (3) issues – if the City cannot fund the difference, will the process end? No, the process will be delayed until funding is secured; how long must we wait to start the process over again? INDOT is funding projects in five (5) year cycles now, so it could be three (3) years until funding become available and then the City would have to compete for the funding; if we don’t continue now and let the process end the City will have wasted how much money? The City has spent or is committed under contract Phase I - $928,050.00, Phase II - $125,600.00 paid by the Redevelopment Commission and Phase III $41,950.00 for a total of $1,950,600.00, which is a lot of money to waste if we don’t proceed with this.

President Schwanke advised that Mrs. Eason is here tonight to give a report on this.

Shannon Eason, Assistant Park Superintendent of the Michigan City Parks Department addressed the Council stating there may be a little confusion about this funding source; stating typically the City has to compete through the Grant Application program with three (3) counties through NIRPC; continuing that this money for this particular phase of the trial was actually left on the table by projects that were not completed, failed projects and prior year balances that came in under budget, so INDOT has money sitting on the table that has to be used in their fiscal year, which is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; further stating they were able to get $167,000.00 off the table a couple of months ago; advising Craig Phillips, City Planner, will be attending the next meeting on February 2, 2017, where there is approximately $518,000.00 still sitting on the table, but everyone in LaPorte County, City and Towns, has to be ready to use it within that time frame, believing that Michigan City is the only one that is poised to use that money in that time frame, and she is very confident that they will walk out with the extra $138,000.00; however they have eight (8) weeks to secure a P.O. and if the Council does not make this action tonight they will not meet that timeline; they will be giving back the $250,000.00 and the $138,000.00 that we could possibly secure back to federal highway and then we wait out the process for the next competition cycle to come up; advising this is a timing issue, not poor planning.

Craig Phillips, City Planner, addressed the Council stating doing this project from start to finish in terms of the engineering, which if this funding is approved will allow us to do; keeps us in the hopper for additional funds for construction in the future as we come along towards the additional opportunities for funding that come up every couple of years from NIRPC, so if our project is already in the hopper we actually get the first bite at the apple for that funding and if another project falls off and our project is ready it potentially moves our project further up in the timeline to an earlier date, which is also a very critical and important thing; the third thing is, in addition to what Mrs. Eason said, is that the County’s portion of the trail from Meer Road/El Portal Drive, depending on which side of the highway/railroad their trail falls on and ultimately our trail, because we have to work with them, to the State line has been funded as well, fully funded from construction and engineering standpoint, if he is not mistaken. Mr. Phillips continued stating they do not want a gap in our route as well, and they have been working very closely with NIRPC on what the route will be, but this basically just keeps us in the hopper and gives the opportunity to continue to get more construction funds than we’ve already gotten for the project.

Discussion ensued between President Schwanke, Mr. Phillips and Mrs. Eason regarding Phase I, Phase II and Phase III of the project.
Mr. Phillips stated Phase I starts at the county line at the trail head parking lot on county line/ Hwy 12, close to Mt. Baldy and the SouthShore crossing, and goes to the intersection of 2nd and Franklin Streets right behind City Hall, they truncated it, they figured they would be able to save some money by not basically duplicating efforts as the Washington Park Master Plan called for some new trails and some new improvements and the trail was originally to go around Bismarck and Krueger Hill, and then back across the railroad tracks onto Highway 12; they found out that would be very difficult, practically speaking because of the disturbance of the Dunes and things like that, so they abandoned that section of the trail and truncated it back to 2nd Street; Phase II then takes off at the intersection of 2nd & Franklin Streets and heads down 2nd Street, extended if you will, down to where Bridges Restaurant is and then turns onto Taylor Street, which is the little stub street that goes underneath the Trail Creek Bridge, comes back out into Westcott Park and follows Michigan Boulevard out to 8th Street and then it connects with the Trail Creek greenway, which is that little stub of trail that exists by the Sanitary District and goes as far as the Peanut Bridge, after going across the Peanut Bridge the project will take off and go through what’s called the Waste Inc. site, which is the old superfund site off of Highway 12, around Trail Creek back to the bridge where Liberty Trail crosses Trail Creek, and that’s the end of Phase II; Phase III essentially will go from there through Friendship Gardens and then follow Martin Luther King Drive to the end of MLK Drive and then if you were to extend MLK Drive through the woods it becomes Wilson Road, it will follow Wilson Road to Tryon Farm, and they are negotiating with Tryon Farm on how to get the trail through or around Tryon Farm, and then they would likely follow a route that takes it up Eastwood Road to the tracks and it would cross the southern end of the Notre Dame property most likely, and then basically follow “old” Grand Beach Road to the City limits, which is at El Portal Drive, so that’s the end of Phase III. Mr. Phillips further stated that at this point they have full construction funding for Phases I & II, and a portion of the funding for Phase III, but if the Council approves this additional appropriation ordinance tonight they will have all the engineering funding for all three (3) phases.

Shannon Eason, Assistant Park Superintendent of the Michigan City Parks Department addressed the Council asking to waive any of the “readings” to expedite the funding, as they are really under a time crunch, because they were not aware of this funding and when it came up they took it, and this was the soonest they could get it to the Council.

Discussion ensued between Mrs. Eason, Mr. Phillips, Attorney James Meyer and President Schwanke regarding the process for passing the requested additional appropriation for this project. Attorney Meyer advised they could not move forward tonight as there needs to be a Formal Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance; further advising after the Formal Public Hearing they could do second and third reading.

President Schwanke stated they could do second and third reading at the next meeting if there are no objections by members of the Council; thanking Mrs. Eason and Mr. Phillips for their input.

President Schwanke asked if there were any further comments from the Council; there was no response; stating he will be referring this to the Finance Committee for review; advising the proposed Ordinance will be held over for second reading at the February 7, 2017 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Schwanke advised under Unfinished Business the Council has the following Nominations: The Council has seven (7) appointments to the Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males: Incumbents Ms. Albertine Allen (term expires 02/15/2017 – Minority Health Coalition), Pastor Edward Damon Carnes, Sr. (term expires 02/15/2017 – Ministerial Assoc.), Mrs. Gerry Jones (term expires 02/15/2017 – H.O.P.E. Community), Mr. Willie Milsap (term expires 02/15/2017 – Swanson Center), Ms. Faye Moore (term expires 02/15/2017 – NAACP), Mr. Michael Rivera (term expires 02/15/2017 – Human Rights Department), Ms. Nila Williams (term expires 02/15/2017
– Common Council Appointment); asking what the pleasure of the Council would be. Councilman Przybylinski made the motion to nominate all seven (7) incumbents.

Discussion ensued between President Schwanke, City Clerk Gale Neulieb, and Councilman Przybylinski regarding the incumbents. City Clerk Neulieb advised the Council that Mr. Michael Rivera stopped in wanting to resign, but did not turn in a resignation letter; and Ms. Nila Williams has been contacted and has not returned the call regarding her appointment.

Councilwoman Boy second Councilman Przybylinski’s motion.

President Schwanke reiterated that he had a motion to approve the five (incumbents) – Ms. Albertine Allen – Minority Health Coalition, Pastor Edward Damon Carnes, Sr. – Ministerial Assoc., Mrs. Gerry Jones – H.O.P.E. Community, Mr. Willie Milsap – Swanson Center, and Ms. Faye Moore – NAACP; further advising the two (2) seats for Mr. Michael Rivera and Ms. Nila Williams would still be vacant.

President Schwanke asked the City Clerk to call the roll on the motion to approve these five (5) appointments, which were passed by the following vote: AYES: Council Members Boy, Dabney, Carnes, Hamilton, Przybylinski, Schwanke, Silvas, Whitlow and Bietry (9). NAYS: None (0).

President Schwanke “thanked” those five (5) members for their continued service as they do a tremendous amount of work on that commission.

NEW BUSINESS

President Schwanke advised Mayor Meer is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding his appointment of Mr. Stephen Garner to the Michigan City Human Rights Commission. He will be replacing former member Ms. Kay Hill. (Term will begin immediately and will satisfy the remainder of Ms. Hill’s term expiring 11/01/2018)

Discussion ensued between Councilwoman Boy and President Schwanke regarding if they needed to wait until the next meeting to approve this. President Schwanke stated he was comfortable accepting a motion.

Councilwoman Boy made a motion to approve Mr. Garner’s appointment; second by Councilman Dabney.

President Schwanke reiterated there was a motion by Councilwoman Boy, supported by Councilman Dabney; asking all those in favor to signify by saying “AYE”; all responded “AYE”; further asking if there were any opposed; there was no response; further stating the appointment was approved.

President Schwanke stated also under New Business there are several voting positions for the Michigan City Common Council Committee Assignments that need to be approved; stating he would accept a motion if the Council is comfortable with all of these; they have been voted on under previous years and there really hasn’t been any changes to the Committee Assignments in regards to these; asking what the pleasure of the Council was.

Councilman Przybylinski made the motion to accept/approve the names assigned to the Commissions and vote on them as they are stated; Councilman Bietry second the motion.

President Schwanke reiterated there was a motion by Councilman Przybylinski, supported by Councilman Bietry.
President Schwanke read the assignments as follows: Animal Control Board – Chris Schwanke; Plan Commission – Sharon Carnes; Public Art Committee – Pat Boy; Social Status of African American Males – Tim Bietry; Solid Waste Management – Pat Boy; Tree Board – Pat Boy; and Urban Enterprise Association – Bryant Dabney; stating all would remain in their positions on their perspective board/commission.

President Schwanke reiterated there was a motion by Councilman Przybylinski, supported by Councilman Bietry; asking all those in favor to signify by saying “AYE”; all responded “AYE”; asking if there was anyone opposed; there was no response; stating those positions will remain.

President Schwanke advised also under New Business, the Council has one (1) appointment to the Urban Enterprise Association due to Mr. Keith Harris resigning. (term would start immediately and expire 12-31-2020); further advising there is a second resignation from Ms. Tina Mahone; stating the Council will have two (2) appointments to the Urban Enterprise Association and will take nominations at the next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Schwanke asked if there was any public comment.

Shannon Eason, Assistant Park Superintendent of the Michigan City Parks Department, addressed the Board to announce with regards to the Eastport Neighborhood Plan that on Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Michigan City Police Department Community Room they will be hosting their second Public Input Session for the Walker Street Playground Project; they have laid out a preliminary design that address ADA accessibility; further commenting on the project and funding; encouraging the neighborhood to participate by either attending the meeting or completing the survey on-line.

Shannon Eason, Treasurer of the Michigan City Public Art Committee, addressed the Board regarding Matthew Hoffman’s work in the U R Beautiful Project; advising it has been discussed in length at the Public Art Committee level; expressing her concerns with the amount of room the display takes and the cost of moving the sculpture; asking the Council to keep these things in mind as they move forward with regards to this project. Ms. Eason stated one idea for the placement was to put the project on Bismark Hill like the “Hollywood” sign in California; keeping in mind that the Parks Department is doing a very large restoration project and the U R Beautiful project could not interfere with the restoration/habitat work they will be doing.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Przybylinski and Ms. Eason regarding moving the sign from one location to another and the estimated cost for this; and the Redevelopment Commission and Public Art Committee looking into the cost for moving the project before it is implemented.

Julie Sosa, P.O. Box 9531, Michigan City, addressed the Council “thanking” them for their service to our City; stating she is a volunteer for the Michigan City Animal Control; expressing her concerns with the proposed changes to the ordinance dealing with domestic animals and the possible inclusion of “pot belly pigs”; further expressing her concerns with the Animal Control Division not being qualified to handle these types of animals; stating she is not in favor of adding these types of animals to the ordinance; explaining her reasons (the division is manned by only one (1) person and the amount of work the volunteers do just for the dogs and cats); further advising the Indiana State Board of Health for Animals does not recognize “swines/pigs, etc.” as a domestic companion animal; continuing to express her concerns including funding for this department/division.
President Schwanke asked if there were any other comments from the public; there was no response.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

Councilwoman Boy commented on the last Council meeting and the scheduled date for the Animal Control meeting.

Discussion ensued between President Schwanke and Councilwoman Boy regarding the rescheduling of the meeting due to the inclement weather and the Animal Control Officer being off sick; and that Councilwoman Silvas did attend the meeting.

Councilwoman Boy congratulated the Firefighters and Police Officers that are retiring this year; stating they've done a good job and she really appreciates it.

Councilman Bietry commented on the appointments to the Social Status of African American Males and a letter from the NAACP that was somewhat confusing as the appointment was for the Commission for Women.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Bietry, Faye Moore, 515 Grace Street, and Councilwoman Boy regarding the position being for the Women's Commission; that Mike Rivera is now the President of the NAACP; and Ms. Jacqueline Dyer being named in the letter as the candidate for the Women’s Commission; that another commissioner has resigned from the Women’s Commission. Mrs. Moore stated she will send a corrected letter to the City Clerk’s Office.

Councilman Przybylinski commented on his attendance with Councilwoman Boy, Councilwoman Silvas, Councilman Whitlow and Councilwoman Carnes and the opportunity they had to visit Krueger Middle School and participate in a program with the 7th & 8th Graders, where they talked about environmental and social issues; further commenting on the program; and commenting on the Martin Luther King Day celebration at Purdue Northwest; the guest speaker Dr. Jerald McCliden and Michigan City’s Police Officer Dion Campbell; further commenting on the Purdue Northwest campus and the wonderful amenities there.

Councilwoman Boy commented on the Martin Luther King Day Presentation/Breakfast at Purdue Northwest; advising the speaker was very knowledgeable and the presentation was most interesting.

President Schwanke asked if there was any further comments from the Council.

President Schwanke “thanked” the Police Officers and Firefighters on their retirement; commenting on the Police Department being on the next Council Agenda for a presentation for their retiring officers; hoping the Fire Department does something similar; further commenting on “social media” and something he saw before he came to the meeting tonight regarding the Council being responsible for the demolition of a building at 7th & Franklin Streets; clarifying that the Redevelopment Commission is looking at that, not the Council; and advising the Council will be having a Resolution on the next Council Agenda for Black History Month and that he has been working with Jeff Dueitch of the Human Rights Department on this.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Councilwoman Boy, supported by Councilman Hamilton and there being no further business to transact, President Schwanke declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 7:48 p.m.)

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Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk