REGULAR MEETING – July 5, 2017

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Wednesday evening, July 5, 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 June 20, 2017.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes held on June 20, 2017; second by Councilman Dabney. The minutes were approved as printed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Schwanke asked if there were any Standing Committee Reports.

Councilman Przybylinski presented the following Finance Committee meeting minutes: Minutes of the Council Finance Committee Meeting for Claims, 6:00 p.m. on July 5, 2017. The Finance Committee met this evening prior to the Council meeting to review claims filed since the June 20, 2017 meeting. Committee members Przybylinski, Silvas and Dabney were all present. Claims reviewed totaled $327,009.36. A motion was made by Councilman Dabney to pay the claims and seconded by Councilwoman Silvas. The Finance Committee voted unanimously 3-0 to recommend to the council payment of the claims. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Przybylinski at 6:14 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm with a motion by Councilman Dabney, seconded by Councilwoman Silvas, and unanimously approved.

The summary of claims is as follows:

1. $112.50 to Haas & Associates for Floodplain Map Revisions;
2. $121,604.94 to Rieth Riley Construction Co. Inc. for 2017 Projects-Village Green Phase II
3. $109,050.00 to Larson-Danielson Construction Co. Inc. for Monon Storm Water Lift Station
4. $15.00 to Corporate Payment Systems for title work for police vehicle
5. $500.00 to Ameroco Inc. for Exterior Repairs to Lighthouse
6. $25,665.25 to Bloomington Ford Inc. for 2016 Fleet rotation for M.C.P.D.
7. $1,707.84 to Enterprise Rent-a-car for 2017 Fleet rotation for M.C.P.D.
8. $6,571.83 to Tyler Technologies for New Word ERP Software/installation
9. $61,782.00 to Axon Enterprises, Inc. for M.C.P.D. Body Cameras/storage

Councilman Przybylinski also reported/commented on, being the Chairman of the Finance Committee, that the Finance Committee has requested from the City Controller that prior to every Council meeting or at the Council meeting that Councilmembers be given a report via email or hand delivered on account balances for the Riverboat Fund and the Boyd Development Fund and they have not received that report for the last two (2) Council meetings; encouraging the Controller’s Office to make sure the Councilmembers get that so they can stay on top of how much money there is in the Riverboat Account and the Boyd Development Account.

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

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

President Schwanke asked if there were any Reports of Special or Select Committees.

Councilman Bietry presented the following Select Committee report: the Applicant Review Committee Meeting met on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Study; PRESENT: Committee Chair Tim Bietry, Committee Member Ron Hamilton Jr. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Both committee members agreed that they are unclear about the direction proposed by this committee by the President of the Council and need clarification before they proceed further. Mr. Hamilton shared that Attorney Jim Meyer has some concerns as well relative to any questions that may be asked of potential applicants that could trigger legal issues. The above will be shared with Council President Schwanke. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. Submitted by Chairman Tim Bietry

President Schwanke asked if there were any other Reports of Special or Select Committees; there was no response.

REPORTS of OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

President Schwanke advised Fire Chief Randy Novak was present this evening to update the Council on the Fire Departments overtime to date.

Fire Chief Randy Novak, Michigan City Fire Department, addressed the Council updating them on overtime to date; stating as of June 27, 2017 overtime in the amount of $276,147.00 compared to last year of $320,000.00; advising the Fire Department has made some improvements; commenting on recent graduation of candidates from the Fire Academy in June and that another applicant started today, which brings them up to the full complement of 78 firefighters; further commenting on the hiring process and the Safer Grant application the Fire Department applied for; advising they will start announcing who the winners are beginning July 1, 2017.

Councilman Przybylinski asked Chief Novak to explain the Safer Grant.

Chief Novak explained the Fire Department came before the Council earlier in the year and received approval to apply to the Safer Grant process, which is six (6) firefighters applicants with the Federal Government picking up 75% of their pay for the first two (2) years and 35% for the third (3rd) year.
President Schwanke commented on the hiring process of the most recent candidate taking six (6) months, and that he along with Chief Novak are working with the Fire Merit Commission to tighten up the hiring process; trying to streamline the process to make it a little easier to hire firefighters, which will help reduce the overtime costs.

Chief Novak commented that the number of firefighter injuries is down from last year, and that there are two (2) people right now that are on injury leave; further commenting on the Safer Grant, the hiring process, the paving projects at Station’s 3 & 4 and the purchase of the new vehicles that were approved by the Council recently.

Councilman Przybylinski commented on the Fire Department making strides in trying to reduce the overtime.

President Schwanke asked if there were any Reports of Other City Officers and Departments; there was no response.

CLAIM DOCKETS

President Schwanke stated the Claims for Fund #9000 – Riverboat was $326,896.86 and Fund #0417 – Boyd Development $112.50.

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

PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications received.

RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk read the following proposed resolution by title only,

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION 4680**

A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE GENERAL FUND #0101 FOR THE YEAR 2017, IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, there exists certain circumstances within the budget of Police Department of the General Fund #0101 of Michigan City which require increasing and decreasing appropriations for certain line items in that Fund for the year 2017.

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

Section 1. Because it is deemed advisable and necessary, in order to meet the circumstances facing the Budget of the Police Department in the General Fund of the City, the Common Council approves the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:
### POLICE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL FUND #0101

**DECREASE:**
- A/C #0101 0370 01 411.001
  - Salaries and Wages: $77,888.00
- A/C #0101 0370 01 413.007
  - Physical Fitness Bonus: $5,000.00
- A/C #0101 0370 03 432.004
  - Telephone: $9,000.00
- A/C #0101 0370 03 436.002
  - Repair & Maintenance Equipment: $2,512.00

**INCREASE:**
- A/C #0101 0370 03 435.001
  - Electric and Gas Service: $94,400.00

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Michigan City Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

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

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, this 5th day of July, 2017.

/s/ Chris Schwanke, President
Michigan City Common Council

President Schwanke advised the Council that Assistant Chief Tim Richardson of the Michigan City Police Department was present this evening to answer any questions the Council may have.

Assistant Chief Tim Richardson, Michigan City Police Department, addressed the Council stating he would be happy to try to answer any questions the Council may have on the Resolution that is before them tonight.

Discussion ensued between Asst. Chief Richardson, Councilman Whitlow, Councilman Dabney, President Schwanke, Councilman Bietry and Councilman Przybylinski regarding the transfer of funds; the electrical load for the building; this being a new facility; getting the rate changed with NIPSCo; being charged taxes when they are tax exempt; delay in getting the bills from the contractor and switching the billing over to the Police Department; the bill amount being about double of the old building due to the size; the new building being as green as possible; that the funding is being transferred within their own budget and not asking for an additional appropriation of more funds; if the amount transferred will be enough to cover the remainder of the year; continuing to utilize funding already in their budget if there is a need for it later in the year; not coming before the Council later in the year asking for additional funding; not being able to project the exact amount of funding for this year as it is a new building/work in progress; comments on the Air Port being in a similar situation; NIPSCo rates having gone up for commercial buildings; preparing for next year’s budget; re-evaluating the green aspects as well as the commercial contracts; the solar panels not being connected as was thought in the beginning and are on-line now; equipment at the new station that is not working properly and is being replaced, which includes working with the contractors (Larson-Danielson and American Structurepoint) to have the warranties on the equipment extended to avoid additional costs for the Police Department; continued comments on the budgeting for the utilities and the possibility of having to appropriate additional funding for the remainder of the year.

President Schwanke asked if there were any Public Comments; there was no response; asking if there were any Council comments.

Councilman Bietry made the motion to approve the proposed Resolution; Councilman Przybylinski and Councilwoman Carnes seconded the motion.
President Schwanke asked if there were any other questions or comments from the general public or Council and hearing none the proposed ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council Members Dabney, Carnes, Hamilton, Przybylinski, Schwanke, Silvas, Whitlow, Bietry and Boy (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Schwanke stated the resolution is approved and will be forwarded to the Mayor for his signature.

**ORDINANCE**

President Schwanke advised there were no proposed ordinances on the agenda tonight.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Schwanke advised the Council has one (1) appointment to the Urban Enterprise Association due to Ms. Tina Mahone resigning. (term would start immediately and expire 12-31-2020); advising they do have a nomination to the Urban Enterprise Association, Ms. Amy Penrod; asking what the pleasure of the Council was.

Councilman Bietry made the motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Amy Penrod; Councilwoman Boy and President Schwanke both seconded the motion.

President Schwanke asked all in favor to signify by saying “AYE”; all replied “AYE”; asking if there were any opposed; there was no response.

President Schwanke welcomed Ms. Penrod to the Urban Enterprise Association.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Schwanke asked if there was any New Business; there was no response.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

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

Councilman Przybylinski “thanked” all the departments involved in the 4th of July celebrations for their hard work.

President Schwanke commented on the Applicant Review Committee and that he will be getting with Attorney Meyer to draft a basic set of rules/guidelines for that within the next week.

Councilman Dabney commented that the Applicant Review Committee will need a list of questions that are acceptable.
President Schwanke asked if there were any other comments from the Council; there was no response; stating he would entertain a motion for adjournment.

**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 6:56 p.m.)

Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk