

REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING January 21, 2025

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, January 21, 2025, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., Hosted by “Hybrid/Zoom” and streamed live on “My Michigan City” Facebook Page.

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

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

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Tim Bietry, Bryant Dabney, Daisy Lee, Nancy Moldenhauer (ZOOM), Joesph Nelson, Don Przybylinski and Tracie Tillman, (7).

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Greg Coulter and Dr. Vydia Kora (2)

NOTE: President Tillman advised that she was notified by Councilmen Dr. Kora and Coulter would be absent this evening and both are excused.

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

ALSO, PRESENT: Council Attorney Nick Snow, City Clerk Gale Neulieb and Deputy Clerk Amanda Pickens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Tillman asked if there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the Regular “Hybrid/Zoom” Council meeting minutes that was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular “Hybrid/Zoom” meeting minutes held on January 7, 2025, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried, and the Regular January 7, 2025 Council meeting minutes were approved by the following vote 7 – 0.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Tillman asked if there were any standing committee reports, there was no response.

FINANCE REPORT

President Tillman (Chair) advised the Finance Committee did meet this evening January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.; present were Councilman Bietry and herself; stating the following Michigan City Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for January 21, 2025 was as follows; Riverboat fund #2235 was \$225,000.00 paying Utility Assoc., Inc. \$225,000.00; Riverboat EFT fund #2235 was \$62,011.00 to the City of Michigan City Transit Matching Grant and Boyd fund #2504 was zero: with the total claims being \$287,011.00.

A motion to approve the January 21, 2025, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$287,011.00 was made by Councilman Bietry, second by Councilman Dabney, the motion carried and was approved by a verbal vote of 7 – 0.

Councilwoman Tillman reported the Riverboat Fund Statement of the Cash Position Riverboat Fund #2235 in the amount of \$295,472.91 and Rainy-Day Fund #2336 in the amount of \$1,848,763.71 with the ending balance of \$ 2,144,236.62.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

President Tillman asked if there were any reports from any boards or commissions

Councilman Przybylinski advised that he was appointed as President of the LaPorte County Solid Waste District for 2025 at their January meeting, reporting on that meeting.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL or SELECT COMMITTEES

President Tillman asked if there were any reports of special or select committees there was no response.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER CITY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

President Tillman asked if there were any reports from the mayor or other city officers and departments, there was no response.

PETITIONS

President Tillman asked Clerk Neulieb if there were any petitions.

Clerk Neulieb advised that there were no petitions this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Tillman asked if there was any correspondence received.

Clerk Neulieb read the following correspondence that was received.

In accordance with Ordinance No.4538 the Clerk's Office received an incident report from the Michigan City Park Department on January 15, 2025, regarding one of their plow trucks.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 13, 2025, from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding Open Burning Approval Issuance pursuant to 326 IAC 4-1.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 10, 2025, from Mayor Angie regarding "Approving Additional Appropriation in the Budget of the Redevelopment Fund for Salaries and Wages of the Redevelopment Director and Redevelopment Business Manager".

RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk read the following resolution by title only.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**RESOLUTION NO. 4945**

APPROVING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FOR THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2025 RAISE GRANT PROGRAM & SUPPORTING THE LOCAL MATCH FOR SAID GRANT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 2-325 of the Michigan City Municipal Code, the Michigan City Common Council must pre-approve all grant applications requiring a local match; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City, Indiana intends to submit a RAISE grant application seeking funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation from the RAISE Grant Program FY 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City will be requesting up to \$1,600,000.00 in RAISE grant funds for the Michigan Boulevard Project and the City will be required to have a \$400,000.00 match; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 2-325, the City Controller has provided the following information pertaining to the Grant:

1. **Name of grantor and grant title:** U.S. Department of Transportation – RAISE Grant Program.
2. **Why it is beneficial to the City to apply for this grant:** This grant will allow the City to fund the planning and the preliminary engineering to revise, reconstruct, and enhance Michigan Boulevard from Carrol Ave to U.S. Hwy 12.
3. **The purpose of the grant and the proposed use of grant funds:** This grant will be used to planning and preliminary engineering in anticipation of receiving a construction grant once accepted into the program.
4. **The person who will be responsible for managing the grant for the City:** Mary-Lynn Wall, City Controller & Tamiko Smith, Assistant City Controller.
5. **All relevant time frames and schedule, including any deadlines for submitting the application and closing out the grant:**
 - a. The application process is currently open.
 - b. The deadline to submit the application is 11:59 p.m. (ET), Friday, January 30, 2025.
6. **The amount of any required or proposed City monetary match or voluntary contribution and the proposed source for the matching funds and contributions:**
 - a. The maximum amount of match required from the City is: \$400,000.00.
 - b. The matching funds are budgeted as follows: The Michigan City Redevelopment Commission will provide the match of \$400,000.00 from TIF.
7. **The description of the types and sources of any in-kind match or contribution:** NA
8. **Whether the Controller wishes to have a new, separate fund created for the grant:** No, the Controller does not wish to have a new, separate fund created for the Grant.

WHEREAS, all relevant information required by Sec. 2-325 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A-Notice of Application**.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

1. The aforementioned “Whereas” sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
2. The Michigan City Common Council approves the submission of the 2025 RAISE Grant Application and supports and commits to funding the local match for said Grant.

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/ Tracie Tillman, President
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Daisy Lee, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Tillman asked if the authors had anything to add at this time.

Councilman Dabney stated that this is a grant that we have to have the matching funds for \$400,000.00 with the city requesting \$1.6 million through this grant for the Michigan Boulevard project.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that this resolution and grant is very important; that we want to redo and update Michigan Boulevard and will take a lot of money to do this project, with this being the first step to get it done.

President Tillman added that she agrees with everything that was said; that being the "Fifth Ward" Councilwoman and looks forward to the proposed enhancement to Michigan Boulevard; stating that these grants are time sensitive with this grants application deadline to be submitted is January 30th this year.

President Tillman asked if there were any comments from the public; advising that comments are limited to three (3) minutes and that she does have the discretion to reduce that time limit in the process.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, commented on how important this grant is that we didn't get this grant last time when we applied for it; stating that he hopes we get the grant this year.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the public, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if the Council had any comments at this time.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and the resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Bietry, Dabney, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, and Tillman (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

President Tillman stated the motion carries approving the application for a grant for the City of Michigan City from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Clerk read the following proposed resolution by title only.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 4946

**APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE 2025-1
COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM WITH THE INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & SUPPORTING THE LOCAL MATCH FOR
SAID GRANT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 2-325 of the Michigan City Municipal Code, the Michigan City Common Council must pre-approve all grant applications requiring a local match; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City, Indiana intends to submit a grant application seeking funding through the Indiana Department of Transportation for the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program 2025-1; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City will be requesting up to \$1,500,000 in grant funds for various street paving projects that will require a dollar for dollar match; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 2-325, the City Controller has provided the following information pertaining to the Grant:

1. **Name of grantor and grant title:** Indiana Department of Transportation – Community Crossings Matching Grant Program.
2. **Why it is beneficial to the City to apply for this grant:** This grant will allow the City to double the budget for street paving.
3. **The purpose of the grant and the proposed use of grant funds:** This grant will be used to pave streets in the worst condition as determined by the Engineer assisting the City based on the PASER report.
4. **The person who will be responsible for managing the grant for the City:** Mary-Lynn Wall, City Controller & Tamiko Smith, Assistant City Controller.
5. **All relevant time frames and schedule, including any deadlines for submitting the application and closing out the grant:**
 - a. The application process opens at 8:00 a.m. (ET), Thursday, January 2, 2025.
 - b. The deadline to submit the application is 5:00 p.m. (ET), Friday, January 31, 2025.
6. **The amount of any required or proposed City monetary match or voluntary contribution and the proposed source for the matching funds and contributions:**
 - c. Cities with a population of greater than 10,000 will receive funds using a 50/50% match.
 - d. The max amount eligible to receive is \$1,500,000.
 - e. The matching funds are budgeted as follows: \$750,000.00 in the 2025 MVH Restricted budget, \$250,000.00 in Riverboat, and the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission approved \$600,000 from TIF on to be utilized for engineer costs and local match.
7. **The description of the types and sources of any in-kind match or contribution:** NA
8. **Whether the Controller wishes to have a new, separate fund created for the grant:** No, the Controller does not wish to have a new, separate fund created for the Grant. A separate grant fund has previously been established and this Grant will run through that existing fund.

WHEREAS, all relevant information required by Sec. 2-325 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A-Notice of Application for Grant**.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

3. The aforementioned "Whereas" sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
4. The Michigan City Common Council approves the submission of the 2025-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant Application and supports and commits to funding the local match for said Grant from the 2025 MVH Restricted funds, Riverboat, and from the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission TIF in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

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/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Tim Bietry, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Nancy Moldenhauer, Member
Michigan City Common Council

NOTE: Exhibit "A" is attached to Council Resolution No. 4946 in file CR-111.

President Tillman asked if any of any of the authors had anything to add at this time.

Councilman Przybylinski stated the 2025 Community Crossing Grant is how we get our roadways and sidewalks fixed and upgraded and is in full support of this resolution.

Councilman Bietry agrees with Councilman Przybylinski's comments that we have received this grant for several years and that it does require a 50/50 match; advising the matching funds are budgeted as follows: \$750,000 from MVH restricted budget, \$250,000 from the Riverboat fund and \$600,000 from the Redevelopment Commission; advising that the Council just received the 2025-1 list of thirty-six (36) streets that the city plans to upgrade through the monies we receive from this grant.

President Tillman asked if there were any comments from the public.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, questioned when were the sidewalks on Pahs Road in front of the high school and down Woodland Avenue to the new learning center going to be done.

Mayor Angie updated the council regarding a proposed House Bill "Wheel tax" that is downstate at this time; advising she will forward a copy of it to each council member. advising that she spoke to the author of this bill Jim Presley; who advised her that he would participate in the workshop she will be scheduling to review and explain the proposed wheel tax before it comes to the council.

Mayor Angie stated that there are several bills being proposed downstate and it is important that we watch what is being proposed, that she sent them to each council member to review.

President Tillman asked if any of the Council members had anything to add.

Mayor Angie advised Councilman Przybylinski that the list of streets the council received this evening for the 2025-1 Community Crossing grant doesn't show pacer ratings, but will send that list to everyone.

Councilman Dabney stated that when the "pacer" ratings were done and the list of streets for the proposed grant were made it was during the warmer months; reminding everyone when winter is over, we will have pot holes and pavement that is broken up from the frost and cold on all the streets; advising the list of streets that were received this evening have to be completed first, using the funds we received from this grant before being able to repair any other street.

President Tillman asked for a motion.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilwoman Lee, the motion carried and the resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, and Dabney (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

ORDINANCES

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on 1st Reading by title only.

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4741 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "2025 SALARY ORDINANCE" TO CREATE THE POSITION OF ARBORIST APPRENTICE

Introduced by: Dr. Vidya Kora

President Tillman stated that Councilman Dr. Kora who is the author isn't present this evening and that our Forrester will be addressing the Council.

Michael Wolfe, City Forrester, stated that this proposed ordinance is important to the Forestry Department, that the Arborist Apprentice position that is being proposed this evening is a three (3)-year program and will be paid from the million dollar grant his department received this past year.

Mr. Wolfe advised Councilman Przybylinski that his apprentice will receive the same benefits as a full-time city employee which includes health insurance.

Councilwoman Lee stated that she thinks this is a wonderful opportunity, thanking Mr. Wolfe for bringing this to the council.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated that she is very much in favor of this; advising this person will be an asset to the forester helping him with inventory, scheduling, educating the public, the management of his grant; asking to be added as a co-sponsor to this proposed ordinance.

President Tillman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, stated that he also is in favor of this position; that Mr. Wolfe advised that the apprentice's salary will be paid out of their grant; questioning if the benefits for this position will be paid from that grant and after their three (3) year apprentice is completed what are the hopes of the City offering them a permanent position.

Mr. Wolfe advised that this is a three (3) year program and requires this Apprentice who has been chosen, be trained by himself during that time which is about 2,000 hours annually and is the minimum requirement needed to apply for taking the Arborist exam; stating that when she passes the Arborist exam, she will become a trainer for the next generation.

Mr. Wolf explained that the city doesn't have any plans at this time for her to become a full-time employee.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the public, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if the Council had any comments, there was no response; stating that the proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the February 4, 2025 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only.
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Introduced by: Bryant Dabney
Tracie Tillman
Don Przybylinski

President Tillman asked if any of the authors had anything to add at this time.

Councilman Dabney stated this proposed ordinance is the 2025 salaries for the MCFD, that their contract has already been signed, with this being the next step that the council approve their salaries.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the authors, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if the council had any comments at this time, there was no response; stating that the proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the February 4, 2025 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only.
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4741 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "2025 SALARY ORDINANCE" TO CREATE THE POSITIONS OF PERMIT SPECIALIST AND BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT IN THE MICHIGAN CITY PLANNING & INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

Introduced by: Tim Bietry
Tracie Tillman
Bryant Dabney

President Tillman advised that Mayor Angie will address the Council at this time regarding the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Angie addressed the Council regarding the restructuring of the Planning Department; advising that she has been having department meetings with the staff every two (2) weeks to talk about the re-structure of what is being proposed; explaining the job duties of these two (2) positions; advising that the job descriptions were approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety Board on January 6, 2025.

Councilman Bietry wants the public to understand that the salaries for these two (2) positions have already been appropriated within the 2025 budget.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that he is in support of this ordinance; that change has been needed in the Planning Department and it is finely being done, that we need to move forward.

President Tillman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, stated that this sounds like a great plan and that he hopes it works as well as it sounds, that he has full faith that it will..

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments or questions from the public, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if the Council had any comments at this time, there was no response; stating that this proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the February 4, 2025 Council meeting.

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

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE REDEVELOPMENT FUND FOR SALARIES AND WAGES OF THE REDEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND REDEVELOPMENT BUSINESS MANAGER

Introduced by: Tim Bietry
Tracie Tillman
Bryant Dabney

(DECREASE 2502.000 Unappropriated balance \$263,121.50 INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2502 000 411.013 \$148,000.00 Salaries & Wages-Regular Salary and Wages INCREASE ACCOUNT#2052 000 413.001 \$11,322.50 Employee Benefits-Employer Share FICA INCREASE ACCOUNT#2052 000 413.003 \$ 21,016.00 Employee Benefits-Employer Share INPRS INCREASE ACCOUNT#2052 000 413.005 \$ 42,000.00 Employee Benefits-Employer Share Health Insurance INCREASE ACCOUNT #2052 000 434.010 \$ 4,000.00 Insurance-Workers Compensation INCREASE ACCOUNT #2052 000 434.016 \$ 7,800.00 Employee Benefits-Longevity INCREASE ACCOUNT #2052 000 434.017 \$ 6,510.00 Employee Benefits-Vacation Bonus INCREASE ACCOUNT # 2502.000.421.005 \$ 22,473.00 Supplies)

President Tillman stated Mayor Angie will be addressing the Council regarding this proposed ordinance.

Mayor Angie advised that the interest from the TIF funds will be used to create these two (2) positions, that at the present time the city budgets the funding for the joint Redevelopment/Planning/Inspection Director; with her goal is that anything dealing with redevelopment will come from this department; advising that this is an experiment, that we will see how it goes for the next year.

President Tillman asked if the Council had any comments at this time.

Councilman Bietry stated that he is in favor about what is being proposed that it's another creative solution by Mayor Angie and that Redevelopment/Planning/Inspection Departments have been together as one (1) department for decades; that if we only had known that these funds were available years and years ago. That the interest from the TIF funds in 2024 was \$440,969.59 that to fund these two (2) positions annually is approximately \$263,121.50 which leaves a balance of \$177,848.09 of interest in the TIF.

Mayor Angie advised that she doesn't see funding any additional positions from the TIF interest, that there is some overlap with Planning; but these two (2) positions are specifically for Redevelopment.

Councilman Dabney commented on several reasons why he supports what the mayor is proposing, that it is a creative way of us doing this.

Councilman Przybylinski asked the Controller for a copy of what the annual TIF funds interest for the last five-years and share it with each Council member.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the Council, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place commented on what interest rates were during the last five years.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the public, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if the Council had any comments at this time.

Councilman Bietry stated that he read earlier what the interest rates were in 2024; advising that interest rates were lower but still comfortably large enough to cover these proposed expenses in the Redevelopment Department.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the Council, there was no response; stating that the proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the February 4, 2025 Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Neulieb stated the vote will take place this evening for the 2025 voting members on the following Council Committee Assignments

- Animal Control Board
- MCEDC
- Plan Commission
- Public Art Committee
- Social Status of African American Males
- Solid Waste Management
- Tree Board
- Urban Enterprise Association

President Tillman stated that it is the Council's pleasure to take an individual vote on each appointment or take one vote for the entire list.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to adopt the entire 2025 Council Committee Assignments list, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and the 2025 Council Committee Assignment list was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Lee, and Moldenhauer (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Clerk Neulieb stated that the 2025 Common Council Board and Commission expiration date list was revised adding the following:

- The Enrichment Corporation has a 2025 appointment expiring on March 31, 2025 (Incumbent: Stasi Bennings) and has been added to the Council's expired 2025 Board and Commission revised list

Clerk Neulieb stated Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the Michigan City Common Council regarding her re-appointment of Pastor Carroll as a member of the Michigan City Human Rights Commission with his term beginning immediately and expiring November 20, 2028, and a new appointment of Mr. Sel Dunlap replacing Mercedes McMullen's term that will begin immediately and expire – February 2, 2026.

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve Mayor Angie's request for the advice and consent of the re-appointment of Pastor Dennis Carroll to the Michigan City Human Rights Commission with his term beginning immediately and expiring November 20, 2028 and the new appointment of Mr. Sel Dunlap replacing Mercedes McMullen's with his term beginning immediately and expiring February 2, 2026, second by Councilwoman Lee, the motion carried by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Lee, Moldenhauer, and Nelson (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Clerk Neulieb stated Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the Michigan City Common Council regarding her re-appointment of Davis Bush to the Board of Cemetery Trustees with his term beginning immediately and expiring January 1, 2028

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve Mayor Angie's advice and consent request of the re-appointment of Davis Bush to the Board of Cemetery Trustees with his term beginning immediately and expiring January 1, 2028, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Przybylinski (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Clerk Neulieb advised the Council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Tree Board representing a Neighborhood Association – **Incumbent** Laura Henderson representing the Elston Grove Neighborhood Assoc; term expires February 15, 2025

Clerk Neulieb advised President Tillman that there were no applications received but spoke with Ms. Henderson and the Elston Grove Neighborhood Association is scheduling a meeting to re-appoint her as their representative.

Clerk Neulieb advised the Council has four (4) appointments to the Michigan City Social Status of African American Males Commission representing the following and expires February 15, 2025

Human Rights – Pastor Dennis Carroll (2-year term)

Swanson Center – Willie Milsap (2-year term) **received**

Minority Health – Pastor Robert Johnson (2-year term) **received**

Discussion ensued between President Tillman, Councilman Bietry, Mayor Angie and Clerk Neulieb regarding Pastor Dennis Carroll's re-appointment to the Human Rights Commission by the Mayor with the advice and consent of this Council that expired, with the Council approving the advice and consent for Pastor Carroll's re-appointment this evening.

A motion was made by Councilman Bietry to approve Pastor Dennis Carroll representing the Human Rights Commission, Willie Milsap representing the Swanson Center and Pastor Robert Johnson representing Minority Health and second by Councilman Dabney, motion carried and all three appointments were approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Bietry, Dabney, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski and Tillman (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Clerk Neulieb advised nominations will take place this evening with the council having one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Social Status of African American Males Commission – representing a Michigan City resident expiring February 15, 2025 – Incumbent Casey McCormick (2-year term)

Clerk Neulieb stated that we didn't receive an application from Casey McCormick; stating the following applications that were received.

- Willie Crump
- LaSquilla Cooper
- Damon Hopkins

President Tillman opened nomination (repeating three (3) times) asking "if there were any nominations at this time"

President Tillman nominated LaSquilla Cooper, second by Councilman Nelson.

President Tillman (repeated three times) asking "if there were any other nominations at this time", there was no response and nomination were closed.

Attorney Snow addressed the council regarding accepting nominations at one meeting and taking the vote at the following council meeting; advising that you could suspend the rules, vote, and move along with the vote this evening.

President Tillman made a motion to suspend the rules to vote on the nomination that was made this evening to the Social Status of African American Males Commission, second by Councilwoman Lee, the motion carried and the vote was approved to call for the vote this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman and Bietry (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

President Tillman made a motion to appoint LaSquilla Cooper to the Social Status of African American Males Commission, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried appointing Ms. Cooper to the Social Status of African American Males Commission by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, and Dabney (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Clerk Neulieb advised the council has one (1) appointment to the Veterans Commission Incumbent: Connie Anderson and expired December 31, 2024.

NOTE: Nominations for the Veterans Commission were TABLED at the January 7, 2025 council meeting until the January 21, 2025 council meeting

Clerk Neulieb stated that we received one application from Daniel Corley.

President Tillman opened nominations (repeating three (3) times) asking "Is there any nomination at this time"

Councilman Bietry nominated Daniel Corley, second by Councilman Dabney.

President Tillman asked, (repeating three (3) times) "is there any other nominations at this time", there was no response and nomination were closed.

Councilman Przybylinski called a "Point of Order" that to take the vote on this matter you must take a vote to suspend the rules"

President Tillman made a motion to suspend the rules to have the vote on the appointment to the Veterans Commission this evening, second by Councilman Nelson The motion was carried and was approved to have the vote this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, and Lee (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Councilman Bietry made a motion to appoint Daniel Corley to the Veterans Commission, second by Councilman Dabney, the motion carried, and Ms. Corley was appointed to the Veterans Commission by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Lee, and Moldenhauer (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Clerk Neulieb advised the council has two (2) appointments to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee Incumbents – Pia Parrott and Erica Miller (term expired October 18, 2024)

NOTE: one (1) member - senior level professional loan officer; one member is from business or retail who is a resident of Michigan City)

NOTE: Nominations for the Revolving Loan Committee were TABLED at the January 7, 2025 council meeting until the January 21, 2025 council meeting

Clerk Neulieb stated we have received the following applications.

- Sheree Wilson
- Scott Meland
- Shauna Hill

President Tillman opened nominations (repeating three (3) times) asking "is there any nominations at this time"

Councilman Przybylinski nominated Sheree Wilson.

Councilman Bietry nominated Scott Meland.

President Tillman asked (repeating three (3) times) "If there were any other nominations" for the Revolving Loan Committee, there was no response and nominations were closed.

Councilman Przybylinski questioned if Mr. Meland meets the qualifications to be nominated and appointed to the Revolving Loan Committee; with one appointment working at a business and a resident of the city and the other appointment has to work at a financial institution.

President Tillman stated that one of the nominations she is aware that she works in the finance department at Tonn and Blank and is a city resident; and Mr. Meland is present if any of the Council members have any questions.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place addressed the council advising them of his qualifications as he must be nominated and appointed to the Revolving Loan committee.

President Tillman made a motion to suspend the rules and take the vote this evening, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried to do the vote on the two (2) nominations this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Nelson, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Lee, and Moldenhauer (6) **NAYS:** Council member Przybylinski (1).

Attorney Snow stated that he feels that to move forward to take the vote on this; the council must have unanimous consent to do so; Mayor Angie advised that it doesn't.

Councilman Przybylinski understands Mr. Meland's comments regarding his professional background, stating it says in the city ordinance a senior level professional officer and the other appointee from a business or retail and a resident of the city; asking if it would be possible to TABLE this let our attorney check out the verbiage, qualifications meet what the criteria needs to be.

President Tillman asked Attorney Snow, are we challenging the credentials if an applicant is meeting the criteria to apply for a board and are we going to request supporting documentation from an applicant.

Attorney Snow addressed the Council advising that this is a situation where to be honest; you voted to suspend your rules which approved the nominees to be appointed to the Revolving Loan Committee which then obviously creates the opportunity for somebody to contest that; stating that to give this council an opinion, he would need time to review; stating several reason why he feels that this needs to be TABLED until the February 4, 2025 council meeting.

Councilman Dabney stated he wouldn't mind honoring Councilman Przybylinski's request, that there was an incident where we had to address a similar situation on the UEZ board.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to TABLE the vote until the February 4, 2025 Council meeting, second by Councilman Dabney, the motion carried and vote will take place at the February 4, 2025 Council meeting by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Lee, Moldenhauer, Przybylinski, and Nelson (7) **NAYS:** Council members None (0).

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Tillman asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak at this time.

Mayor Angie read into record the letter she sent to the council regarding "Supplemental Monies Owed by State to Michigan City"

Dear Council,

Late last month I was notified by Senator Pol that Michigan City was owed supplemental monies from the State Comptroller by virtue of I.C. 4-33-13-5.3. Back on 2019, I.C. 4-33-13-5.3 was enacted which authorized the State Comptroller to provide certain supplemental payments to the riverboat communities of East Chicago, Hammond, and Michigan City essentially as a way compensating them for any financial losses as a condition of allowing Hard Rock Casino in Gary, Indiana to open. Michigan City is owed approximately \$5.7 Million Dollars in supplemental funds from the State Comptroller as a result of I.C. 4-33-13-5.3. The State Comptroller simply did not pay East Chicago and Michigan City any of the supplemental monies due and owing to them since the enactment of I.C. 4-33-13-5.3.

However, currently, in this legislative session there are bills being proposed from the extreme of repealing I.C. 4-33-13-5.3 so Michigan City would lose out on the \$5.7 Million Dollars (See House Bill 1036) to devising a plan on the payment of the monies owed to Michigan City and East Chicago over the next few years by deducting amounts payable to Gary (See House Bill 1448).

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this situation, and that I am currently researching the possibility of retaining a lobbyist for the City for this legislative session to ensure that the financial interests of Michigan City are protected. I will keep you updated on this matter as progress unfolds.
Thank you for your attention.

Yours Truly,
Angie Nelson Deutch, Mayor

Mayor Angie stated a firm has been selected to represent the city during the session to receive the funding of the \$5.7 Million Dollars that are owed to the city and would like to receive the funds now instead of it being distributed over the time of three (3) years; the State discovered this last year and our office never received notice or was made aware of this but was discovered when a State Legislature sent out a Press Release regarding this issue.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, addressed the council stating he feels the Veterans Commission should be paid a minimum of \$50.00; encouraged the community to apply for open appointments on boards and commissions; Go Wolves against LaPorte at Friday nights basketball game.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, thanked Councilman Bietry for his nomination to the Revolving Loan Fund; asked when the Refuge Department will be picking up bigger items such as Christmas Trees; provided the council of his qualities to serve on the Revolving Fund Committee.

Mayor Angie stated that the city has a significant budget for boards and commissions for a city of our size, stating some are State Statue and the others were created by the council as there are a couple commissions that have been inactive such as the Veterans Commission; trash is to be in the garbage cans for pick up but the Refuge are going to be picking up the trees; starting next month a mailer will be going out every single month in the Water bill educating the citizens on Refuge and trash.

President Tillman asked if there were any other questions or comments from the public, there was no response.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

President Tillman asked if there were any comments from the Council at this time.

President Tillman stated due to sub-zero temperatures today January 21, 2025, garbage pickup was suspended, they will run their regular routes into Saturday if needed, so please leave your garbage toter out and it will be picked up.

Councilman Bietry stated in regards to the letter the mayor read tonight the \$5.7 million owed to the city is a result of an employee not doing the job correctly and hopes the lobbyist hired is an attorney because if you're an elected official and not doing the job there's a referendum that requires you to perform the duties; Frank Giglio, former trustee of Grand Beach provided documents to the council members regarding Semi's circumventing way stations on I-94 by using U.S. Highway 20 ,and U.S. Highway 12 as he would be in favor of an resolution to stop this.

President Tillman stated there has been increased number of 18 wheelers on Michigan Boulevard and is currently taking business name from logos as there is a weight ordinance to prohibit them from driving on city streets.

Councilman Dabney stated Kablan is open in Eastgate Plaza; stated his concerns on the issues that are happening in the State of Indiana.

Councilman Przybylinski stated State Senator Mike Bohach has a Senate Bill no.436 going to session regarding taking Michigan City from a second class city into a third class city and if passed this would take place in 2027, the council would go from 9 members to 7 member and would have a Clerk Treasure instead of City Controller; advising the council attorney to draft a letter to have him speak at the next council meeting addressing the purpose and the circumstances for this bill; and thinks it's wonderful that Kabelin has expanded to the East Side.

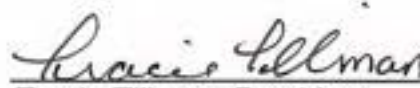
President Tillman advised Councilman Przybylinski she has sent a letter to the State addressing how this will affect Michigan City and asked if a letter could be drafted and signed by all council members to be sent to the State of Indiana and Senator Bohacek.

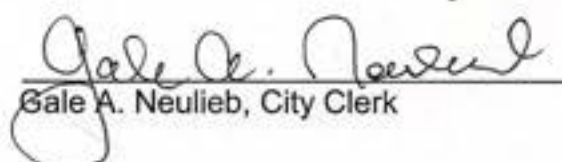
ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilman Dabney, second by President Tillman and there being no further business to transact, President Przybylinski declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:12 p.m.)

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Michigan City Common Council meetings. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-RyidwHK_U&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bgw-rohSfvSUA8dwegrb6st


Tracie Tillman, President


Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk