

REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING February 4, 2025

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, February 4, 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 Greg Coulter, Bryant Dabney, Dr. Vidya Kora, Nancy Moldenhauer, Joseph Nelson, and Tracie Tillman, (6).

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Tim Bietry, Daisy Lee and Don Przybylinski (3)

NOTE: President Tillman advised that she was notified by Council members Bietry, Lee and Przybylinski that would be absent this evening and are excused.

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

ALSO, PRESENT: Council Attorney Nick Snow, 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 21, 2025.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular “Hybrid/Zoom” meeting minutes held on January 21, 2025, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried, and the Regular January 21, 2025, Council meeting minutes were approved by the following verbal vote 6 – 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 February 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.; present were Councilman Dr. Kora and herself; stating the following Michigan City Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for February 4, 2025 was as follows; Riverboat fund #2235 was \$95,288.51 paying LaPorte Chrysler Inc - \$18,899.93; LaPorte County Project - \$8,077.27, and Reith Riley Construction Co Inc.- \$68,311.31; Riverboat EFT fund #2235 was \$487,377.62 paying ESG: with the total claims being \$582,666.13.

A motion to approve the February 4, 2025, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$582,666.13 was made by Councilman Dr. Kora, second by Councilman Coulter, the motion carried and was approved by a verbal vote of 6 – 0.

Councilwoman Tillman reported the Riverboat Fund Statement of the Cash Position Riverboat Fund #2235 in the amount of \$493,323.31 and Rainy-Day Fund #2336 in the amount of \$1,848,763.71 with the ending balance of \$ 2,342,087.02.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

President Tillman asked if there were any reports from any boards or commissions, there was no response.

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.

Darrell L. Garbacik Superintendent Central Maintenance presented the "Winter Weather Emergency Plan".

(NOTE: This presentation is filed in the Clerk's Office under 2025 Council Matters)

Councilman Dabney stated he is glad the city has a plan of action in order to coordinate our response to the winter storms.

Barrett Taylor, MCFD Chief, reported on their January monthly stats.

Marty Corley, MCPD Chief, reported on their January monthly stats.

Councilman Nelson asked Chief Corley if there are areas in the city that are more prone to traffic infractions.

Chief Corley advised Councilman Nelson he doesn't believe so but can breakdown the report to show specific areas.

Chief Corley advised the council that Corporal Aaron Bass is the recipient of the Chris Smith Award, inviting the Council to attend the Police Civil Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at the Michigan City Police Department at 11:00 a.m. to present this award to Corporal Bass.

President Tillman congratulated Corporal Aaron Bass on being the recipient of the Chris Smith Award.

Mayor Angie updated the council regarding House Bill 1448 regarding the gaming monies that are owed to the city, advising she would like to receive the full amount as soon as possible, commented on Senate Bill 1 regarding property tax and that she met with the Matt Greller who is the author; discussing several questions/issues she had and all addressed Senate Bill 436 that was withdrawn which was proposing our city to be moved from a second class city to a third class city, advising that it still could come back during their session with amendments; that she feels it is important to adopt the proposed resolution regarding this matter tonight.

Mayor Angie asked the council to have second and third reading on the proposed ordinance regarding the reorganization of the Planning Department; that David Albers will take the lead over as Building Superintendent (for three months) to get the department up and running, create standard operating procedure and hire a Permit Specialist.

Mayor Angie stated that she scheduled a "Wheel Tax" Workshop for Friday, March, 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the EOC Room, City Hall with Jim Prestel who is the author of the Wheel Tax Bill will be present to answer any questions the council or public may have.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer thanked Mayor Angie for being proactive for our city residents.

Councilman Dr. Kora thanked Mayor Angie stating there is a lot going on at state regarding legislation.

Mayor Angie stated that she has been meeting with several city employees in groups to hear their comments, ideas, procedures and concerns regarding their workplace; that she has scheduled her first "Town Hall" meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in the EOC Room at 5:00 inviting our residents to attend; that we have several city department heads present to answer questions.

Mayor Angie advised Councilman Dabney that there approximately 200 Airbnb registered with the city and are a total of 400 asking those who are not registered to get registered as soon as possible or they will be fined.

PETITIONS

President Tillman asked Deputy Clerk Pickens if there were any petitions.

Deputy Clerk Pickens advised that there were no petitions this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Tillman asked if there was any correspondence received.

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following correspondence that was received.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 16, 2025, from Mayor Angie regarding the "Supplemental Monies Owed by State to Michigan City"

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 21, 2025, from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding the Renewal of Part 70 Operating Permit.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 21, 2025, from Mayor Angie Regarding the "2025-1 Michigan City CCMG Pavement Replacement Project Street List"

In accordance with Ordinance # 4538 the Clerk's Office received the following incident report from the MCPD on January 24, 2025 regarding an accident that took place on January 20, 2025.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 29, 2025, from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding the Revocation of an existing permit.

RESOLUTIONS

The Deputy Clerk read the following resolution by title only.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 4947

**DETERMINING THAT FUNDING FOR CERTAIN OUSTANDING 2024 PURCHASE
ORDERS SHOULD BE ENCUMBERED AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY
CONTROLLER TO ENCUMBER SUCH FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City, is an Indiana municipal corporation governed by its duly elected Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council has the authority and duty to maintain and oversee the fiscal operations of the City and to reconcile the City's financial and budgetary records; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City has outstanding purchase orders in the Riverboat Fund and Rainy Day Funds the services or products have not yet been paid as listed in **Exhibit A**; and

WHEREAS, in order to complete certain projects, programs, or purchases using funding set aside in previous fiscal years, and in order to be consistent with Indiana law and Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) procedures, the encumbrances must be authorized by a resolution adopted by the Common Council and approved by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller of the City of Michigan City, Indiana recommends the approval of the various services or products that have not yet been paid for as listed in **Exhibit A**.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL, INDIANA as follows:

Section 1. That those certain City purchase orders identified in **Exhibit A**, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, are hereby approved.

Section 2. The City Controller of the City of Michigan City is hereby directed to encumber the funding for said purchase orders in the appropriate accounts.

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

INTRODUCED BY: /s/Tracie Tillman, President
Michigan City Common Council

NOTE: Exhibit "A" is attached to Council Resolution No. 4947 in file CR-111.

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

President Tillman stated this resolution is to encumber the expenses that were approved in the 2024 budget and authorizing the City Controller to encumber such funds.

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

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

President Tillman advised Councilman Nelson that these purchases/invoices were from 2024, and the proposed resolution is giving the City Controller the authority to pay these invoices in 2025.

Councilman Dabney stated this is to make sure these funds are encumbered (set aside) and aren't used to pay for something from the 2025 budget; that we do this every year.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Coulter, the motion carried, and the resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Tillman (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed resolution by title only.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 4948

A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF THE PLANNING AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND #1101 FOR THE YEAR 2025 IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, there exist certain circumstances within the budget of the Planning and Inspections Department of the General Fund #1101 of Michigan City which require increasing and decreasing appropriations for certain line items in that Fund for the year 2025, more specifically, the Mayor desires to hire a consultant to temporarily assist the Michigan City Planning & Inspection Department to provide oversight of the implementation of the City’s permitting software, develop a standard operating procedure, provide daily oversight & management of the inspectors, and establish milestones and deliverables for the Department.

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 Planning and Inspection Department of the City, the Common Council approves the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:

PLANNING AND INSPECTION DEPT OF GENERAL FUND #1101.106

DECREASE:	A/C #1101.106.411.013	
	Salaries & Wages	\$21,250.00
INCREASE:	A/C #1101.106.439.090	
	Other Contractual Services	\$21,250.00

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

INTRODUCED BY: /s/Tracie Tillman, President
Michigan City Common Council

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

President Tillman advised that this is Decreasing Account No. 1101.106.411.013 Salary and Wages in the amount of \$21,250.00 and Increasing Account No. 1101.106.439.090 to Other Contractual Services in the amount of \$21,250.00.

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

President Tillman asked if the Council had anything to add at this time, there was no response.

Councilman Coulter made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Dr. Kora, the motion carried, and the resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Kora, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Tillman (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed resolution by title only.

OPPOSING ANY STATE LEGISLATIVE EFFORT IN THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT WOULD REDUCE MICHIGAN CITY'S STATUS FROM A SECOND CLASS CITY TO A THIRD CLASS CITY

INTRODUCED BY: Tracie Tillman, President

Michigan City Common Council

Don Przybylinski, Member

Michigan City Common Council

Daisy Lee, Member

Michigan City Common Council

Dr. Vidya Kora, Member

Michigan City Common Council

Nancy Moldenhauer, Member

Michigan City Common Council

Bryant Dabney, Member

Michigan City Common Council

Greg Coulter, Member

Michigan City Common Council

The following Council members read the proposed resolution in its entirety for the record: Councilman Dabney, Councilwoman Moldenhauer, Councilman Coulter, Councilman Dr. Kora, and President Tillman.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 4949

OPPOSING ANY STATE LEGISLATIVE EFFORT IN THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT WOULD REDUCE MICHIGAN CITY'S STATUS FROM A SECOND CLASS CITY TO A THIRD CLASS CITY

WHEREAS, Michigan City is currently a second class City; and

WHEREAS, Senator Michael Bohacek recently authored Senate Bill No. 436, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A, which sought to automatically convert a second class City to a third class if two (2) federal decennial censuses show a second class City as having a population under 31,500 (A copy of Senate Bill No. 436 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**); and

WHEREAS, despite the local impact of Senate Bill No. 436, Senator Bohacek did not consult with the Mayor or any members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding how this Bill could impact the City and whether said elected officials were in favor of this Bill before the enactment of the same; and

WHEREAS, to the best of the City's knowledge, Senator Bohacek has recently withdrawn this bill, however, in the event this Bill is re-filed or an amended version of this Bill resurfaces in this 2025 legislative session, the City strongly disapproves of reducing Michigan City from a second class city to a third class city for many reasons, included but not limited to the following:

1. **Local Officials Are in the Best Position to Know Their Needs:**

The local elected officials are in the best position to know their internal financial needs and the details and specifications of these needs. They are also in the best position to know the short-term and long-term goals of the City, what services the residents need, and the economic development needs of the City.

For example, in 2024, when the new administration took office, it was immediately discovered that the City needed to make considerable cuts in the 2025 budget. The Mayor and the City Controller hosted a series of workshop with the Common Council. With the 2025 Budget, the Mayor and the Common Council reduced the prior year's budget by \$6 Million Dollars.

Also, Indiana law as currently written provides a mechanism for the local elected officials to adopt an ordinance modifying their status as second or third class City depending on any increase or decrease in population. (See I.C. 46-4-1-1 and I.C. 36-4-1-1.1) Thus, if the City believed it to be in the best interest to reduce the City to a third class city, a means already exists for the City to do so.

2. **Loss of Administrative Efficiency:**

As a second-class City, we currently have an elected City Clerk, whose main responsibility is to manage the City records and record keeping, and an appointed City Controller, whose main responsibility is to manage the City finances. By forcing the City to move to a third-class city, which uses a clerk-treasurer system, it would force financial responsibilities on the City Clerk, who may lack the specialization, education, and experience dealing with fiscal matters. A quick search on the internet reveals numerous examples throughout the State of Indiana of the financial consequences and losses a municipality endures when an elected clerk-treasurer holds office and lacks the specialization, education, and experience dealing with fiscal matters.

3. **Reduction in Representation:**

Second class cities have a common council and a mayor, which allows for broader representation and input. Moving to a third class status will result in reduced representation and will be less tailored to address the needs of the City and its diverse population. In addition to the population that resides in the City full-time, the City almost doubles in growth in the summer months with its' seasonal residents who maintain second homes within our jurisdictional boundaries.

4. **Economic Development Concerns:**

Second class status often signals a higher level of development, infrastructure, and capacity to attract business and investment. Downgrading the City to a third class status may give the perception that the City is shrinking, less dynamic, or not prepared to handle growth, discouraging investors, developers, and population growth.

Michigan City does not need to be seen in such inaccurate false perception. We have several significant projects in the process that will provide for population and economic growth for the City including but not limited to the following:

- Franklin Tower Project- 222 residential apartments
- SOLA Project – 90 condominiums and 160 room hotel
- 5th Street Project- 500 residential apartments and grocery store
- Helix 33 Project- 275 residential apartments (“workforce project”)
- New Housing TIF proposed – 160 mixed residential units
- Moore Road- 44 townhomes
- Pahs Road – 114 single family homes
- Development/Redevelopment of old Michigan City Prison site
- Development/Redevelopment due to closing of the NIPSCO cooling plant on lakefront
- At least 4,000 new jobs are anticipated in New Carlisle, Indiana at the Amazon and Samsung sites that will have a spillover effect on the City
- The City has had over \$3 billion in capital investments in the past six (6) years that will keep increasing and within the last three (3) years the City has had over \$100 million private capital investment

5. **Cost and Unnecessary Time Consumption Downgrading the City:**

Changing the City's classification would involve legal, administrative, and logistical challenges for the City. The process of restructuring the government and modifying ordinances, procedures, City Departments, and personnel would be costly and time-consuming without offering any significant benefit in return to the City. According to the Explanation of Local Expenditures on the Fiscal Impact Statement prepared for Senate Bill 436, it acknowledges that the "...Bill's provision will result in a slight decrease in fiscal expenditures..." (emphasis added). (A copy of the Fiscal Impact Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B**).

In addition, the Michigan City Common Council is already one of the lowest paid legislative bodies in the region. Currently, council members are paid only \$15,426.16 a year and receive no other benefits from the City to serve in this position. In addition, the salary of the City Controller is set at \$79,807.52, which is also low compared to other City Controllers throughout the State.

6. Additional Problem with the Version of Proposed Legislation that Was Withdrawn:

IC 36-4-1-1.2(d) currently reads:

(d) If a second class city's population on the effective dates of the 2010 federal decennial census and 2020 federal decennial census is not more than thirty-one thousand five hundred (31,500), the city becomes a third class city on January 1, 2027. At the municipal election conducted in 2026, the number of members of the legislative body required by the laws applicable to the city's new third class city status shall be elected. Until January 1, 2027: (1) the powers, duties, functions, and office of an elected official of the city remain unchanged; and (2) the city shall be governed by the laws applicable to second class city status.

There will be no municipal election for Michigan City conducted in 2026. The last general municipal election was conducted in November 2023. The elected officers (Mayor, Common Council, and City Clerk) took office on January 1, 2024. Each of their respective terms of office is four (4) years, and thus, their terms expires on December 31, 2027.

The proposed legislation, if adopted, could reduce Michigan City to a third class City before the terms of office of each of the second class City officers expired.

7. Michigan City has gained population since the 1980 census

The 2020 census demonstrates that Michigan City has gained population since the 1980 census. Also, Michigan City reasonably believes that the census may not have been accurately counted due to the national pandemic of COVID-19 facing the nation at this time.

8. Only a Second Class Cities Can Establish a Department of Sanitary

Under, IC 36-9-25, only a second class city, can establish a Department of Sanitary. Third class cities do not automatically have this option under the statute. The main benefit of a Sanitary District is that it provides a structured local mechanism to manage and maintain essential public health services related to sanitation, such as wastewater treatment, sewage disposal, and stormwater management. This helps to protect the public health, environment, flood control, and ensures regulatory compliance and resource management. Michigan City has established a Sanitary District.

WHEREAS, there was no consideration on the potential impacts that legislative efforts to reduce Michigan City to a third class city would have on the City, its governance, services, economic growth, and the City's long terms needs and goals; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council, on behalf of the City and residents herein, strongly opposing legislation to reduce Michigan City from a second class city to a third class.

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 City opposes Senate Bill No. 436 and any similar 2025 legislative efforts to reduce Michigan City from a second class city to a third class city.
3. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the following:
 - a. Senator Michael Bohacek, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - b. State Representative Pat Boy, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - c. Senator Rodney Pol, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - d. Members of the Senate Local Government Committee:
 - Sen. James Buck, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Rick Niemeyer, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Vaneta Becker, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Kevin Boehnlein, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Mike Bohacek, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Dennis Kruse, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. James Tomes, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Rodney Pol, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Michael Griffin, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - Sen. Greg Taylor, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 - e. Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), 6100 Southport Road, Portage, Indiana 46368
 - f. Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, 200 E. Michigan Blvd, Michigan City, Indiana 46360
 - g. Michigan City Economic Development Corporation, Two Candence Plaza, Michigan City, Indiana 463660

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/Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Daisy Lee, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Dr. Vidya Kora, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Nancy Moldenhauer, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Greg Coulter, Member
Michigan City Common Council

NOTE: Exhibit “A” and “B” is attached to Council Resolution No. 4949 in file CR-111.

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, wished the council a “Happy Black History Month” and “Happy Birthday” to Councilman Dabney; advising that he follows the same words

that the late Councilman Beryl Berwald would always say “that even though Michigan City by statue is designated as a city by second class, Michigan City will always be a first class city”.

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

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

Councilman Dr. Kora stated the proposed resolution is self-explanatory and going backwards will not work with the growth and new developments happening in the next few years that we need to stay a second-class city; stating by forwarding the adopted resolutions to our legislators it will send the right signal that Michigan City is opposed to it.

Councilman Coulter made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilwoman Moldenhauer, the motion carried, and the resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Kora, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Tillman (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

ORDINANCES

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second 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
Co- Sponsor: Nancy Moldenhauer

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

Councilman Dr. Kora advised Mike Wolfe City Forester is present to answer any questions the council may have regarding this position and the grant that will support these funds for this position.

Mike Wolfe, City Forester, addressed the council advising that this position “Arborist Apprentice” is a three (3) - year program that during this time she will be trained and educated and will have enough training hours accumulated (at the end of the three (3) years) to qualify to take the exam and receive their ISA Certification.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer advised that the salary for this position “Arborist Apprentice” is coming out of the million-dollar grant that was received for new trees and associated expenses received last year.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to have second and third reading this evening, second by President Tillman. The motion carried and was approved to have third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dr. Kora, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Tillman, Coulter, and Dabney. (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4755

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

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, the Michigan City Common Council enacted and on October 16, 2024, the Mayor signed Ordinance No. 4741, which established the salaries and wages for appointed officials and employees for the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the City Forester would like to create a temporary full-time position of Arborist Apprentice; and

WHEREAS, this position would be temporary in nature because the apprenticeship program would be for three (3) years only; and

WHEREAS, the City was previously awarded a \$1 Million Dollar federal grant from the USDA/Forest Service, and the City Forester has advised that said grant would fully fund the temporary full-time position of Arborist Apprentice for all three (3) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana, as follows:

1. The aforementioned "Whereas" sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
2. Arborist Apprentice shall be created in Section 1 of Ordinance No. 4741, under the Mayor's Department and shall read as follows:

Arborist Apprentice	Up to	<u>Salary/Hourly</u> \$17.00-\$22.00 hour
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3. All other provisions of Ordinance No. 4741 not in conflict with this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage of the same by the Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/Dr. Vidya Kora, Member
Michigan City Common Council

CO SPONSOR: /s/Nancy Moldenhauer, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Tillman asked if any of any of the authors had anything to add at this time, there was no response.

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

President Tillman asked if the Council had any comments.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried, and the ordinance was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson, Tillman, Coulter, Dabney and Dr. Kora (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second 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, 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.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to have second and third reading this evening, second by Councilman Dr. Kora. The motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Nelson, Tillman, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Moldenhauer, (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4756

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, the salaries for the Fire Department must be set by ordinance pursuant to IC 36-8-3-3; and

WHEREAS, previously, the City of Michigan City, through the Common Council's Labor Committee and Firefighters Local #475, on behalf of the firefighters of the Fire Department, negotiated a fair and equitable contract for the year 2022-2024 the terms of which continue until a new contract is approved by both the City and Firefighters Local #475; and

WHEREAS, due to budget constraints, the City is only able to offer a one-time bonus to employees and is unable to offer an increase to the base wages of members of the Michigan City Firefighters Local #475, thus, the base wage salaries established for the year 2024 will remain in effect for year 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, that:

Section 1. The salaries for the firefighters for the year 2025 shall be set as follows, subject to the terms and conditions of a labor agreement between the City of Michigan City and Firefighters Local #475:

<u>Base Wages:</u>	<u>2025</u>
Training Officer	\$75,166.40
Fire Marshal	\$75,166.40
Assistant Chief	\$75,166.40
Captain	\$73,085.60
Lieutenant	\$71,004.80
Driver	\$68,924.00
First Class Firefighter (3 years)	\$66,843.20
Firefighter (1-2 year)	\$64,191.20
Probationary Firefighter	\$61,070.00
Public Information Officer	Base Pay + \$1,000.00

Section 2. Set salaries are in effect for all payrolls issued in the calendar year governed by this ordinance.

Section 3. For purposes of 2025, a Firefighter subject to this Salary Ordinance shall be entitled to a one-time mid-year bonus in an amount up to \$1,200.00 payable the 2nd payroll in July 2025. To qualify for this bonus, a City Employee must:

- a.) Have been employed by the City in the preceding year 2024, however, if the employee was hired after July 1, 2024, their respective bonus will be prorated accordingly;
- b.) Be a full-time employee or a permanent part-time employee; and
- c.) Be actively employed by the City at the time the bonus is dispersed in 2025.

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Council, approved by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Tracie Tillman, President
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

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

Councilman Dabney made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second Councilman Nelson, the motion carried, and the ordinance was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Moldenhauer, and Nelson, (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second 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 asked if any of any of the authors had anything to add at this time.

President Tillman stated this proposed ordinance was addressed this evening by Mayor Angie who elaborated on the urgency to move forward on these two (2) positions; the Permit Specialist and Building Superintendent for the Planning and Inspection Department.

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

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

Councilman Dr. Kora wanted to clarify that Mayor Angie advised that these two (2) positions were budgeted for 2025 salary ordinance but wanted to start with a three (3) month contracted employee for the Building Superintendent to set things up and that way it will give them time to recruit the salary position (Building Superintendent).

Councilman Dabney made a motion to have second and third reading this evening, second by Councilman Nelson. The motion was carried, and was approved to have third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Tillman (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4757

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

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, the Michigan City Common Council enacted and on October 16, 2024, the Mayor signed Ordinance No. 4741, which established the salaries and wages for appointed officials and employees for the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the Mayor has restructured the Planning & Inspection Department to better serve the needs of the City, and with that restructuring, the Mayor desires to create the positions of Permit Specialist and Building Superintendent in the Planning & Inspection Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has confirmed that sufficient appropriated funds exist in the Budget of the Planning Department in the General Fund to fund the positions of Permit Specialist and Building Superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana, as follows:

- 1. The aforementioned “Whereas” sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
- 2. Permit Specialist and Building Superintendent shall be created in Section 1 of Ordinance No. 4741, under the Planning & Inspection Department and shall read as follows:

<u>Planning & Inspection:</u>		<u>Salary/Hourly</u>
Permit Specialist	Up to	\$23.50 hour
Building Superintendent	Up to	\$72,800.00

- 3. All other provisions of Ordinance No. 4741 not in conflict with this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage of the same by the Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/Tim Bietry, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Tracie Tillman, President
Michigan City Common Council
/s/Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Tillman asked if any of the authors had anything to add at this time, there was no response.

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

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, addressed the council stating the Planning Department had some issues but the mayor is working diligently to resolve the issues by bringing in Mr. Dave Albers who was the project manager for the 11th Street Station and hopes he will stay after his three (3) month term to keep control over this department; stating he fully supports this ordinance.

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 Dabney made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second Councilwoman Moldenhauer, the motion carried, and the ordinance was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Dr. Kora, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Tillman, and Coulter (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second 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 for the record this has been advertised the in the LaPorte Herald Dispatch and the Formal Public hearing will be held this evening.

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

Councilman Dabney made a motion to have second and third reading this evening, second by Councilman Coulter. The motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dr. Kora, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Tillman, Coulter, and Dabney (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

NOTE: Council Attorney Snow stated for the record the public hearing was held and concluded during public comment prior to Mr. Dabney motion as there was opportunity for public comments.

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4758

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

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2025 Annual Budget to fund the two (2) positions of Redevelopment Director and Business Manager; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the Redevelopment Fund #2502.000 to be appropriated for that purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, La Porte County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the City the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the fund named and for the purpose specified above, subject to the laws governing the same:

	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>
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		
TOTAL FOR FUND		\$263,121.50

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/Tim Bietry, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/Tracie Tillman, President
Michigan City Common Council

/s/Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

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

Councilman Dabney made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second Councilman Dr. Kora, the motion carried, and the ordinance was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson, Tillman, Coulter, Dabney, and Dr. Kora (6) **NAYS:** Council member None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Clerk Pickens advised there was no new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deputy Clerk Pickens 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

NOTE: Nominations for the Tree Board were TABLED at the January 21, 2025 council meeting until the February 4, 2025 council meeting

President Tillman opened up nominations for the Michigan City Tree Board.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer made a motion to nominate Laura Henderson for the Michigan City Tree Board, seconded by Councilman Dabney .

Councilman Coulter stated Laura Henderson needs a letter of recommendation from the neighborhood association she is representing to serve on the Tree Board. appointment.

Deputy Clerk Pickens stated that the Clerk's Office hasn't received a letter from the Elston Grove Neighborhood Association, that they need to schedule a meeting to re-appoint Laura Henderson to be their representative to the Tree Board.

Councilman Dabney advised the Elston Grove Neighborhood Association made a motion to re-appoint Laura Henderson as their representation on the Tree Board. with a letter of recommendation that was being written on their behalf.

Councilman Dr. Kora advised he is the liaison to the Tree Board and Laura Henderson is very active member, supporting her for re-appointment.

President Tillman asked if there were any other nominations, no response, nominations are closed.

Council Attorney Snow advised the prerequisite is the letter from the neighborhood association as members from the council advised it is forthcoming, so you are okay to take a vote as you previously stated nominations were accepted and closed and have only received one.

The motion carried and Laura Henderson was re-appointed to the Tree Board representing the Elston Grove Neighborhood Association by the following verbal vote 6 -0.

President Tillman congratulated Laura Henderson on her re-appointment to the Michigan City Tree Board.

Deputy Clerk Pickens 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)

Deputy Clerk Pickens stated we have received the following applications.

- Sheree Wilson
- Scott Meland
- Shauna Hill

NOTE: Nominations for the Revolving Loan Committee were TABLED at the January 21, 2025 council meeting until the February 4, 2025 council meeting

President Tillman opened nominations (repeating three times) "asking if there were any nominations at this time" (not addressed at this time)

Councilman Dr. Kora asked that these positions have to meet certain qualifications to serve on this board; asking if the applications received have those requirements.

Councilman Nelson advised that Attorney Snow was asked at the previous council meeting on January 21st to review the qualification requirements to serve on the Revolving Loan Board and report back at this meeting.

President Tillman stated the council was anticipating an answer from the Council Attorney regarding if the applications received met the qualifications required to serve on the Revolving Loan Board; advising the application that is completed for all boards and commissions do not request to state requirements/qualifications/city resident, etc.

Councilman Dr. Kora suggested that we TABLE nomination/vote until the next meeting on February 18, 2025 due to not having an application for this position.

Discussion ensued between Attorney Snow, President Tillman, Councilman Daney, and Councilman Dr. Kora regarding the description and qualifications of the professional loan officer.

President Tillman made a motion to TABLE this matter until she contacts Corporate Counsel Lapaich regarding her interpretation or if the ordinance will need to be amended regarding these appointments to the Economic Development Revolving Loan.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to TABLE the vote until the February 18, 2025 Council meeting, second by Councilman Coulter, the motion carried, and was TABLED by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, and Moldenhauer (4) **NAYS:** Council members Nelson, Tillman, (2).

Councilman Dabney asked since this being our second discussion at two (2) different meetings regarding the two (2) appointments to the Economic Development Revolving Loan Committee; this needs to be resolved asking our Council Attorney to contact the City Attorney to clarify what needs to be followed regarding these appointments.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, addressed the council congratulating the Michigan City Marquette Girl's Basketball team as they just won Sectionals this evening; invited the council to attend the "21st Annual Jerry Carson's Club Challenge" chili cook off on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the DAV Post 23 at 12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.; stating that

he fully supports the drug recovery unit that will be opening at the old hospital on Wabash Street.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, questioned why the council keeps questioning the language regarding the two (2) appointments the Council has to fill on the Economic Development Revolving Loan Committee; that he has provided his qualification and turned in his application to be a member on the Revolving Loan Fund Committee; addressed the council regarding several decisions that have been made by the Board of Zoning Appeal Board about projects and future development in our city.

MCPD Chief Corley provided the council with a list of Black History events that are being held during the month of February; thanking the following sponsors for their support: Reprographic Arts, Untied Way, NIPSCO, Horizon Bank, HealthLink, LaPorte County Visitors Bureau, Michigan City Police Department, NAACP, African- American Impowerment Fund through Unity Foundation, Applegate and Company, and General Insurance; Partnerships with Essence Rare, Salvation Army, Indiana Black Expo and the YMCA.

Dakota Euler (Zoom) expressed his concerns regarding the 2025 street repaving project paving of thirty-five roads; applaud the city for repairing our roads, but believes the city is overlooking our aging infrastructure beneath those streets they are paving.

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.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer invited the public to join the presentation on "Effective Environment Advocacy at the Statehouse", presented by the Advocacy team of Indiana Conservation Voters, Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. live on "Save The Dunes" Facebook Page or a Zoom link which can be requested at EM@SAVEDUNES.ORG

Councilwoman Moldenhauer invited the public to join the celebration activities for Naomi Anderson Birthday at the Michigan City Public Library on Saturday, March 1, 2025, time is tba, with the premier viewing of the documentary of her life.

Councilman Dr. Kora thanked Mr. Meland for being active in our community attending several of the City's boards and commissions meeting; advising him by the next meeting the council will hold a vote regarding the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Commission.

Councilman Coulter thanked the "Black History Month Committee" for all their hard work and dedication putting all the events together during February.

President Tillman stated there will be a joint Council Workshop on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the EOC regarding the proposed development of the "Certified Recovery Resident Facility" lead by Micki Webb

President Tillman stated Mayor Angie scheduled a workshop regarding "Wheel Tax" on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the EOC; City Hall; stating that Michigan City was in the New York Times paper in regard to the redevelopment and the Indiana State Prison site; that if you have a chance to read this article, it was a good read.

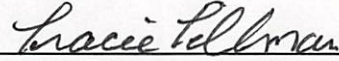
President Tillman stated the "Anthony Adams House" is an organization to assist with ending "youth" homelessness and will be hosting a fundraiser and award night, Saturday, February 8, 2025; advising that this organizations mission is to provide nurturing, stable homes, an environment for homeless/runaway youth between the ages of 12 and 18 years old and that you can visit their website www.ahouse.org for more information regarding this event.

ADJOURNMENT

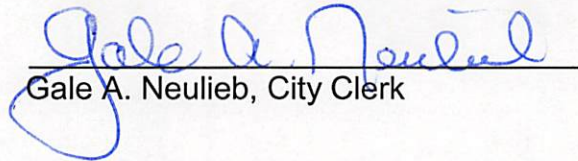
A motion by Councilman Dr. Kora, second by President Tillman and there being no further business to transact, President Tillman declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:20 p.m.)

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=pqQ8lWtAP30&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bqw-rohSfvSUA8dwegrb6st>



Tracie Tillman, President



Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk