

# **REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING February 18, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, February 18, 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, Greg Coulter, Bryant Dabney, Dr. Vidya Kora, Daisy Lee, Nancy Moldenhauer, Don Przybylinski, and Tracie Tillman, (8).

**ABSENT:** COUNCIL MEMBERS Joesph Nelson (1)

**NOTE:** President Tillman advised that she was notified by Councilman Nelson that he would not attend this evening’s council meeting

## **A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT**

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Council Attorney Nick Snow, 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, February 4, 2025.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular “Hybrid/Zoom” meeting minutes held on February 4, 2025, second by Councilman Coulter, the motion carried, and the regular February 4, 2025, Council meeting minutes were approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, and Dabney, (8) **NAYS:** Council member None (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 not meet this evening as there was no claims to report.

Councilwoman Tillman reported the Riverboat fund statement of the cash position Riverboat Fund #2235 ending balance for the fiscal year date, February 28, 2025 - \$493,323.31 and Rainy-Day Fund #2336 - \$1,848,763.71 grand total ending balance – \$ 2,342,087.02.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

Councilman Przybylinski, representing the Sanitary District, wanted to let the citizens know that mailers with information regarding changes and fees at the Refuse Department will be sent out this month in their water bills.

Councilwoman Lee, representing the Women's Commission, invited the public to attend the 2025 International Women's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at the Michigan City Senior Center from 1:00-4:00 p.m. RSVP is required.

Councilman Bietry, representing the Veterans Commission, stated the Commission held their first meeting today since Covid in 2020, election of new officers was done and that the next meeting will be Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:00p.m. in the EOC Room.

### **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.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on February 12, 2025, from Elston Grove Neighborhood Association regarding their re-appointment of Laura Henderson to the Michigan City Tree Board

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on February 7, 2025, from Bakertilly Municipal Advisors regarding the "Tax Increment Report"

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Clerk Neulieb read the following resolution by title only.

#### **MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 4950**

#### **APPROVING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FOR THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/FTA FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL TRANSIT SYSTEM & 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 has submitted a grant application seeking funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation/FTA for the continuance of its' municipal transit system from the 5307-Urbanized Area Grant and FHWA- STBG Transfer to 5307 - Urbanized Area Grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Michigan City will be requesting up to \$2,481,282.00 in federal grant funds and the City will be required to have a \$2,059,782.00 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 / Federal Transit Administration. Michigan City Transit FFY 2022 - 5307 Operating Assistance / STBG FY 2021 - Bus Replacement.
- 2. **Why it is beneficial to the City to apply for this grant:** This grant will allow the City to continue providing safe reliable public transportation.
- 3. **The purpose of the grant and the proposed use of grant funds:** This grant will be used for operating assistance, including labor, fuel, administrative, maintenance cost, rolling stock and related supplies.
- 4. **The person who will be responsible for managing the grant for the City:** Robin Tillman, Transit Director; Mary-Lynn Wall, City Controller; and Tamiko Smith, Assistant City Controller.
- 5. **All relevant time frames and schedule for the grant:**  
This grant commenced in October 1, 2024 and will conclude on January 1, 2027.
- 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: \$2,059,782.00
  - b. The matching funds are budgeted as follows:

Operating Assistance: FFY 2025:	\$953,705.00
FFY 2026:	\$965,577.00
Capital Rolling Stock:	\$140,500.00
- 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 aforementioned grant and supports and commits to funding the local match for said Grant. The City, by and through the Michigan City Transit Department, is eligible and authorized under state and local law to request, receive and spent FTA funds to administer FTA-assisted projects. The City, by and through the Michigan City Transit Department, shall be responsible for complying with all the terms and conditions of the grant award.

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

**NOTE: Exhibit “A” is attached to Council Resolution No. 4950 in file CR-111 in the Clerk’s Office**

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

President Tillman advised that the grant application has been submitted to receive funding through the U.S Department of Transportation and FTA for the continuance of

the City's Municipal Transit System for the "5307 Urban Formula Grant", that will be used for operating assistance, labor, fuel, administrative, rolling stock and maintenance cost.

Robin Tillman, Transit Director, addressed the council regarding "5307 Urbanized Formula Grant" for LaPorte and Michigan City, that this grant must be applied for annually advising that the STBG funds are state funds that are flexed over into federal for rolling stock and replacement vehicles.

Discussion ensued between Robin Tillman, Transit Director, Councilman Dr. Kora and Councilman Przybylinski regarding the route to PNW in Westville, and the funding of the matching grant.

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

Tommy Kulavik 1316 Ohio Street, addressed the council wishing everyone a Happy Black History month, stating the Transit Department needs to create a mobile app that would allow the public to purchase bus fares and show the bus schedule and routes.

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

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

Ms. Tillman advised Councilman Przybylinski that the grant they are receiving is 100% funded for the next three years to restore service to PNW and Laporte that was lost during Covid; and that they realize it is going to take time to build the ridership back to where it was.

Councilman Dr. Kora suggested this information regarding the route to PNW should be made available to the high school for possible future riders.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer thanked Ms. Tillman for her hard work and dedication; stating the residents in the "Tall Timbers" and "Green Acres" area need bus service in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Councilman Bietry 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 Lee, Moldenhauer, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, and Dr. Kora, (8) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Clerk Neulieb read the following resolution by title only.

## MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION NO. 4951

**SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 166 PROHIBITING THE ADVERTISING OF  
PRODUCTS CONTAINING MARIJUANA IN THE STATE OF INDIANA**

&

**ALSO SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1026 PROHIBITING MARIJUANA  
ADVERTISING WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF SCHOOL PROPERTY, PLAYGROUND, A  
YOUTH PROGRAM CENTER, A PUBLIC PARK, A PUBLIC LIBRARY OR  
REGULAR ROUTE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL BUS**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill No. 166 seeks to prohibit advertising of a product containing marijuana by any medium within the State of Indiana, including print advertisements, digital advertisements, or advertisements on the radio stations, television stations, or outdoor signs; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the information on the Indiana General Assembly 2025 Session website, Senate Bill No. 166 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce and Technology, however, no hearings are currently scheduled on this Bill; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Senate Bill No. 166, House Bill No. 1026 seeks to prohibit advertising a product containing marijuana or a marijuana business on a sign within 1,000 feet of school property, a playground, a youth program center, a public park, a public library, or the regular route of a public school bus; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the information on the Indiana General Assembly 2025 Session website, House Bill No. 1026 has been referred to the Committee on Judiciary, however, no hearings are currently scheduled on this Bill; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Michigan City is within minutes of driving time to the borders of the State of Michigan, which has legalized marijuana, and where numerous marijuana dispensaries have opened on U.S. Hwy 12 in New Buffalo, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the multitude of marijuana dispensaries in New Buffalo, Michigan, Michigan City is now experiencing marijuana dispensary advertising billboards at several locations with City limits and City residents are receiving numerous pieces of advertising literature from said dispensaries in the U.S. Mail; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council reasonably believes that the residents of the City should not be exposed to said advertising as marijuana is still illegal in the boundaries of the State of Indiana;

**WHEREAS**, children residing within the Michigan City should not be exposed to such advertising in their home environments, around their schools, playgrounds, youth programming centers, public parks, libraries, and while on route to school in a school bus; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan City supports Senate Bill No. 166 and also House Bill No. 1026.

**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 City supports Senate Bill No. 166 and also House Bill No. 1026.
5. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the following members of the Committee on Commerce and Technology:
  - Sen. Brian Buchanan
  - Sen. Eric Koch
  - Sen. Gary Byrne
  - Sen. Spencer Deery
  - Sen. Stacey Donato
  - Sen. Blake Doriot
  - Sen. Jean Leising
  - Sen. Andy Zay
  - Sen. Andrea Hunley
  - Sen. J.D. Ford
  - Sen. Mark Spencer

6. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the following members of the Committee on Judiciary:

- Rep. Chris Jeter
- Rep. Garrett Bascom
- Rep. Andrew Ireland
- Rep. Jennifer Meltzer
- Rep. Gregory Steuerwald
- Rep. Maureen Bauer
- Rep. Ryan Dvorak
- Rep. Alex Zimmerman
- Rep. Michelle Davis
- Rep. Danny Lopez
- Rep. J.D. Prescott
- Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn
- Rep. Alex Burton

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**

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

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to amend the following proposed resolution by substitution, reading it in its entirety.

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. 4951**

**SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 166 PROHIBITING THE ADVERTISING OF  
PRODUCTS CONTAINING MARIJUANA IN THE STATE OF INDIANA**

**&**

**ALSO SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1026 PROHIBITING MARIJUANA  
ADVERTISING WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF SCHOOL PROPERTY, PLAYGROUND, A  
YOUTH PROGRAM CENTER, A PUBLIC PARK, A PUBLIC LIBRARY OR  
REGULAR ROUTE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL BUS**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill No. 166 seeks to prohibit advertising of a product containing marijuana by any medium within the State of Indiana, including print advertisements, digital advertisements, or advertisements on the radio stations, television stations, or outdoor signs; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the information on the Indiana General Assembly 2025 Session website, Senate Bill No. 166 has been referred to the Committee on Commerce and Technology, however, no hearings are currently scheduled on this Bill; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Senate Bill No. 166, House Bill No. 1026 seeks to prohibit advertising a product containing marijuana or a marijuana business on a sign within 1,000 feet of school property, a playground, a youth program center, a public park, a public library, or the regular route of a public school bus; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the information on the Indiana General Assembly 2025 Session website, House Bill No. 1026 has been referred to the Committee on Judiciary, however, no hearings are currently scheduled on this Bill; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Michigan City is within minutes of driving time to the borders of the State of Michigan, which has legalized marijuana, and where numerous marijuana dispensaries have opened on U.S. Hwy 12 in New Buffalo, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the multitude of marijuana dispensaries in New Buffalo, Michigan, Michigan City is now experiencing marijuana dispensary advertising billboards at several locations with City limits and City residents are receiving numerous pieces of advertising literature from said dispensaries in the U.S. Mail; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council reasonably believes that the residents of the City should not be exposed to said advertising as marijuana is still illegal in the boundaries of the State of Indiana;

**WHEREAS**, children residing within the Michigan City should not be exposed to such advertising in their home environments, around their schools, playgrounds, youth programming centers, public parks, libraries, and while on route to school in a school bus; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan City supports Senate Bill No. 166 and also House Bill No. 1026.

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

7. The aforementioned "Whereas" sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
8. The City supports Senate Bill No. 166 and also House Bill No. 1026.
9. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the following members of the Committee on Commerce and Technology:
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  - Rep. Ryan Dvorak
  - Rep. Alex Zimmerman
  - Rep. Michelle Davis
  - Rep. Danny Lopez
  - Rep. J.D. Prescott
  - Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn
  - Rep. Alex Burton

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

The motion to amend the proposed resolution that Councilman Przybylinski read was second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried, and the amended proposed resolution by substitution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, and Lee (8) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

Tommy Kulavik ,1316 Ohio Street, addressed the council stating that he is tired of receiving the marketing materials in his mail, as marijuana is considered illegal and a controlled substance in Indiana.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, addressed the council asking if there is current regulation on advertising within the city limits regarding alcohol and tobacco; if there is, marijuana could be added to those existing statutes; if not he feels the state should handle this for prohibitions.

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

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

Councilman Dabney stated this is not an enforceable resolution but a proposed resolution this council supports - House Bill 1026 that is being proposed at the state level.

Councilwoman Lee stated she also supports this proposed resolution as advertisements are being received, people are still being charged for possession of marijuana in Indiana; advising with the advertisements it makes this more appealing to our youth; if marijuana does become legal in Indiana, we could then revisit this issue.

Councilman Coulter stated he is in favor of the proposed resolution advising this would put marijuana in the same line with tobacco and alcohol at state level; if you can't have billboards with advertisements for one drug such as tobacco and alcohol then you shouldn't have them for others.

President Tillman stated she agrees that all advertising of any controlled substance; alcohol and tobacco should be prohibited and if the state of Indiana does make marijuana legal, we could revisit this matter at that time.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the proposed amended resolution, second by Councilman Dabney, the motion carried, and the resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee (7) **NAYS:** Council member None (0). **ABSTAIN:** Moldenhauer (1)

Councilman Przybylinski advised that in the state of Indiana there isn't a law that prohibits Alcohol or Tobacco regarding advertisements; stating that they are both legal in Indiana, that this is showing that this council supports what Indiana Senators are proposing and to protect our children and youth.

Clerk Neulieb read the following resolution by title only.

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**



**RESOLUTION 4952****RECOGNIZING AND HONORING “CELEBRATING NAOMI ANDERSON DAY” ON MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUALLY AND IN PERPETUITY**

**WHEREAS**, Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson was born in Michigan City, Indiana, on March 1, 1843, to free blacks, Elijah and Guilley Ann Bowman; and

**WHEREAS**, Naomi Anderson was initially barred from attending the segregated public school until the school read her poetry and then she was admitted to public school in Michigan City, Indiana, which was the only formal education she received; and

**WHEREAS**, at age 26, Naomi Anderson spoke at the first Women's Rights Convention held in Chicago, Illinois, becoming a public figure known throughout the country as a controversial and fiery speaker; and

**WHEREAS**, Naomi Anderson's writings were published in hundreds of newspapers throughout the United States, and she spoke to tens of thousands of people during her lifetime, advocating for human rights, women's right to vote, unions, orphans, temperance, and for “A Solution to the Race Problem;” and

**WHEREAS**, with great courage, Naomi Anderson was known throughout the country for her eloquence, moral force, and life of activism, while fighting the dual oppression for being both a person of color and female; and

**WHEREAS**, in the year 2020, the Michigan City Mainstreet Association and Celebrating Naomi Anderson Project Team received an Indiana Humanities and Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs “Preserving Women’s Legacy” grant for recognizing Naomi Anderson with a sculpture designed by artist Bernard Williams honoring her life which has been installed in Charles R. Westcott Park at US 35 and US 12 in Michigan City, Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, due to circumstances of history, Naomi Anderson has not received the national recognition which she so richly deserves although she was a dynamic force, leaving an indelible mark on American history well beyond 1899, the year she passed on, leaving it to her hometown to honor this daughter of Michigan City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana honors the indelible mark on American history made by Michigan City native Naomi Anderson by naming March 1<sup>st</sup> annually, in perpetuity, “Celebrating Naomi Anderson Day” in Michigan City, Indiana.

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/Nancy Moldenhauer, Member  
/s/Tracie Tillman, President  
/s/Daisy Lee, Member  
/s/Don Przybylinski, Member

/s/Bryant Dabney, Member  
/s/Tim Bietry, Member  
/s/ Dr. Vidya Kora, Member  
/s/ Greg Coulter, Member

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

Councilwoman Moldenhauer read the following proposed resolution in its entirety.

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION 4952**

**RECOGNIZING AND HONORING “CELEBRATING NAOMI ANDERSON DAY” ON MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUALLY AND IN PERPETUITY**

**WHEREAS**, Naomi Bowman Talbert Anderson was born in Michigan City, Indiana, on March 1, 1843, to free blacks, Elijah and Guilley Ann Bowman; and

**WHEREAS**, Naomi Anderson was initially barred from attending the segregated public school until the school read her poetry and then she was admitted to public school in Michigan City, Indiana, which was the only formal education she received; and

**WHEREAS**, at age 26, Naomi Anderson spoke at the first Women's Rights Convention held in Chicago, Illinois, becoming a public figure known throughout the country as a controversial and fiery speaker; and

**WHEREAS**, Naomi Anderson's writings were published in hundreds of newspapers throughout the United States, and she spoke to tens of thousands of people during her lifetime, advocating for human rights, women's right to vote, unions, orphans, temperance, and for “A Solution to the Race Problem;” and

**WHEREAS**, with great courage, Naomi Anderson was known throughout the country for her eloquence, moral force, and life of activism, while fighting the dual oppression for being both a person of color and female; and

**WHEREAS**, in the year 2020, the Michigan City Mainstreet Association and Celebrating Naomi Anderson Project Team received an Indiana Humanities and Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs “Preserving Women’s Legacy” grant for recognizing Naomi Anderson with a sculpture designed by artist Bernard Williams honoring her life which has been installed in Charles R. Westcott Park at US 35 and US 12 in Michigan City, Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, due to circumstances of history, Naomi Anderson has not received the national recognition which she so richly deserves although she was a dynamic force, leaving an indelible mark on American history well beyond 1899, the year she passed on, leaving it to her hometown to honor this daughter of Michigan City.

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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/Nancy Moldenhauer, Member  
/s/Tracie Tillman, President  
/s/Daisy Lee, Member  
/s/Don Przybylinski, Member  
/s/Bryant Dabney, Member  
/s/Tim Bietry, Member

/s/ Dr. Vidya Kora, Member  
/s/ Greg Coulter, Member

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, addressed the council stating this a wonderful thing to dedicate this day to Namoi Anderson as this is also Private First Class Marine Danny Bruce Day who sacrificed his life serving our country in the Vietnam War.

Bonnie Shaff (Zoom) thanked the council for considering this proposed resolution to celebrate Naomi Anderson, inviting the council and public to attend the celebration for Naomi Anderson at the Michigan City Public Library on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

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

Councilman Przybylinski asked to be added as a co-sponsor.

The following council members also asking to be added as co-sponsors: Councilman Dr. Kora, Councilman Bietry, Councilman Dabney and Councilman Coulter advised they would like to be added as co-sponsors.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer 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 Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Przybylinski (8) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

## **ORDINANCES**

President Tillman asked if there were any ordinances.

Clerk Neulieb advised there were no ordinances.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Tillman advised the council has one (1) appointment to the Community Enrichment Corporation – Incumbent Stasi Benning term expires March 31, 2025.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Tillman 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 February 4, 2025 council meeting until the February 18, 2025 council meeting**

President Tillman stated before we take the vote; she advised that at the Council's January 21, 2025 council meeting, the applicants that were nominated were Sheree Wilson and Scott Meland the vote was TABLED at the February 4, 2025 Council meeting until February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to receive clarification regarding the language in the Revolving Loan Ordinance for these two (2) positions from Council Attorney Harris and Corporate Counsel Lapaich.

President Tillman stated their conclusion was that it does not specifically state in the revolving loan ordinance that the nominee must currently hold the title of a "Senior Level

Professional Loan Officer” stating that we will be moving forward on the vote of these two (2) positions this evening; asking the nominees to come forward and address the council regarding their proposed appointments.

Sheree Wilson, 1030 Liberty Trail, addressed the council stating she has a background on construction and capital program management; advising she would aid new businesses in the process to help Michigan City grow.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, addressed the council stating he was a former loan officer, realtor and private land lord and feels he is qualified for the position on the Commission.

Councilman Przybylinski questioned Mr. Meland qualifications; advising what is stated in the revolving loan ordinance is that the qualification to serve on this committee is be a “Senior Level Professional Loan “Officer”.

President Tillman stated that legal advice has been received from Council Attorney Harris and Corporate Counsel LaPaich according to State Statue and description of the position of the “Senior Professional Loan Officer, and the council could at a later date make amendments to the ordinance regarding the qualifications to the appointments.

- Scott Meland- Senior Professional Loan Officer- Vote 7- (1 abstained)
- Sheree Wilson – Representing a business or retail and who is a resident of Michigan City – Vote 8-0

President Tillman congratulated the new appointments to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

Ernie Holland, 302 Gladys Street, addressed the council stating that there needs to be more factory and infrastructure jobs within the city along with affordable housing.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, thanked the council for their support and vote to serve on the Revolving Loan Fund Committee; thanked Councilman Dabney for his clarification on the difference between a resolution and ordinance; advised the public on the housing market.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, addressed the council congratulating the Marquette High School girls’ basketball team as they won their championship game; stating that Michigan City High School will be hosting the ISHA sectionals, regionals and semi- state this year for boys’ basketball.

Brian Gross, 830 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, addressed the council on affordable housing.

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 celebration activities for Naomi Anderson Birthday at the Michigan City Public Library on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Councilman Przybylinski congratulated the two (2) appointments to the Revolving Loan Fund committee; advising why he abstained the second appointment; reading the following for the record; Ordinance No.4113 Sec. 3 “Said contract shall provide for the

creation of a loan committee by the Corporation that includes two senior-level professional loan officers, one appointed by the Mayor and one appointed by the Council"; and read the correspondence he received in its entirety from Council Attorney Harris and Corporate Counsel Amber Lapaich regarding the definition of the "Senior Professional Loan Officer."

Discussion ensued between President Tillman and Councilman Przybylinski regarding the time limit for council comments.

Councilman Coulter invited the public to attend the following events, the YMCA annual dinner on February 27, 2025 and also on March 9, 2025 sponsored by the "Trail Creek Water Shed Partnership" is working with the "Great Lakes Fishery Commission to host the showing of their recent movie "Fish Thieves"; and reach out to him for more information.

President Tillman provided the public with her new contact information **877-255-9362**

President Tillman invited the public to attend the Town Hall meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 12:30 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. - State Representative Pat Boy and Senator Rodney Pol of District Four (4) will be in attendance and it will be held at the Michigan City Public Library.

President Tillman reminded everyone about the upcoming workshop on March 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the EOC regarding the Certified Recovery Residence Facility.

President Tillman stated Mayor Angie scheduled a workshop on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the EOC Room to discuss "Wheel Tax" legislation; that Senator Jim Pressel will be present to answer any questions.


President Tillman announced Mayor Angie's "Town Hall" meeting schedule and locations for the up-coming year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

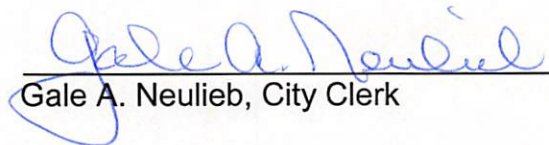
A motion by Councilman Dr. Kora, second by President Tillman and there being no further business to transact, President Tillman declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:20 p.m.)

*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=dLoRILzPJ9I&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bqw-rohSfvSUA8dwegrb6st>



Tracie Tillman, President



Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk