

REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING March 18, 2025

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, March 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, Joseph Nelson, Nancy Moldenhauer, Don Przybylinski, and Tracie Tillman, (9).

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS (0)

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, March 4, 2025.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular “Hybrid/Zoom” meeting minutes held on March 4, 2025, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried, and the Regular March 4, 2025, Council meeting minutes were approved by the following verbal vote 9 – 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 March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.; a quorum was present; stating the following Michigan City Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for March 18, 2025 was as follows; Riverboat fund #2235 was \$37,799.86 paying LaPorte Chrysler Inc., for the leasing of the MCPD fleet vehicles, Riverboat EFT fund #2235 was zero funds; Boyd Development Fund #2504 zero funds; with the total claims being \$37,799.86.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for March 18, 2025, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried, and the Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for March 18, 2025 was approved by the following verbal vote 9 – 0.

Councilwoman Tillman reported the Riverboat fund statement of the cash position Riverboat Fund #2235 ending balance for the fiscal year date, March 18, 2025, \$910,043.41 and Rainy-Day Fund #2336 - \$1,848,763.71 grand total ending balance – \$ 2,158,807.12.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Nick Pollock, President and Faye Moore, member of the Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African American Males presented their 2024 Annual Report to the Council.

President Tillman asked Mr. Pollock to read the following "post script" that was added to their presentation:

It is worth noting that despite our efforts, the Mayor's Office and City Council has not provided any financial support to our initiatives. It is rumored that the Mayor has expressed that this Commission is insignificant. We believe his highlights the importance of our work and the need for continued support from our Community, City Council and Mayor. The lack of support from our city is the reason why we feel we should have representatives of a County Resident because the County Council and County Commissioners have shown support. Please amend the City Ordinance to include a county resident on our commission.

Mr. Pollock stated several reasons why he didn't want to read the "post script" into their presentation.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Pollock, Mrs. Moore, President Tillman and Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Bietry, Przybylinski,, regarding amendments to their ordinance, finances, recipients being encouraged to apply for training through the city's scholarship funds, thanking them for their hard work and dedication, scheduling more annual events, the true understanding about what this commission does, the "post script" that was read, comments about someone representing the county on this board, and that the annual "Black Barber Shop Health Initiative" event happening on April 19, 2025.

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.

Jessica Ward, Michigan City Airport Manager, presented her 2025 annual report.

Mary Lynn Wall, City Controller updated the City's Finances per Councilman Przybylinski's request; advising that she will do the next finance update after the Controller's Office close the June finances.

Councilman Bietry thanked Ms. Wall for the update.

Ms. Wall advised Councilman Dabney they are still working on the logistics regarding the six (6) million dollars the city is going to receive.

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 notices and correspondence received in the Clerk's Office.

A notice was received in the Clerk's Office on February 28, 2025, from IDEM regarding an air permit approval.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 4, 2025, from Harris Law Firm regarding MCFD 2026 collective bargaining negotiations.

A Tort Claim was received in the Clerk's Office on March 5, 2025, from Ken Nunn Law Office.

A notice was received in the Clerk's Office on March 7, 2025, from Krieg Devault scheduling a meeting for the Department of Redevelopment on April 14, 2025.

A Tort Claim was received in the Clerk's Office on March 10, 2025, from Sarkisian, Sarkisian & Associates.

A Tort Claim was received in the Clerk's Office on March 10, 2025, from Isaacs & Isaacs Personal Injury Law Office

RESOLUTIONS

Clerk Neulieb read the following resolution by title only. **OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 1461 REGARDING ROAD FUNDING**

Introduced by: Don Przybylinski
Tracie Tillman
Bryant Dabney
Daisy Lee

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

President Przybylinski read the proposed resolution in its entirety; advising what effect this will have to our city.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 4954

OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 1461 REGARDING ROAD FUNDING

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1461 has numerous components within it pertaining to road funding, including but not limited to the following:

- Allowing the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to submit a request to the Federal Highway Administration for a waiver to allow toll lanes on interstate highways within Indiana;
- Allocating responsibility for bridges between a county and a municipality based on the size and location of the bridge, namely, bridges twenty (20) feet or less and not part of the highway system would be the local units responsibility;
- Requiring local municipalities to adopt a wheel tax in order to submit a grant to the Community Crossing Matching Grant Program;
- Requiring that a township trustee's reduce their budget by a certain percentage and those reduced funds then be transferred to a fund established for the

improvement and maintenance of roads and infrastructure within the township's boundaries; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2025, this Bill passed the House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate, and more specifically, the bill is currently in the Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1461 is problematic for the following reasons:

- The City currently does not have a municipal wheel tax, and this Bill would require the City to adopt a municipal wheel tax, imposing yet another financial burden on local residents and violating the City's autonomy under the statutory home rule provisions of I.C. 36-1-3, et seq.;
- Not only does tolling interstate highways impose a financial burden on local residents, more importantly, traffic will divert to using local roads and streets to avoid paying a toll placing more traffic, usage, and fiscal demands on local infrastructure;
- The City has no established fund for bridge repair because this cost has historically been a responsibility of the County, and by allocating responsibility for bridge repair to local municipalities, it will impose another layer of financial liability on local municipalities;
- In our current financial times, when basic costs for food, clothing, and shelter are soaring, it is not in the best interest our community to have our Township Trustee's budgets reduced; and

WHEREAS, page 4 and page 5 of the current Fiscal Impact Statement (which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**) provides an explanation this Bill will have on local municipalities, which includes in relevant part, the following: "...*The bill would also impact local workload to create transportation infrastructure funds. Increases in workload are expected to be accomplished within existing resource and funding levels;*" and

WHEREAS, the City was forced to reduce its 2025 Budget by approximately \$5.7 million dollars due to a decline in riverboat monies, thus, the City has already been forced to cut budgets due to declining financial resources; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1461 seeks to impose yet another tax and financial strain on residents simply for the City to access the Community Crossing Matching Grant and for residents to utilize Indiana interstates; and

WHEREAS, by allocating costs for bridge repair between a local municipality and a county, House Bill No. 1461 further placing additional financial responsibility on local government, which did not previously exist, without any funding mechanism; and

WHEREAS, based upon the foregoing, the City opposes House Bill No. 1461.

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 does not support House Bill No. 1461.
3. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the following:
 - Rep. Jim Pressel (Author of Bill)
 - Rep. Craig Snow (Co-Author of Bill)
 - Rep. Dave Heine (Co-Author of Bill)
 - Rep. Doug Miller (Co-Author Bill)

- Sen. Michael Crider (Senate Sponsor & Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. Blake Doriot (Senate Sponsor & Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. James Tormes (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. James Buck (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. Gary Byrne (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. Ed Charbonneau (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. Blake Doriot (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. Randy Maxwell (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. Mark Spencer (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)
- Sen. J.D. Ford (Member of Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation)

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

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the authors.

Councilman Przybylinski commented on what would happen because the county has already imposed their tax before June and if the city doesn't impose a tax until after June we won't have to pay the county's portion of their tax.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that to him this is political blackmail and putting the city of Michigan City in dire straits and is pushing us into a corner about what we are going to do

Councilman Dabney stated that he agrees with the great points that were made by Councilman Przybylinski; that if this bill passes, they are forcing cities and towns to come up with more ways to raise their own money; advising that at some point if this bill passes, we may have to do referendums to raise extra dollars.

President Tillman added to what Councilman Przybylinski indicated regarding the wheel tax; that with LaPorte already implementing wheel tax and should we have to implement this, means that our city will be getting charged double if we don't file and do submit this before June.

Councilman Bietry advised in addition to the wheel tax, the legislations states that if you impose a wheel tax, you must impose an excise tax as well; that you can't have one without the other; explaining each of these taxes and the amount that is being proposed and will be coming out of our pockets.

Councilman Dr. Kora advised at the State Level they want to cut taxes and then push the local municipalities to raise all their own revenue source, but in reality, they are not cutting any taxes.

The following Council members asked to be added as co-sponsors; Councilwoman Moldenhauer, Councilman Coulter, Councilman Bietry, Councilman Nelson and Councilman Dr. Kora.

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

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street stated for the record, he is totally in support of this resolution and that this is beyond blackmail; advising the total legislation is in creating a toll road authority which means they don't have to answer to anyone after it is adopted, that if our governor or legislation wants to sell this road, they have the right to do so.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, advised that the wheel tax has two (2) components, one our county already signed up for (wheel tax) and the other is the excise tax itself explaining the cost and that both taxes will be added to our annual vehicle registration for each vehicle you own and will be collected by BMV.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the council.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Przybylinski, the motion carried, and the resolution was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, and Bietry (9) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

ORDINANCES

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.
CREATING SEC. 2-346 IN THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT THE PROCUREMENT METHOD SET FORTH IN I.C. 5-23 ET SEQ. COMMONLY KNOWN AS A BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER (BOT) AGREEMENT/PUBLIC-PRIVATE AGREEMENT

Introduced by: Nancy Moldenhauer

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

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated that Paul Schaefer representing Butler, Fairman, and Seufert Engineering who explained the procedures/process of a BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) agreement at our last meeting on March 18, 2025.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer made a motion to have second and third reading this evening, second by Councilwoman Lee, the motion carried to have second and third reading this evening and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, and Coulter (9) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

President Tillman asked if there were any public comments at this time, there was no response.

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

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

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4759

**CREATING SEC. 2-346 IN THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO
 ADOPT THE PROCUREMENT METHOD SET FORTH IN I.C. 5-23 ET SEQ.
 COMMONLY KNOWN AS A BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER (BOT)
 AGREEMENT/PUBLIC-PRIVATE AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) agreement is a public-private agreement between a governmental body and a developer/contractor, wherein said developer/contractor

builds, operates, and maintains a public facility, then transfers it back to the government at a later date; and

WHEREAS, the BOT statute is a way for a political subdivision to finance transportation and infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, prior to undertaking a BOT transaction, the legislative body of the political subdivision must specifically adopt by ordinance or resolution the provisions of the BOT Statute (I.C 5-23 et seq) to allow the BOT procurement method; and

WHEREAS, adopting the provisions of the BOT Statute does not limit the ability of political subdivision to elect to proceed with a different procurement method, but absent such adoption, there is no authority for a political subdivision to move forward with a BOT transaction; and

WHEREAS, the BOT Statute sets forth the requirements with respect to the content of the request for proposals (RFP), as well as the requirements with respect to publicly noticing the issuance of the RFP; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the issuance of an RFP, the board seeking an RFP will establish an advisory committee to evaluate proposals received; and

WHEREAS, the advisory committee will evaluate each “best and final” proposal to determine whether the board should accept any such proposal, and when evaluating the “best and final” proposals, the advisory committee is not required to select the lowest price, instead, it may select the proposal that it finds to be the best value; and

WHEREAS, the advisory committee may also take into account the offeror’s reputation and expertise, the previous projects undertaken by the offeror and its track record with respect to delivery of such projects, and it may factor in the ability of the offeror to leverage the BOT Agreement to secure funds to construct the project; and

WHEREAS, once it has completed its evaluation, the advisory committee will recommend to the board in writing either to accept a specified proposal or to terminate the BOT process due to a lack of satisfactory proposals; and

WHEREAS, the final step in the BOT process is for the board to provide notice and hold a public hearing at which the transaction may be awarded to the offeror recommended by the advisory committee and once approved, the board may enter into a BOT Agreement with its selected partner; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Common Council is the legislative body of Michigan City, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aviation Commissioners for the Michigan City Airport requests that the Michigan City Common Council adopt the BOT procurement method provided by I.C. 5-23 as the Michigan City Airport desires the use of this procurement method for an upcoming project to replace existing aviation fuel underground storage tanks (USTs) with above ground storage tanks (ASTs); and

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Common Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Michigan City to adopt the procurement methods as set forth in I.C. 5-23, et seq., that provides for BOT agreements.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council for the City of Michigan City, Indiana that Sec. 2-346 is hereby created in the Michigan City Municipal Code and shall read as follows:

**Sec. 2-346. Adopting the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)/Public-Private Agreement
Procurement Method & Formation of the RFP Committee**

- A. Adoption of Statutory BOT Procedure. The City hereby adopts the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) procurement method as set forth in I.C. 5-23 et seq as the same may be amended.
- B. Formation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) Advisory Committee. A City Board or Commission having statutory authority to enter into a contract shall establish a request for proposals (RFP) advisory committee if they desire to use the BOT procurement method. Said advisory committee shall follow the statutory procedures set I.C 5-23 et seq., as the same may be amended, in reviewing and evaluating the proposals and making recommendations to the respective City Board or Commission.

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

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Nancy Moldenhauer, Member
Michigan City Common Council

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

President Tillman asked the public if they had any questions or comments.

President Tillman advised Paul Przybylinski 1716 Washington Street that there was a vote to have second and third reading prior to the Clerk reading the proposed ordinance on third reading by title only.

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

President Tillman asked if the Council had any questions or comments.

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, second by Councilwoman Moldenhauer, the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, and Dabney (9) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.
**AMENDING SEC. 102-1 IN THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO
COMMONLY KNOWN "REMOVAL OF WEEDS, GRASS, AND
RANK VEGETATION"**

Introduced by: Nancy Moldenhauer

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

Councilwoman Moldenhauer advised that she is not the author of this proposed ordinance but the sponsor of it; stating that Mike Wolff, City Forester is present to answer any questions that she was unable to answer at our last council meeting.

Mike Wolff, City Forester and co-author of this proposed amendment, stated that his group researched surrounding municipalities from South Bend to East Chicago regarding the number of abatement days a resident has to appeal a violation.

Mr. Wolfe addressed the Council and general public advising that an "abatement period" is the time frame the resident has to cut the grass, file an appeal, take care of their lawn or address what the violation is, prior to the city having to step in.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Coulter and City Forester Mike Wolff regarding the number of abatement days is required in surrounding communities, with the five (5) day abatement being the most common used.

Mr. Wolfe advised Councilman Przybylinski that Hammond has a ten (10) day abatement period, Valparaiso has a seven (7) day abatement, Merrillville has a three (3) day abatement and South Bend having forty-eight (48) hours.

President Tillman asked if the Council had any more questions for Mr. Wolfe, there was no response.

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

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street, advised the ten (10) abatement period has been in the city code (ordinance) since 2014 and a notice of the violation be sent in the U.S. mail, not a flyer in a resident's door.

Mr. Przybylinski stated several reasons why he believes that the number of abatement days shouldn't be changed: asking for a workshop to be scheduled.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, stated that he feels five (5) days is a reasonable period for an abatement, that the number of days need to be clarified (business/weekends, holidays, etc.), if leaving a flyer of the violation on the door it should stick to the door or window

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

Discussion ensued between President Tillman, Council Attorney Snow and Council members Przybylinski and Bietry, regarding an amendment that needed a motion and a second to move forward on the vote, a motion Councilman Nelson had made to have second and third reading this evening and was second by President Tillman and Councilman Przybylinski called a point of order that he planned on proposing an amendment this evening asking if the vote on Councilman Nelson's amendment needed to be voted on before he makes his amendment.

Attorney Snow explained the procedure to follow regarding this being a proposed amended ordinance and making a motion to amend this ordinance on second reading and then you can discuss the amendment during comments before taking the vote, to start over Councilman Nelson could withdraw his motion to have second and third reading this evening.

Councilman Nelson withdrew his motion to have second and third reading this evening, President Tillman second his motion.

Councilman Przybylinski advised that there is a copy of the amendment he is proposing in front of each council member; advising what he is proposing is to change the abatement days from ten (10) to (7) consecutive days; explaining why he is making this amendment

President Tillman questioned Councilman Przybylinski about the fourth "Whereas" that states the following in red "Exhibit A"), however, the Common Council believes that (7) days is a reasonable amount of time to abate a nuisance while still providing a landowner additional time to file any appeal; and

Attorney Snow advised Exhibit "A" is a recommendation letter received from Mike Wolff, City Forrester supporting what is being proposed.

President Tillman stated that she is process server and a Special Deputy Sheriff of LaPorte County and serve papers, advising the language in this proposed ordinance is pertinent that the word "consecutive" is in this document that the language should be clear regarding what is being required.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that in this proposed ordinance it doesn't state "consecutive" and agrees with President Tillman that it needs to be clearer regarding the time frame/language; making a motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance until the next Council meeting on April 1, 2025, second by Councilman Dr. Kora, the motion carried and was approved to TABLE the proposed ordinance on second reading until the April 1, 2025 Council meeting by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney and Dr. Kora (6) **NAYS:** Council member Nelson, Bietry, Coulter (3).

Councilman Dabney stated that if President Tillman wanted to make an amendment to this proposed ordinance, she can do that this evening.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer advised that "consecutive days" needs to be inserted to this document to make sure the requirements are clear to the homeowner when receiving a violation.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE
 OPIOID RESTRICTED FUND TO ESTABLISH AN OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS
 GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARD MICHIGAN CITY
 INITIATIVES AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS**

Introduced by: Dr. Vidya Kora
 Don Przybylinski

**(DECREASE 2257.000 Unappropriated balance \$175,000.00. INCREASE
 ACCOUNT # 2257.000.439.090 \$175,000.00 Other Services & Charges
 Other Contractual Services)**

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

Councilman Dr. Kora advised that at the last council meeting we approved a resolution on how we are going to distribute these funds; stating this additional appropriation for \$175,000 when adopted lets us distribute that money from the opioid settlement funds to various agencies

President Tillman stated that there will be a formal public hearing this evening, (repeating three times), "Is there anyone from the public that wished to speak on this proposed ordinance"

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, questioned why this public hearing wasn't done on first reading; Attorney Snow explained the procedure to Mr. Meland, that having the formal public hearing on second reading gives the Clerk Office time to advertise the hearing in the local new paper.

President Tillman asked (repeating three time), if there were any other comments from the public regarding this ordinance", there was no response, and the formal public hearing was closed.

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

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to suspend the rules to have third reading on the proposed ordinance, second by Councilwoman Lee, the motion carried to have second and third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora and Lee (9) **NAYS:** Council member none (0).

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

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4760

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE
OPIOID RESTRICTED FUND TO ESTABLISH AN OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS
GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARD MICHIGAN
CITY INITIATIVES AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS

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 utilize monies in the Opioid Restricted Fund to establish an opioid settlement funds grant program, which will be known as the Restoring Communities Grant, to provide financial support toward Michigan City initiatives aimed at addressing the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the Opioid Restricted Fund #2257 to be appropriate 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:

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROPRIATED
DECREASE 2257.000		
Unappropriated balance	\$175,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2257.000.439.090		\$175,000.00
Other Services & Charges Other Contractual Services		
TOTAL FOR FUND	\$175,000.00	

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/ Dr.Vidya Kora, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Tillman asked if there were any 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.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer (9) **NAYS:** Council member none (0).

NEW BUSINESS

FYI: The Council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Scholarship Review Committee – Incumbent Aaliyah King – term expires May 1, 2025

Clerk Neulieb advised Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council of her new appointments of William Espar and Dee Haddad to the Michigan City Historic Preservation Commission term beginning immediately and expiring March 15, 2028; and the re-appointment of Anthony Hicks – term will begin immediately and expire March 15, 2028.

President Tillman stated Mayor Angie is asking the advice and consent of the members of the Common Council her appointment of William Espar and Dee Haddad to the Michigan City Historic Preservation Commission and the re-appointment of Anthony Hicks to this commission and was approved with the vote of 9 – 0.

Clerk Neulieb advised Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Common Council regarding her re-appointment of Dan Messina and the re-appointment of Bruce Manner to the Port Authority Commission.

President Tillman stated Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent from the members of the Michigan City Common Council for her re-appointment of Dan Messina and Bruce Manner to the Port Authority Commission and was approved with the vote of 9 – 0.

Clerk Neulieb advised Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding her re-appointments of Dale Cooper, John Ryszka and Janet Block to the Michigan City Public Art Committee.

President Tillman stated Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council for her re-appointments of Dale Cooper, John Ryszka and Janet Block to the Michigan City Public Art Committee with the vote of 9 – 0.

Clerk Neulieb advised Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council for her appointment of Kameesha Williams replacing Diana Gore to the Human Rights Commission

President Tillman stated Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Common Council for her appointment of Kameesha Williams replacing Diana Gore to the Human Rights Commission with the vote of 9 - 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Clerk Neulieb stated the council has one (1) appointment to the Community Enrichment Corporation – Incumbent Stasi Benning term expires March 31, 2025.

Stasi Benning's was the only nomination received at the March 4, 2025 Council meeting.

President Tillman stated their will a vote being taken this evening to re-appoint Ms. Stasi Benning's to Community Enrichment Corporation; congratulating Ms. Benning on her re-appointment with the verbal vote of 9 – 0.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Walter Johns, 102 Garretson Avenue, addressed the council stating his concerns with the littering on Franklin Street.

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street, addressed the council thanking Councilman Przybylinski and the council for tabling the proposed ordinance this evening regarding weeds and grass.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, addressed the council stating his concern with the municipal calendar on the current website that meeting dates and times are not accurate, asking who is responsible to maintain the calendar and also commented on the comments made regarding litter that he feels that more signs could do the opposite of what they are intended to help prevent.

John Alberton, 1111 Cedar Street, Event Coordinator at Barker Mansion, thanked the council members for their personal sacrifice to serve the community.

Kathy Stansky, 223 E. Barker Ave. stated a homeowner receiving a violation from the city should be sent a "certified letter" so the homeowner has to sign that they received what is required of them and the timeframe.

Ernie Holland, 302 Gladys Street, stated several concerns our city has regarding affordable housing, asking why the city demolishes homes that can be rehabilitated and kept on the tax roll.

President Tillman asked Gerald Mitchell, 1107 North Roeske Trail, that she would follow up after this meeting regarding who is responsible for lawn maintenance at a rental property; the landlord or tenant.

Stasi Benning (Zoom) thanked the council for their support with her re-appointment to the Enrichment Corporation; reminding them that the Award Ceremony is Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Blue Chip Casino ballroom at 5:30 p.m.

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.

Councilman Przybylinski congratulated Stasi Benning on her re-appointment to the Enrichment Corporation; stated several concerns regarding violation notices being left between residents door; advising the public there will be a flyer in their water/sanitation bill this month explaining compost pickups, the 2025 schedule for spring clean-up, the number of cans for compost which is four and will have to have secured lids and that the Sanitation Department does **NOT** sell yard waste containers and reminded everyone not to put garbage in the "recycle totes" it will not be picked up if there is. Announcing that Spring Cleanup starts April 7, 2025.

Councilman Przybylinski thanked the MCPD and Homeland Security for shutting down the two (2) massage parlors on Franklin Street.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer invited the public to join the presentation on "Michigan City Tree Inventory", presented by Michigan City Tree Board with City Forester Mike Wolfe, Thursday, April 3, 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 attend the 4th Annual Earth Month Extravaganza on Saturday, April 26, 2025, starting at 10:30 a.m. with beach clean-up from 12:00- 3:00 p.m. will hold an electric vehicle showcase, tree giveaways, guided hikes, information, games and crafts. This event will be co-presented with the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department and the Michigan City Tree Board.

Councilwoman Lee updated the public regarding issues that are currently happening at the state level reducing federal funding in the Department of Public Education and will impact our students if this happens.

Councilman Bietry commented on FYI under New Business on this evening's agenda; Aaliyah King's term expiring to the Promise Scholarship Committee on May 1, 2025, reminding her that if she is listening that she needs to complete another application to continue on this board.

President Tillman reminded the public of the next "Town Hall" meeting on March 31, 2025 at the Hope Center, 222 McClelland Avenue at 5:30 p.m.

President Tillman stated on April 1, 2025 council meeting agenda there will be a presentation Mikki Webb regarding the proposed "Certified Recovery Residence Facility".

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 9:00 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=jL2L-DeXCLw&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bgw-rohSfvSUA8dwegr6st>



Tracie Tillman, President



Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk