



## MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BOULEVARD  
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360  
219-873-1570

### Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Members

Mike Neulieb, President (Fire Dept. appointment; 1/15/2025 - 10/31/2028)

Fred Adrian, Vice President (Mayoral appointment; 1/2/2024 - 1/1/2028)

Douglas Biege, Secretary/Treasurer (Mayoral appointment; 12/20/2022 - 11/1/2026)

Greg Deutscher, Commissioner (Fire Dept. appointment; 1/15/2025 - 12/31/2028)

William Espar, Commissioner (Council appointment; 5/21/2024 - 12/31/2026)

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm. All in attendance were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance were President Neulieb, Vice President Adrian, Secretary Biege, and Commissioner Deutscher. Commissioner Espar was absent. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Barrett Taylor, Deputy Chief Shannon Borders, Union President Chris Zibutis, and Commission Attorney Cory Shoffner.

**Approval of Minutes-** A motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting was made by Secretary Biege and was seconded by Commissioner Deutscher. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Communications and Claims-** No report.

**Report from City Council Representative-** No report.

**Report from Commission Attorney-** No report.

**Report from Fire Chief Barrett Taylor-**

The call reports for June are as follows:

- 18 fires
- 313 rescues/medical calls
- 20 hazardous condition calls
- 8 service calls
- 42 good intent calls
- 44 false alarms
- 1 severe weather

- 2 special incidents
- Narcan was used 8 times throughout June.
- At the time of this report, the total year to date was 2,490 calls- in 2024 it was 2,431 calls, 59 more than this time last year.

**July Department Anniversaries:**

- Captain John Mellen – 31 years
- Fire Chief Barrett Taylor – 22 years
- Lieutenant Christian Bietry – 16 years
- Training Officer Will Sonntag – 10 years
- Captain Jenna Tepavcevic – 10 years
- Lieutenant Nick Pabon – 10 years
- Driver/Operator – 8 years
- Probationary Firefighter Josiah Griffin – 1 year

Chief Taylor states that, barring any unforeseen circumstances, he would like to ask for PFF Griffin's promotion to Firefighter beginning on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. A motion to remove Josiah Griffin from probation was made by Secretary Biege and was seconded by Commissioner Deutscher. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Following this, Chief Taylor stated that, effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, Driver/Operator Dwayne Brown had resigned from his position with the Michigan City Fire Department; because of this, Chief Taylor asked for the next name on the promotional list. A motion to promote Christopher Gaines from Firefighter to Driver/Operator was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 4-0.**

As of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, Captain Chris Kosakowski had retired from the MCFD. Chief Taylor asked for the next name on the promotional list for captain and every promotional role thereafter. A motion to promote Jacob Irvin to Captain was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 4-0.**

A motion to promote Joe Guncheon from Driver/Operator to Lieutenant was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 4-0.**

A motion to promote Randall Hallett from Firefighter to Driver/Operator was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 4-0.**

As of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Battalion Chief Howard Fuller will retire with 41 years of service with the Michigan City Fire Department. Due to this, Chief Taylor asked for the next name on the promotional list for assistant chief. A motion to promote John Mellen to Assistant Chief was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 4-0.**

A motion to promote Frank Rebac from Lieutenant to Captain was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Chief Taylor stated that one of the individuals that originally intended to work for MCFD had decided to pursue a career elsewhere and withdrew their letter of intent.

**Report from Union Local 475-** Union President Zibutis reminded those present that the Union golf outing is coming up soon.

**Old Business-** No report.

**New Business-** President Neulieb stated that the current hiring list has now been completely exhausted; an application closing date will be decided on and posted soon. Discussion regarding the dates for the written and physical agility tests ensues. A motion was made by Secretary Biege to set up the written test, physical agility test, and interviews on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deutscher. **Motion carried 4-0.**

The last day to turn in applications will be August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Public Comment-** Brief discussion ensues regarding several opening slots on the commission.

**Commission Comment-** No comment.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Deutscher at 5:22pm. The motion was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:00pm.

APPROVED BY: *Fred H. Adrian*  
ON: *8/6/25*