

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

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, March 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 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, February 18, 2025.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular “Hybrid/Zoom” meeting minutes held on February 18, 2025, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried, and the Regular February 18, 2025, Council meeting minutes were approved by the following verbal vote 9 – 0.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Angie presented the State of the City

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

Mayor Angie introduced Wendy Vachet, the new Director of Public Works, as she will be assisting in moving the city departments forward cohesively to make sure we are following standard operating procedures.

Councilman Dr. Kora stated he is happy to see a lot of positive changes in Michigan City along with the new development in housing, thanking the city staff for their hard work and dedication.

Councilman Dr. Kora stated his concerns regarding healthcare reductions, that there is a bill the state is proposing cutting \$800 billion dollars over ten (10) years.

Councilman Bietry commended Mayor Angie on doing a great job on the State of the City address by showing progress happening, but also informing the community on the challenges the city still faces moving forward.

Councilman Przybylinski thanked Mayor Angie for doing a great job on presenting the State of the City and taking the city in a positive direction.

Councilman Przybylinski thanked MCPD Chief Corley and his staff for providing a safe community with a 17% decrease in crime in one (1) year.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer congratulated Mayor Angie on her successful first year and is looking forward to a productive second year; thanked Chris Carter and the Refuse department for putting forth their best effort despite the obstacles they faced; thanked Mayor for the team aspect of all city departments coming together to take care of whatever needs to be done.

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 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.; a quorum was present; stating the following Michigan City Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for March 4, 2025 was as follows; Riverboat fund #2235 was \$171,679.89 paying the Indiana Department of Transportation for the repayment of the CCMG 2023-2 advising the amount that previously submitted was higher than what was needed so this amount left will be returned; Riverboat EFT fund #2235 was zero funds; Boyd Development Fund #2504 zero funds; with the total claims being \$171,679.89.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to approve the Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for March 4, 2025, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried, and the Riverboat / Boyd Claim Docket for March 4, 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 4, 2025, \$474,845.68 and Rainy-Day Fund #2336 - \$1,848,763.71 grand total ending balance – \$ 2,323,609.39.

Councilwoman Tillman stated that she had the opportunity to review the “2025 Model Annual Spending Plan” regarding the finances for the Redevelopment Commission and how those funds are being used; explaining to the public this information has been shared through workshops and the Redevelopment Committee meetings and can be obtained from the Controller’s Office

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Councilman Przybylinski, liaison to the Michigan City Art Commission reported on their recent meeting advising that a statue will be placed at Striebel Pond and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled this spring at Pullman Skate Park.

Councilman Przybylinski, liaison of the Human Rights Commission, recognized the following winners of the Black History Contest

;

- Poster’s (K-2 Grade) – 1st place- Quinn Williams -Renaissance Academy, 2nd place Reyna Corley- Edgewood Elementary, and 3rd Place- Hazel Gouge – Renaissance Academy.
- Posters (3-4 Grade) 1st Place- Adelynn Johnson- Renaissance Academy, 2nd Place-Amira Simmions- Edgewood, 3rd Place Samiyah Tyler- Edgewood Elementary.
- Poster (5-6 Grade)- 1st Place - Julia Wallen- Renaissance Academy, 2nd Place- Jonah Haverstock- Renaissance Academy, 3rd Place Hadley King-Renaissance Academy.

- Poetry/ Essay's (7-8 Grade)-1st Place- Aaliyah Kelly- Barker Middle School, 2nd Place Gayala Jackson- Barker Middle School, 3rd Place Tristan Pyzia.
- Poetry/Essay (9-10 Grade)- 1st Place Raylynn Corley-Michigan City High School, no second or third place entrances.
- Poetry/Essay (11-12 Grade) 1st Place-Emilio Munoz- Michigan City High School, 2nd Place-Rayden Melendez- Michigan City High School, no third place.

Councilman Przybylinski thanked the Human Rights Committee for donating \$200.00 toward the "All-Inclusive Playground" that is being developed in Fedders Alley.

Ron Miller, Community Enrichment Corporation presented their 2025 annual report regarding the nonprofit organizations that will be receiving funds this year.

Ron Miller invited the council to attend the Community Enrichment Banquet at the Blue Chip Casino on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Councilman Dr. Kora and Councilman Przybylinski thanked Mr. Miller, President of the Enrichment Corporation and his committee for their dedication and hard work.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL or SELECT COMMITTEES

President Tillman asked if there were any reports of special or select committees.

Dakota Euler, 718 Emma Street, a member of the Urban Enterprise Association, announced that they launched the 2025 grant cycle on March 1, 2025 for the Michigan City Enterprise Association that is designed to support local businesses and homeowners who reside within the Michigan City Urban Enterprise zone.

Mr. Euler advised President Tillman that they (the committee) are considering expanding the urban enterprise zone area and it is being discussed between the legal department and representatives of the UEZ.

Councilman Dabney advised the council that he will be sending an email out to the Boards and Commissions who have not provided the council with their 2024/2025 annual reports.

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.

MCFD Chief Taylor addressed the council stating he will send the council their three (3) year annual stat report; stating that their (MCFD) Narcan monthly report is strictly what the fire department has provided; and doesn't include the numbers that have been administered by EMS or Police.

Chief Taylor congratulated the first female Firefighter Janita Pasovich as she was recently promoted to the departments first woman "Captain".

Council Member Lee congratulated all the recent promotions at the Fire Department.

Ron Miller, President of the Enrichment Corporation addresses the Council regarding the re-appointment of Ms. Stasi Bennings to their board asking for the Council's support to re-appoint her to their board that she as an asset to their team.

Councilman Dabney advised Mr. Euler that the Urban Enterprise Association is required to present an annual report to the council; stating that he would be contacting them to schedule a date.

MCPD Chief Corley reported on their February stats for the police department.

Discussion ensued between Chief Corley and Council members Przybylinski, Tillman, and Dabney, regarding the MCPD Social Worker Jocelyn Colburn approaching the panhandling going on at different locations in our city limits: resources being offered and are not wanted; there is no law regarding what they are doing is illegal; the community giving them money is the problem; trespassing on private property can be reported by business; mostly mental health, addiction, and adult autism issues.

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. **ADOPTING THE PRINCIPLE TO GUIDE MICHIGAN CITY IN THE USE OF OPIOID LITIGATION FUNDS**

INTRODUCED BY: Dr. Vidya Kora
Don Przybylinski

Councilman Przybylinski reading the following resolution in its entirety.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 4953

ADOPTING THE PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE MICHIGAN CITY IN THE USE OF OPIOID LITIGATION FUNDS

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis has caused significant harm to the residents of Michigan City, Indiana, and the nation at large, resulting in loss of life, adverse health impacts, and substantial economic and social costs; and

WHEREAS, lawsuits brought by states, cities, and counties against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distributors, and pharmacies have resulted in settlements providing financial resources to address the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Common Council recognizes the unprecedented opportunity to utilize these settlement funds to invest in solutions to address the ongoing needs of individuals and families affected by opioid use; and

WHEREAS, the Council acknowledges the importance of adopting guiding principles to ensure the most effective and equitable use of opioid settlement funds.

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

1. The Michigan City Common Council hereby adopts the following guiding principles to direct the use of opioid litigation funds:
 - a. **Spend the Money to Save Lives.** Settlement funds shall be used to expand opioid programs and services, supplementing rather than replacing existing spending. These funds shall address the unmet needs of people who use drugs and shall not be diverted to fill budget gaps unrelated to the opioid epidemic.
 - b. **Use Evidence to Guide Spending.** Funding decisions shall be informed by evidence-based research and best practices, ensuring resources are directed toward programs proven to save lives, such as medication-assisted treatment, harm reduction services, and recovery support initiatives.
 - c. **Invest in Youth Prevention.** Settlement funds shall prioritize long-term investments in youth primary prevention programs to reduce the risk of substance use and its associated negative outcomes, including addiction, educational challenges, and employment difficulties.
 - d. **Focus on Racial Equity.** Funds shall be allocated to address disparities in access to treatment and recovery services among communities of color and populations disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis and historical inequities.
 - e. **Develop a Fair and Transparent Process for Decision-Making.** Decisions regarding the allocation of funds shall be guided by public health leaders, with active engagement from individuals and families with lived experience, as well as other community stakeholders. The process shall be transparent and inclusive to ensure accountability.
2. The Mayor shall establish or designate an oversight committee, which will include two council members, to monitor the allocation and use of opioid settlement funds, ensuring adherence to these principles and the effectiveness of funded programs.
3. A copy of this resolution shall be distributed to all relevant City departments, public health agencies, and community stakeholders involved in the administration and oversight of opioid settlement funds.

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/ Dr. Vidya Kora, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

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

Councilman Przybylinski commented on the usage of Narcan within our city; stating that he feels that there is a crisis within our city and is the main purpose of this resolution is to establish guidelines where we can spend this money in an effective manner to help prevent substance abuse.

Councilman Dr. Kora reported that overdoses of opioid have gone down in the last two (2) or three (3) years but is still high; stating that there is a big problem in our community that needs to be addressed, that since we have the money, he is glad it is being put to use.

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

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

Councilman Bietry commented on the proposed ordinance that will be on first reading this evening that we're going to consider asking for \$175,000 of restricted funds and both will be referred to a designated "Oversight Committee" with two (2) of them will be council members and was curious if this committee has been established; with Councilman Dr. Kora advising what she stated earlier that this committee hasn't been established to date.

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

ORDINANCES

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first 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 advised Airport Manager Jessica Ward was unable to attend tonight's meeting but will be present at the next council meeting on March 18, 2025; introducing Paul Schaefer from Butler, Fairman, and Seufert Engineering who explained the procedures/process of a BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) agreement.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Schaefer and Councilman Bietry regarding the BOT agreement, the advisory committee recommended in this document, who this committee will be driven by the airport staff or council members, Board of Aviation Commissioners would score the proposal received to this project.

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

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

Mr. Schaefer advised Councilman Przybylinski that when the city goes out for bids, the contractor will be scored and chosen by their qualifications and what previous projects they have done like this project; when the project is complete it is transferred to the city.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer emphasized what Mr. Schaefer stated the Aviation Board will not have to go with the lowest bidder; advising that she thinks that is the primary reason for this proposed ordinance is to actually vote this in as a process; and that there is no request for funds from the city for this particular ordinance.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated she is the liaison for the Sustainability Commission and is excited about the opportunity to have green jet fuel available for sale at our airport.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the council, there was no response; stating that this proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at our March 18, 2025 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first 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 Mike Wolf, City Forester was unable to attend our meeting this evening; and hopefully she will be able to communicate the reasons for the proposed amendments; stating the focus of these amendments is to reduce notification time from ten (10) day to five (5) days and is in an effort to streamline our city's citation and abatement process, that ten (10) days is way too long to expect action from a property owner if dealing with something that is overgrown already.

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

Paul Przybylinski 1716 Washington addressed the council regarding points of interest in this ordinance being proposed to streamline the process from ten (10) days to five (5) days; stating several reasons why this should not be amended; asking to schedule a workshop.

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladys Street, agreed with Mr. Paul Przybylinski's comments asking the council not to amend the proposed ordinance to five (5) days.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place recommended that it should be changed to a three (3) day period as is common in many surrounding municipalities.

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

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

Councilwoman Moldenhauer advised Councilman Przybylinski that she is solely sponsoring the five (5) days being proposed to appeal the violation to the Board of Public Works; that Mike Wolfe is the author and will attend the March 18, 2025 Council meeting to address his question and that the amendment does read as "consecutive" days.

Councilman Coulter advised that once a property/resident's grass is over six (6) inches, they are in violation already so adding more time just seems more onerous.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the council, there was no response; stating that this proposed ordinance will be held over to the next council meeting on March 18, 2025.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first 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 stated that we have talked about the guidelines in the resolution that has to be followed and now this proposed ordinance is for appropriating the funds; explaining where the funds came from and how this \$175,000 is going to help.

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, there was no response; stating that this proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at our March 18, 2025 Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Clerk Neulieb advised that there was no New Business this evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Applications received: Mike Vinson
Shauna Hill
Kameesha Williams
Stasi Benning

President Tillman asked (repeating three times) “Are there any nomination for the one (1) appointment to the Community Enrichment Corporation.” Councilman Przybylinski nominated Stasi Benning, second by Councilman Bietry.

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

President Tillman advised that the vote would take place at the March 18, 2025 council meeting.

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 he feels that the landlord/ tenant’s ordinance regarding landlords not being able to do their own repairs that was passed at least ten (10) years ago and is just now being enforced does not benefit the residents of the city due to the shortage of repairmen and contractors.

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street, addressed the council thanking the County Commissioners for upgrading the Franklin Street Bridge; suggesting the NIPSCO plant could be a balanced power system for the city’s power supply.

Richard Reth, representing “Sisters of the Holy Cross”, asked for information on the completion of the soil testing that was completed at 1675 E US Hwy. 20.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, addressed the council, congratulating Mayor Angie on a great State of the City Address; suggesting the city should be preparing for the loss of Federal funding that is being proposed; and that he agrees with Mr. Hollihan regarding the landlord/ tenant ordinance.

Dakota Euler, 718 Emma Street, invited the council and public to the St. Patrick Day Parade on Saturday, March 15th, 2025; that the "Real Housewives of LaPorte County" will be collecting can goods for the food banks in Northwest Indiana again this year.

Drew White, ALCO, reminded everyone that Michigan City High School will be hosting the ISHA 4A boys' basketball state tournament sectionals at our high school, and semi-state inviting the public to the Wolves vs. Slicers game this Friday at 5:30.

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 requested that City Controller Marylynn Wall forward a finance report quarterly to the council; wished TaTanesha George, Human Rights Director good luck on her future endeavors, thanked Chris Carter Refuse Superintendent for going above and beyond his duties for keeping our community clean; congratulated Aaron Bass the recipient of the Chris Smith Award; Captain Kevin Urbanczyk for twenty (20) years of service and Captain Tim Baker for thirty (3) years of service, along with the recent retirement of fireman Andrew Knouse MCFD with 30 years of service to our community.

Councilman Coulter stated the Park Department and the "Trail Creek Water Shed Partnership" is working with the "Great Lakes Fishery Commission to host the showing of their recent movie "Fish Thieves" inviting the public to attend on Sunday, March 9, 2025, located at the Michigan City Senior Center at 12:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer invited the public to join the presentation on "Ready, Set, Go Native", presented by Save the Dunes Program Team, Thursday, March 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 stated that Northwest Indiana is the first in the country to be certified as a National Wildlife Federation Area

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.

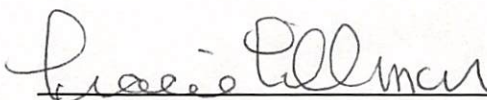
President Tillman reminded everyone about the upcoming workshop on March 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the EOC Room, City Hall regarding the "Certified Recovery Residence Facility".

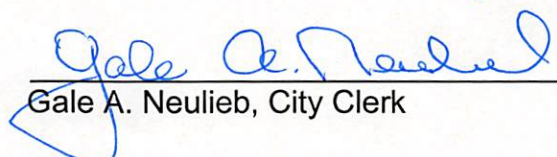
ADJOURNMENT

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 8:45 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=p6ujMr_g6Bg&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bqw-rohSfvSUA8dwegr6st&index=2


Tracie Tillman, President


Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk