

# **REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING December 2, 2025**

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, December 2, 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, Vidya Kora, Daisey Lee, Nancy Moldenhauer, Joseph Nelson, Don Przybylinski, and Tracie Tillman (9).

**ABSENT:** COUNCIL MEMBER None (0)

## **A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT**

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Council Attorney Nick Snow, City Clerk Gale Neulieb, and City Deputy Clerk Amanda Pickens

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Tillman asked for a motion to approve the November 18, 2025, Regular Council (Hybrid/Zoom) meeting minutes, and the Executive Session minutes from November 13, 2025.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the November 18, 2025, Regular Council (Hybrid/Zoom) meeting minutes, and the Executive Session minutes from November 13, 2025, second by Councilwoman Moldenhauer; the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: AYES: Council members Dabney, Dr. Kora Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, and Coulter (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

President Tillman asked if there were any standing committee reports, there was no response.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

President Tillman state the Finance Committee did meet this evening December 2, 2025 and there was a quorum; stating the December 2, 2025: Riverboat fund #2235 claims were \$7,053.93, paying LaPorte Chrysler Inc. Riverboat EFT fund #2235 was zero (0); Rainy Day fund #2236 was \$4,200.00 paying AQUALAB Water Treatment, Inc. and Boyd Development fund #2504 was zero (0) with the total claims being \$11,253.93

Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the December 2, 2025, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$11,253.93, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and the December 2, 2025, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$11,253.93 was approved by the following vote: AYES: Council members Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, and Dabney (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

President Tillman advised the statement of cash position for December 2, 2025, Riverboat Fund #2235 was \$4,986,953.74, Rainy-Day Fund #2236 was \$1,430,137.92 with the fiscal grand total ending balance on December 2, 2025, was \$6,417,091.66.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

Councilman Dabney, Labor Relations Chair read the following report:

How are we in the place we are today regarding budgets and labor negotiations?

Regarding city budgets and labor contract negotiations, there have been significant changes due to funding decreases from the state, riverboat, and Public Safety LIT (Local income taxes), while dealing with increased operational costs like city employee insurance, salaries, and equipment costs. We will see significant decreases in property tax funds from the state due to property tax caps, and again from lost riverboat funds. For example, at one point, we received as much as \$20 million from the riverboat and now we see amounts as low as \$8-\$9 million. In the past, we have been able to cover shortages by increasing the amount of the yearly riverboat transfer into the proper accounts to balance the budget, but now due to the decreasing amounts of riverboat funds we are unable to do this. PUBLIC SAFETY LIT TAX DOLLARS - A couple of years back the county passed a ½ of a percent increase in the local income tax. Those funds were used to increase the salaries of both our fire and police departments to meet and even exceed other municipalities' pay to their police and fire departments. When LIT was disbursed we received approximately \$4.2 million dollars to pay for those salary increases. When the salaries were increased, that also increased retirement payments and longevity payments due to things being calculated using higher base salaries. Now, without the city being aware when the LIT was passed, the state has sunset those LIT funds, and we will lose that \$4.2 million dollars used to fund those raises. The city is now left to make up that \$4.2 million, but even if the city does its own Local Income Tax passage, we will not be able to make up that full amount because that was passed using the whole county's income taxes rather than just income taxes for Michigan City. We have to somehow account for these cost increases and funding decreases. For this year's budget the mayor has passed a 2% raise for ALL CITY EMPLOYEES, and after the budget was submitted, there was only a \$22,000 difference with revenues over expenses. With that scenario, all dollar increases would need to be offset by cuts in other parts of the police and fire budgets. This year has been one of the first real negotiations in my ten years as a council member; meaning each side has been asked to give up something to get something in return. This give and take is being forced on us due to losses in certain funding, and huge increases in cost of things like insurance, proposed increases in salaries, and equipment to run the city. THE NEGOTIATIONS - Since labor negotiations are done in public hearings, I can supply this information to the public. In this year's negotiations the city stated it can afford a 2% raise in conjunction with some concessions from the fire and police. The city has asked for things in return like making a full-time working spouse of a fire employee or a police employee use their employee insurance from their jobs first and then use the city's insurance as secondary insurance. That was initially turned down by the unions, but the mayor then decided to eliminate that as an ask from the city. There are other language changes to consider in the contracts, but the biggest sticking point has been where the city is asking for retired police or fire to pay a 50/50 split of the cost of their retired insurance. To make it easy, think of retired insurance like Cobra that you would have to pay if you left your job in order to continue on your employer's insurance plan. Usually, an employee who leaves a job is responsible for all of their cobra insurance premium payments, but as of now the city is paying two thirds of that cost and the former city employee pays only one third of that cost. Again, the city is asking to go to a 50/50 split of that cost. For the public's sake, from 2020 through the current budget we are working with now, the police and fire wages have made some much-needed increases. These have been increases that this council and the previous council have approved UNANIMOUSLY. Police 2021-2022 Average 11.33% 2022-2023 Average 6.74% 2023-2024 Average 13.42% 2024-2025 0% 2025-2026 Offered 2%, match rest of city Fire 2021-2022 Average 14.24% 2022-

2023 Average 2.0% 2023-2024 Average 13.26% 2024-2025 0% 2025-2026 Offered 2%, match rest of city We as a committee stated that when we made our last proposal to the unions, that it was a take-it or leave-it deal. At this current time, all the terms both ways were not accepted. So currently each department will revert to their contracts of last year. This negotiation is not over. We can continue to negotiate terms, but as of now, this is where we stand. I did not write this to pick up a fight with our police and fire departments. I have always told them personally during past negotiations that I will try to give them as much as possible without sacrificing the city budget and other department's budgets. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances regarding funding and increased costs, this is where we stand as of now.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that the Human Rights Commission is having a Holiday Paint & Sip event \$35.00 a person on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at Fiddlehead Restaurant, 422 N. Franklin Street starting at 5:00 p.m. with the proceeds going in the scholarship fund that will be happening during Black History month.

President Tillman asked if there were any other Board and Commission reports, there was no response.

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL or SELECT COMMITTEES**

President Tillman asked if there were any reports from Special or Select committee reports, 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.

Christopher Johnsen, Department of Water Works – Superintendent

- Department of Water Works Bonding Plan Presentation
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**NOTE: A copy of this presentation is filed in the Clerk's office in "2025 Council Matters"**

Discussion ensued between Mr. Johnsen and Council members Przybylinski and Bietry regarding the Water Department putting this presentation on their website or the City's webpage, the proposed resolution to be brought before the council at their next meeting, what the timeframe and process moving forward is to receive approval from the IURC.

President Tillman thanked Mr. Johnsen for his presentation.

MCFD Chief Taylor reported on the November stats.

MCFD Chief Taylor and Asst. Chief Border presented awards - Exceptional Effort and Teamwork – Water Rescue- 100 Water Street.

On behalf of the MCFD, we wish to formally recognize the outstanding professionalism, composure, and teamwork demonstrated during the water rescue operations at 100 Water Street, following a report of vehicle submerged in the water.

Upon notification, MCFD units, including Engine 1, Engine 2, Ladder 1, and Car 10 responded immediately and arrived on scene with all rapid rescue and support equipment. Crews were directed by an on-scene with all rapid rescue and support equipment. Crews were directed by an on-scene civilian to the point of entry. At the water's edge, a local boat owner, Mr. Michael Simmins, selflessly offered the use of his boat, allowing rescuers to reach the scene quickly and operate efficiently. His willingness to assist exemplifies the highest form of community partnership and courage.

MCFD diver Randall Hallett entered the water first, followed by MCPD diver Michael Oberle and MCFD divers Andrew Cass and Christopher Blake, all operating in zero visibility and extreme conditions. Guided by Engine 1 who identified bubbles from the submerged vehicles, the divers began their search, breaking through windows to access the interior and locate victims. Their coordination, focus, and urgency were exceptional.

MCFD Diver/Operator Brian Gonzalez entered the water, tethered and wearing a personal floatation device, to assist in moving the first victim to the back of the boat. Working seamlessly together with Engine 1 and Ladder 1 crews the victims were lifted onto the dive platform, secured in a stoke basket, and transferred to waiting MCFD, LCEMS, and MCPD personnel. The second was recovered with the same precision and teamwork. Both were transported-one by Medic 6, the other by Medic 4 within an extraordinary timeframe of less than 30 minutes from the vehicle entering the water.

Although the outcome was tragic, it is important to recognize that both victims regained pulses due to the rapid, coordinated, and professional response of everyone involved.

DNR divers subsequently conducted a secondary search of the vehicle and perimeter search around the vehicle and assisted with securing the vehicle for removal, MCFD and LCEMS crews remained on scene, providing lighting, logistical assistance, and continued support until the operation was complete.

This incident reflects the very best of what it means to serve-courage in the face of and community partnership save lives.

Your actions during this operation embody the highest tradition of the fire service. On behalf of the department and the community we serve, thank you for your professionalism, bravery, and dedication.

Respectfully,  
John Mellen  
Asst. Chief MCFD

The following were responding to personnel that received awards.

MCFD: Captain Tony Stahovia, Act. Captain Daniel Nona, Act. Lt. RJ Hooper, D/O diver Randall Hallett, D/O diver Christopher Blake, D/O Brian Gonzalez, D/O Austin Swistek, FF driver Andrew Cass, FF Ryan Stanley, PFF Kody Stroud, and PFF Alex Schmidt.

MCPD diver Sgt. Michael Oberle

LCEMS Paramedics Eric Wood, Brian Thorton and Hanah Covert, EMT's Jeff Turner, Heather VanSickle, and Landon West

Boat Owner Michael Simmons

DNR

MCPD

Coast Guard

Steve Forker presented the MCPD monthly stat report for November.

Discussion ensued between MCPD Chief Forker and Council members Przybylinski, Dabney, Moldenhauer, Lee, Bietry, and Kora congratulating the rescue team on the

water rescue, cost of the Flock system used in our community, where they are located and if the flock cameras calculate where shots are coming from, a deer incident that happened at Councilman Bietry' s home, thanking the MCPD for all they do, updating what is being done regarding homelessness, the Health and Safety Committee scheduled on December 11<sup>th</sup> regarding homelessness and what a great job Captain Ashley did when she took her 8<sup>th</sup> graders to the MCPD for a tour.

Kelly Smith, Chief Administrator in the Mayor's Office, addressed the Council outlining efforts underway regarding homelessness.

**Note: This presentation is filed in the Clerk's Office for review.**

**NOTE: A five (5) minute recess was taken.**

## **PETITIONS**

President Tillman called the meeting back in session, asking the Clerk if there were any petitions.

Clerk Neulieb read the following petition: advising that this petition was carried over at November 18, 2025, Council meeting asking Council Attorney Harris to report back in writing at December 2, 2025, Council meeting his findings.

### **FORMAL PETITION AND LEGAL OBJECTION TO ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (EID) DECLARATION (PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 36-7-22 ET SEQ. AND 6-1.1-11-4)**

President Tillman asked Counsel Attorney Snow to elaborate on this petition.

Attorney Snow reported that Counsel Attorney Harris is still considering at this point, stating" that he most recently made a request for some supplement documentation and is his understating that there will be a report forthcoming at some point between now and the next council meeting."

President Tillman asked for a motion to TABLE this matter until the next Council meeting on December 15, 2025.

Councilman Dr. Kora made a motion to carry this petition over to receive Counsel Attorney Harris's response regarding his investigation until the next council meeting on December 16, 2025, second by Councilman Nelson; the motion carried and was approved to carry this over until the next Council meeting on December 16, 2025 by the following vote: AYES: Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, and Dr. Kora (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

President Tillman asked if there was any correspondence received.

Clerk Neulieb read the following correspondence that was received:

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 26, 2025, from Rodney McCormick, regarding an incident that occurred on November 10, 2025.

A "Notice of Public Comment" (30-day period Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025) that was received in the Clerk's Office on November 24, 2025, from IDEM regarding a New Source Construction and Part 70 permit for Lavender Fields Holdings LLC.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 21, 2025, from Rodney McCormick, regarding concerns and solutions to parking in the Canada neighborhood.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 20, 2025, from INDOT regarding a Legal Notice of Planned Improvement Lead DES. #20000607.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 20, 2025, from Scott Meland regarding his concerns with the MCPD Flock Camera Systems.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 20, 2025, from City Controller May-Lynn Wall regarding the additional appropriation for the demolition of the Millennium Plaza Fountain from the Rainy-Day Fund.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 19, 2025, from Assistant Chief Cooney, regarding the MCPD October 2025 Stat Report.

A Notice of Tort Claim was received in the Clerk's Office on November 14, 2025, from Polansky & Cichon, CHTD.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on November 5, 2025, from Mayor Angie regarding allegations made against Economic Development and Use of City Funds.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Clerk Neulieb read the following resolution by title only. **A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND #2201 FOR THE YEAR 2025 IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

**Introduced by: Bryant Dabney**

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

Councilman Dabney stated this proposed resolution and the next two (2) to follow are processes within the fund/budget of the departments transferring funds from one line item to another.

President Tillman asked if there were any comments from the public on this resolution or the following two (2) resolutions.

Attorney Snow advised President Tillman that each resolution needs to be read for the record.

President Tillman asked the Clerk to read the following two (2) resolutions by title only.

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed resolutions by title only. **A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF CENTRAL MAINTENANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND #1101 FOR THE YEAR 2025 IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

**Introduced by: Bryant Dabney**

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

**Introduced by: Bryant Dabney**

President Tillman asked if the author had any comments at this time, there was no response.

President Tillman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public regarding any of the three (3) resolutions.

Dakota Euler, 718 Emma Street, commented on the mayor's payroll docket stating that he knows that there have been more events happening in the city and that the Special Event Department is in the mayor's budget and can understand why overtime was needed.

Mary Lynn Wall, City Controller, stated that it is pertinent that everyone knows that this isn't an increase in the mayor's budget; stating that it is that time of year when additional funds may need to be moved within a department's budget.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the public on any of these three (3) resolutions, there was no response

President Tillman asked if the council had any comments at this time regarding these three (3) resolutions.

Mary Lynn Wall advised Councilman Przybylinski where the funds were being transferred from for each department: **Motor Vehicle Highway Fund** – Decrease \$50,000 from Salaries and Wages; Increase \$50,000 to Repair and Maintenance Equipment. **Central Maintenance General Fund** – Decrease \$45,000 from Salaries and Wages; Increase \$10,000 to Operating Supplies Gasoline and Increase \$35,000 to Other Contractual Services. **Mayor General Fund** – Decrease \$6,000 from Other Comm. and Transportation; Increase \$6,000 to Salary and Wages Overtime.

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

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve the three (3) resolutions proposing transfers in each of these departments, second by Councilman Dr. Kora, the motion carried and all three resolutions were approved by the following vote: AYES: Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora and Lee (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

The following resolutions were approved 9 – 0.

## **RESOLUTION 4980**

### **A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND #2201 FOR THE YEAR 2025 IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

**WHEREAS**, there exist certain circumstances within the budget of Motor Vehicle Highway Fund #2201 of Michigan City which require increasing and decreasing appropriations for certain line items in that Fund for the year 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, La Porte County, Indiana, that:

Section 1. Because it is deemed advisable and necessary, in order to meet the circumstances facing the budget of Motor Vehicle Highway Fund of the City, the Common Council approves the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:

MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY FUND #2201.

DECREASE:	A/C #2201.000.411.013	
	Salaries and Wages	\$ 50,000.00
INCREASE:	A/C #2201.000.436.020	
	Repair and Maintenance Equipment	\$ 50,000.00

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

**INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Bryant Dabney, Member**

**RESOLUTION 4981**

**A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF CENTRAL MAINTENANCE OF THE GENERAL FUND #1101 FOR THE YEAR 2025 IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

**WHEREAS**, there exist certain circumstances within the budget of Central Maintenance of the General Fund #1101 of Michigan City which require increasing and decreasing appropriations for certain line items in that Fund for the year 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, La Porte County, Indiana, that:

Section 1. Because it is deemed advisable and necessary, in order to meet the circumstances facing the budget of Central Maintenance of the General Fund of the City, the Common Council approves the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:

CENTRAL MAINTENANCE GENERAL FUND #1101.

DECREASE:	A/C #1101.108.411.013	
	Salaries and Wages	\$ 45,000.00
INCREASE:	A/C #1101.108.422.021	
	Operating Supplies Gasoline	\$ 10,000.00
INCREASE	A/C #1101.108.439.090	
	Other Contractual Services	\$ 35,000.00

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

**INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Bryant Dabney, Member**

**RESOLUTION 4982**

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

**WHEREAS**, there exist certain circumstances within the budget of Mayor of the General Fund #1101 of Michigan City which require increasing and decreasing appropriations for certain line items in that Fund for the year 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, La Porte County, Indiana, that:

Section 1. Because it is deemed advisable and necessary, in order to meet the circumstances facing the budget of the Mayor of the General Fund of the City, the Common Council approves the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:

MAYOR GENERAL FUND #1101.

DECREASE: A/C #1101.103.432.050

Other Comm and Transportation \$ 6,000.00

INCREASE: A/C #1101.103.411.016

Salary and Wages Overtime \$ 6,000.00

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

**INTRODUCED BY:** /s/ Bryant Dabney, Member

**ORDINANCES**

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only. **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

**Introduced by:** Tracie Tillman

President Tillman advised that they are still in negotiations with everything and bargaining as Councilman Dabney stated earlier, that to move forward this proposed ordinance had to be read at this meeting on first reading; stating that they are open to negotiations and bargaining and hopefully will be able to come to a resolution by the next council meeting on December 16, 2025, that amendments then can be made and have third reading; advising that if we cannot come to an agreement to the future 2026 contract, that means that it will convert back to the 2025 contract for fire and police.

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

Chris Zibutis, MCFD Local #475 President, 161 Concord Drive, updated the council regarding the 2025 negotiations regarding how they have followed procedures from their contract, deadlines and ordinance that the city failed to meet, advising that they have twenty-nine (29) days until 2026 and still no raise or contract for 2026.

Daniel Nona, Highway 12, Michigan City firefighter addressed the council regarding statements they made about raises for the MCFD received in the last few years, advising that he wants the public to know that they partially funded a good part of those raises they were given were negotiating benefits that were amended and updated.

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 questions or comments.

Councilman Dabney commented on the timelines regarding when negotiations were

supposed to start and that maybe he should have scheduled a meeting to advise the negotiation team that they were still waiting for numbers to be received to be able to negotiate in good faith or we could have received their requests, explaining some of financial issues the city is facing in 2026, offering a 2% raise, but are asking for some concessions to be able to fund that.

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

**ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR THE MICHIGAN CITY POLICE  
DEPARTMENT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

**Introduced by: Tracie Tillman**

President Tillman advised that she has the same comments as she did regarding the proposed fire ordinance.

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

Chris Bartak, MCPD, Michigan City resident, asked to make a brief statement.

My name is Chris Bartak, and I'm an officer with the Michigan City Police Department. I'm also a member of the Michigan City Police Department, I'm a member of the Wage Committee of the FOP, Dunes Lodge No. 75; I'm here tonight as a member of the FOP Wage Committee to speak to the Council and the public a whole about some of the difficulties the wage committee has experienced this year when trying to communicate with the city. Tonight's statement will be brief; it will not delve into finer points of concerns and discuss specific numbers or percentage points; rather it's aimed at providing the public a general understanding of the city's current relationship with its police officers. To start off, for those who are unaware, there exists a contract between the Fraternal Order of Police, Dunes Lodge #75 and the Civil City of Michigan City, Indiana. The current contract went into effect January 1, 2025, and it remain in effect until expiration on December 31, 2025. What follows is a direct quote from the preamble of that contract; "It is mutually agreed that either party to this contract may notify the other in writing of their intention to open negotiations prior to April 1 of the year in which the contract expires, and that the first negotiation meeting between the parties to be held prior to April 15 of that same year. On March 31, the FOP Wage Committee notified the city of its intention to open negotiations for a 2026 collective bargaining agreement, Mr. Harris, attorney for the Michigan City Common Council, provided us with following response and please be advised that I am writing to you on behalf of my client, the Michigan City Common Council and its Labor Relations Committee; I am in receipt of your correspondence to the committee dated March 31, 2025, wherein you requested to open negotiations for the 2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement; while your eagerness to begin negotiations is understandable, neither the Council nor the administration can proceed with negotiations in good faith at this time. Also, it is simply too early to begin making projections for the 2026 budget. Any negotiations for that would take place now would be wildly speculative and would prove to be non-beneficial for both the city and the union. I suggest that we revisit this issue in mid-to-late summer so we can establish a negotiation schedule that will lead into the budget season. While the City's response was written with a respectful tone, it was nevertheless a blatant disregard for the schedule set forth in our contract and what could we, as the FOP as the wage committee, as police officers do in response. We communicated with the city per our contract, and the city responded by politely telling us that they no longer respect the contract that they agreed to and that they weren't going to honor it. What recourse do we have? The FOP doesn't have a fund set aside to hire an attorney to take civil action against the city for being in breach of contract and by the nature of working in emergency services, we don't have the opportunity to strike. So we do what we do best, we continue to serve and when late summer came, we once again communicated with the city about our desire to begin negotiations and that was in the beginning of August; and what was the city's response, you didn't sit down with us in person for our first negotiation meeting until October 30<sup>th</sup>.

President Tillman advised Officer Bartak that his allotted time has passed.

Officer Bartak stated that he only had one more paragraph to read, if I may.

Discussion ensued between Office Bartak and President Tillman regarding his allotted time had passed.

Steve Albano, 2924 Cleveland Avenue, read the following that Officer Bartak didn't finish reading

You didn't sit down with us in person for our first negotiation meeting and imagine our surprise when during our first meeting, you informed us that the 2026 budget has already been decided. The budget has been formulated makes sense given how late in the year it was, but how it doesn't make sense, and you refuse to negotiate with the city's police officers for six and half months and for that six and half months, you had to know that you were in violations of our contract. You're willing to treat us that way, I can only speculate you did that because you thought you could, you could violate our contract for reasons mentioned earlier and you know we wouldn't be able to do anything about it. We are here tonight to try to do something about it. We hope after tonight the public will better understand some challenges and difficulties the police officer that faced this year, not just knowing our community, but with the employer, the city itself and the firefighters. Police and fire departments thank the members of this community for their unyielding support over the years; it is not going unnoticed. We appreciate you and we hope you still stand with us again; we need your support more now than ever. Thank you.

Officer Bartak

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, advising that he was the only member of the public that attended those labor meetings and doesn't like seeing the animosity he witnessed between the council, police and fire; commenting on the 2% raise across the board stating some of his concerns regarding the negotiations with the fire.

Chris Zibutis, President of MCFD Local 475 commented on their attorney adjourning the meeting early or not, we were still only given an hour for each meeting; addressed the comments that Mr. Melland also made regarding the retirees having to pay 50% of their health insurance monthly; that they have asked twice to let them know how many retirees this would affect for both fire and police and never received an answer.

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

President Tillman asked if the Council had any questions or comments, there was no response; stating that this proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the December 16, 2025, Council meeting.

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

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR PAYMENT OF REMAINING SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

**Introduced by:** Tracie Tillman  
Bryant Dabney

President Tillman read the following proposed transfers for the record: **DECREASE** General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance \$300,000.00 **INCREASE** ACCOUNT#1101.201.411.013 \$100,000.00 Fire Dept Salary and Wages **INCREASE** ACCOUNT#1101.202.411.013 \$200,000.00 Police Dept Salary and Wages

President Tillman advised that there will be a formal public hearing this evening, and it was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on November 19, 2025

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing, asking (repeating three times) "if there was anyone from the public that wish to comment on this proposed ordinance." There was no response, and the formal public hearing was closed.

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

Councilman Przybylinski asked MCFD Chief Taylor and MCPD Chief Forker that when doing the monthly stat reports to please add the overtime for each month advising the council what their overtime was.

MCFD Chief Taylor addressed the council asking if they had any questions regarding the overtime for the fire department in 2025; explaining several reasons why there was overtime.

Councilman Dabney explained how this proposed ordinance is processed and that it is coming out of general fund #1101 not out of Riverboat, Rainy Day or the Boyd funds.

Councilman Bietry advised that this has nothing to do with the 2026 budget for the fire or police department; that this is money coming from the general fund going to both departments to cover their overtime for the rest of 2025.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated for the record that she really appreciates the services of everybody that's part of it and that she wasn't trying to indicate that there was something not correct; but the first year she was on the council she thought she was told that overtime should be going down; thanking Chief Taylor for his explanation.

President Tillman stated that prior to approving the 2025 budget we had workshops, public comments, the mayor addressed the community, the city, police and fire; indicating the mayor cut \$6.3 million from the 2025 budget, assuming that we would have to come back to the general fund #1101 and appropriate funds for some departments.

MCPD Chief Forker commented on the overtime the police department had this year which some of that overtime is out of the chief's control; advising there are funds that the department does get reimbursed from, such as grants, federal and county funding.

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

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
ORDINANCE NO. 4783**

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE  
GENERAL FUND FOR PAYMENT OF REMAINING SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF  
THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2025 Annual Budget to fund the remaining salaries and benefits of the police and fire departments.

**WHEREAS**, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the General Fund #1101 to be appropriated for that purpose.

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

	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>
DECREASE General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance	\$300,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT#1101.201.411.013 Fire Dept Salary and Wages		\$100,000.00
INCREASE ACCOUNT#1101.202.411.013 Police Dept Salary and Wages		\$200,000.00
<b>TOTAL FOR FUND</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	

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/ Tracie Tillman, President  
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

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

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

President Tillman asked if the Council had any comments.

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

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.  
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY LIT FUND FOR PAYMENT OF REMAINING SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

**Introduced by:** Tracie Tillman  
Bryant Dabney

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

President Tillman read the following transfers for the record: **DECREASE** Public safety Lit Fund #2240 Unappropriated balance \$300,000.00 **INCREASE** ACCOUNT#2240.201.411.013 \$100,000.00. Fire Dept Salary and Wages **INCREASE** ACCOUNT#2240.202.411.013 \$200,000.00 Police Dept Salary and Wages)

President Tillman advised that there will be a formal public hearing this evening, and it was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on November 19, 2025

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing (repeating three times) "if there was anyone from the public that wish to comment on this proposed ordinance." There was no response, and the formal public hearing was closed.

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

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

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
ORDINANCE NO. 4784**

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY LIT FUND FOR PAYMENT OF REMAINING SALARIES AND  
BENEFITS OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2025 Annual Budget to fund the remaining salaries and benefits of the police and fire departments.

**WHEREAS**, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the Public Safety Lit Fund #2240 to be appropriated for that purpose.

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

	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>
DECREASE Public safety Lit Fund #2240 Unappropriated balance	\$300,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT#2240.201.411.013 Fire Dept Salary and Wages		\$100,000.00
INCREASE ACCOUNT#2240.202.411.013 Police Dept Salary and Wages		\$200,000.00
<b>TOTAL FOR FUND</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	

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/ Tracie Tillman, President  
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

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

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

President Tillman advised Mr. Scott Meland that this proposed ordinance is for the fire and police departments overtime for the rest of 2025 and is coming from the LIT Fund in the amount of \$300,000.

Mr. Meland questioned if there is a total of \$600,000 needed for the overtime being proposed to cover the rest of 2025; President Tillman stated "yes" that is the total.

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

President Tillman asked if the council had anything to add.

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 Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski and Tillman (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.  
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE BOARD OF WORKS DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR UTILTIY EXPENSES**

**Introduced by: Tim Bietry  
Vidya Kora**

Councilman Dabney advised that this is another example of what we approved previously, that when the mayor proposed the 2025 budget, she anticipated what would be needed for telephones and utility lights, the city exceeded what was adopted for 2025 and this is why this appropriation is here this evening for \$120,000.

President Tillman read the following transfers from this proposed ordinance for the record. **DECREASE** General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance \$120,000.00 **INCREASE** ACCOUNT#1101.105.432.040 \$ 20,000.00 BOW Telephone **INCREASE** ACCOUNT#1101.105.435.060 \$100,000.00 BOW Utilities Street Lighting

President Tillman advised that there will be a formal public hearing this evening, and it was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on November 19, 2025

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing (repeating three times) "if there was anyone from the public that wish to comment on this proposed ordinance." There was no response, and the formal public hearing was closed.

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

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

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**ORDINANCE NO. 4785**

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE  
BOARD OF WORKS DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR UTILTIY  
EXPENSES**

**WHEREAS**, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2025 Annual Budget to fund the remaining monthly City utility bills, namely electric for street lighting and telephone expenses, in the Board of Works Budget.

**WHEREAS**, the Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the General Fund #1101 to be appropriated for that purpose.

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

	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>
DECREASE General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance	\$120,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT#1101.105.432.040 BOW Telephone		\$ 20,000.00
INCREASE ACCOUNT#1101.105.435.060 BOW Utilities Street Lighting		\$100,000.00
<b>TOTAL FOR FUND</b>	<b>\$120,000.00</b>	

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:** Tim Bietry, Member  
Vidya Kora, Member

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

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

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

Councilman Dabney 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 Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry and Coulter (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.  
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS**

**Introduced by:** Tim Bietry  
Vidya Kora

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

Councilman Kora stated that this appropriation for \$500,000 is due to unanticipated healthcare expenses with this covering that cost.

President Tillman read the following transfer for the record; **DECREASE** General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance \$500,000.00 **INCREASE ACCOUNT#1101.105.413.005** \$500,000.00 Employee Benefits Shared Health Insurance.

President Tillman advised that there will be a formal public hearing this evening, and it was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on November 19, 2025

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing (repeating three times) "if there was anyone from the public that wish to comment on this proposed ordinance."

Mary Lynn Wall City Controller advised that the administration is trying to manage our medical costs and is why we discussed the spousal carve-outs for our medical; stating that anyone who's got anyone that works in other industries and corporations and are offered health insurance they will have to receive their medical insurance through them, which is a very common practice.

President Tillman asked (repeating three times) "if there were any other comments from the public on this proposed ordinance." There was no response, closing the formal public hearing.

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

Councilman Bietry commented on this proposed ordinance being different than the previous ordinance approved explaining that this \$500,000 is dated November 12, 2025, advising what might happen regarding medical claims from that November date until the end of the year; stating that we need the city's co-pay to go up on behalf of the employees.

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

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**ORDINANCE NO. 4786**

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS**

**WHEREAS**, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2025 Annual Budget to fund medical claims remaining in 2025.

**WHEREAS**, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the General Fund #1101 to be appropriated for that purpose.

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

	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>
DECREASE General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance	\$500,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT#1101.105.413.005		\$500,000.00

## Employee Benefits Shared Health Insurance

**TOTAL FOR FUND****\$500,000.00**

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/ Tim Bietry, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Vida Kora, Member  
Michigan city Common Council

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

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

Mary Lynn Wall City Controller advised Scott Meland that there is an adequate cash balance in our general fund #1101 and that is why we can appropriate funds when needed within other departments for each appropriation in front of the council this evening.

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.

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

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

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR SALARIES AND WAGES**

**Introduced by:** Tim Bietry  
Vidya Kora

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

Councilman Bietry stated that the reason being is the administration restructured that department adding the number of employees prior to 2025.

President Tillman read the following transfer being proposed for the record:  
**DECREASE** General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance \$40,000.00 **INCREASE**  
ACCOUNT#1101.107.411.013 \$40,000.00 Human Resources Salaries.

President Tillman advised that there will be a formal public hearing this evening, and it was advised in the Herald Dispatch on November 19, 2025

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing (repeating three times) "if there was anyone from the public that wish to comment on this proposed ordinance." There was no response with the formal public hearing then closed.

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

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to suspend the rules to have third reading this evening, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried and was approved to have 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 members None (0)

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**ORDINANCE NO. 4787**

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR SALARIES AND WAGES**

**WHEREAS**, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2025 Annual Budget to fund the remaining salaries in the budget of the Personnel Department; and

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of a Memorandum of Understanding previously entered between the City and the Sanitary District for 2025, the City has received additional funding from the Sanitary District to support the additional staff added to the Personnel Department in 2025, and the Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the General Fund #1101 to be appropriated for that purpose.

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

	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>
DECREASE General Fund #1101 Unappropriated balance	\$40,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT#1101.107.411.013 Human Resources Salaries		\$ 40,000.00
<b>TOTAL FOR FUND</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	

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

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

/s/ Vida Kora, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

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

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

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

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman Dabney, the motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the

following vote: AYES: Council members Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee and Moldenhauer (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.  
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RAINY DAY FUND FOR PAYMENT OF DEMOLITION OF MILLENNIUM PLAZA FOUNTAIN**

**Introduced by: Bryant Dabney**

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

Councilman Dabney advised that at the last council meeting an explanation regarding this demolition was discussed in length why these funds were coming out the Rainy Fund instead of the Park Department Funds or the General Fund; adding that to repair and get this fountain running would have been approximately \$450,000.

President Tillman advised that there will be a formal public hearing this evening, and it was advised in the Herald Dispatch on November 19, 2025

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing (repeating three times) "if there was anyone from the public that wish to comment on this proposed ordinance."

Mary Lynn Wall City Controller advised the public that there is going to be additional memorial bricks space after the fountain is demolished.

President Tillman asked (repeating three times) "if there were any other public comments regarding this ordinance", there were no responses with the formal public hearing closed.

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

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
ORDINANCE NO. 4788**

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RAINY DAY FUND FOR PAYMENT OF DEMOLITION OF MILLENNIUM PLAZA FOUNTAIN**

**WHEREAS**, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2025 Annual Budget to fund the demolition of the millennium plaza fountain.

**WHEREAS**, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the Rainy Day Fund #2236 to be appropriated for that purpose.

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

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>APPROPRIATED</u>

DECREASE Rainy Day Fund #2236		
Unappropriated balance	\$160,400.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT#2236.502.439.090		\$160,400.00
Park Admin - Other Contractual Services		
<b>TOTAL FOR FUND</b>	<b>\$160,400.00</b>	

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/ Bryant Dabney, 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 if there were any questions or comments from the public, there was no response.

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

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

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.  
**CREATING SEC. 78-7 IN THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT SMOKING WITHIN (20) TWENTY FEET FROM THE PUBLIC ENTRANCEWAYS OF MICHIGAN CITY GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

Introduced by: Don Przybylinski  
Vidya Kora  
Greg Coulter  
Tim Bietry

**Note: This proposed ordinance was TABLED at the October 7, 2025, Council meeting until December 2, 2025, Council meeting**

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

Councilman Coulter made a motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance until the January 6, 2026 Council meeting, second by Councilman Dr. Kora, the motion carried and the proposed ordinance was TABLED by the following vote: AYES: Council members Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski and Tillman (9) NAYS: Council members None (0).

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only. **RATIFYING AND REAFFIRMING CERTAIN FINDINGS, DETERMINATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS IN ORDINANCE NO. 4771 REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING OTHER ACTIONS WITH RESPECT THERETO**

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman

**Note: This proposed ordinance was TABLED at the November 18, 2025 Council meeting until December 2, 2025, Council meeting**

President Tillman asked Council Attorney Snow to address this proposed ordinance.

Attorney Snow advised President Tillman that she can make a motion to TABLE this until the next council meeting on December 6, 2025 council meeting or you can move forward to vote on it; stating that this ordinance is separate due to the petition that was filed, that until we get a report on the merits of the petition, we might want to leave this TABLED.

President Tillman asked for a motion.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance until the next council meeting on December 16, 2025, second by Councilman Dr. Kora, the motion carried and was approved to TABLE the proposed ordinance until the December 16, 2025 Council meeting by the following vote: AYES: Council members Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman and Bietry (9) NAYS: Council members None (0).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2026 Common Council board appointment expiration dates**

**Note: A copy of this list can be obtained in the Clerk's Office**

City Clerk Neulieb read the following for the record.

**NOTE: Sec. 2-66(a) – Appointments to committees and boards**

Before the final meeting of the Council in a calendar year, the Clerk shall produce for the Council a schedule of the positions on the various boards and commissions to which the Council makes appointments which will become open in the next calendar year and the dates those positions will become open.

**UPDATE:** President Tillman amended the 2025 Council Committee Assignment List – Labor Relations

President Tillman advised that Councilman Bietry stepped down from the Labor Relations Committee due to his family member being a union firefighter for the City of Michigan City which would be a conflict; stating she filled that position and wanted to update to the 2025 Council Committee Assignment list to reflect that change.

Councilman Bietry stated he recuse this position on the Council's Labor Relations Committee" due to his son being a firefighter for the Michigan City Fire Department.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Tillman asked if there was any unfinished business.

Clerk Neulieb advised that the council has two (2) appointments to the Redevelopment Commission: Incumbents -Tracie Tillman and Sheree Wilson, expiring 12/31/2025 (term will begin 12/31/2025 and expire 12-31-2026).

#### Applications Received

- Sheree Wilson
- Nick Pollock
- Dannie Armstrong Jr.
- Scott Meland
- Violet Work
- Sheryl Krachinski
- Kameesha Williams
- Shaina Hill
- Michael Vinson
- Tracie Tillman

- Dave Biela

Councilman Nelson asked if these nominations are two (2) appointments selected by this council or is one (1) of these appointments a member of the council serving as a liaison/council appointment.

President Tillman stated that there are two (2) appointments, one being from this board asking Attorney Snow to address Councilman Nelson's question.

Attorney Snow advised there are two (2) appointments that need to be appointed by the Council to serve on the Redevelopment Commission; the Council liaison to the Redevelopment Commission is a council member who is appointed by the 2026 President with their role being to communicate between the council and the Redevelopment Commission.

Councilman Bietry called "Point of Order" questioning if the Council liaison is a voting member; President Tillman stating that is correct, they are a voting member.

Councilman Nelson called a "Point of Order" asking why there is no other council members name submitted for this position if the commission requires a council member to be a voting member.

President Tillman stated there is no liaison to this commission advising that the council only appoints a voting member and a member from the public.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that only nominations are being done this evening, not a vote.

Attorney Snow advised the council is only doing nominations tonight as this will not affect what the positions that are being filled, stating that he will review the ordinance to confirm the proper composition of the Redevelopment Commission and will send a memo by 12:00 (noon) tomorrow to President Tillman and Clerk Neulieb.

President Tillman opened nominations asking (repeating three times) "if there were anyone that would like to nominate someone to the Redevelopment Commission."

Councilman Dr. Kora nominated Tracie Tillman seconded by Councilman Bietry  
Councilman Przybylinski nominated Dave Beila seconded by Councilman Nelson  
Councilwoman Moldenhauer nominated Sheree Wilson seconded Councilman Dabney  
Councilman Nelson nominated Nick Pollock seconded by Councilman Bietry.

President Tillman asked (repeating three times) "if there were anyone else that would like to nominate someone to the Redevelopment Commission." There was no response and nominations were closed.

City Clerk Neulieb read the nominations for the record.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

Sel Dunlap, 729 E. Michigan Blvd., addressed concerns he had about comments made during the November 18, 2025, council meeting.

Sheree Wilson, 1030 Liberty Tail, thanked the council for their nomination to the Redevelopment Commission and provided an overview of her qualifications.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place, stated his concerns regarding the nominations that took place tonight for the Redevelopment Commission; as well as his concerns with the Flock Camera Systems that are used for our police department.

Steve Albano, 2924 Cleveland Ave., stated his concerns for leaf pick up and asked when this will be done.

Dakota Euler, 718 Emma Street, announced that the Housewives of LaPorte County will be collecting canned goods at the Festival of Lights parade; and stated his concerns with garbage pickup, leaf pickup, and snow pickup in our community.

John Carrington, 140 Esther Street, stated his concerns about homeliness and the business owners along Franklin Square; asked the council to put new members on board and Commissions to avoid potential conflicts of interest with the same members being on several boards.

President Tillman asked if there were any other 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 attend Lavender Field Holdings LLC, public meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Michigan City High School to enter through Door "A" that they will be answering questions about their permit request #49561, to install 60 -71 diesel generators at 402 Royal Road, advising that comments made at the meeting won't be part of the official IDEM record, residents must submit their official comments through the IDEM's website at [www.IN.gov/idem/public-notice](http://www.IN.gov/idem/public-notice) stating their concerns with the impacts on the community as there is no provision for any pollution control.

Councilwoman Lee advised the public that the IDEM's report came back and the soil that was removed from "Project Maize" is clean and no TCE or contaminants were found.

Councilman Dr. Kora thanked State Senator Mike Bohacek for standing up for people with disabilities; stated that he visited Loudoun County, Virginia "Data Center Alley" and saw the significant impact and looking at the big-picture approach that balances health and safety concerns with economic development to ensure staff are well supported while generating new revenue for the city.

Councilman Dabney stated that the labor negotiations was unable to be held due to not having the final numbers in place along with new laws that was going into effect with the potential cutting of funding; it would have been irresponsible for the city to make an offer to the police and fire "in good faith" and then ask for the funds back if the money was not in place; advising that next year if he is on the committee he will ask for proposals ahead of time.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that in 2028 the State of Indiana will be switching over from property taxes to income taxes; as Michigan City is in the poverty level this will cut the money received from the state; advising on a shooting that took place in Indianapolis, IN and will be working with the police department to provide free gun locks for our community; provided events for children to participate in within LaPorte County and will have it posted to the city webpage.

Councilwoman Lee advised that gunlocks are available for free at the Michigan City Police Department.

President Tillman provided the council and public with the contact information for the South Shore Transit Police on the See Say App at [www.myshouthshoreline.com/safety/#safetravel#southshoreline](http://www.myshouthshoreline.com/safety/#safetravel#southshoreline)  
This app will be used for any issues, services, maintenance and safety

### **ADJOURNMENT**

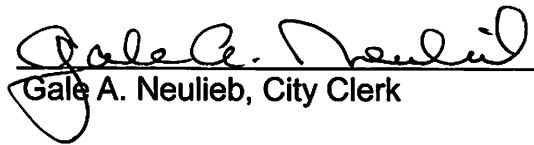
A motion by Councilwoman Moldenhauer, second by Councilman Dr. Kora and there being no further business to transact, President Tillman declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 10:20 p.m.)

*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=P4Z-y13Vyds&list=PL8L8Y5g9S6bqw-rohSfvSUA8dwegrb6st>



Tracie Tillman, President



Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk