

REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING January 6, 2026

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, January 6, 2026, 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 (ZOOM), 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

President Tillman stated the first order of business this evening is the election of officers; President Tillman asked are there any nominations for president; with Councilman Dr. Kora nominating Tracie Tillman, second by Councilman Nelson.

President Tillman asked if there were any other nominations; repeating three (3) times; there was no response and nominations were closed.

Councilwoman Tillman was elected as the 2026 Council President by the following vote: Council members Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Przybylinski (9) **NAYS:** None (0).

President Tillman thanked the council member for the nomination to carry out the duties of Council president for 2026.

President Tillman asked if Councilman Bietry would remain vice president for 2026, with Councilman Dr. Kora nominating Tim Bietry, second by Councilman Dabney.

City Clerk Neulieb advised a vote must be taken for this position.

Councilman Nelson nominated Councilman Don Przybylinski.

President Tillman asked if there were any other nominations; repeating three (3) times; there was no response and nominations were closed.

Councilman Bietry was elected as the 2026 Council Vice President by the following vote: Council members Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, and Tillman (7) **NAYS:** Nelson, and Przybylinski (2).

President Tillman stated the Vice President is Councilman Bietry.

President Tillman stated her next order of business was appointing the 2026 Parliamentarian asking if Councilwoman Moldenhauer would remain in the position.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer advised President Tillman that she accepts the parliamentarian position.

Attorney Snow advised Councilman Nelson the Ordinance states that the election of officers require a nomination and vote and the parliamentarian is not an elected position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Tillman asked for a motion to approve the December 16, 2025, Regular Council (Hybrid/Zoom) meeting minutes.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025, Regular Council (Hybrid/Zoom) meeting minutes, second by Councilman Przybylinski; the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: AYES: Council members Coulter, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, and Bietry (9) NAYS: Council members None (0)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

President Tillman asked if there were any standing committee reports.

FINANCE REPORT

President Tillman stated the Finance Committee did not meet this evening January 6, 2026, due to the election of officers from the council; stating the January 6, 2026: Riverboat fund #2235 claims was zero (0); Riverboat EFT fund #2235 claims was zero (0); Rainy Day fund #2236 claims were \$6,907.50 paying Schinder Geometrics; and Boyd Development fund #2504 was zero (0) with the total claims being \$6,907.50

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve the January 6, 2026, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$6,907.50, second by Councilman Dabney, the motion carried and the January 6, 2026, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$6,907.50 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)

President Tillman advised the statement of cash position for December 31, 2025, Riverboat Fund #2235 was \$4,125,639.80, Rainy-Day Fund #2236 was \$1,269,797.92 with the fiscal grand total ending balance on December 31, 2025, was \$5,395,377.72.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Kameesha Williams, representing the Human Rights Commission, provided an update on the "Wolfpack Leaders" school based mentoring program thanking the City of Michigan City and the Michigan City Area Schools for partnering to develop this program to support the youth in our community asking for the council to consider mentoring for one (1) hour a week.

Derald Burton, President of the Human Rights Commission, presented their 2025 Annual Report

(NOTE: This presentation is filed in the Clerk's Office under 2026 Council Matters)

Councilman Przybylinski stated that the Human Rights Commission is doing a great job in our community, and that he is considering being a mentor for the Wolfpack Leaders.

Councilman Dr. Kora stated that the Human Rights Commission is doing a wonderful job in our community.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer, liaison to the Sustainability Commission, stated that the Sanitary District has added natural gas vehicles to their fleet that will promote cleaner air and energy saving for our community thanking Drive Clean Indiana, and NIRPC;

advised the public that the Northwest Indiana Green Drinks will be meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. and you can join on Save the Dune's Facebook Live, or a zoom link can be obtained em@savedunes.org; "S.A.V.E.", presented by Besty Mayor, Executive Director of Save the Dunes.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that all Boards and Commission need to be held accountable by ordinance and those who have not presented their annual report for 2025 need to be done at the next council meeting.

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.

Wendy Vachet, Public Works Director, provided the council with the history of "Project Maize" located at 402 Royal Road, and introduced John Pere, Phoenix Investors and Brad Glisten, WSP.

Brad Glisten, WSP, provided a public update regarding IDEM reports and current violation of the soil that has been hauled from the construction site; advising that all the soil on and off site has been tested and no constituents were found; and that on December 19, 2025, WSP submitted a soil sampling and management plan to IDEM and received the approval from IDEM on December 24, 2025 with two (2) changes for the chemicals to be analyzed and material volumes; the additional sampling will begin Friday, January 9, 2026, per the approved plan.

Discussion ensued between Brad Glisten, WSP, John Pere, Phoenix Investors, President Tillman, Councilmembers Dr. Kora, Przybylinski, Moldenhauer, Lee, Bietry, Dabney and Nelson regarding the contaminated soil that has been moved off site, asked for a monthly environmental updated regarding the soil; stating that new samples that be conducting test for forty (40) different chemicals and that all soil will remain on site until testing has been completed; asking if the soil will be returned back to the construction site to perform the testing; will the access soil on the construction site be used for sound barriers hills to alleviate noise pollution; advised that the results of the testing will be available to the public including samples and analysis, thanking Mr. Glisten and Mr. Pere for the update.

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch addressed the council regarding the following:

- Announcing that Michigan City received the Safe Streets Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00. to create a comprehensive safety plan to focus on the roadways in our community.
- Opioid Grant funds was awarded to fifteen (15) local organizations in the amount of \$165,000.00
- A Trash & Beautification Roundtable discussion will be held on the following dates Wednesday, January 7th and 21st, 2026 at 11:00 am in the EOC.
- A Workshop for Board and Commissions will be held on January 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the EOC, providing an update on rules from the state, and the requirements for posting of agenda and minutes.
- Inviting the public to attend the 3rd House Session at Purdue University Northwest for updates on the General Session and potential changes to SEA 1 regarding Local Income Tax.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer thanked Mayor Angie for her hard work with grant writing, suggesting holding the beautification roundtable in the evening.

Mayor Angie advised that round tables will be held in the evening during the second phase of these meetings.

Mayor Angie advised Councilman Nelson that the Safe Street Grant is for creating a safety plan around the city roadways.

MCFD Chief Bear Taylor presented their December 2025 monthly stats and overtime by reading the following email that was sent to the council.

We recently had an issue with our reporting system (on the company's end) that was being looked into and that is the reason for most of the 148 calls for December 2025 that are still in progress. Once we have the proper breakdown I will provide everyone with that.

Last month it was requested to begin including our overtime expenses for the month as well as year to date. I'm not sure how much information you would like regarding our overtime usage but for the month of December 2025 we paid out a total of \$41,577.88 in overtime. Keep in mind we have been running five firefighters short due to four attending the fire academy and one still in the hiring process as well as three more short due to injuries incurred while on the job for a total of eight short. That breaks down to two shifts running three and one shift running two firefighters short for an extended period.

While the four have four graduated from the academy and recently placed on shift the three injured still remain off and the one in the hiring process is still in that process.

Councilman Przybyliski thanked Chief Taylor for the information asking him to just update the council on the overtime.

Councilman Dabney stated for the record the amount of overtime is \$41,577.88 and to add the amount of overtime to the report provided to the council monthly.

Chief Taylor advised President Tillman that the 172 medical called will be higher once the report are entered into the system and will provide the council with a yearly breakdown.

MCPD Chief Steve Forker presented their monthly December 2025 monthly stats and overtime amount.

Chief Forker advised Councilwoman Moldenhauer there was two (2) calls for service for Ward 6.

President Tillman stated for the record the 238 reports taken is 149 less than November; asking what warrants overtime for the department.

Chief Forker advised President Tillman and Councilman Nelson that overtime is mainly from the patrol division with paperwork completions, late arrests, accidents, calls for service, special events and holiday patrols

President Tillman asked if there were any reports from the mayor or other city officers and departments, there was no response.

PETITIONS

President Tillman asked Clerk Neulieb if there were any petitions.

Clerk Neulieb advised that there were no petitions this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Tillman asked if there was any correspondence received.

Clerk Neulieb read the following correspondence that was received:

A notice was received in the Clerk's Office on December 29, 2025, from IDEM regarding the approval of a Permit for Deercroft Recycling & Disposal Facility.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 3, 2025, from Counsel Attorney Nick Snow regarding the legal objection to the petition regarding Economic Improvement District (EID).

RESOLUTIONS

Clerk Neulieb read the following resolution by title only.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 4986

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT AND
EXTENSION OF THE 2025 UNION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE MICHIGAN CITY
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE DUNES LODGE #75 AND THE CITY OF
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, there is a labor agreement currently in effect between the Michigan City Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge #75 and the City of Michigan City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to I.C. 36-8-3-3, the Common Council is vested with the authority of establishing the compensation and financial benefits for members of the Michigan City Police Department; and

WHEREAS, there have been successful negotiations between the Labor Relations Committee of the Common Council and the Michigan City Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge #75, which have resulted in an agreement to extend the current labor agreement through 11:59 P.M. on December 31, 2026, subject to the following conditions:

1. All terms and conditions of the current labor agreement will remain in effect during the extension period, with the exception of a 2% general increase in salaries and/or wages; and
2. The parties agree to continue negotiations during calendar year 2026, with the objective of reaching a new labor agreement by the end of said calendar year with a term of two to three calendar years; and

WHEREAS, the Labor Relations Committee recommends that the Common Council approve and authorize the extension and amendment of the current labor agreement as set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana as follows:

1. The aforementioned "whereas" paragraphs are hereby incorporated as though fully set forth in these resolving clauses.
2. The Common Council hereby approves the amendment and extension of the 2025 Union Contract between the Michigan City Fraternal Order of Police Dunes Lodge #75 and the City of Michigan City, Indiana, as contemplated and described herein.
3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Michigan City Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman
Bryant Dabney
Don Przybylinski

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

Councilman Przybylinski stated this is an extension of the 2025 contract to include the 2% pay increase as a new contract has not been agreed on.

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

President Tillman stated this resolution has passed.

ORDINANCES

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 December 2, 2025, Council meeting until January 6, 2026, Council meeting

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

Councilman Coulter stated that Councilman Przybylinski can speak as he was making a motion to table this proposed ordinance.

Councilman Przybylinski stated he would like to move forward with this proposed ordinance as this was to help employees who are bothered from the smell of the smoke coming in through windows that include any smoking from electronic cigarettes, vaporizes and vapor products by moving the smokers from 8 feet to 20 feet.

Councilman Coulter stated that 20 foot does solve the problem of smoke and that there is no enforcement mechanism by moving signs and ashtrays; asking to table this proposed ordinance and reintroduce a new ordinance at the next meeting and will hold two (2) presentation from the Indiana Department of Health's Division of Tobacco Prevention Cessation and the American Lung Association.

Councilman Coulter made a motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance until the January 20, 2026, Council meeting, second by Councilwoman Moldenhauer, the motion carried and the proposed ordinance was TABLED by the following vote: AYES: Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, and Kora (7) NAYS: Council members Nelson, Przybylinski (2).

President Tillman suggested that city employees should have a designated area for smoking that would not be in front of the main doors.

Councilman Dr. Kora stated that this ordinance should be just for City Hall not all city buildings.

Councilman Coulter stated this will be put in place to protect all city employees with encouraging them to have a tobacco free life.

Councilman Dabney asked if these changes are coming in form of amendments by substitution or as a new ordinance.

Councilman Coulter advised that there is a lot of changes and will be on first reading at the next meeting due to the difference.

Attorney Snow advised that if the changes that are made are significant from the original draft, the proposed ordinance will start over at first reading; due to not knowing the proposed changes he recommending to leave the proposed ordinance tabled so it does not lose its progress; and if it will be an entirely new ordinance it can be added to the agenda as a new ordinance on first reading and will dispose of the tabled ordinance.

Councilman Dabney and Przybylinski stated that all sponsors would need to drop sponsorship in hopes that no other councilmember would pick it up.

NEW BUSINESS

President Tillman asked if there was any new business.

Clerk Neulieb advised that the council has three (3) appointments to the Michigan City Social Status of African American Males Commission representing the following and expire February 15, 2026

Council Appointment – Stasi Benning (2-year term)
Michigan City Area Schools – Dwayne Hurt (2-year term)
NAACP – Michael Jones (2- year term)

Clerk Neulieb advised that the council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Tree Board representing a Neighborhood Association – Incumbent Laura Henderson (Elston Grove) Term expires February 15, 2026

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Tillman asked if there was any unfinished business.

Clerk Neulieb advised there was no unfinished business.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Domonic Yankee, 904 Willow Spring Drive, stated his concerns with the IDEM report regarding the "Project Maize" data center.

Shelley Yankee, 904 Willow Spring Drive, stated her concerns with IDEM report regarding the contaminated soil asking Councilwoman Lee to retract her statement made a previous council meeting.

Ashley Williams, 401 Fir Street, stated her concerns with the "Project Maize" data center advising on why our environment is not safe.

Amy Lionski, 104 Mayfield Drive, asking why the council takes more time with certain issues but rushed the "Data Center"; stating her concerns with the light pollution at the construction site asking them to amend the new construction ordinance.

Faye Moore (ZOOM), advised the council that Mike Jones stepped down on the Social Status Commission and that the NAACP will be replacing him with Linda Fay Conley.

Steven Kornacki, 5410 Rogowski Ave., stating his concerns with the light pollution at the "Data Center"; suggesting making all city building tobacco free; asking for return correspondence from the councilmembers.

Tommy Kulavik (ZOOM), congratulated the newly elected councilmembers on a happy two (2) anniversary; stated that Michigan City was incorporated on February 9, 1836, and will be 190 this year; and wish good luck to the Indiana University football team.

Eilen Mark, 219 Ann Street, thanked Councilman Coulter for hosting a lung presentation at the next meeting regarding smoking, will the effects of diesel generators be discussed as there will be seventy (70) at the "Data Center"; stating that she feels the police and fire were treated disrespectful as they put their lives on the line daily and that issues related to benefits and health insurance for retirees is unreasonable; asked the council to please communicate with the public through emails and phone calls if you are unable to do so, please consider stepping down.

Dakota Euler, 602 Emma Street, stated that House Bill 1055 will allow local governments to move their elections to even numbered years in hopes to have more residents out voting.

Tom Dagonen, 205 11th Street, stated concerns with panhandling in Michigan City asking the council to bring a resolution forth to join efforts that supports Indiana anti-panhandling efforts to let them know you want to see a change made in our community.

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, apologized to the residents as there has been issues with emails since the network disruption since city emails are being sent to a common portal for distribution, inviting the public to attend the Tree Board meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to clear up any misunderstandings regarding trees that have been removed.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that was productive update regarding the contamination of soil at "Project Maize" as there have been lots of questions that were answered from the public; suggesting having a new committee for the "Data Center" so when issues arise that there is a subcommittee that can address the issues; thanking the Street Department and Vector Control for a great job with snow removal.

Councilwoman Lee advised on the correspondence between her and Ms. Yankee regarding the IDEM report with contaminated soil.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer called a "Point of Order" stating there will be no public outburst in the council chamber.

Councilman Dabney stated that in the year 2025 there has been many new developments such as "Project Maize" data center, many new housing developments and future developments are in process for 2026.

President Tillman, asked for the council members to please fill out the 2026 Council


Committee Assignment and return to her by Friday, January 9, 2026; advising that the council chamber will be ran in decency, and in order and that respect is given both ways, this is not an opportunity to slander allegations as we are here to conduct business reminding the public this is not for Q&A's , debates or outbursts there is zero tolerance so moving forward please be respectful and mindful.

ADJOURNMENT

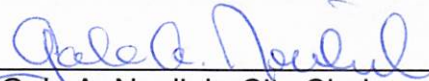
A motion by Councilman Dr. Kora, second by Councilwoman Moldenhauer and there being no further business to transact, President Tillman declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:30 p.m.)

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=Tdr1_tqnoyg



Tracie Tillman, President



Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk