

REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING March 17, 2026

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, March 17, 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.

President Tillman advised that we have a student from South Central High School - Dillon Shively who is attending our City Council meeting this evening for his government class.; welcoming him.

Roll call was authorized, and the following were noted present and/or absent.

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Tim Bietry, Bryant Dabney, Vidya Kora, Daisey Lee, Nancy Moldenhauer, Joseph Nelson, Don Przybylinski, and Tracie Tillman (8).

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER Greg Coulter (1)

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Tillman asked if there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the Regular “Hybrid/Zoom” Council meeting minutes that was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, and the Mayor/Council Executive Session minutes held on March 3, 2026.

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve the March 3, 2026, Regular Council (Hybrid/Zoom) meeting minutes, and the Executive Session meeting minutes that was held on March 3, 2026, second by Councilman Nelson; the motion carried and they were both approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, and Dr. Kora (8) **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

Councilman Dabney stated the Finance Committee was cancelled this evening on March 17, 2026, due to there were no claims

Councilman Dabney advised the cash position for March 17, 2026, Riverboat Fund #2235 was \$4,732,573.39 Rainy-Day Fund #2236 was \$1,321,810.42 with the fiscal grand total ending balance was \$6,054,383.81.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Darryl Borton, Human Rights Commission Chair announced that the 2026 Humanitarian of the year award application to nominate someone is on the City's Web page and the award will be presented on May 7, 2026.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio reported on the LaPorte County Alcohol and Beverage Commission meeting; advising a liquor license was approved for a restaurant/bar that will be opening in the old Sand Trap/Creekside facility on Michigan Boulevard.

Scott Meland, 200 Kenwood Place representing the MCPD Commission reported on the status of the hiring event they held in 2025 with four (4) new officers ready to be hired in the near future; stating that the commission hired Jewel Harris Law Firm to represent their commission and that the three (3) board members are Doug Bobillo, Mark Harris and himself.

Nancy Moldenhauer reported on the Michigan City Sustainability Commission announcing Northwest Indiana Green Drinks which is co-sponsored by our Sustainability Commission, Save the Dunes and Northwest Indiana Regional Resilience and that they will be meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., you can join on Save the Dunes Facebook live, or a zoom link can be obtained em@savedunes.org. and that they are having Mitch Barloga of NIRPCI, Greenways and Blue Ways of Northwest Indiana and Rafi Wilkerson who is a park ranger at the Indiana Dunes National Park addressing progress that's been made with the "Marquette Trail" system.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer invited the public to attend the following events: Spring Recycling Workshop with Sasha G. Burns, on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 5:30 located in the EOC Room; the 5th Annual Earth Month Extravaganza on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 12:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m. located at the Michigan City Senior Center with many activities for the public at free of charge; and on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at the Michigan City Senior Center a Workshop will take place on how to plant a native garden.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer advised that Abby Neary, President of the Michigan City Sustainability Commission will be presenting their annual report at the April 7, 2026, Council meeting.

President Tillman asked if there were any other Board or 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, 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:

Correspondence - 2026 Annual Cemetery Board of Trustee Financial Report was received in the Clerk's office on March 2, 2026, from the Cemetery Board of Trustees President Davis Bush

Notice of Decision: approval was received in the Clerk's office on March 6, 2026, from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) NIPSCO – Permit Number 091-49923-00021 located at Wabash and W. Michigan Blvd.

Notice of 30-Day Period for Public Comment was received in the Clerk's Office on March 9, 2026, from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for VVM Technologies, LLC.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's office on March 9, 2026, from the Michigan City Firefighters Association Local 475 requesting to open negotiations with the City of Michigan City.

RESOLUTIONS

Clerk Neulieb read the following resolution by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 4995

AUTHORIZING THE CITY CONTROLLER TO ENCUMBER AN ADDITIONAL 2025 PURCHASE ORDER

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City is an Indiana Municipal Corporation, governed by its duly elected Mayor and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council has the authority and duty to maintain and oversee the fiscal operations of the City and to reconcile the City's financial and budgetary records; and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2026, the Michigan Common Council adopted and on February 19, 2026, the Mayor executed Resolution #4991 entitled *Determining that Funding For Certain Outstanding 2025 Purchase Orders Should be Encumbered and Authorized the City Controller to Encumber Such Funds*; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of Resolution #4991, the City Controller's Office has discovered an additional item that needs to be encumbered, more specifically the following:

<u>Purchase Order Number:</u>	<u>Fund Number:</u>	<u>Fund Name:</u>	
<u>Amount:</u>			
2025-0000250	2209	Self Funded Liability	\$397,682.17

WHEREAS, in order to complete the aforementioned transfer using funding set aside from the 2025 fiscal year, and in order to be consistent with Indiana law and Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF)

procedures, an encumbrance must be authorized by a Resolution adopted by the Common Council and approved by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller of the City of Michigan City, Indiana recommends the approval of the aforementioned additional encumbrance from 2025.

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

Section 1. The following encumbrance is hereby APPROVED:

<u>Purchase Order Number:</u>	<u>Fund Number:</u>	<u>Fund Name:</u>	
<u>Amount:</u>			
2025-0000250	2209	Self Funded Liability	\$397,682.17

Section 2. The City Controller of the City of Michigan City is hereby DIRECTED to formally encumber the funding for said purchase order in the appropriate account.

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

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Bryant Dabney, Member

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

Councilman Dabney stated that this is similar to what we had at our last council meeting on March 3, 2026, where we encumbered purchase orders that were not used last year and will be moving this one over into the upcoming year to make sure those funds are still set aside and not used for other means; advising this \$397,682.17 is for medical claims for 2025 and the city is responsible for paying.

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

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

Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Przybylinski, the motion carried and the resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Dr. Kora, and Lee (8) **NAYS:** Council members None (0)

ORDINANCES

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only.
APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT

Introduced by: Bryant Dabney
Dr. Vidya Kora

(**DCEREASE** 1101.000 Unappropriated balance \$300,000.00 **INCREASE ACCOUNT#** 1101.105.422.024 \$300,000.00 Operating Supplies- Salt)

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

Councilman Dabney, stated as a reminder from first reading this money is needed due to our winter starting early this year and we ran through our road salt that and that we don't want to be without salt in case of any road emergencies and snowfalls.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that Sean Smith Street Superintendent advised him that he is reaching out to the Indiana Highway Department to work out an agreement with other surrounding communities to purchase salt at a better price moving forward and that we should all support this appropriation.

Attorney Snow stated that a formal public hearing needs to be addressed this evening.

President Tillman stated that there will be a formal public hearing this evening asking (repeating three times) "Is there anyone from the public that would like to speak on this proposed ordinance", there was no response and the formal public hearing was closed.

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

Councilman Dabney asked to suspend the rules, making a motion to have second and third reading this evening, the motion was second by Councilman Przybylinski; the motion carried and was approved to have third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Dr. Kora, and Lee, and Moldenhauer (8) **NAYS:** Council members None (0)

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

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4794

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT

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 2026 Annual Budget for the purchase of road salt; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the General Fund #1101.000 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 1101.000 Unappropriated balance	\$300,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT# 1101.105.422.024 Operating Supplies- Salt		\$300,000.00
TOTAL FOR FUND	\$300,000.00	

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/ Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Dr. Vidya Kora, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Tillman asked if any of 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 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 Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, and Nelson (8) **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 RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DESTINATION PLAYGROUND IN FEDDER'S ALLEY

Introduced by: Don Przybylinski

(DECREASE 2235.000 Unappropriated balance \$600,000.00 INCREASE: ACCOUNT# 2235.502.444.050 \$600,000.00 Cap Outlay-Imp Other than Bldg. Other)

President Tillman stated that there will be a formal public hearing this evening.

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

Councilman Przybylinski stated that Shannon Eason, Park Superintendent is present this evening to speak on this proposed additional appropriation as well.

Councilman Przybylinski addressed the council regarding the proposed "Destination Park" that will be located in Fedder's Alley along with the proposed ordinance; emphasizing several reason why it is important to move forward with adopting this additional appropriation ordinance, that doing so would allow the park to proceed with soliciting bids in April 2026; highlighting the long-term value of this project and describing it as an opportunity to create a lasting legacy for our community and that the this park would be a source of pride, not only serving every local residents, but also attracting visitors from miles away as a true destination for recreation and enjoyment; stated that Ms. Eason did a fantastic job with the designers and putting this park together that the presentation says it all.

President Tillman stated this proposed ordinance is a **DECREASE 2235.000 Unappropriated balance \$600,000.00 INCREASE: ACCOUNT# 2235.502.444.050 \$600,000.00 Cap Outlay-Imp Other than Bldg. Other.**

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing; asking, (repeating three times) "if there were anyone from the public that would like to comment on the proposed ordinance"

Shannon Eason, Park Superintendent addressed the council regarding the "Destination Park".

President Tillman stated that since Ms. Eason is part of this ordinance she will go ahead and adhere to the council asking any questions.

Councilman Dr. Kora stated as Councilman Przybylinski that this a great investment and it will do a lot of great things for our community; It will promote physical mental health and families coming together and will attract tourist from out of town; advising the only request he has is to make sure that it's maintained.

Ms. Eason advised that they received \$250,000 from the Health Foundation of LaPorte to set up a maintenance fund which will grow for years to come.

President Tillman asked if there were any other comments from the public since our hearing is still open.

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladys Street agreed with Council members Przybylinski and Dr. Kora comments; reminding everyone of years past there were rides, vendors, picnic area, and a lot to do when visiting Washington Park; that he supports moving forward on the proposed additional appropriation. And it will attract a lot your people.

Chris Pate, President and CEO of United Way of LaPorte Council stating that she is very much in favor of this playground and that she was part of the presentation last Friday; advising that they donated \$25,000 toward this project.

Dominic Yankee, 904 Willow Spring Avenue, stated that he is strongly in favor of allocating funds for the destination playground that it will provide everyone, regardless of their ability, with the opportunity to exercise and socialize.

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

President Tillman asked if there were any comments from the Council

Councilman Dabney wanted to stress that Ms. Eason stated this \$600,000 being appropriated is what we call last in money, that we may not have to use these funds if we receive more donations, but these funds have to be set aside to be able to go for out bids for the "Destination Park" in April

Councilwoman Moldenhauer acknowledged the seven (7) years of visitation research that Councilman Przybylinski and Ms. Eason put into this project, thanking them for the wonderful workshop that was presented on Friday that she attended, that everyone is going to be able to enjoy this park stating several highlights that are going to be developed regardless of their ability they will be able to enjoy and have fun

Councilwoman Moldenhauer invited individuals, businesses and corporations to consider donating to this project; stating that she and her spouse felt so strongly about this project that the individual donor that Ms. Eason spoke about earlier was them.

Councilwoman Lee stated that she also is excited about this park, that it represents so many wonderful things about our city and a lot of the thoughtfulness. That has been put into this project that she represents, but also that our city represents.

Councilwoman Lee comment that a few years ago Ms. Eason and the Michigan City Art Committee visited her classroom and her class designed drawing of native species; stating that some of these drawings are going to be displayed at the playground.

Councilwoman Lee asked to be added as a Co-sponsor.

Councilman Przybylinski thanked the United Way and Councilwoman Moldenhauer and her spouse for their donation; stating for the record, the other individual donors that we have as Councilman Dabney alluded to are the ARP funds, Congressman Mrvan's Community Project funding, the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission, the Health Foundation of LaPorte County, the Duneland Health Council, and the Michigan City Human Rights Commission; making a motion to have third reading on this proposed ordinance this evening, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and was

approved to have third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Przybylinski (8) **NAYS:** Council members None (0)

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

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4795

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DESTINATION PLAYGROUND IN FEDDER'S ALLEY

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 2026 Annual Budget for the construction of the destination playground in Fedder's Alley; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the River Boad Fund #2235.000 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 2235.000 Unappropriated balance	\$600,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2235.502.444.050 Cap Outlay-Imp Other than Bldg Other		\$600,000.00
TOTAL FOR FUND	\$600,000.00	

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/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Nancy Moldenhauer, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Tim Bietry, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Daisy Lee, Member
Michigan City Common Council

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

Councilman Przybylinski stated, "let's get this approved this evening" and move on.

Councilman Bietry stated that he thinks anything and everything that could be said has been said and is favor and support.

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

Ms. Eason stated she is astounded with the generosity, that this is an emotional project she has worked on and that it makes her proud to be born and raised here, along with being the Park Superintendent, thanking Ms. Pate and Councilwoman Moldenhauer for stepping up that this a super important project to her to finely get to it to the bidding stage.

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 Dabney stated that he has known Ms. Eason for many years and this is something that she is serious about and has never seen the emotional side of her and that she has put a lot of work into this project and to be able to be almost ready to have it a reality, he can't thank her enough, this is something special.

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, Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, and Tillman (8) **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 RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF RADIOS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Introduced by: Daisy Lee
 Dr. Vidya Kora**

(DECREASE 2235.000 Unappropriated balance \$1,100,000.00 INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2235.202.445.050 - \$1,100,000.00 Other Machinery & Equipment)

President Tillman stated that there will be a formal public hearing this evening.

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

Councilwoman Lee advised that this additional appropriation ordinance is about the purchase of radios for the MCPD and the MCFD that their radios they are using at the present time are functioning, but they are no longer making these radios and parts are no longer available to get, stating that it is time to upgrade our technology.

President Tillman opened the formal public hearing; asking, (repeating three times) "if there were anyone from the public that would like to comment on the proposed ordinance"

Asst. Chief Shiparski MCPD of operations explained how the city got this great deal was due to the long-standing relationship they have had with Motorola; adding that if anyone has any questions, he would be glad to address them; reminding the council that there is a time constraint to make sure we get this agreement; asking to have third reading this evening.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, asked if either of the Chief's could recommend a good scanner app that the public can listen to calls.

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

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

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to suspend the rules and have third reading this evening, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and was approved to have third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, and Bietry (8) **NAYS:** Council members None (0)

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

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4796

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF RADIOS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

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 2026 Annual Budget for the purchase of radios for the Police Department and Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the River Boad Fund #2235.000 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>APPROPRIATED</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
DECREASE 2235.000 Unappropriated balance	\$1,100,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2235.202.445.050 Other Machinery & Equipment		\$1,100,000.00
TOTAL FUND	\$1,100,000.00	

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/ Daisy Lee, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Dr. Vidya 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 there were any other comments by the council.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dr. Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, and Dabney (8) **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 RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES, INCLUDING THE BUY-OUT OF LEASED VEHICLES, FOR THE MICHIGAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Introduced by: Daisy Lee
Dr. Vidya**

**(DECREASE 2235.000 Unappropriated balance \$500,000.00 INCREASE
ACCOUNT# 2235.202.445.020 \$500,000.00 Other Machinery & Equipment Motor Vehicle)**

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

Councilman Dr. Kora stated that this additional appropriation is to purchase four (4) new vehicles and buyout/purchase the final leased vehicles the MCPD have moving forward.

President Tillman read the following proposed additional appropriation for the record:
**DECREASE 2235.000 Unappropriated balance \$500,000.00 INCREASE
ACCOUNT# 2235.202.445.020 \$500,000.00 Other Machinery & Equipment Motor Vehicle.**

President Tillman stated that there will be for formal public hearing this evening; asking (repeating three times) "if there were any comments on the proposed ordinance from the public".

MCPD Asst. Chief Shiparski stated the lease buyout will be helping the MCPD bring a conclusion about the lease vehicles which will help better and be more transparent of their fleet rotation moving forward; advising that the Board of Public Works and Safety did approve moving forward on this agreement pending the approval of the council this evening; asking to have third reading this evening.

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

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

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to suspend the rules and have third reading this evening, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and was approved to have third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, and Dr. Kora (8) **NAYS:** Council members None (0)

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

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4797

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RIVERBOAT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES, INCLUDING THE BUY-OUT OF LEASED VEHICLES, FOR THE MICHIGAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 2026 Annual Budget for the purchase of vehicles for the Michigan City Police Department, including the buy-out on certain leased vehicles by said Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the River Boad Fund #2235.000 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 2235.000 Unappropriated balance	\$500,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2235.202.445.020 Other Machinery & Equipment Motor Vehicle		\$500,000.00
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/ Daisy Lee, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Dr. Vidya 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 the public had any questions or comments, there was no response.

President Tillman asked the council had any comments.

Councilwoman Lee made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman Przybylinski, the motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, Dr. Kora, and Lee (8) **NAYS:** Council members None (0).

NEW BUSINESS

President Tillman asked if there was any new business.

Clerk Neulieb stated **FYI:** The Council has one (1) appointment to the Sustainability Commission – **Incumbent:** Lawrence Zimmerman – term expires 3/31/2026.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated that she was in communication with Mr. Zimmerman and that he is interested in continuing his appointment on the Sustainability Commission and will be turning his application in prior to our next council meeting on April 7, 2026.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Tillman asked if there was any unfinished business.

Clerk Neulieb stated the council has one (1) appointment to the Community Enrichment Corporation board – **Incumbent** Jason Kirby with his term expiring March 31, 2026, and that the vote will take place this evening advising the two (2) nominations were Jason Kirby and Violet Worth.

President Tillman asked for the vote; with Jason Kirby being re-appointed to the Community Enrichment Corporation – Vote: Jason Kirby - 8 & Violet Worth - 0. Mr. Kirby thanked the Council for their support in re-appointing him to the Enrichment Corporation and is looking forward to serving on this committee.

Clerk Neulieb advised that the council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Social Status of African American Males Commission representing the following and expired February 15, 2026

Michigan City Area Schools – Dwayne Hurt (2-year term)

Clerk Neulieb advised that correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office from the Michigan City Area School Board that Mr. Marty Corley was appointed to represent them on this commission with his term beginning immediately and will expire February 15, 2028.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladys Street, stated his concerns with litter around our community and that he does not support the data center throughout the state of Indiana.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, congratulated the Marquette High School boys basketball team on their sectional championship victory; thanked the Special Events Department for hosting a great St. Patrick's Day parade; stated his concerns with the recent fire that took place in "Ruby Woods" by the homeless living in tents in our city.

Sal Dunlap, 729 E. Michigan Blvd., addressed the council providing his view on Black History month; and stated his concerns regarding a house located on 8th and York Street that the city needs to inspect.

Ashley Williams, 401 Fir Street, stated her concerns regarding the "Data Center" located at 402 Royal Road.

Amy Losinski, 104 Mayfield Drive, stated her concerns regarding recent FOIA request she filed about "Project Hulse 2025" and "Project Maize Data Center" located at 402 Royal Road.

Dominic Yankee, 904 Willow Spring Drive, stated his concerns with the M1-zoning designated at the "Data Center" and its potential impact on the surrounding community.

Tom Donigon, 205 E. 11th Street, stated his concerns with the homeless encampments in our community, enforcement by police regarding homelessness, leaf pick up, asked if any council members took the time out to look at our city needs.

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.

Councilman Przybylinski, stated that regarding encampments in Ruby Woods, the Police Department and the Park Department are responsible for addressing the situation, as encampments are not permitted within park property; advised that it is illegal to panhandle on median strips throughout our city, except for the strip at Walmart as that is private property and encourage resident to call the police non-emergency number to make a report; thanked the Special Events Department for hosting a great Saint Patrick Day parade; stated that Spring clean-up start Wednesday, March 18, 2026 and for any question please contact the Refuse Department.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer, stated that the United Steelworkers Local 12775 will be providing maintenance for the Naomi Anderson sculpture; advised that State Senator Pol and State Representative Novak are in process of getting all firefighters in the State of Indiana to receive early detection cancer screenings; and stated that property line for the "Data Center" located at 402 Royal Road is down the middle of the road and is in the process of turning the west side of the road to Michigan City and that no easement is to be built; invited the public to register for the 2026 Neighborhood Leadership Academy starting on April 9th, 2026; and that she will send a response regarding the correspondence received to the "Just Transition Northwest Indiana".

Councilman Bietry asked Mary Lynn Wall, City Controller to provide the city's financial quarterly report at our April 7, 2026 council meeting; stating he doesn't like it when the council does both second and third reading at the same meeting on a proposed ordinance, that it does not give the public time to review any amendments if there were any to receive their input.

Councilwoman Lee invited the public to attend the first "Spring Spruce Up" community cleanup on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. located at Stribble Pond; advised that the leaf pick up is in progress as the truck cannot pick up wet leaves.

President Tillman asked if the council had any other comments, there was no response.

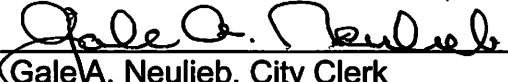
ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilman Dr. Kora, second by Councilwoman Nelson and there being no further business to transact, President Tillman declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:06 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:

Michigan City Common Council March 17, 2026


Tracie Tillman, President


Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk