



# MICHIGAN CITY INDIANA

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission ~ - ph 219.873.1440 ext. 4002 Fax 219.898-9797  
2510 E. Michigan Boulevard - Michigan City, IN 46360

## **Michigan City Fire Merit Commission SPECIAL Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. All in attendance were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance were Commissioners Adrian, Espar and Butcher. Also, present was Fire Chief Barrett Taylor.

**Approval of the Minutes-** Commissioner Adrian asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Espar and was seconded by Commissioner Butcher. **All in favor: 3 Ayes; 0 Nays Motion Carried 3-0**

**Communications and Claims-** Commissioner Adrian addressed the Payroll from December 2025 in the amount of \$1,050.00; January 2026 No Payroll and February 2026 No Payroll. (At this time Commissioner Alan Harvey arrives) Commissioner Adrian adds Claims for December 2025 was \$7,128.91, January 2026 was \$866.30 and February 2026 was \$500.00. (No motion was asked to approve Payroll or Claims)

**Report from Commission Attorney-** Absent

**Report from Fire Chief-** Fire Chief Barrett Taylor started by addressing the anniversaries for the month of March. They are as follows:

Captain Scott Kaletha	23 years
Captain Mike Jasnieski	23 years
Deputy Chief Shannon Borders	14 years
Captain Jason Weiss	14 years
Captain Sean Baker	12 years
Driver/Operator Kyle Neulieb	8 years
Driver/Operator Josh Hughes	6 years
Firefighter Scott Manns	5 years
Firefighter Jonathan Zerbes	5 years

Firefighter Anthony Zralka	3 years
Firefighter Alex Bell	3 years
Firefighter Ryan Stanley	3 years

At this time, Chief Taylor then asked that the two individuals that have meet all their requirements to come off probation and become a Firefighter 1-2 years. Their names were Probationary Firefighter Kody Stroud retro back to February 10, 2026 and Probationary Firefighter Philip Baker retro back to February 3, 2026.

Commissioner Butcher made the motion to approve the two Firefighters come off probation and their dates be retro back to the dates the chief stated. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Espar. **All in favor: 4 Ayes; 0 Nays Motion Carried 4-0**

Chief Taylor continues his report with regards to material for the promotion test, reminding the commission that there is Promotional Testing in September. The only change that is being requested is on the Driver/Operator, was a book be removed. Training Officer Sonntag explained to the commission why he is requesting the book be removed, stating that in 2024 the state was transitioning and put the book on the test. Now the transition is complete, the book can be removed, they are only using the ISTA book at this time.

Chief Taylor gave the commission the Evaluations from January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025 as well as a blank one for the commission to do the chiefs. Chief explained again to the commission that the Promotional Test is always on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September.

**Report from Local 475-** No Report

**Old Business-** Commissioner Adrian asked for a motion to approve the Hiring List. Commissioner Espar made a motion to approve the Hiring List. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Butcher. **All in favor: 4 Ayes; 0 Nays Motion Carried 4-0**

Chief Taylor stated that the first name on the hire list is now ineligible to complete the hiring process, so Chief Taylor is now requesting the next name on the list. Discussion ensued among the commissioners regarding how much time was given to a new hire to call back. Chief stated that it was a commission call, not a Fire Department call and directed the commission to talk with the attorney. Discussion also ensued between the Chief and Commissioner allowing the Chief to explain why this was happening stating the hiring list was not voted on at the December 2025 meeting and that there was not a meeting in January, February or the beginning of March to get the hiring list approved. If the hiring list would have been voted on at the December 2025 meeting, he would not be asking for the next name because he would simply just need to ask to move on as no name is giving when the request for the name from the hiring list is first requested.

**New Business-** Firefighter Josh Allen addressed the commission stating that at the last meeting (December 1, 2025) he asked if he could test for Lieutenant at the next promotional test. FF Allen stated that he provided the commission with all his information after that meeting and Commissioner Adrian couldn't see why FF Allen could not test for Lieutenant. FF Allen asked that the commission make it public at the next meeting but there has not been a meeting since, so FF Allen is asking that it be made public today.

During the motion, discussion ensued between the commissioners, the Fire Chief and FF Allen. FF Allen continued with he was employed with MCFD from September 2016 thru September 2022. He then left to work for another department then returned to MCFD in February 2024. FF Allen pointed out that while working for MCFD in September 2016 thru September 2022 he was a Driver/Operator for 22 months when he left. While looking over the qualifications to test for Lieutenant, it states you need to have one year as a Driver/Operator, which he states he does have, 22 months.

Commissioner Adrian asked Chief Taylor to confirm FF Allen was a Driver/Operator for over a year. Chief Taylor responded that FF Allen is not currently a Driver/Operator, further explaining that when FF Allen left in September 2022 he held the rank of Driver/Operator. He left and went to another department, when he came back, MCFD does not have lateral transfers, so when he came back FF Allen starts at the bottom, as a Probationary Firefighter. Chief Taylor stated that is what FF Allen is asking, he had the time before, how does the commission look at the ordinance? Further discussion ensued that maybe talking to the attorney about this needs to happen before a vote. The commissioners agreed to table this till the next meeting (April 6, 2026).

**Public Comments-** No Report

**Commissioner Comments-** No Report

**With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Espar at 4:21 PM and seconded by Commissioner Harvey. All in favor: 4 Ayes; 0 Nays Motion Carried.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026 at 5:00 pm.**

**Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Members:**

Alan Harvey	(Mayor Appointment 2/26/2026-11/1/2026)
William Espar	(Council Appointment; 5/21/2024-12/31/2026)
Fred Adrian	(Mayor Appointment; 1/2/2024-1/1/2028)
Larry Butcher	(Firefighter Appointment; (3/2/2026-10/31/2028)
Greg Deutscher	(Firefighter Appointment; 1/15/2025-12/31/2028)

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Fred K. Adrian*  
4/6/26

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANGIE NELSON DEUTCH-MAYOR**

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