

REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL

“HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING

May 5, 2026

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, May 5, 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 thanked everyone that came out and voted; advising that this council has not prohibited any regulations regarding holding our city council meeting on an election day.

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

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Tim Bietry, Greg Coulter, Bryant Dabney, Dr. Vidya Kora, Daisy Lee, Nancy Moldenhauer, Joseph Nelson, Don Przybylinski, and Tracie Tillman (9).

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS (0)

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

ALSO, PRESENT: Council Attorney Nick Snow, 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, April 21, 2026.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the April 21, 2026, Regular Council (Hybrid/Zoom) meeting minutes, second by Councilman Nelson; the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, and Nelson (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

Councilman Dabney stated the Finance Committee did meet this evening on May 5, 2026, and there was a quorum; stating the May 5, 2026: Riverboat fund #2235 was \$229,357.93 paying LaPorte Chrysler Inc \$7,053.93, Motorola Solutions, Inc. \$34,294.00, and Sutton Ford, Inc. \$188,010.00; Riverboat EFT fund #2235 claims was zero (0); Rainy Day fund #2236 claims was zero (0); and Boyd Development fund #2504 was zero (0) with the total claims being \$229,357.93

Councilman Dabney advised the cash position for May 5, 2026, Riverboat Fund #2235 was \$4,666,662.09 Rainy-Day Fund #2236 was \$1,321,810.42 with the fiscal grand total ending balance was \$5,988,472.51.

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve the May 5, 2026, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$229,357.93, second by Councilman Dr. Kora, the motion carried and the May 5, 2026, Riverboat/Boyd Development Claim Docket in the total amount of \$229,357.93 was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Przybylinski (9) **NAYS:** Council members None (0)

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Councilwoman Moldenhauer announced this Saturday May 9, 2026 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, the Michigan City Sustainability Commission along with many City Hall Departments are holding a workshop "Plant Smart, Do Your Part"; advising that it will be a hands on pollinator garden planning session with Leslie Shad and Kathy Sipple and will show you how to identify invasive species and know what to plant and where, demonstrating how to design a garden with native plants.

Councilman Przybylinski stated this Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the FOP the Human Rights Commission will be honoring their 2026 Humanitarian recipient Dr. Kora and that tickets are available in the Controller's Office.

Councilman Przybylinski announced if anyone needs mulch for around their house, the Laporte County Recycling Solid Waste District is giving it away at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds.

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.

MCFD Chief Taylor presented their monthly April 2026 stats.

MCPD Chief Forker presented their monthly April 2026 stats.

Tamiko Smith, City Controller presented each Council member a copy of the proposed "Michigan City Employee Retirement Playbook" addressing Councilman Dr. Kora's question from the last Council meeting on April 21, 2026 regarding the proposed additional appropriation for \$400,000 regarding PERF from the "Rainy Day Fund"; stating what the Controller's Office is proposing as a process that will be followed; pending approval from HR, City Attorney and Mayor Angie to prevent this situation from happening again; stating regardless to who is in that position, the process will remain. Ms. Smith advised that she wanted to show the council that they are working to put things in place for people retiring to prevent this from being an issue; stating that it is basically going to describe what our purpose is, what our commitment is to the city, the six (6) key points, steps that need to be followed in the process when someone wants to retire, and will also state the risks that you can face if these steps aren't followed,

Mayor Angie addressed the Council regarding the following:

- Thanked her MCFD and MCPD department heads for sharing their monthly reports with the council; inviting the council to the police memorial.
- Commented on the Earth Day extravaganza that was held by Sustainability Commission was phenomenal.

- Read the following proclamation that she will be presenting on May 9, 2026, for the Bird Habitat Protection Day.

On this day, we recognize Michigan City's ongoing dedication to preserving and enhancing natural habitats that support both our community and the birds that call it home.

WHEREAS, Michigan City's lakefront, dunes, parks, and neighborhoods provide essential habitat for a wide variety of native and migratory birds species, including Snowy Owls, Sandhill Cranes, and songbirds that enrich our environment year-round; and

WHEREAS, the protection and enhancement of bird habitat strengthen biodiversity, supports environmental sustainability, and enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, Michigan City has demonstrated leadership in environmental stewardship through initiatives such as native tree planting, habitat restoration, and sustainable practices supported by local, state, and federal partners, including a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Forrest Service; and

WHEREAS, the City was proudly designated a Bird Town Indiana in 2022 through a rigorous application process, modeled after Tree City USA, reflecting the collaborative efforts of the Potawatomi Audubon Society, local birding groups, and community partners to promote bird-friendly practices; and

WHEREAS, birding is both a recreational and educational activity that brings visitors and economic benefits to the region, while inspiring residents to actively participate in conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, World Migratory Bird Day highlights the importance of protecting migratory birds and encourages communities to engage in conservation, education, and community science.

NOW THEREFORE, I Angie Nelson Deutch, Mayor of Michigan City, Indiana do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 9, 2026, as Bird Habitat Protection Day in Michigan City, and call upon residents, businesses, schools and community organizations to celebrate by protecting bird habitat, participating in birding and conservation activities, and supporting initiatives that ensure birds – and our community - thrive for generations to come.

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch

- Announced about the Michigan City Opportunity Network
- Invited residents to the City's second open house addressing the Indiana Plan for our second year on May 13th with the Indiana Plan classes being scheduled in July this year
- Commented on the tour she took at the Data Center and that she saw one of 2025 Indiana Plan recipients working on site.
- Stated the Board of Public Works approved a partnership with Center for Workforce Innovations and Goodwill Industries; explaining the details.
- Commented on the \$150,000 collected from her Gala; stating that these funds will be going to several non-for-profit organizations in our community; advising they met with several of them today.
- Broderick Green representing "Google" announced that they are contributing \$400,000 toward the Fedders Alley All-Inclusive Playground and fitness park to close the final gap to allow this project to happen in full; and that "Google" will be creating a website at Michigancitydatacenter.com

Mr. Green addressed Councilman Nelson's question regarding what Google's plans were for City residents in regards to noise, air, pollution, and other concerns that are

being asked on social media and brought up at every meeting; there will community meetings and discussions about what the project's doing and what it's not doing and what Google's involvement's going to be going forward and that they want to be transparent.

President Tillman added that is why they are setting up an email so the city residents can go and address or present any questions or concerns through that source of communication.

Councilman Dr. Kora thanked Mr. Broderick for the generous contribution from Google for the All-Inclusive Playground at Fedders Alley and that he was glad that Mayor Angie took a tour at the Data Center; stating that he would also like to take one as well.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer thanked Mr. Broderick for Google's generous contribution; advising that she is the council representative of the 6th Ward where the Data center is located; with Mr. Broderick stating the email is Michigancitydatacenter.com and the website is Michigan City Data Center at google.com and that there is a form on the web page as well.

Councilman Dabney stated he was glad for the support from Google for the all-inclusive playground; commenting that in 1978 the Park Department passed that only Michigan City residents would be able to park in Fedders Alley and that in 2005 when amending these rules, this matter wasn't addressed and is glad to see with the destination park being developed this won't be an issue moving forward.

Councilman Przybylinski personally thanked Mayor Angie, for working with Google, thanked Mr. Broderick for Google's generous contribution making this project a reality.

Shannon Eason, Park Superintendent, stated that she is so excited and on behalf of our entire community she thanked Google for their extraordinary generosity that got us over the finish line; that this space is going to serve as a vibrant space for play, wellness, and connection, for people of all abilities; and also thanked the Mayor, the Redevelopment Commission, MC Economic Development Corporation for their leadership, vision and commitment to seeing this project through as well as the Health Foundation of LaPorte County, Congressman Mrvan, Duneland Health Council, Michigan City Human Rights Commission, United Way of LaPorte County, and all the private donors, including several contributions made by council members.

PETITIONS

President Tillman asked Deputy Clerk Pickens if there were any petitions.

Deputy Clerk Pickens stated there were no petitions this evening.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Tillman asked if there were any communications received.

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following communications that was received:

A Notice of Public Hearing was received in the Clerk's Office on April 28, 2026, from the Michigan City Board of Zoning Appeals regarding Petition #B-104-26 being held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on April 22, 2026, from Amy Losinski and Dominic Yanke to the Zoning Board Appeal Committee members.

RESOLUTIONS

President Tillman asked Deputy Clerk Pickens if there were any resolutions.

Deputy Clerk Pickens advised that there were no resolutions this evening.

ORDINANCES

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only. **CREATING SECTION 2-420 IN CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE I OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, TO ESTABLISH A FUND FOR SPECIFIC EXPENSES RELATED TO RIVERFRONT DINING WITHIN THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman

President Tillman author of the proposed ordinance stated this is in regards to the already existing established riverfront alcohol beverage license program that was established in March, 2008 and granted by the city within the Riverfront Alcohol Beverage District; advising in this program was a creation of a fee for an approved Riverfront license and a specific fund for the fees to be placed into, although no account for these funds were ever created nor any fees ever were collected; and is the purpose of this proposed ordinance in order to move forward; stating that the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission approved and adopted Resolution No. 7-2025 and the Common Council also through Council Resolution No. 4969 was already approved by the recommendation of the Redevelopment Commission to modify these aforementioned local rules to the Riverboat Alcohol Beverage License Program..

President Tillman advised that Skylar York, Redevelopment Director was present to elaborate more on what is being proposed.

Skylar York, Redevelopment Director advised that this isn't something new, it's something old that was never implemented and he doesn't have the history of why it was never implemented; this fee has always been in the application stating that once it's established, you will pay this fee and is one of the criteria's for being granted a liquor license in this district; explaining several reasons why these liquor licenses are special and that they are non-quoted and is only for the Riverfront District Area.

Mr. York asked the council if they would make an amendment to Section 2-420 (b) to replace "corporate boundaries" with "municipal riverfront boundaries"; that these fees will only be collected from riverfront liquor licenses that have been established or granted since 2008 and are in the Riverfront District.

Mr. York advised President Tillman that these are restricted and non-reverting funds which they are wanting to establish something that can be sustainable for the future; that they also added that we can match for grants received with these funds; stating what the riverfront district may want to do with the funds they receive each year; and that there are twelve (12) active liquor licenses at the present time and that they will start collecting these funds in July 2027.

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, commented on outdoor dining in the art district and not being able to walk past their restaurants due to the fencing they have placed; stating that they should charge a fee for taking up space on the city's right of way.

President Tillman asked if there were any other public comments on this proposed ordinance, there was no response.

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

Mr. York advised Councilman Dr. Kora that there are twelve (12) established Riverfront Liquor Licenses that have been established since 2008 and will be implemented to pay a fee each year moving forward in 2027 in the amount of \$2,500 with the city receiving a total of \$30,000 annually in revenue; explaining that these riverfront licenses can't be moved from the Riverfront District area to another location with the city.

Councilman Dabney thanked Mr. York for bringing up the geographics regarding these licenses; stating that he is glad that the council expanded the boundaries to the Riverfront area.

Mr. York advised Councilman Coulter that the city has reached out to each Riverfront license owner; that when each of them applied, they were advised then of this fee which is \$200 a month (\$2,500 annually) and that it wasn't implemented but was the City's intent to do so which is why this proposed ordinance is in front of the council to establish an account for these fees to go into moving forward.

President Tillman asked if there were any other questions or comments from the council, there was no response; stating that this proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the May 19, 2026, Council meeting.

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only
AMENDING SEC. 2-59 IN THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, REGARDING THE ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR MEETINGS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman

President Tillman, as the author of the proposed ordinance, stated that she consulted with both the City Attorney and the Council Attorney. She explained that the council members have all experienced, witnessed, or raised questions regarding the challenges to the Council's agenda, particularly concerning the Communications/Correspondence Section 2-59 of the Order of business which was established in 2010.

President Tillman noted that the Council's agenda include petitions, resolutions, and ordinances, and that any communications directly related to these legislative matters should appropriately fall under the Communications/Correspondence section. However, she stated that, in addition to receiving material required by statute, the Council has also been receiving correspondence involving personal grievances directed toward the council, department heads, and other individuals working within City Hall; emphasized that such personal matters are not intended to be included in this section of the agenda. Under the proposed ordinance, only communications, pertaining to legislative matters involving petitions, resolutions or ordinances would be placed on the Council agenda.

President Tillman further stated that individuals would still be able to submit communications to the Clerk's Office in the usual manner; adding that these documents would be file-stamped by the Clerk and maintained as public records

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

Amber Lapaich Stalbrink, Corporate Council, stated that President Tillman gave a great explanation and she believes this Section is really defined for specific petition as contemplated by state, ordinance or remonstrations as well as contemplated by state or local ordinance and that she agrees with that she thinks that it would be a much cleaner Council's agenda; that you're not silencing voices, people can come during public comments, but it's more of what the agenda is intended to.

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, stated that communications/correspondence doesn't really give any information about what it is about so take it off the agenda.

John Carrington, 140 Esther Street, stated that all the agenda has on it is a line item/title regarding the correspondence or petition, it isn't taking up a lot of space and doesn't see any reason to remove either.

Amy Losinski, 104 Mayfield Drive, stated that both the communications/correspondence and petitions are on the agenda by title only and that people can still request a copy and that she feels this is another attempt at not having any transparency with city residents.

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladly Street, agreed with the comments that have been made against removing these two items from the agenda and that there is a limit on how long a person can speak under public comment.

Eileen Mark, 219 Anne Street, stated that the purpose of this council is to provide citizens with a voice and a representation on city administration the City Council serves as the legislative branch of the city government and handles the fiscal responsibilities of the city; stating several reasons why she is against these items being removed from the council agenda.

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

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

Councilman Coulter stated the way he reads the proposed ordinance is that we aren't eliminating communications/correspondence but just limiting it to topics under our jurisdiction.

President Tillman advised we are eliminating that other than pertinent information that is pertaining to resolutions, petitions or ordinances; that there still will be communication section specifically for that; asking Corporate Council to explain.

Attorney Lapaich stated this is defining what communications are specifically for that section that it would be the presentation of written petitions, written remonstrations, and any kind of topics towards resolutions; advising these would be matters that would be under your jurisdiction relevant to any resolutions or ordinances.

Councilman Przybylinski advised that the council agenda format we are using today has been the same format and has been in the Michigan City Municode for fifty-seven (57) years; stating that for the ten (10) years he has served on this council he never seen when the communication/correspondence was read ever caused an uproar/mismanagement at a city council meeting; questioning where this all popped up from all of a sudden; stating several reasons why he won't be supporting this amendment.

Councilman Dr. Kora stated that he feels that the present format of our agendas is working well, advising his preference would be to leave it the way it is.

Councilman Dabney stated that he understands what both Councilmen Dr. Kora and Przybylinski are saying; but this is just defining what can and cannot go on the agenda, that if someone writes a letter that council members are drug dealers; that shouldn't be on the agenda that this proposed ordinance is defining what can be put on the agenda moving forward.

President Tillman asked to have no outburst in the chamber.

President Tillman added that also things that may be pending some legalities or information that is not privy to the public, stating several reasons why she brought this to the council and that the statute and the policy allows us to make these changes and as presiding president of this council, it is my duty and responsibility to review not just your concerns as our constituents, but it also to run a meeting decent and in order; that if there are things that need to be changed, we change them or review policies every day in legislation.

President Tillman stated that as long as she is President she will not allow that to continue in this council chamber so we continue to conduct business as we're supposed to; advising that we are not silencing anyone, if you read "Roberts Rules of Order" and the Michigan City Municode the Council President sets the agenda.

President Tillman stated the following; for the record and having an open discussion and we're being transparent that for this Council meeting the City Clerk didn't get the Council Presidents approval; stating the Council President approves the council agendas and this is twice in one month and also prior agendas that didn't get approved; today's council agenda has not been approved by me, but it's put out there; explaining that there is forty eight (48) hour rule, let's stay transparent; the forty-eight (48) hour rule is when there is a public hearing scheduled, it has to be uploaded for public record. But for the forty-eight (48) hours that we just gave to the public, there is no date, actually if you want to do forty-eight 48 hours, my forty-eight (48) hours is Sunday before the council meeting. So, moving forward, I would also ask if the Clerk will also make sure that before that count, before the agenda goes out, that you get the appropriate approval before submitting it; so, we will end with that. This ordinance will carry over until second reading for the next council meeting on May 19, 2026.

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only. **AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A PUBLIC ALLEY IN THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY RUNNING PARALLEL TO EAST MICHIGAN BOULEVARD AND LOCATED IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF AND ADJACENT TO 2525 AND 2515 EAST MICHIGAN BOULEVARD**

Introduced by: Don Przybylinski

President Tillman stated that the formal public hearing notice was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on April 22, 2026 and a formal public hearing will be held this evening.

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

Councilman Przybylinski stated that Attorney McDonnell is present this evening to discuss and answer any questions the council may have.

Attorney McDonnell, representing Bailey Properties LLC regarding the proposed vacation of a public alley, advising that Bailey's need to rebuild a septic system and to allow them to expand their parking lot.

Attorney McDonnell addressed the council regarding the concerns that City Engineer Tim Werner had regarding this proposed vacation and that his client will have the property surveyed prior to third reading on May 19, 2026 Council meeting; indicating that the survey will show half of the alley being vacated will be the abutting property owners with the other half to Bailey's Properties LLC; and that at this meeting he will be bringing that amendment.

President Tillman asked, (repeating three times) "Is there anyone from the public that had any questions or comments regarding this proposed ordinance"

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, stated this is a great project and that we should move forward and have third reading.

President Tillman asked, (repeating three times) "Is there any other comments from the public at this time", 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 stated that Attorney McDonnell has an amendment he will be bringing to the May 19th council meeting with the proposed ordinance being read on 3rd reading; making a motion to have amendments to this proposed ordinance on 3rd reading, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried and was approved to have

amendments on third reading at the May 19, 2026 Council meeting by the following vote: : **AYES:** Council members Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer,. Nelson, Przybylinski, and Tillman (9) **NAYS:** Council members None (0)

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only. **AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A PUBLIC STREET AND A PORTION OF PUBLIC ALLEY IN THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY LOCATED NORTH OF WOODLAWN AVENUE BETWEEN WINNIPEG AVENUE AND GENEVA LAKE AVENUE**

Introduced by: Don Przybylinski

President Tillman stated that the proposed ordinance was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on April 22, 2026, and the Formal Public Hearing scheduled for this evening.

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

Councilman Przybylinski explained at the last council meeting on April 21, 2026, that there are some developments that have occurred since then; asking Attorney McDonnell to please explain.

Attorney McDonnell, representing Ronald and Laurne Presbitero stated he has requested the sponsor of this proposed ordinance to TABLE this matter indefinitely; that he received input from Mr. York and Mr. Werner regarding some concerns regarding this petition and this proposed ordinance; so to allow maybe some alternatives that might involve the Board of Public Works and Safety Board he is asking to TABLE indefinitely.

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

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only. **APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE GOLF NON-REVERTING FUND #2508 TO FUND SALARIES AND WAGES AT THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES**

Introduced by: Bryant Dabney

(DECREASE Golf Non-Reverting Fund #2508 Unappropriated balance \$ 36,600.00 **INCREASE** ACCOUNT #2508.000.411.014 \$ 35,300.00 Seasonal Wages. **INCREASE** ACCOUNT #2508.000.411.013 \$ 1,300.00 Salaries and Wages (Full Time)

President Tillman stated that the proposed ordinance was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on April 22, 2026, and the Formal Public Hearing scheduled for this evening

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

Councilman Dabney stated this a non-reverting fund that allows the golf course to maintain funds that will not go into the general fund but may be used for what is needed for the golf course.

President Tillman stated this will be advertised in the Herald Dispatch on April 22, 2026, and the formal public will be held on May 5, 2026, Council meeting.

President Tillman asked, (repeating three times) "Is there anyone from the public that had any questions or comments regarding this proposed ordinance", there was no response and the public hearing was closed.

President Tillman asked if the Council had any questions or comments, there was no response, stating the proposed ordinance will be held over for 3rd Reading at the May 19, 2026, Council meeting.

Deputy Clerk Pickens read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only. **APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE RAINY DAY FUND TO COVER UNFUNDED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND (PERF) CONTRIBUTIONS**

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman
Tim Bietry
Bryant Dabney

(DECREASE 2236.000 Unappropriated balance \$400,000.00. INCREASE ACCOUNT # 2236.000.413.003 - \$400,000.00)

President Tillman stated that the proposed ordinance was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on April 22, 2026, and the Formal Public Hearing scheduled for this evening

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

President Tillman asked, (repeating three times) "Is there anyone from the public that had any questions or comments regarding this proposed ordinance".

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladys Street questioned why we are funding people that aren't eligible for PERF and why did they started paying them to begin with.

John Carrington, 140 Esther Street, asked the council to make sure that they know what we're asking about; that he noticed that the City Attorney Lapaich had to get up and explain the proposed ordinance regarding correspondence and petitions to the council; and that this proposed ordinance its apparent that these people may not receive their pensions, that the City Attorney no have to come up and explain or clarify and is hoping the council knows what this situations is regarding the \$400,000.

President Tillman stated the formal public hearing was closed.

President Tillman asked if the council had any questions or comments at this time.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to have third reading this evening.

President Tillman asked if the motion to second that we have third reading on this proposed ordinance this evening, there was no response and the motion failed.

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

Councilman Bietry advised that the council doesn't answer questions during public comments but assures Mr. Carrington that all council members of this council had an executive session meeting and are very aware about what happened, how its happened, and why its happened, it won't happen again, stating that we know what we are doing.

Councilman Dabney explained that the information before the Council is accurately reflected in the proposed ordinance. He stated that he would not elaborate on any personal matters.

Councilman Dabney further explained that the ordinance appropriates \$400,000, which represents the amount the City is required to fund. He noted that, had the affected employees remained continuously employed by the city during the period in question, the city would have continued making contributions to their Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) retirement accounts, formerly known as PERF.

He stated that INPRS calculated provided the city with the total amount that would have been contributed on behalf of those employees had the remained employed during that time. The amount totals approximately \$400,000, which is the sum being appropriated through this ordinance.

Councilman Dabney stated that this matter has been identified and forwarded to INPRS for processing. He emphasized that the City's responsibility is limited to funding the amount that should have been contributed funding the applicable period. INPRS is now handling the matter directly with the employees, and the City is no longer involved beyond providing the required funding.

Councilman Dabney concluded by stating that he would not comment further to avoid discussing any personal matters.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated that this issue did not occur during this current Administration; the error was found by the City Hall staff who reported it to the Indiana State Retirement Fund which gave direction to give it to them for handling.

Councilwoman Lee verified this Administration was not responsible for the error, as it occurred between 2021 and 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

President Tillman asked if there was any new business.

Deputy Clerk Pickens stated Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding her new appointment of Chuck Krause to the Michigan City Port Authority Commission, term begins immediately and expires 4/12/2030.

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve Mayor Angie's advice and consent request for her new appointment of Chuck Krause to the Michigan City Port Authority Commission with his term beginning immediately and expires April 12, 2030, second by Councilman Przybylinski, the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, and Dr. Kora (9) **NAYS:** Council member None (0).

President Tillman congratulated Chuck Krause on his appointment to the Port Authority Commission.

Deputy Clerk Pickens stated **FYI:** The Council has one (1) appointment to the Sustainability Commission- Due to Julie Smith's resignation on April 18, 2026. term will begin immediately and expire on 5/1/2027.

Deputy Clerk Pickens advised President Tillman the following application were received in the Clerk's Office.

- Dale Batz
- Violet Worth
- Shauna Hill
- Sharyl Krachinski

Attorney Snow advised President Tillman that nominations cannot be conducted tonight; as the council rules requires two (2) meetings prior to an election being held; an FYI will be provided and at the next meeting nomination will be held, followed by the vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Tillman asked if there was any unfinished business.

Deputy Clerk Pickens advised that there was no unfinished business this evening.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, thanked Marylynn Wall for her services to our city and congratulated Tamiko Smith on her promotion as City Controller; invited the public to attend the opening day of Farmed and Forged Famers Market on Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00p.m. located at 800 Washington Street,

Amy Losinski, 104 Mayfield Drive, asked if Google Data Center will be responsible for re-paving Tryon and Royal Road due to the hauling of heavy equipment leaving the road crumbling; stating her concerns with the Data Center and communication with the council members.

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladys Street, thanked the Michigan City Fire Department for the quick response to a fire at his rental property; stated his concerns with litter throughout our city.

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 thanked the Street and Refuse Departments for a great job with the city wide clean up; and thanked Google for the donation of \$400,000 to the All-Inclusive Park.

Councilman Dabney, advised on his views regarding correspondence on the council agenda; stated that he participated in the "Ambassador Program" with Michigan City Area Schools and hopes that more people sign up to see the great people in our school system that make every day run smoothly for our students.

President Tillman asked Attorney Snow if Vice President Bietry can finish Council Comments without calling a recess as she needs to step out. Attorney Snow responded that was Yes.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated she attended the LaPorte County Commission meeting regarding the proposed data center ordinance offering suggestions of concerns for light and sound pollution and encouraging them to send it back to the Plan Commission to use stronger guidelines; invited the public to attend the Laporte County Commission meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. located at the LaPorte County Complex; advised that she is dedicated to protect people who live in LaPorte County; asked the city council members to renegotiate with Google regarding their responsibilities and the tax abatements for the data center in hopes to receive a fair deal for Michigan City and to include money for our school system.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer stated the 5th Annual Earth Month Extravaganza was very successful with 500 attendees, 100 more than last year, and over 25 organizations tabling; thanking Andie Jahnz-Davis for being the event coordinator.

Councilman Dr. Kora stated his concerns for correspondence on the council agenda.

Councilman Bietry stated he attended a groundbreaking ceremony for Holiday Property Developers "Aldridge Building", that will bring more workforce to our community.

Councilman Coulter stated that the Michigan City Area Schools "Ambassador Program" provided a different perspective than being a student or parent; congratulated

Councilman Dabney on his "Perfect Attendance" award; asked Attorney Snow after a motion and a second has been made does that open up a debate/discussion as this has not been done per the Roberts Rule of Order.

President Tillman stated this matter has been addressed after a motion has been made and a second it comes back to council comments before the vote takes place.

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

ADJOURNMENT


A motion by President Tillman, second by Councilman Dabney and there being no further business to transact, President Tillman declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 9:00 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 May 5, 2026](#)



Tracie Tillman, President



Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk