

# REGULAR IN PERSON COUNCIL

## “HYBRID/ZOOM” MEETING

**May 19, 2026**

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, May 19, 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 stated that the silent prayer we just did with respect of any and everyone's beliefs, spiritual beliefs, and religion would commented that over the past week, our community has experienced a series of tragic acts of gun violence, including the recent post-prom shootings that resulted in injuries and the loss in those that occurred thereafter, that this not only impacts those that were involved, but families, students, and our entire city; that on behalf of the City Council, I would like to express our concerns, our prayers, and our unwavering support for every person that has impacted by this; stating there are several resources in our community to reach out to.

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 (**Zoom**), Don Przybylinski, and Tracie Tillman (9).

**ABSENT:** COUNCIL MEMBERS (0)

### **A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT**

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Council Attorney Jewel Harris, 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, May 5, 2026.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the May 5, 2026, Regular Council (Hybrid/Zoom) meeting minutes, second by Councilman Bietry; the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Moldenhauer, Nelson (Zoom), Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, and Lee (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 not meet this evening May 19, 2026, due to there were no claims.

Councilman Dabney advised the cash position for May 19, 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.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

Darryl Borton, Human Rights Committee Chair announced that on Sunday, June 14, 2026, here at City Hall he will be hosting a "Hands Against Gun Violence" event inviting all City Officials, local pastors, local law enforcement, the public and students.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer reported on the Sustainability Workshop that was held with the help and cooperation from the Mayor's Office, Park and Recreation Department, Earth Charter Indiana, National Wildlife Federation, Indiana Wildlife Federation and Save the Dunes; stating that it was a huge success with forty (40) people participating; announced that the Northwest Indiana Green Drinks will be held on June 4, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. and CJ Greco will present on the group "Out in Nature" as an employee of Lincoln Park Zoo. You can join on Save the Dune's Facebook Live, or a zoom link can be obtained [em@savedunes.org](mailto:em@savedunes.org).

Councilman Przybylinski announced that Council Attorney Harris advised him that the city received \$250,000 from the Long Beach sanitary sewer lawsuit.

Dakota Euler, member of the Michigan City Licensing Board announced that their President Dwayne Seifer and board secretary Peggy Lasco resigned from their positions; thanking them for their hard work and dedication while serving on this board for several years.

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.

MCPD Chief Forker stated that Mayor Angie sent her apologies for not being at this meeting but had a prior engagement and they prepared the following statements regarding the ongoing incidents that have taken place in our community; updating that there was an arrest made today related to one of those incidents and understand these concerns, frustrations and fear these incidents create; advising public safety remains our highest priority with our officers and continue to be proactive throughout our community and that the Mayor hosted a productive meeting with several community organizations, partners, and stakeholders with the focus of this meeting was collaboration, communication, and to ensure we're working together to support our youth, families and neighborhoods during this difficult times; and will continue addressing violence, strengthening our community trust, and identifying meaningful ways to support those impacted. Chief Forker and Mayor Angie want to sincerely thank the community for coming together and showing up for one another, that the event at Gardena Park over this past weekend was a great example of coming together in a positive way to support our youth.

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

**PETITIONS**

President Tillman asked Clerk Neulieb if there were any petitions.

Clerk Neulieb stated there were no petitions this evening.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

President Tillman asked if there were any communications received.

Clerk Neulieb read the following communications:

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on May 11, 2026, from Carlie Dunn regarding issues, concerns, and matters within the community that she believes are not being adequately addressed.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on May 11, 2026, from Scott Meland regarding the MCPD Flock Systems.

Notice of Decision: approval was received in the Clerk's Office on May 11, 2026, from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) WM Technologies LLC- Permit Number 091-49655-00020 located at 500 Blaine Street.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on May 5, 2026, from Carlie Dunn regarding the Council meetings being held on Election Day.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed resolution by title only.

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL****RESOLUTION NO. 4997****WAIVING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE AND INSPECTION FEES FOR MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS COMMUNITY EVENT CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan City Area Schools (hereinafter referred to as "School") is currently undertaking or anticipates undertaking the following Project:

- **Name of Project:** Michigan City Area Schools Community Event Center
- **Description of Project:** New Athletic complex with a multi-purpose synthetic turf field line for soccer and football, new running track with mondo rubber surfacing, new bleachers and press box on top, new state-of-the-art field lighting, concession stand and restroom facilities and a new scoreboard.
- **Statement of how the Project will benefit the School/Community:** Potential opportunities to host State IHSAA Events bringing tax dollars into the community or other community events.

(hereinafter referred to as "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance #4798 recently enacted by the City on May 5, 2026 and codified in Sec. 22-83 of the Michigan City Municipal Code, the School is requesting that the City waive Fifty Percent (50%) of the building permit fee and inspection fees for the Project to lessen the financial burden and impact on the School for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan City Planning & Inspection Department has advised that the total building permit fee and inspection fee for the Project is as follows:

- Building Permit Fee: \$125,060.00; and

(A letter from Building Superintendent, Dave Albers, from the Michigan City Planning & Inspection Department confirming the total building permit fee and inspection fee is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**); and

**WHEREAS**, the School is requesting the Michigan City Common Council waive Fifty Percent (50%) of the total cost of the building permit fee and inspection fee for the Project, namely \$62,530.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan City Common Council, having considered the request, has determined that waving Fifty Percent (50%) of the building permit fee and inspection fees for the Project, namely \$62,530.00, is in the best interest of the City, School, and the residents of Michigan City, Indiana.

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

1. The aforementioned “Whereas” sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
2. Fifty Percent (50%) of the building permit fees and inspection fees for the Project in the amounts as set forth above are hereby waived.

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

/s/ Tim Bietry

**NOTE: Exhibit “A” is filed in the Clerk Office in file CR-116**

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

Councilman Bietry advised this resolution is a direct result of the change that was made in the ordinance that would allow this advantage; stating that he wanted to clarify that all that is being proposed this evening is 50% of the total building permit for the Michigan City Area Schools Community Event Center; recommending approval.

Councilman Dabney thanked Councilman Bietry for his explanation; stating that he has nothing to add at this time.

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, stated that the council does have the option to not give the school system any reduction of their building permit fees.

Councilman Dabney addressed Mr. Kulavik’s comments were about two (2) other entities that are being proposed to be built in our city; that he wants to make sure the public knows that we are only talking about building permit fees for the Michigan City School Community Event Center this evening.

Councilwoman Lee stated that due to Michigan City Area Schools being her current employer, she will be abstaining from the vote.

Dave Williamson, Director of Facilities for Michigan City Schools advised Councilman Przybylinski that the MCAS did have the groundbreaking ceremony for this facility.

Councilman Bietry made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Dr. Kora; the motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, and Moldenhauer (7) **NAYS:** Council member Nelson (Zoom) (1): **ABSTAIN:** Council member Lee (1)

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed resolution by title only. **A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF GENERAL FUND #1101 FOR THE YEAR 2026 IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

**Introduced by:** Tracie Tillman

President Tillman stated this proposed resolution is from general fund #1101 decreasing that fund from \$15,000 to increase Fund 1101.401.423.031 which is to purchase small tools and minor equipment line item to \$15,000; advising that we are not asking for additional funds but a transfer within the Vector Control Departments 2026 budget.

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

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

Councilman Przybylinski asked President Tillman what minor equipment the Vector Control Department is purchasing with this \$15,000.

President Tillman advised that she was asked to sponsor this necessary transfer and not aware of what minor equipment Vector is needing; that if Councilman Przybylinski is wishing not to vote, or if he would like for this to be tabled until you get that information, she had no problem in doing so.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to TABLE the proposed resolution until the next council meeting on June 2, 2026, Councilman Bietry second the motion; motion carried and was approved to TABLE the proposed resolution until the June 2, 2026 Council meeting by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, Lee and Moldenhauer (8) **NAYS:** Council member Nelson (Zoom) (1):

President Tillman stated that this proposed resolution is TABLED until the June 2, 2026, Council meeting.

## **ORDINANCES**

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only **AMENDING SEC. 2-322 IN THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING METHODS OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED BY THE CITY**

**Introduced by:** Tracie Tillman  
Don Przybylinski  
Tim Bietry

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

Councilman Przybylinski read the following Sec. 2-322 (a) The City may accept payment and of the following method; questioning if the word "may" in this section should read "will" or "shall" versus what it states; questioning if we he should table this until the next meeting or offer an amendment by substituting what it states in several places in this proposed ordinance that needs to be looked at.

Council Attorney Harris agreed with Councilman Przybylinski that he thinks that was done intentionally too and that was to provide the city with the flexibility of passing along

that fee if they so choose; advising that if Councilman Przybylinski would like to make a motion to table because you want more information on that, that's fine.

Councilman Przybylinski asked then if we don't change the language, then who makes the determination whether we charge the fee or we don't charge the fee; that he thought the intention of this proposed ordinance was to start charging the fee to the people instead of the city paying for every fee.

Attorney Harris advised the way the ordinance reads now, it will leave it to the discretion of the department head to determine if they want to start passing along that fee or not.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance to make the appropriate amendments until the June 2, 2026, Council meeting, second by Councilman Nelson.

President Tillman's recommendation/question for this to be tabled in the midst of all of this you will be reaching out to all the department heads to receive their consensus as well.

Councilman Przybylinski stated if the department heads want to decide one way or the other, what they want to do with this proposed ordinance, they should attend the next council meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and explain to the council why they want to have this flexibility.

Councilman Bietry stated that he agrees with Councilman Przybylinski; that his understanding of this was that if there's a credit card involved, we were going to pass on the fee of that to whoever owed the money; advising if there is a change we need to be careful that we differentiate who is not impacted by that and make it very clear in this document.

Attorney Harris agreed with Councilman Bietry that we must be careful that we differentiate who is not impacted by the amendment.

The motion carried to TABLE the proposed ordinance until the June 2, 2026, Council meeting by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, and Przybylinski (9) **NAYS:** Council members (0):

President Tillman stated this proposed ordinance will be tabled until the June 2, 2026, Council meeting.

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed ordinance on second 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 stated this proposed ordinance is alright, but there is one minor amendment that needs to be made reading the following

**Sec. 2-420. Riverfront Dining Marketing Fund (b) to read as follows:**

**(b) The source of funding shall be any fees obtained by the City from any Private party for the application, processing, endorsement, Maintenance, or renewal of any Riverfront Dining, 3-Way Alcohol Permit associated with any real property within the corporate boundaries of the City of Michigan City, Indiana**

President Tillman asked Skyler York, Redevelopment Director to explain the minor amendment being proposed.

Mr. York explained that the end of last year this council expanded the boundaries for the Municipal Riverfront District, stating the proposed ordinance is creating a fund to put those annual fees they will be collecting (\$2,500) for further promoting, development, and encourage dining and entertainment opportunities within not only the Riverfront Alcohol Beverage District, but within the corporate boundaries of the entire city. Stating that is why we are adding "Riverfront Dining" to Sec.2-420 (b)

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

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

Councilman Bietry made a motion to amend Sec. 2-420 (b) adding "Riverfront Dining" as President Tillman read; Council Dr. Kora second the motion to amend adding to Sec. 2-420 (b)"Riverfront Dining"; the motion carried and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Bietry, Coulter, Dabney, Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, and Tillman (9) **NAYS:** Council members (0):

President Tillman stated this proposed amended ordinance will be held over to third reading at the June 2, 2026, Council meeting.

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed ordinance on second 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 stated that as author she has no comments at this time.

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

John Carrington, 140 Esther Street read the following:

First, I want to acknowledge the loss and injury to our community is still processing. A young person lost their life, others were critically injured, and many families are hurt. My condolences go to everyone affected.

We've also heard reminders about the importance of trust, communication, and transparency between government and the public. I agree with those principles, and they matter not only in times of crisis, but in every way this Council conducts its business. That is why I am asking you to vote no on the proposed amendment to Section2-59 of the Michigan City Municipal Code regarding the order of business. This ordinance would remove the routine references to "communications" received by the Clerk from the order of business, while still allowing them to be distributed to Council members and accessed under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act. I understand the rationale- that these communications are circulated, are public records, and their mention is often brief or not tied to action. But it is important to be clear what changes. Including "communications" in the order of business creates a visible, real-time acknowledgement that written correspondence has been received. It requires no debate; it simply reflects citizen input entering the Council's awareness. This ordinance removes that acknowledgement. And while these records remain available under public records law, availability is not visibility. Public records law provides access when someone knows to ask. The current practice provides a public signal that communication has occurred. These are different forms of transparency serving different purposes. This change moves us from correspondence being visibly received in an open meeting to it being effectively invisible unless someone already knows it exists and requests it.

I also want to address the concern that "communications" is vague or unnecessary. That is a policy judgement, not a legal requirement. Neither Indiana law not Robert's Rules requires its removal. Written communications from residents are often not tied to a site, but they are still part of what this council receives from the public. Acknowledging receipts takes only moments, but it

creates a consistent public record that citizen input has entered the system. At a time when public confidence is already fragile, reducing the visible acknowledgement of public input even if records remain accessible risks weakening transparency in practice. For those reasons, I would respectfully ask the Council to vote no on this amendment. Transparency is not only what can be requested later. It is what the public can see happening in real time.

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street, stated that he served on this council for many years, that Sec. 2-59 that President Tillman wants to delete is one of the citizens of Michigan City rights and is also under the constitution as a first amendment to petition our government and is a form of public transparency; asking this council to vote "NO" regarding this proposed ordinance.

Tommy Kulivak, 1316 Ohio Street, asked not to remove this Section being proposed this evening.

Ernie Hulihan, 302 Gladys Street, commented on why he is against eliminating correspondence in Section 2-59 that this is there for our information.

Dominic Yanke, 904 Willow Spring Drive, stated he doesn't agree with President Tillman's proposed ordinance and agrees this council doesn't have the authority over every issue, but does have the authority to author a non-binding resolution; advising that correspondence only takes a few brief minutes, addressing many things that take place during a council meeting that isn't posted on the agenda that sometimes take an hour such as the Mayor or by DATA Center Representatives; that if the city administration would like to respond to complaints, they can discuss them during council comments.

Mr. Yanke asked if the Mayor's Office has any updates to post them through the city website and social media or she should make them during public comment like the rest of us; stating that he believes this proposed ordinance was not written with the public in mind, but rather to preserve the valuable time of our city council members asking the council to please vote no on this matter.

Kyle Ratliff, 314 N. Calumet Avenue, stated he strongly opposed the proposed ordinance amending Section 2-59 removing communications from the order of business for a council meetings, that this is not a minor housekeeping change; that transparency and accountability in our local government; commented on this proposed ordinance was brought to the floor on election day stating several concerns that vague titles of correspondence is not an excuse to delete a tool, it is an excuse to improve it; asking this council to vote no on this ordinance.

Eileen Mark, 219 Ann Street, stated that she does agree with everyone that has spoken this evening that this is a first amendment violation of our rights and would like to know the reason why this needs to be taken off by President Tillman; asking this council to vote no on this ordinance.

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

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

Councilman Dr. Kora, stated that he understands the concerns expressed as to why this ordinance was proposed to begin with and believes anything that gives the impression that we are not transparent is counterproductive; that also believes that if there is some communication that promotes violence or is defamatory to an individual, there are ways we can handle it without removing the entire section of communications.

Councilman Przybylinski, thanked the public for their comments; stating that he hasn't heard one person from the public say that this is a good idea and that at our last council meeting on May 5, 2026 when this ordinance was proposed he explained why he was against what was being eliminated; that these are for transparency for the public to

know what people are sending into the Clerk’s Office and that the council has been following this format for over fifty-seven years, questioning why this is this being brought up to eliminate now.

President Tillman stated that she introduced this proposed ordinance and thought she made it clear why this ordinance came forth: giving a more in-depth reason as to why she supports it: that during the past six (6) or seven (7) years the council has received, threats, got falsified information, defamation of character, slander, not just for us but some has also been against some of you amongst yourselves, also addressing their personal grievances and if it is a legal matter that falls under the law, that it may not be something that this council can handle; Ms. Tillman stated those should be filed with appropriate entity or legal department to move whatever matters that are at hand and this something that she has observed and has explained all of this and is as transparent as you can get, have explained this repeatedly.

President Tillman added that this isn’t silencing anybody, it is still being transparent; asking as if you choose to do your communications, send them as you have been to the Clerk’s Office and they will get stamped and it will be sent to each council through email and a hard copy; advising if it isn’t something that is not pertaining to the order of business on the agenda; that yes petitions get listed under petitions; stating that she is not silencing anyone, but just to have a meeting to flow productively in order to conduct business and the public still has public comments to speak at; and that she had both Corporate Attorney and Council Attorney to review this proposed document.

President Tillman stated, this proposed ordinance will be held over on third reading at the June 2, 2026, Council meeting.

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**Ordinance No. 4799**

**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**

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WHEREAS, Bailey’s Properties, LLC, an Indiana Limited Liability Company, (the “Petitioner”) is the owner of certain real estate located within the City of Michigan City, Indiana, (the “Property”), more particularly described as follows:

See Exhibit “A” attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference;

WHEREAS, the Petitioner has petitioned the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana for the vacation of a portion of a public alley bisecting the Property, more particularly shown and described as follows:

See Exhibit “B” (consisting of 2 pages) attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference;

WHEREAS, the City Clerk for the City of Michigan City, Indiana caused to be mailed on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026, via United States Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested, notice of the consideration of its Petition before the Common Council of the City of Michigan City for the vacation to the following abutting property owners of the Property:

Batz Real Estate Holdings I, LLC  
2511 East Michigan Boulevard  
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

Mailing address:

387 Melton Road  
Burns Harbor, Indiana 46304

WHEREAS, the Clerk for the City of Michigan City has caused notice of the consideration of the Petition before the Common Council of the City of Michigan City for the vacation to be published on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2026, in the LaPorte County Herald Dispatch, a newspaper of general circulation in LaPorte County, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Michigan City has conducted a public hearing on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026, with regard to said Petition and the Common Council of the City of Michigan City now finds that it is in the best interests of the City of Michigan City and its citizens that the herein described portion of the public alley should be vacated; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, now finds as follows:

- a. That the subject vacation would not hinder the growth or orderly development of Michigan City, Indiana or the neighborhood in which it is located or to which it is contiguous;
- b. That the subject vacation will not make access to the lands of any property owners within Michigan City, Indiana by means of public way difficult or inconvenience;
- c. That the subject vacation will not hinder the public’s access to a church, school, or other public building or place; and
- d. That the subject vacation will not hinder the use of a public way by a neighborhood in which it is located or to which it is contiguous; and

WHEREAS, the Petitioner will, if necessary, grant appropriate utility easements acceptable to the City of Michigan City, for the use and benefit of the Michigan City Sanitary District and the

Department of Water Works for the City of Michigan City, for any existing facilities that may be located in the portion of the alley that is to be vacated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Michigan City Common Council as follows:

1. The aforementioned WHEREAS sections are set forth herein as if fully incorporated herein.
2. The portion of the public alley running parallel to east Michigan Boulevard and located immediately South of and adjacent to 2525 and 2515 East Michigan Boulevard is hereby vacated and, pursuant to law, shall vest in the Petitioner and the above-identified abutting property owner.
3. Notwithstanding the vacation of said portion of the subject alley, any public utility presently occupying or using all or any part of said street shall not be deprived of said use unless and until said utility waives said rights by filing its written consent to this vacation proceedings or by executing and recording its waiver of said use.
4. This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Michigan City Common Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, any necessary recording, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.
5. The Clerk of the Michigan City Common Council shall furnish a certified copy of this Ordinance to the LaPorte County Recorder and the LaPorte County Auditor in order that same may be placed of record in the records of the Recorder's Office.

Introduced by: /s/ Donald Przybylinski, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

**NOTE: Exhibit "A" and "B" are filed in the Clerk's Office 0-209 and V-60**

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

Councilman Przybylinski stated that Attorney McDonnell is present this evening to explain the amendment and ask any questions the council may have.

Attorney McDonnell, 601 Franklin Street, representing Bailey Properties LLC regarding the proposed vacation of a public alley, advised the City Engineer Tim Werner asked that he make an amendment specifically to Exhibit "B" and is part of this proposed ordinance that they would have a survey done to show the allocation between the two affected property owners, Bailey's properties and the adjoining property owner, the Batz family which they submitted the revised Exhibit "B" to the Clerk's Office and that each council member received this exhibit as well.

President Tillman stated that the formal public hearing notice was advertised in the Herald Dispatch on April 22, 2026, with the formal public hearing held on May 6, 2026.

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

President Tillman asked if there were any comments from the council

Councilman Przybylinski thanked Attorney McDonnell for the explanation, stating that he spoke with Tim Werner, City Engineer and Mr. York, Redevelopment Director approving the recent survey that was received as Exhibit "B"; making a motion to approve the proposed amended Exhibit "B" ordinance, second by Councilwoman Moldenhauer; the

motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Coulter, Dabney, Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, and Bietry (9) **NAYS:** Council members (0):

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

**ORDINANCE NO. 4800**

**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**

**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 Golf Non-Reverting Fund #2508 for the Parks Department to fund the salaries and wages at the Michigan City Municipal Golf Courses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the Golf Non-Reverting Fund #2508 for the Parks Department 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 Golf Non-Reverting Fund #2508 Unappropriated balance	\$ 36,600.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT #2508.000.411.014 Seasonal Wages		\$ 35,300.00
INCREASE ACCOUNT #2508.000.411.013 Salaries and Wages (Full Time)		\$ 1,300.00
<b>TOTAL FOR FUND</b>	<b>\$ 36,600.00</b>	

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

**INTRODUCED BY:** /s/ Bryant Dabney, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

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

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, adding at the end of the year if there is a balance it stays in that line item for the upcoming year.

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

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

Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, and Coulter (9) **NAYS:** Council members (0):

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

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
ORDINANCE NO. 4801**

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE  
RAINY DAY FUND TO COVER UNFUNDED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT  
FUND (PERF) CONTRIBUTIONS**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Michigan City, Indiana (“City”) participates in the Indiana Public Employees’ Retirement Fund (PERF) administered by the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS); and

**WHEREAS,** a recent internal audit performed by the Human Resource Department identified that eight (8) participants had “improperly retired” with PERF due to failing to have an actual bona fide separation of employment as required by IRS and PERF regulations; and

**WHEREAS,** of these eight (8) participants, six (6) are City employees, one (1) is a Port Authority employee, and one (1) is an elected official; and

**WHEREAS,** these improper retirements occurred between 2021 and 2023 before Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch took office; and

**WHEREAS,** the City has worked cooperatively with PERF to resolve this matter, and as a result, the employer’s share of contributions must be remitted for all eight (8) participants retroactive to the date that each submitted their improper retirement applications to current; and

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor has recently advised the Port Authority that they will be required to remit their respective employer share for their one (1) participant once that amount has been determined by INPRS; and

**WHEREAS,** there are insufficient funds currently appropriated in the 2026 Budget to satisfy the missed employer contributions by the City to PERF for the remaining seven (7) participants; and

**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 City’s employer contributions for seven (7) City participants to PERF; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the Rainy Day Fund #2236.000 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 2236.000 Unappropriated balance	\$400,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2236.000.413.003		\$400,000.00
<b>TOTAL FOR FUND</b>	<b>\$400,000.00</b>	

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

**INTRODUCED BY:** /s/Tracie Tillman, President  
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Tim Bietry, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

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

Councilman Dabney stated that what this is covering is the amount of dollars that we would have continued to fund for these certain employees, if they would have still been considered working for the city; advising what happened is they were separated at Indiana Public Retirement of the state of Indiana, and said that they were no longer working for the city, thus they started to collect retirement while at the same time working for Michigan City; that created an issue where it was discovered that if we would have been continuing to still pay into the fund as if they would have been working and considered still working with us and is the reason why we have to pay the \$400,000 to cover that amount that we would have been funding.

Councilman Dabney stated that somebody asked him if this is a city issue; advising that it is PERF's matter now and they will be settling this; advising that we were notified of the amount for the individuals or whoever fell into this category and that the city was notified that we have to continue to pay the money as if we would have been funding those retirements for those workers; stating that is what the council is looking at this evening \$400,000.

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

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

Paul Przybylinski 1716 Washington Street, commented about the article in our local paper regarding this \$400,000 additional appropriation that someone down state made the decision that it was okay for these eight (8) employees to start collecting their pension, someone was not notified in the office of the Controller and subsequently didn't ask if they should pay into the account for these employees still working; explaining that he is collecting a pension, still working, and his employer is paying into his pension to date; questioning who started the inquiry; stating the controller's office should be paying that money, and that from the very beginning someone was wrong.

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

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

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman Bietry, the motion carried and the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Kora, Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Przybylinski, Tillman, Bietry, Coulter, and Dabney (9) **NAYS:** Council members (0)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Tillman asked if there was any new business.

Clerk Neulieb stated Mayor Angie is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding her new appointment of Ken Purze to the Michigan City Historic Preservation Commission, term begins immediately and expires 3/31/2027.

Councilman Bietry stated he does not feel that he can vote in favor of the Mayor's request of this advice and consent that he feels it isn't in the best interest of the city; advising that he has shared his objection with the mayor and shared his position with Mr. Purze.

Ken Purze addressed the council regarding why he wants to serve on this committee and his history and background experience in our community

Councilman Dabney advised that he would like to hear Councilman Bietry objection, since there has never been an objection to support a mayor's request; questioning if we need to table this, hold it until the next meeting, or vote.

President Tillman advised Mr. Purze there is no further comments at this time.

President Tillman rescinded her motion to approve Mayor Angie's request of the council members for their advice and consent to appoint Mr. Ken Purze to the Historic Preservation Commission.

President Tillman asked if there was a motion.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to TABLE Mayor Angie's request for the council's advice and consent Mr. Ken Purze to the Michigan City Historic Preservation Commission with his term beginning immediately and expiring May 31, 2027 for further review from the council until the June 2, 2026, Council meeting, second by Councilman Nelson, the motion carried and was TABLED by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Lee, Moldenhauer, Nelson, Tillman, Bietry, Dabney, and Dr. Kora (7) **NAYS:** Council members Przybylinski, Coulter (2).

President Tillman stated this will be carried over to "Unfinished Business" at our next council meeting on June 2, 2026.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Tillman asked if there was any unfinished business.

**NOMINATIONS:** Clerk Neulieb stated 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.

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

President Tillman asked (repeating three times) "Are there any nomination for the one (1) appointment to the Sustainability Commission".

Councilman Przybylinski nominated - Sheryl Krachinski.

Councilman Danbey nominated - Dale Batz.

President Tillman nominated - Shauna Hill.

President Tillman asked (repeating three times), "if there were any other nominations"; there was no response and nominations were closed; stating the vote will take place at the June 2, 2026, Council meeting.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1716 Ohio Steet, announced all the new business coming to Michigan City this year; invited the public to attend the Food Truck Festival this weekend at the Lakefront and the Farmed and Forged Farmers Market that will be opening this Saturday.

Tamiko Smith, 115 Logan Street, stated the following.

For those that don't know, I am the newly appointed "Controller" for the city as of April 2026 and have been employed by the city for eleven (11) years, and that, I was home and heard; because I'm listening and working always the discussions regarding the \$400,000 appropriation that is needed and somehow its being implied that the Controller's Office somehow failed. Anyone who has retired knows there is a process for retirement; the question was, how did this happen or how was this discovered. A few years ago, we had a new administration come in, and that administration brought in new workers and that in January an employee retired. The new HR director followed the process when an employee retires and one of those things is you go into PERF system and you tell PERF, hey this employee is no longer with us, their last day of service was this, their last paycheck was this day; then you move from a PERF covered position to a non-covered and that is the city's responsibility. Upon entering the information into PERF portal, the HR director discovered this employee has been retired since 2023 while this employee has been actively working. The director followed protocol to address the situation and then asked to conduct an audit to determine whether there are any other employees currently employed but listed in the PERF system as a non-covered position, or has been terminated in the system, or has submitted paperwork to request their own retirement. Stated she thinks the blame should go where it lies and you can kind of determine for yourself where that is. Once the error was discovered, I as the City Controller am not going to find something wrong and continue to do it wrong. When you come in, you're supposed to leave it better; and that's her goal. The Controller's Office has been transparent and did not violate any policies. There were some violations and there was some lies told and there were some things done, but it was not by the Controller's Office. That is why the city needs to request \$400,000.00; because when you tell PERF your retired but you continue to work, the city is still responsible for their contributions to your retirement even though you claim you're not working. Once the audit was completed there was eight (8) employees from 2021 to present who have done this in a specific period of time. Even if by the grace of God, the city made this mistake, the employee has to initiate the process, let's be clear. This request was made to make the city whole, because that's our responsibility, period. That's as transparent as I can be.

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladys Street, stated that correspondence should be kept on the council agenda; and said again that the city needs industry.

Chris Zubtis, MCFD Local 475, read the following.

First, I want to acknowledge the families affected by the recent tragedies in this city. As a father myself, I cannot imagine the pain you are experiencing. Please know your Michigan City Firefighters Local 475 stands with you and will continue to be there for you in your time of need; But the main reason I'm here tonight is to let the public know that as I stand before you today, your Michigan City Firefighters still DO NOT HAVE A NEW CONTRACT. And let's be very clear about why. It's not because firefighters refused to negotiate. It's not because we didn't show up. And it's not because we demanded outrageous raises. It's because this City has chosen delay, dysfunction, and disrespect.

For 18 years, this department operated under a light duty policy with no controversy and no problems. Then last August, after a pregnant firefighter began asking questions about her rights under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, this City eliminated that policy. The mayor eliminated this policy. We were told it "wasn't approved by the Board of Works". That's fine. So, firefighters did exactly what firefighters do. We worked to fix the problem.

In October, members of Local 475 sat down with the Mayor and proposed light duty language. That language was reviewed, adjusted, agreed to, and reviewed by the City's labor team and attorneys. But now, after months of delays in negotiations and after bringing in a federal mediator, firefighters are suddenly being told: "We'll deal with it in the next negotiations." Or worse—the City changes the rules again and adds even more barriers, making it more difficult to access. That's not negotiation. That's not good faith. That's stringing firefighters along while hoping we eventually give up.

Meanwhile, I currently have a member recovering from multiple surgeries who is at risk of exhausting her sick time and losing her paycheck because this City still refuses to resolve an issue that should have been settled months ago. So how long are firefighters expected to wait? How many times are we expected to negotiate, compromise, and come before this council only to be told "not yet"? Because at some point, it stops looking like laziness incompetence and starts looking like an active decision to punish firefighters. This is backtracking. This is disrespect. And the firefighters of this city are done pretending otherwise. But despite all of this, when the citizens of this city call 911, we don't delay patient care. We don't make excuses. We don't say, "we'll deal with that fire in the next negotiations" or "I'll do that CPR later". We show up. Every call. Every shift. Every time. Every Single Time.

Brian Bentley, 702 E. Coolspring Avenue, stated that the firefighters understood the Oath of Office they took to protect the city, however, when a firefighter is not operating at 100%, it not only puts that firefighter at risk, but also the citizens they serve. That is why light duty for firefighters recovering from an off-the-job injury or illness is not unusual. We are not asking for a new benefit, we are asking for a continue benefit the department has had for the past eighteen (18) years that is a common practice among fire departments throughout the State of Indiana.

Jenna Tepavceovich, MCFD Captain, 131 Top Flight Road, stated that there is a gap in the department's policies that is affecting staffing, budget and the long-term health of the firefighters; the daily commitment to protect the community is made without hesitation, but firefighters are human and face injuries, illnesses, and setbacks on and off the job. After eighteen (18) years, the city removed the only light-duty work option available to firefighters, that leaves employees with only two choices: use all of their sick time and then go unpaid or come to work injured and operate below full capacity. A light duty policy removes the pressure and allows the injured firefighters to heal properly while still contributing to the department in a safe, productive way.

Taylor Scott, 717 Franklin Street, stated her concerns with homelessness and littering along Franklin Square in the Art District, encouraging enforcement and accountability.

President Tillman asked Ms. Scott to submit her correspondence to the Clerk's Office, and it will be shared with the council members.

John Carrington, 140 Esther Street, stated at the previous council meeting it was stated a council meeting was allowed to take place on an election day as it was not a Federal holiday and that a proposed resolution removing communication was justified quoting Roberts Rules of Order and the Michigan City Municode but was unable to find that information with his research asking the council to site the codes when quoting them; and stated his concerns with not having communication on the council agenda.

Dominic Yankee, 904 Willow Spring Drive, stated that the Indiana Open Door Law requires forty eight (48) hour notice for the agenda to be posted that does not include weekends or holidays; and that the City Clerk does not need the approval from the council president as the Clerk must comply with the Indiana Open Door Law; thanked Councilman Przybylinski for standing for transparency with communication to remain on the council agenda; and that light duty should be available for all first responders including the firefighters.

Tom Donogon, 205 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, read the following.

Every year, I have friends and family visit for the Patriot Parade and boat races and have a lot of fun. This year they are not coming as they are worried about all the recent shooting happening in Michigan City as they do not want to get shot. I told them it would not happen but could not guarantee them. They heard about two more recent shootings, one a murder, a few blocks from my house. There were four near my house last year, including a murder, but they came for the parade and boat races anyway. This year, no. This year they will not be spending hundreds of dollars they usually spend on hotels, dining and going out over the course of the weekend. If they're not coming because they don't feel safe, how many other people aren't going to come to Michigan City this summer. Tourism is a golden goose for Michigan City and the goose is going to stop laying golden eggs if you, as city leaders, can't perform your number one function as elected officials: Public Safety. The nine of you were elected to represent residents of the city. You was elected to be here in this position. For the past few years, you've let us down. Homeless, panhandling, and vagrants have taken over our city. Franklin Street to Detroit Street is an open-air drug market for addicts that hang out there. Trash is worse than ever and shooting and murders are on the rise. Last year after a murder that happened near Matey's while boat races were in town there was a community conversation on gun violence. Another one of those things where a task force was created, committees were set up to create an action agenda to from a strategic planning process to work on the issue. In other words, say things that sound important and then do nothing. I was up here last October telling you the same things and nothing has changed!

As I've said to you before: if you do not know how to fix the problem, get in touch with your colleagues in places that don't have these issues. Find out what they do and implement it here. There's a of places in Indiana and all over the region where shootings are not becoming commonplace. Those places have law and the courts are handing out meaningful sentences, all with the backing of the city leaders. Of course, there's lots of places where shootings happen a lot. In those places, there's a lax law enforcement and city leaders who condone that. There's one common factor for both: the city leaders. They either put up with shootings or they don't. Which are you? I have to say this again, too: Michigan City is at a tipping point. You and the mayor can let the shootings and all the other crap that's on continue or you can put a stop to it now. If you can't do that, or you don't want to do that, then the answer is simple, Step down.

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street, stated in his previous years on the Council that the Controller's Office overestimate revenue on two (2) separate occasions; advised that he attended the Sanitation meeting with Mr. Belia as he was not provided the opportunity to speak, but they introduced the rate increase for Sanitation over the next three (3) years, advised there was a discussion held on a study that has been completed regarding outflow from the Lafayette Barker Sewer Project that was never approved by IDEM; and stated that when you abstain from a vote you must identify your reasoning.

Anthony Suida, 4521 North Ruckman Trail, stated that he is devastated by what is happening in our community, we need action, transparency and communication from our elected officials.

Dakota Euler, 718 Emma Street, invited the public to attend the Memorial Day Parade honoring our veterans on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. starting at Aimes Field to Decator Street ending at Greenwood Cemetery.

Derald Burton, Human Rights Commission, provided his contact information to the public regarding the "Hands Against Gun Violence" event taking place on Sunday, June 14, 2026, from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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, encouraged the community to fly there flags in honor of Memorial Day and our veterans; advised that the city administration, school administration and the MCPD are working on steps to combat the gun violence in our community, asking for a report to be provided to the city council so that everyone is informed and can provide the correct information to the public; advised that him and Attorney Harris had a phone conference with IDEM regarding soil testing at the Google Data Center and there is traces of trichloroethylene and that the soil can be sent to a landfill and provided the public with a contact email for IDEM- Jeff Wokrman [jeffworkman@idem.in.gov](mailto:jeffworkman@idem.in.gov) and he will respond to any questions or concerns.

Councilman Dabney, sent his condolence to the families that have lost loved ones due to the recent shootings in our community; and stated his concerns with gun laws and violence; and encouraged everyone in the community to come together to work on a solution for this problem.

Councilwoman Moldenhauer, sent condolence to the families that have lost children to the recent gun violence, and believes that the State of Indiana has tied the hands of the law officials as new laws that have been passed don't require you to hold a gun license for concealed carry and that everyone is allowed to carry permit less; State Police, county sheriffs, and municipal police were not in favor and pleaded with the State Legislators not to pass the Bill into Law, yet they did against their recommendations; encouraged the public to contact Governor Braun's office and your elected State Senator and Representative to voice your opinions; advised that she has been following up with Ward 6 residences concerns with the Google Data Center and that Broderick Green, Google, has been responsive to concerns, and that reconsideration of the Phoenix Tax Abatement is not possible as this land was already zoned for industry and will be exploring other ways how Google could support nonprofits and education for our community.

Councilwoman Lee, stated that she has personally experienced public defamation advising that she would never lie to the public as she was provided with the information and data regarding the soil testing performed at the Data Center; stated that city has issues that need to be resolved but it will require everyone working together, including the youth.


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

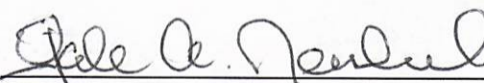
## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by President Tillman, second by Councilman Bietry and there being no further business to transact, President Tillman declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:50 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 19, 2026](#)

  
Tracie Tillman, President

  
Gale A. Neulieb, City Clerk