Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
September 9, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: President Rick Bella called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by President Rick Bella.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE: A brief invocation was given, along with a moment of silence, by Pastor Robert Szoke of Impact Church.

ROLL CALL of COUNCIL: – Present at the meeting were Councilors Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, and Leona Chandler-Felton were absent at roll call.

Councilor Leona Chandler-Felton came into the meeting at 6.37 p.m.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:
NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
There were no public comments given at the meeting. A copy of the video from the Town Council Meeting held on September 9, 2025, has been uploaded to the Town's website at https://www.merrillville.in.gov/government/town_council/town_council_meetings.php.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for September 9, 2025
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes August 26, 2025

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve the consent agenda.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The consent agenda was approved.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

a. A Public Hearing on Matters which require legal notice: Ord 25-25-FD Additional Appropriation
   i. Verification by Town Attorney of the validity of proof of publication dated August 27th, 2025:

   Attorney Svetanoff reported that he has reviewed the Proof of Publication, and everything is in order and conforms with the Indiana Code. The council may proceed with the public hearing.

   ii. Public Hearing Open:
   President Bella opened the hearing for Ordinance 25-25. There were no public comments.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Ordinance 25-25.

Attorney Svetanoff stated that the council should close the public hearing and act under General Orders.

   iii. Public Hearing Closed:
   President Bella closed the public hearing for Ordinance 25-25.

President Bella stated that the council will act under this section.

Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on second and final reading.

b. Presentation of Declaration or special recognition:
   i. CN Rail – See Tracks, Think Train Declaration:

Chief Nuses read the following statement into the record:

Often times, it's the simple things in life that we tend to overlook. Not out of neglect or carelessness...but because, over time, we become comfortable. Familiarity can be a beautiful thing, but it can also quietly dull our sense of caution.

Take something as common as railroad crossings. We pass them daily. We hear the bells, we see the lights, but in that routine, we sometimes forget just how dangerous these intersections can be. Here in Merrillville, we have several crossings on well-traveled roads. Because we're so used to them, they can fade into the background of our everyday lives. But the danger never fades and that's why we must stay vigilant.

We live in a great country. One full of innovation, pride, and resilience. But even the greatest can always strive to be better. There's always room for growth, for reflection and especially for improvement in the areas that protect our people. This includes safety. The launch of the National See Tracks? Think Train! campaign is one more step in that direction. It's a powerful reminder that every life matters, and that safety starts with awareness. It's a campaign aimed to not only speak to individuals, but to entire communities as well. And today, as the Town of Merrillville officially recognizes National See Tracks? Think Train! Week, we're reinforcing that commitment.

This declaration is more than a piece of paper...it's a promise. A promise that our elected officials, public safety leaders, and community members are united in the mission to protect one another. That we will continue to raise awareness. That we will speak up. That we will all think before we cross. Because one second of awareness can save a lifetime of heartache.

Let this week serve as a reminder, not just to stay safe near the tracks, but to never get so comfortable that we forget the value of a single life. Let us lead with awareness, act with purpose, and move forward together as a town that cares deeply for its people. Thank you.

Konstantinos D. Nuses

Chief Nuses read the following declaration into the record:



Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana

The Town Council of Merrillville Recognizes the
National SEE TRACKS! Think Train Week

Whereas, See Tracks! Think Train week is to be held across the United States from September 15 to 21, 2025; and,

Whereas, Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two (2,252) rail grade crossing collisions resulted in 749 personal injuries and were responsible for 268 fatalities in the United States during 2024; and,

Whereas, 1,465 pedestrian trespassing casualties have occured in the United States resulting in 821 pedestrians being killed and another 644 injured while trespassing on railroad property rights of way during 2024; and,

Whereas, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railroad rights of ways are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens; and,

Whereas, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Operation Lifesaver, Inc., United States Department of Transportation, and all local, state, county, and railroad law enforcement officers, first responders, and railroad corporations commit to partnering together in an effort to educate at a national level all aspects of railroad safety, to enforce applicable laws in support of National See Tracks! Think Train Week; and,

Whereas, train tracks flow throughout the Town of Merrillville and our Police Department and First Responders want to make sure our residents and visitor stay safe when around Train Tracks;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, do hereby attest our full support declaring September 15 through 21, 2025 as NATIONAL SEE TRACKS! THINK TRAIN WEEK and we encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education and support the efforts of the Canadian National Railway Company.

We want everyone to be safe around train tracks and thank CN for this helpful reminder.

Declared and signed by the following Honorable Town of Merrillville Town Councilors and attested to by the Honorable Town Clerk-Treasurer, this 9th day of September, 2025.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the declaration.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The declaration was approved.

ii. National Adult Day Service Week:

Veronica Tello, Active Day's Center Director, gave an overview of the organization and read the following declaration into the record:



Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana

The Town Council of Merrillville Recognizes
"National Adult Day Services Week"

Whereas, the week of September 21 through September 27, 2025, has been recognized as Adult Day Services Week by the National Adult Day Services Association, members, staff, communities and States across the country, and;

Whereas, President Ronald Reagan enacted Proclamation 5107 - National Adult Day Care Center Week, in 1983 stating that adult day care centers provide supervised community settings in which partially disabled men and women of all ages can obtain care that may not be available in their own homes. These centers provide opportunities for adults who are socially isolated to find friends and learn skills. Day care centers enable individuals to obtain the care they need without being forced to live in institutions, and they offer needed respite to families whose infirmed relatives live with them.

Whereas, public awareness and education enhances a community's understanding of the issues effecting seniors and adults of all ages who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, and;

Whereas, the number of adults with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, as well as other chronic conditions, continues to grow at a high rate, and;

Whereas, adult day services provide socialization, therapeutic programming, nutrition, supervised healthcare, rehabilitative therapies and respite for families allowing older adults and adults with disabilities to remain vibrant members of their communities and in their homes for longer.

Whereas, we are fortunate to have long-time Adult Day Services in our home town that do a wonderful job of caring for our Adults in need including *Active Day of Merrillville*, who have served our community for over 20 years.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, does hereby recognize the week of September 21 through September 27, 2025, as

National Adult Day Services Week

and call upon the citizens of Merrillville to observe, discuss and educate others with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and other activities about the value and contributions that Adult Day Services have made to the betterment of our nation, state and more specifically, our hometown of Merrillville.

Signed by the following Honorable Town of Merrillville Town Councilors and attested to by the Honorable Town Clerk-Treasurer, this 9th day of September, 2025.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chancellor-Felton to approve the declaration.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The declaration was approved.

BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Maria D Garduno Hernandes/Angie's Breakfast and Grill
Owner: Maria D Garduno Hernandez
Request: Special Exception Approval
Purpose: To Allow A Dine In Restaurant
Location: 6760 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District

Planning and Building Director Sheila Shine reported that the ABZA was approved.

Director Shine explained the request.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve the ABZA.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ABZA was approved.

Petitioner: Tyrone Brown
Owner: Ankur Singhal: CRP Indiana LLC
Request: Variance of Use Approval
Purpose: To Allow A Church
Location: 6128 Broadway
Zoning: M-2 Limited Industrial Corridor Overlay District

Planning and Building Director Sheila Shine reported that the ABZA was approved.

Director Shine explained the request.

The Petitioner Tyrone Brown explained the organization.

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding the M-2 zoning classification, Director Shine responded that the zoning has not reverted to its original zoning classification. The new owners of the property would like to meet with the council regarding the classification change that must be approved by the council.

It was moved by Councilor Hardaway and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve the ABZA.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ABZA was approved.

Petitioner: Ahmad Zaghoul
Owner: Ahmad Zaghoul
Request: Variance of Use Approval
Purpose: To Allow an LED Message Center
Location: 3112 West 81st Avenue
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District

Planning and Building Director Shine reported that the ABZA was approved with a condition.

Director Shine explained the request.

Director Shine also informed the council that there was one remonstration and read the following letter into the record:

The Coleman's
3307 W 80th Ave
Merrillville, IN 46410

Dear Board of Zoning

The previous lights that were located on the grounds of the business located at 3112 West 81st Ave were very problematic. They seemed similar to floodlights. Although we know they don't use them any more, it was a very unpleasant experience because the light blared into the whole backyard and into our bedroom window. Having additional lights or a LED sign would be an annoyance. This unwelcome brightness can make it difficult for us to relax or maintain a regular sleep schedule, directly impacting our overall well-being and quality of life. For these reasons, the installation of more lights in this area is something we would strongly prefer to avoid.

Sincerely

The Coleman's
mrmaurice@live.com

Considering the remonstration, the ABZA condition is that the LED Message Center sign must be turned off after the business closes.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding a dimmer switch, Director Shine responded that there will be a dimmer switch, but the condition of the ABZA is that the LED Message Center must be turned off after the close of business.

The representative for the Petitioner informed the council that the LED Message Center will dim down at sunset to 10%.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve the ABZA.

It was moved by Councilor Hardaway and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve the ABZA.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ABZA was approved.

Applicant: Nick Beader
Owner: St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
Request: Approval for Large Gathering Permit
Purpose: Bowling Tournament
Location: 8700 Taft Street
Date & Time: October 4th 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. & 5th from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Planning and Building Director Shelia Shine explained the Large Gathering Permit.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve the Large Gathering Permit.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The Large Gathering Permit was approved.

PRESENTATION OF DECLARATIONS: *NONE*

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTS:

***BUDGET & FINANCE*—NEAL**— Vice-President Neal was absent.

STREET DEPARTMENT & PARK MAINTENANCE - UZELAC– Councilor Uzelac reported on the following:

- Crack Sealing – Crack Sealing is still being done on 73rd Avenue.
- Branch Pick-Up – Councilor Uzelac informed the residents that this is the last week for branch pickup and to put branches in the front yard.
- Park Maintenance - Maintenance such as mowing, cleaning, and picking up trash is still ongoing for the parks.

Director Steve King added that the last day for branches was August 29th. The Street Department is doing one last sweep on the Town, which will be completed on Wednesday, September 10th. Everything has been field verified by our staff and posted on the Town's website.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding a report for budget and finance, Media Officer Chas Reilly responded that there is nothing to report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS—PETTIT—Councilor Pettit had nothing to report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway reported that the following positions are still available for hire:

- Community Event Planner – Parks Department
- Recreation Attendant – Parks Department

If you meet the qualifications, you can apply. The application and job descriptions are available for download on the website.
https://www.merrillville.in.gov/departments/human_resources.php and the Town of Merrillville's mymerrillville app. The postings will be closed on September 16, 2025. Director Jerry McCartney will explain the two Parks Departments' positions and his appearance on the radio station WJOB.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac reported that Director Matthew Lake has hired a contractor to clean the sediments out of Bon Aire Lake.

Director Lake informed the council that the contractor is in place, and the project will start soon.

Councilor Uzelac also informed the council that Mr. Emerson contacted her regarding Kaizer Ditche. The project will start as soon as possible.

PUBLIC SAFETY—HARDAWAY—Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

Councilor Pettit informed the council that the six-acre property for the fire station has been officially donated to the Town of Merrillville. The property is in the Town's name. American Structure Point has submitted drawings to Fire Chief Yerga and Assistant Chief Lilley for review and comments.

President Bella informed the council that Vice-President Neal will be available to sign the paperwork tomorrow.

Councilor Pettit also reported that documents have been signed by him, President Bella, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January, and Councilor Hardaway for the bond sale. The bond sale will be closed on Tuesday, September 16th, and funds will be available for the following three projects:

1. Fire Station Project
2. Whitcomb Street Project
3. Town of Merrillville's Paving Project Phase II

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice-President Neal was absent.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding a report, Media Officer Chas Reilly responded that he has nothing to report.

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding planting flowers in the median where 86th Avenue to Broadway and Merrillville Road, Director King responded that the trees are being removed from that section and replaced with concrete. The section has become hard to maintain and hazardous with the trees.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit had nothing to report.

UTILITY LIAISON –CHANDLER-FELTON – Councilor Chandler-Felton had nothing to report.

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit informed the council that he would defer to Park and Recreation Director Jerry McCartney for the report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON– Councilor Haynes-Edwards was absent.

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS - NEAL – Vice-President Neal was absent.

Media Officer Chas Reilly reported on the following:

- **Fall Newsletter** – The information for the letter has been sent off to the printer. In the newsletter, you will find information on the mymerrillville app, stormwater tips, parks' activities leaf collections, passport services, business license renewals, and upcoming events like the Fire Department Project Fire Buddies Halloween Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser for adults . The event will be on October 25th at the Slovak Club in Merrillville. The tickets are $100.00 for a team of four or five people. All the proceeds will help families of children facing critical illnesses. The Town of Merrillville administration staff has established a team to participate in this event.

- **Trunk or Treat** – The Town of Merrillville event will be on October 23rd from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. We already have about twenty organizations that are signed up to distribute candy for this event.

- **My Merrillville App** – Please download the mymerrillville app to keep connected with Town news, events, and other information. This app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards was absent.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE – Director Matthew Lake reported on the following:

- **97th and Grand** – Director Lake reported that the land purchase agreement has been signed. The permits will be valid until the fall of 2026. The bid solicitation will be released in the winter for a spring project start date.
- **Emergency Repairs** – The department has been busy with emergency repairs. The culvert at 53rd east of 65 is finished. There is another one in AmeriPlex that we must repair.
- **EPA Training** -Director Lake will be attending Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) training on September 17th.
- **Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG)** – Little Calumet River hosted the NISWAG meeting on September 2nd, and the website: https://www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org has all the information in terms of cost sharing and several presentations.
- **Hickory Ridge** – We are seeking the final reimbursement of $529,000.00 from Little Calumet River Basin.
- **Tiger Mower** – The new John Deere Tractor with the tiger mower should arrive in about two weeks.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that the next leadership committee meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-NEAL– Vice-President Neal was absent.

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardway reported that a Shared Ethics Entity Summit will be held on October 30th at the Avalon Manor from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The summit is open to the public, and interested individuals must RSVP by October 17th. This is a free event. The guest speakers are Mayors from the following cities:

- Michigan City, Indiana
- Valparaiso, Indiana
- Crown Point, Indiana

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that the next meeting is Wednesday September 24th.

CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE - JANUARY – Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported on the following:

- **Food and Beverage Tax** – The Town received another check for $155,945.19, which brings the total payments received to $2,245,218.48.

- **Cash Balances -** (Obligated Funds Comprise of Court, Fire Department, General Fund, Police Department, RDA, Stormwater, etc.) $46,470,780.73.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

Director Jerry McCartney – Parks and Recreation Department
Director McCartney reported on the following:

- **Parks and Recreation Pamphlet** -These pamphlets list all the current activities at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center and are available to the public. Director McCarney highlighted the adult and youth volleyball activities.
- **Update on Floors and Walls-Community Center** – ICC Flooring Plus finished their 60-hour test and will submit a quote. The walls in the community room and the walls outside the locker room will be painted. We received a quote from Five Star Painters. After both projects are complete, we have plans to work on how best to utilize the rooms.
- **WJOB Radio Station** – Director McCartney informed the council that he will be a guest on the radio station to discuss parks and recreation in the Town of Merrillville at 8:30 a.m. in Hammond, Indiana.
- **Update on Staffing** – There have been several resignations in the last month in the Parks and Recreation Department, which have left the center shorthanded. We appreciate the patience of our residents as we work to fill the vacant positions.

Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses reported the following statistics for August 2025:

- **Call for Service** – 2,743 (with 4,461 Officer Responses)
- **Adult Arrest** – 107
- **Juvenile Arrest** – 1
- **Traffic Stops** – 404
- **Traffic Citations** – 336

Chief Nuses also reported that the Traffic Unit will start on September 15th. The unit will consist of two Officers to address the traffic problems in the Town of Merrillville and ask the residents for patience as the officers address the problems areas and accidents.

Chief Nuses reported that the department has seen an increase in homelessness in the Town of Merrillville and throughout the state of Indiana. The state does not have a solution to address this issue, nor can it explain why this is happening. Chief Nuses also reported that his administration has come together to work on combating this problem in the Town of Merrillville. He gave an overview of some of the plans.

Chief Nuses also announced that the Woman's Self-Defense class will be held on October 8, 2025, at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The class is free.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Sheila Shine had nothing to add to her report.

Director King - Street Department
Director Steve King had nothing to add to his report.

Administrative and Building Manager Linda Rosas– Town Administration
Administrative and Building Manager Linda Rosas reported on the following:

- **Monthly Reports** – Administrative and Building Manager Rosas reported that the two reports, including the staff report, have been given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January. She also reported that Town Manager Griffin will be returning to work next week.

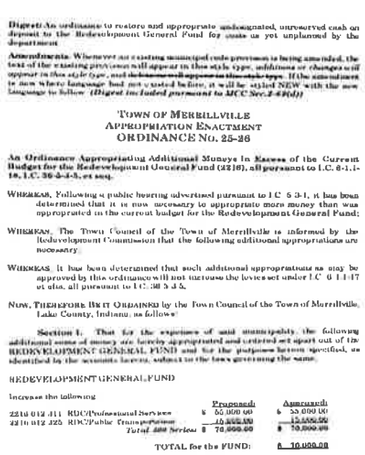
GENERAL ORDERS

A.* Ordinances: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote): *NONE

Zoning: (Motion to adopt or reject; confer IC 36-5-2-10(d)

First Reading: Ordinance (Discussion and Roll Call Vote):

1. **Ordinance 25-26 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Appropriating Additional Monies Within the RDC General Fund for the Year 2025 Not Included in the Current Budget.



Digest: An ordinance to restore and appropriate undesignated, unreserved cash on deposit to the Redevelopment General Fund for costs as yet unplanned by the department

Amendments. Whenever an existing municipal code provision is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions or changes will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear as this style type. If the amendment is new where language had not existed before, it will be styled NEW with the new language to follow. *(Digest included pursuant to MCC Sec. 2-44(d))*

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
APPROPRIATION ENACTMENT
ORDINANCE NO. 25-26

An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Current Budget for the Redevelopment General Fund (4210), all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, I.C. 36-5-3-5, et seq.

WHEREAS, Following a public hearing advertised pursuant to I.C. 5-3-1, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the current budget for the Redevelopment General Fund;

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville is informed by the Redevelopment Commission that the following additional appropriations are necessary;

WHEREAS, It has been determined that such additional appropriations as may be approved by this ordinance will not increase the levies set under I.C. 6-1.1-17 et seq., all pursuant to I.C. 36-5-3-5.

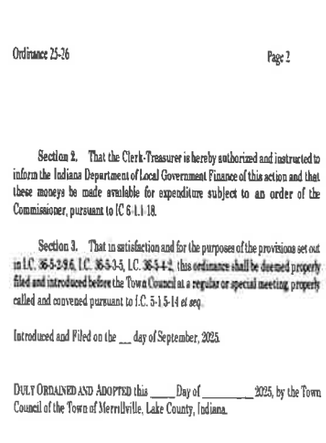
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the REDEVELOPMENT GENERAL FUND and for the purposes herein specified, as identified by the accounts hereto, subject to the laws governing the same.

REDEVELOPMENT GENERAL FUND

Increase the following

	Proposed:	Approved:
2210 012 311 RDC/Professional Services	$ 55,000.00	$ 55,000.00
4210 012 225 RDC/Public Transportation	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total 4210 Series	$ 70,000.00	$ 70,000.00
TOTAL for the FUND:		$ 10,000.00



Ordinance 25-26 Page 2

Section 2. That the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and instructed to inform the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance of this action and that these moneys be made available for expenditure subject to an order of the Commissioner, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-18.

Section 3. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-5-3-5, I.C. 36-5-4-2, this ordinance shall be deemed properly filed and introduced before the Town Council at a regular or special meeting, properly called and convened pursuant to I.C. 5-1.5-14 et seq.

Introduced and Filed on the __ day of September, 2025.

DULY ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this ____Day of _____2025, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Ordinance 25-26.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Leona Chandler-Felton, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, Margaret Uzelac, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on first reading.

Second Reading: (Discussion, Public Comments Only If Required & Roll Call Vote):

1. **Ordinance 25-25 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Appropriating Additional Monies Within the Fire Protection Territory Operating and Cumulative Fire Equipment Funds for the Year 202! Not Included in the Current Budget.

ORDINANCE NO: 2025-25

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES WITHIN THE FIRE PROTECTION TERRITORY OPERATING AND CUMULATIVE FIRE EQUIPMENT FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 2025 NOT INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT BUDGET

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the annual budget in the 2025 Fire Protection Territory Operating and Cumulative Fire Equipment Funds, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is aware that the 2025 Fire Protection Territory Operating and Cumulative Fire Equipment Funds currently holds a sufficient cash balance to support the requested additional appropriation, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, that there is hereby provided and ordered for the expenses of the taxing unit, the following additional sums of money are appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

Fund Name:	Amount Requested:	Amount Approved by Fiscal Body:
Merr. Fire Territory (8604)		
2243010187/Overtime	$100,000.00	$100,000.00
2243010361/Repair Parts	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00
2243010394/Contractual Services	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00
Cumulative Fire Equipment (8692)		
4444010431/Equipment	$ 50,000.00	$ 50,000.00

DULY ADOPTED AND ORDAINED THIS _____DAY OF_____2025 BY THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

Action on this ordinance was taken up under Special Orders.

B. **Resolutions (Discussion and Voice Vote):** ***NONE***

OLD BUSINESS :
NONE

NEW BUSINESS:
NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting September 23rd at 6:30 p.m.
- Town Council Workshop September 23rd at 4:45 p.m.
- RDC Meeting September 23rd at 6:15 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat October 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the D&BWCC. The D&BWCC will be closed.

ADJOURNMENT:
Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President announced the meeting had adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis