Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
June 24, 2025, 2025 6:40 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilor Bella called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

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

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE: A brief invocation was given, along with a moment of silence, by Pastor Paul Anderson of First Presbyterian Church

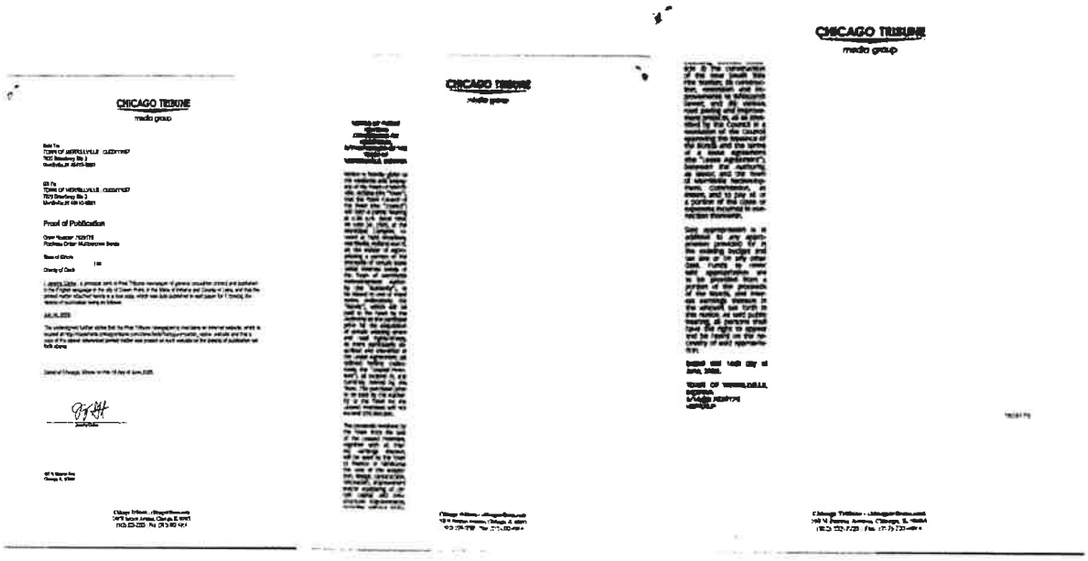
ROLL CALL of COUNCIL: – Present at the meeting were Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:

- **Employee of the Month: June**
  Town Manager Michael Griffin and Administrative Manager Linda Rosas presented Robert Hunt, who works in Town Administration's Building Maintenance, as June's Employee of the Month for the Town of Merrillville, to the council and audience. Mr. Hunt received a certificate of recognition and a gift card. Administrative Manager Linda Rosas expounded on Mr. Hunt's exemplary work at the Town Administration Department.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Town Attorney Svetanoff review of Proof of Publication(s): Add Proof of Publication with a public hearing date of June 24th, 2025, Re: Ord 25-19 Bond Proceeds RDA.**



Town 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.

Public Hearing: Re ORD 25-19

- Public Comments:
  No Public Comments were given.

Action on Proposed Ordinance
Action on the ordinance will be taken up under General Orders.

2. **Town Attorney Svetanoff review of Proof of Publication(s): Add Proof of Publication with a publi hearing date of June 24th, 2025, Re: Ord 25-20 Additional Appropriation Courts.**



Town 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.

Public Hearing: Re ORD 25-20

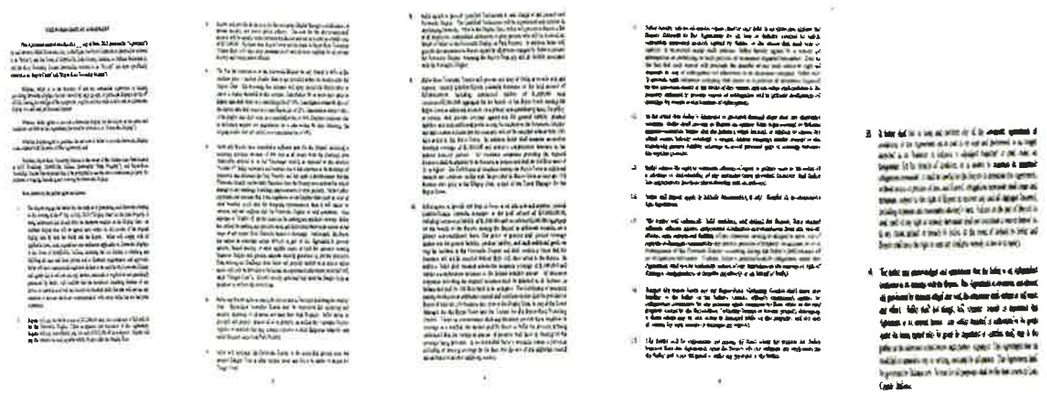
- Public Comments:
  No Public Comments were given.

Action on Proposed Ordinance
Action on the ordinance will be taken up under General Orders.

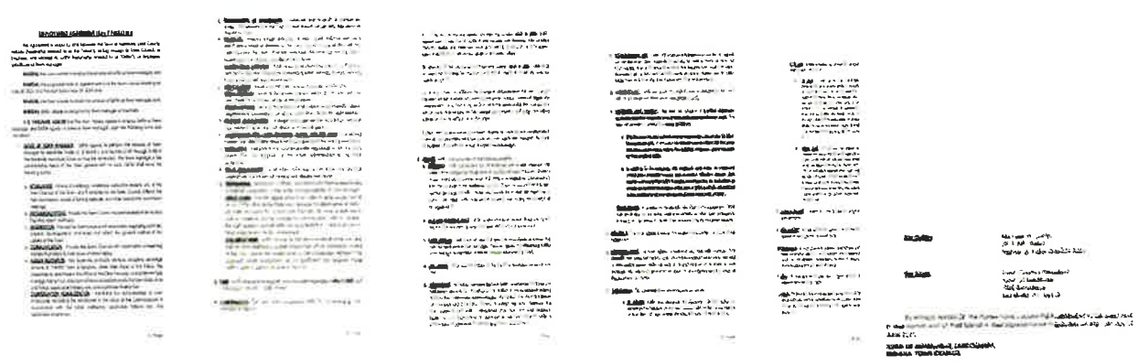
MOTIONS ON THE TABLE: ***NONE***

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for June 24, 2025
- ARPA Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for June 24, 2025
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes June 10, 2025
- Fireworks Agreement RKM Fireworks (Updated)



- Town Manager Employee Agreement



- D&BCC Projector Purchase Quote Approval


HQ Production Audio

Quotation: Replacement Ballroom Projectors



It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve the consent agenda.

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

PRESENTATION OF DECLARATIONS: ***NONE***

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTS:

***BUDGET & FINANCE*—NEAL**—Vice-President Neal reported that the committee will start scheduling budget meetings for the 2026 budget.

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

- **Crack Sealing** – The Street Department has completed crack sealing on Whitcomb Street in Ward 4.
- **Branches** - The branches accumulated throughout the Town are being picked up.
- **Local Parks and Bike Trails** – The local parks and bike trails in the Town of Merrillville are being mowed and maintained.
- **Street Sweeping** – Street Sweeping is still ongoing throughout the Town.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS—PETTIT—Councilor Pettit reported that he will meet with Town Manager Griffin and Attorney Svetanoff regarding upcoming ordinances. On tonight's agenda, there are a couple of ordinances up for second reading.

President Bella requested, based on his conversation with Police Chief Nuses, that Councilor Pettit add to the agenda of the next meeting the issue of unpaid tickets that Code Enforcement issued to homeowners for uncut grass. The unpaid tickets are accumulating. The committee needs to investigate attaching that charge to the tax rolls.

Councilor Pettit recommends the following sliding scale:

- 1st Offence - $100.00
- 2nd Offence - $250.00
- 3rd Offence – $500.00

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac reported that the ponds have been cleaned.

PUBLIC SAFETY—HARDAWAY—Councilor Hardaway reported that she will schedule a public safety meeting with Chief Nuses of the Police Department and Chief Yerga of the Fire Department.

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice-President Neal reported that the Gateway signs are finalized. The committee is waiting for construction by Robertson Engineering of the signs. The beautification of the Town with flowers and hanging baskets is done.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) meeting was held before the council meeting, where three resolutions were approved. There are two tax abatement preliminary resolutions on tonight's agenda. One for a Korean Company that selected the Town of Merrillville out of six state locations. The other is Millennium Drywall, which is relocating back to Ameriplex. There is also a resolution regarding the bond for the Fire Station, Whitcomb Street Project, and Paving Project.

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

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that the standing committee meeting scheduled for July 3rd will be postponed due to the Town's July 4th events, and a new meeting date will be selected in July. The material for the flooring for four rooms at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center has been selected, and Core Construction is absorbing all the material and installation costs. The committee has also received a couple of letters regarding serving on the Park Board.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON– Councilor Haynes-Edward had nothing to report.

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS - NEAL – Vice-President Neal reported on the following events:

- **July 4th** – The Fourth of July details are posted on the Town's website at merrillville.in.gov under Town Events.
    - **Parade** - The parade is going to take place on Friday, July 4th, at noon. This year's parade will have a Sensory Sensitivity Zone (SSZ) where no sirens, loud noises, or other high-volume effects will be prohibited to accommodate residents who are sensitive to loud sounds. The SSZ is going to start on 80th Place between Madison and Broadway. Once the parade passes the SSZ, the parade will commence as usual with high-volume noises. This non-SSZ parade will start at 80th Place and head north to 66th Place on Broadway.

- **Hidden Lake** – Festivities and Fireworks will take place at Hidden Lake from 1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The charge for cars is $10.00 at the gate. The charge for walk-ins is $5.00. We are collaborating with Ross Township on the Hidden Lake event.

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that she will be reaching out to residents, elected officials, and anyone else who is interested in being on the committee for the 250th Celebration of Independence Day. We are looking at the month August or September for the committee and information will also be posted on the Town's social media accounts.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

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

- **Hickory Ridge Project** – Dyer Construction is almost done with the project. NIPSCO still must relocate the gas line to 56th and Grant. The project's anticipated completion date is within the next month.
- **Fillmore Boulevard Project** – The project is completed. The entire boulevard has been re-graded to improve the flow.
- **Sedona Retention Pond Project** – The pond is being converted into a dry basin.
- **Vac-Con** – The construction of the Jet Vac Truck by Vac-Con is underway, and we will take delivery in October.
- **69th Connecticut Project** – This project is set to be completed this week. We have a couple of things to finish. The removal of the reverse siphon and cleanup work. We have received approval and will be receiving a reimbursement for half of the cost of this project from the Little Calumet River Basin.
- **NFIP Training** – Director Lake informed the council that he completed the mandatory training.
- **Watershed Plan and Master Plan** – American Structure Point is working with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission Comprehensive Watershed Plan updates, and we are working on our Master Plan update. We will coordinate on future projects and cost estimates.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that the next meeting is August 21, 2025.

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-NEAL– Vice-President Neal reported on the following:

Hazardous Household Waste and Paper Shredding – The next collection is on Wednesday, July 2, 20205 at Lowell Middle School from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm. The address of Lowell Middle School is 19250 Cline Avenue in Lowell, Indiana.

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardway reported that the next meeting is on July 9th.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilors Hardaway and Vice-President Neal reported that the next meeting is June 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

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

- **Fiscal State of the Town of Merrillville** – The event will be on Thursday, June 26th from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center.

- **Recycling Grant** – The Town of Merrillville received a check for $206,983.00.
- **Pensions** – The Town has two-tiered pensions. We received a check for $295,776.14.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses reported on the following:

- **Coffee with A Cop** – This event will be held on June 26th from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at Panera Bread.
- **Tolling Bill** – Governor Baun has signed a bill that will allow tolling of all interstates in the state of Indiana. The Merrillville Police Department is anticipating that the bill will have a dramatic impact on the local roads because people will oppose the toll fee for interstate I-65 and 80/94. This situation will add to our traffic problems, and we are trying to get ahead of it.

Asst Director Lisa Roberts – Parks Department
Asst. Director Roberts reported on the following:

- **Baseball and Football Leagues** - The baseball and football leagues are going well despite a couple of problems. The children are learning, and we had more signups than we anticipated.
- **Garden Club** - The garden club at Rosenbaum Park is in progress, and you can sign up to participate in the Garden Club at https://merrillvilleparks.recdesk.com/Community/Program. We will start with meetings and later offer classes on gardening at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. The planting will begin next Spring 2026.
- **Park Board** – Residents are encouraged to apply to be on the Park Board.
- **Daddy and Daughter Dance** – The turnout was low, but everyone had a good time. The Parks staff did a phenomenal job.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Shine was absent.

Director, King Street Department
Director King had nothing to add to the Street Report given by Councilor Uzelac.

Councilor Pettit informed Director King, Director Lake, residents, and the council that Indiana American Water is doing water replacement through Indian Trail and Deer Path.

Upon a question regarding paving after the Indiana American Water project, Director King responded that Indiana Trail, Deer Path, and Highland Road are on the paving schedule.

Upon a question regarding 69th and Connecticut paving, Director Lake responded that the approach section at 69th and Connecticut will be paved.

Town Manager Griffin – Town Administration

Town Manager Griffin reported that the two reports, including the staff report, have been given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January under section 2-339.1 of the municipal code.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

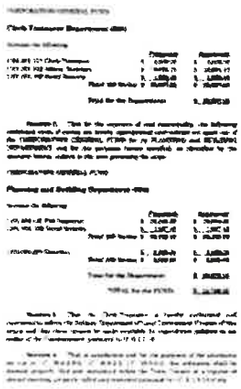
Zoning: (motion to adopt or reject; confer IC 36-5-2-10(d)

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

1. **Ordinance 25-21 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Annual Budget for the Several Named Departments of the Corporation General Fund (1101), all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, I.C. 36-5-3-5, et see, and an Authorizing the Transfer of certain Cash Balances across Funds



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
APPROPRIATION ENACTMENT
ORDINANCE NO. 25-21



Section 3. That the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized to transfer Cash Balances in the amount of Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-One Dollars ($11,361) from Fund 2504 - Fire & Ambulance to Fund 1101 - General Fund as the represented amount collected from revenue sources which are being redirected to the General Fund.

Introduced and Filed on the 24th Day of June, 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 25-21.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January informed the council that he would like the classification change for one of the office employees to ensure that the pay is equitable. This will call for an increase of $60.00 bi-weekly for the employee classification change.

Town Manager Griffin explained Ordinance 25-21.

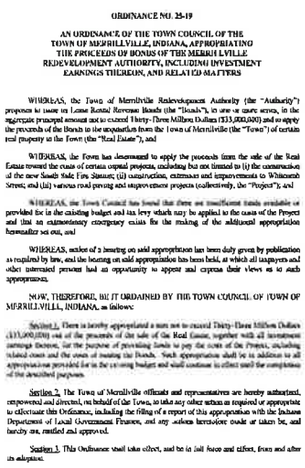
President Bella informed Clerk-Treasurer Eric January this council meeting is not the right mechanism for this change and to bring the classification change to the Budget and Finance Committee for action.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, 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 first reading.

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

1. **Ordinance 25-19 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Appropriating The Proceeds Of Bonds Of The Merrillville Redevelopment Authority, Including Investment Earnings Thereon, And Related Matters.



ORDINANCE NO. 25-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, APPROPRIATING THE PROCEEDS OF BONDS OF THE MERRILLVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, INCLUDING INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON, AND RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") proposes to issue its Lease Rental Revenue Bonds (the "Bonds"), in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed Thirty-Three Million Dollars ($33,000,000) and to apply the proceeds of the Bonds to the acquisition from the Town of Merrillville (the "Town") of certain real property in the Town (the "Real Estate"), and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined to apply the proceeds from the sale of the Real Estate toward the costs of certain capital projects, including but not limited to (i) the construction of the new South Side Fire Station; (ii) construction, extension and improvements to Whitcomb Street; and (iii) various road paving and improvement projects (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has found that there are insufficient funds available or provided for in the existing budget and tax levy which may be applied to the costs of the Project and that an extraordinary emergency exists for the making of the additional appropriation hereinafter set out, and

WHEREAS, notice of a hearing on said appropriation has been duly given by publication as required by law, and the hearing on said appropriation has been held, at which all taxpayers and other interested persons had an opportunity to appear and express their views as to such appropriation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF TOWN OF MERRILLVILL, INDIANA, as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby appropriated a sum not to exceed Thirty-Three Million Dollars ($33,000,000) out of the proceeds of the sale of the Real Estate, together with all investment earnings thereon, for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of the Project, including related costs and the costs of issuing the Bonds. Such appropriation shall be in addition to all appropriations provided for in the existing budget and shall continue in effect until the completion of the described purposes.

Section 2. The Town of Merrillville officials and representatives are hereby authorized, empowered and directed, on behalf of the Town, to take any other action as required or appropriate to effectuate this Ordinance, including the filing of a report of this appropriation with the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, and any actions heretofore made or taken be, and hereby are, ratified and approved.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after its adoption.

[redacted] THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILL, LAKE COUNTY, [redacted]

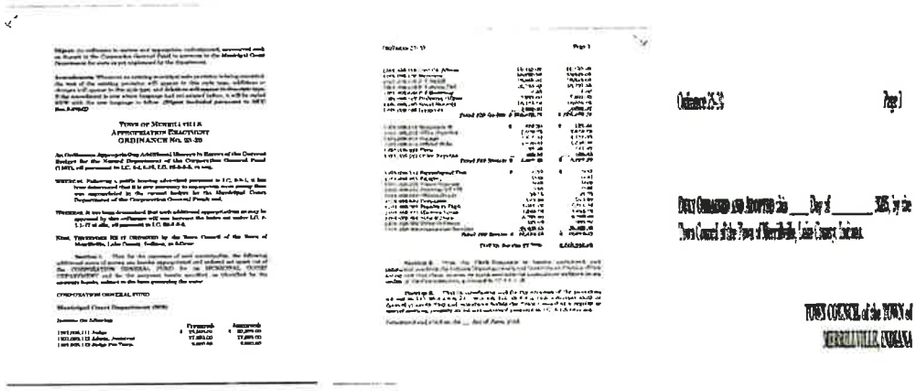
[redacted] COUNTY, [redacted] TOWN COUNCIL

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Ordinance 25-19.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, 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 the second and final reading.

Councilor Pettit confirmed with Adam Steuerwald Bond Attorney for the Town of Merrillville that this is the last action that the council will act on for the $33,000,000.00 bond.

2. **Ordinance 25-20 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Current Budget for the named Department of the Corporation General Fund (1101), all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, I.C. 36-5-3-5. et seq.

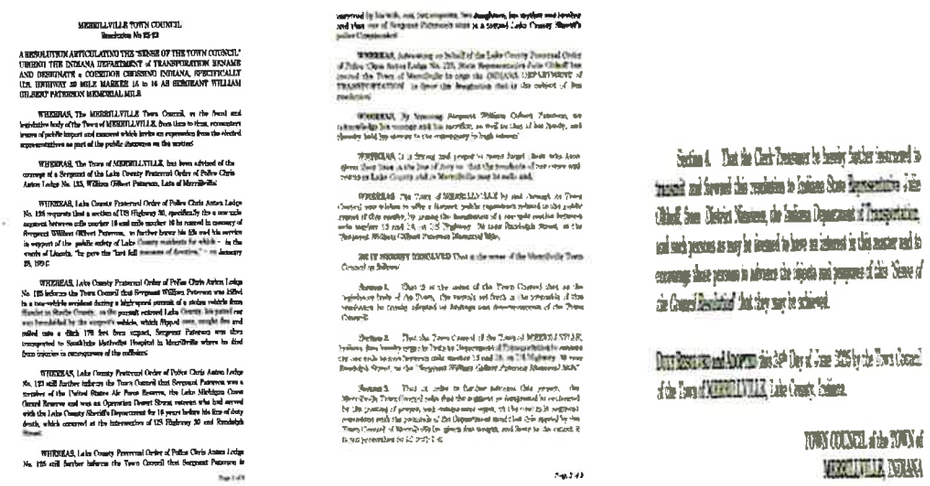


It was moved by Vice-President Neal and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Ordinance 25-20.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, 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 the second and final reading.

B. **Resolutions (Discussion and Voice Vote):**

1. **<u>Resolution 25-23 (Discussion & Voice Vote)</u>**
   A Resolution Articulating the "Sense of the Town Council" Urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to Rename and Designate a corridor crossing Indiana, specifically US HWY 30 Mile Marker 15 to 16, Sergeant William Gilbert Paterson Memorial Lane.



State Representative Julie Olthoff, Former Councilor Emeritus Jeff Minchuk, and Lake County FOP President Chris Anton of Lodge No. 125 gave an overview of the memorial resolution for Sergeant William Gilbert Paterson.

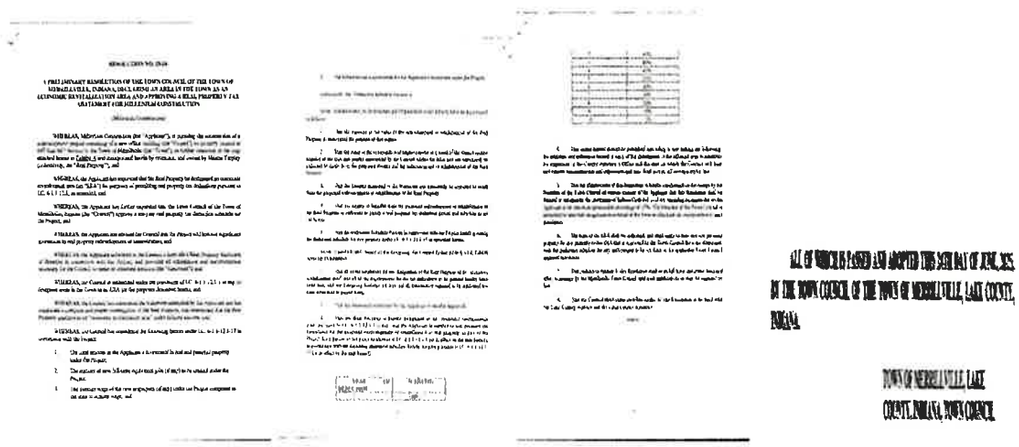
Councilor Pettit informed the council and residents that the memorial will be in Ward 6.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Resolution 25-23.

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

President Bella informed Town Manager Griffin that if the memorial falls short at the state level, it can be brought back before the council for action. We can do a sign or tribute on our easement.

2. **Resolution 25-24 (Discussion & Voice Vote)**
   A Preliminary Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Declaring an Area in the Town as an Economic Revitalization Area, and Approving a Real Property Tax Abatement for Millennium Construction.



It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Resolution 25-24.

Councilor Pettit and Alan Tarpley explained the resolution, which is a $2,500.000.00 investment in the Town of Merrillville.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding a voice vote being appropriate, Attorney Svetanoff confirmed that a voice vote is appropriate for Resolution 25-24.

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

3. **Resolution 25-25 (Discussion & Voice Vote)**
   A Preliminary Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Approving Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement (Including Creation of Economic Revitalization Area) GI Tech.

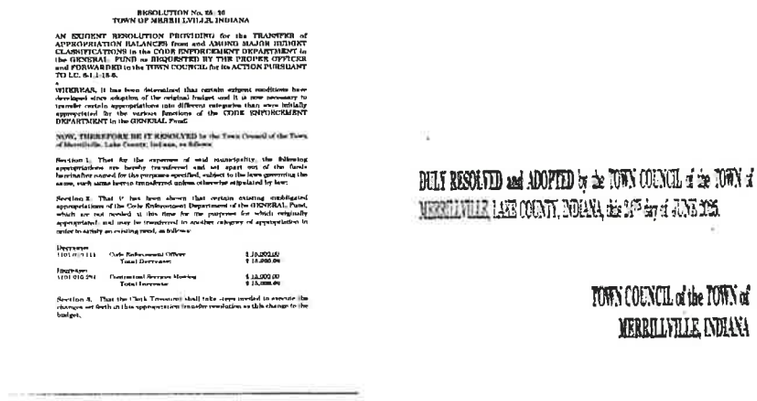


It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve Resolution 25-25.

Councilor Pettit explained Resolution 25-25, which is a $7,500,000.00 investment in the Town of Merrillville.

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

4. **Resolution 25-26 (Discussion & Voice Vote)**
   An Exigent Resolution Providing for the Transfer of the Transfer of Appropriation Balances From and Among Major Budget Classifications in the Code Enforcement Department in the General Fund As Requested by the Proper Officer and Forwarded to the Town Council for Its Action Pursuant To I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.



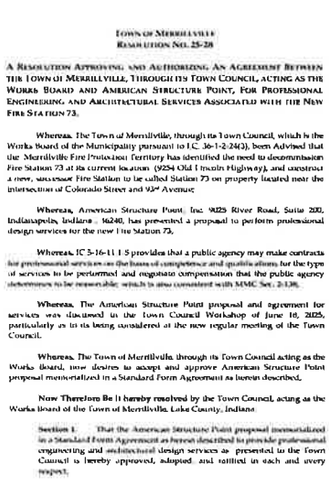
DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED by the TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this 24TH day of JUNE 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Resolution 25-26.

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

5. **Resolution 25-28 (Discussion & Voice Vote)**
   A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Town Of Merrillville. Through Its Town Council, Acting As The Works Board And American Structure Point, For Professional Engineering And Architectural Services Associated With The New Fire Station 73.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-28

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, THROUGH ITS TOWN COUNCIL, ACTING AS THE WORKS BOARD AND AMERICAN STRUCTURE POINT, FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW FIRE STATION 73.

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to I.C. 36-1-2-24(3), been Advised that the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory has identified the need to decommission Fire Station 73 at its current location (9254 Old Lincoln Highway), and construct a new, successor Fire Station to be called Station 73 on property located near the intersection of Colorado Street and 93rd Avenue

Whereas, American Structure Point, Inc. 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240, has presented a proposal to perform professional design services for the new Fire Station 73,

Whereas, IC 5-16-11.1-5 provides that a public agency may make contracts for professional services on the basis of competence and qualifications for the type of services to be performed and negotiate compensation that the public agency determines to be reasonable, which is also consistent with MMC Sec. 2-136,

Whereas, The American Structure Point proposal and agreement for services was discussed in the Town Council Workshop of June 16, 2025, particularly as to its being considered at the new regular meeting of the Town Council,

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council acting as the Works Board, now desires to accept and approve American Structure Point proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described,

Now Therefore Be It hereby resolved by the Town Council, acting as the Works Board of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana:

Section 1. That the American Structure Point proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional engineering and architectural design services as presented to the Town Council is hereby approved, adopted, and ratified in each and every respect,

Section 2. That the terms and fees for services set forth under the American Structure Point proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional engineering and architectural design services and set forth on page 22 and 23 of the agreement are found to be reasonable;

Section 3. That the Town Council also finds that the American Structure Point proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional engineering and architectural design services complies with the strictures of IC 5-16-10-2;

Section 4. That the proper elected or appointed officer is hereby authorized to execute the American Structure Point proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional engineering and architectural design services, o-with one original of the agreement be filed with the Clerk-Treasurer, pursuant to IC 36-5-4-14.

DULY, PASSED, RESOLVED and ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Works Board, this 24th day of June 2020 having passed by a vote sufficient in number pursuant to IC 36-1-12-3.5.

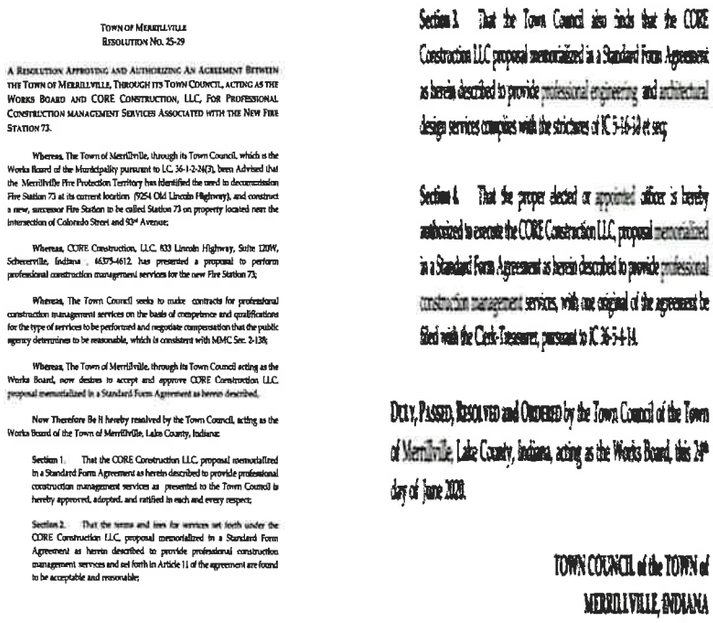
TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Vice-President Neal to approve Resolution 25-28.

Councilor Pettit and Chris Murphy from American Structure Point explained Resolution 25-28.

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

6. **<u>Resolution 25-29 (Discussion & Voice Vote)</u>**
   A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Town Of Merrillville Through Its Town Council, Acting As The Works Board, And Core Construction, LLC, for Professional Construction Services Associated With the New Fire Station 73.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-29

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, THROUGH ITS TOWN COUNCIL, ACTING AS THE WORKS BOARD AND CORE CONSTRUCTION, LLC, FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW FIRE STATION 73.

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to I.C. 36-1-2-24(2), been Advised that the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory has identified the need to decommission Fire Station 73 at its current location (9254 Old Lincoln Highway), and construct a new, successor Fire Station to be called Station 73 on property located near the intersection of Colorado Street and 93rd Avenue;

Whereas, CORE Construction, LLC, 833 Lincoln Highway, Suite 120W, Schererville, Indiana 46375-4612 has presented a proposal to perform professional construction management services for the new Fire Station 73;

Whereas, The Town Council seeks to make contracts for professional construction management services on the basis of competence and qualifications for the type of services to be performed and negotiate compensation that the public agency determines to be reasonable, which is consistent with MMC Sec. 2-138;

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council acting as the Works Board, now desires to accept and approve CORE Construction LLC. proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described.

Now Therefore Be It hereby resolved by the Town Council, acting as the Works Board of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana:

Section 1. That the CORE Construction LLC. proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional construction management services as presented to the Town Council is hereby approved, adopted, and ratified in each and every respect;

Section 2. That the terms and fees for services set forth under the CORE Construction LLC. proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional construction management services and set forth in Article 11 of the agreement are found to be acceptable and reasonable;

Section 3. That the Town Council also finds that the CORE Construction LLC proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional engineering and architectural design services complies with the strictures of IC 5-16-5-2 et seq;

Section 4. That the proper elected or appointed officer is hereby authorized to execute the CORE Construction LLC. proposal memorialized in a Standard Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional construction management services, with one original of the agreement be filed with the Clerk-Treasurer, pursuant to IC 36-5-4-14.

DULY, PASSED, RESOLVED and ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Works Board, this 24th day of June 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Vice-President Neal to approve Resolution 25-29.

Gise Vanbaren, Vice-President of Core Construction, explained Resolution 25-29

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding the 57th Avenue Fire Station and the Accessory Building on 73rd Avenue, Mr. Vanbaren confirmed that both buildings were built by Core Construction.

Councilor Pettit informed the council and residents that next month, the council will see the donation agreemer Attorney Svetanoff worked on with the property owner, Berle Blitstein from Polycon Industries. The donated 6-acre property will be the new site for Fire Station 73.

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

C. **BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS:**
NONE

OLD BUSINESS :
NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were several public comments, and a copy of the video from the Town Council Meeting held on June 24, 2025, has been uploaded on the Town's website at https://www.merrillville.in.gov/government/town_council/town_council_meetings.php.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting Tuesday, July 8th at 6:30 p.m.
- 4th of July Parade, July 4th, starting at noon going North down Broadway from 79th
- 4th Festival & fireworks at Hidden Lake July 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Pre-Job Fair Ready Set Hired Training Event July 9th at the D&BWCC
- Job Fair July 30th from 11:30 – 2:30 at the D&BWCC.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President announced the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis