Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
June 10, 2025, 2025 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilor 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 Councilor Bella.

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

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

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:

- **Fire Department Special Buddies Presentation**
  Town of Merrillville Fireman Tommy Westbury gave a presentation regarding Project Fire Buddies, and more information can be found at the website https://www.projectfirebuddies.org and on YouTube.

  The Town of Merrillville Fire Department will be holding a Project Fire Buddies Fundraiser event on October 25, 2025.

  Councilor Petitt reported that Lamar Company will offer free advertising for the October 25, 2025, event.

  President Bella added that the Merrillville Project Fire Buddies will be added to the next Town Council Workshop agenda.

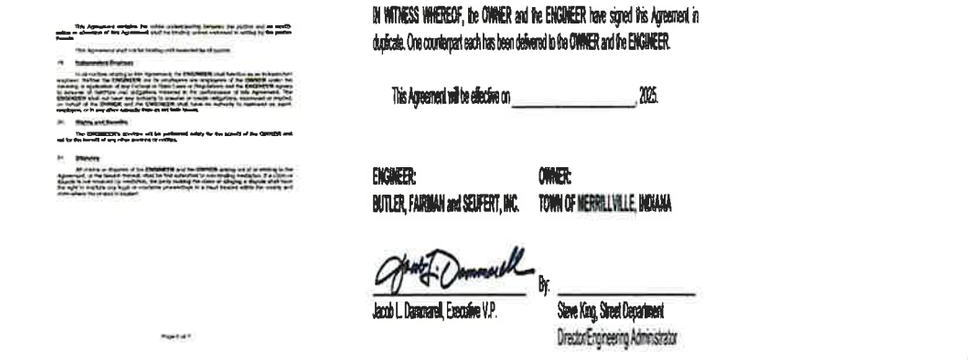
PUBLIC HEARING: ***NONE***

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for June 10, 2025
- ARPA Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for June 10, 2025
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes May 26, 2025
- Approval of Work Study Meeting Minutes June 4, 2025
- BFS Agreement approval for CCMG Program Assistance





IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the OWNER and the ENGINEER have signed this Agreement in duplicate. One counterpart each has been delivered to the OWNER and the ENGINEER.

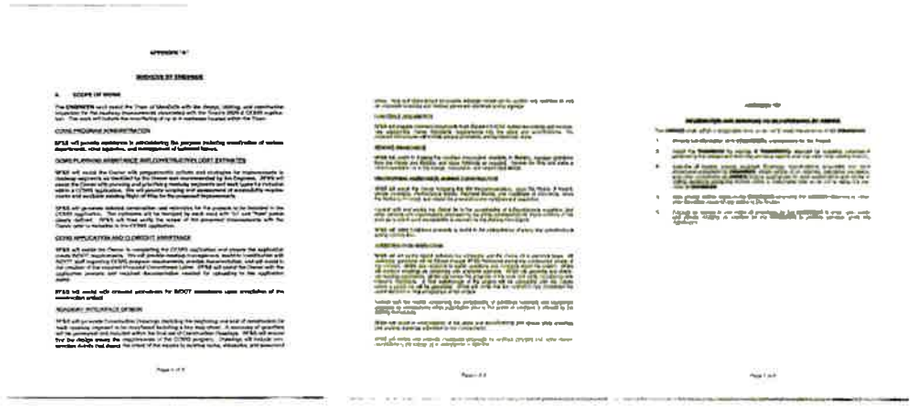
This Agreement will be effective on _____, 2025.

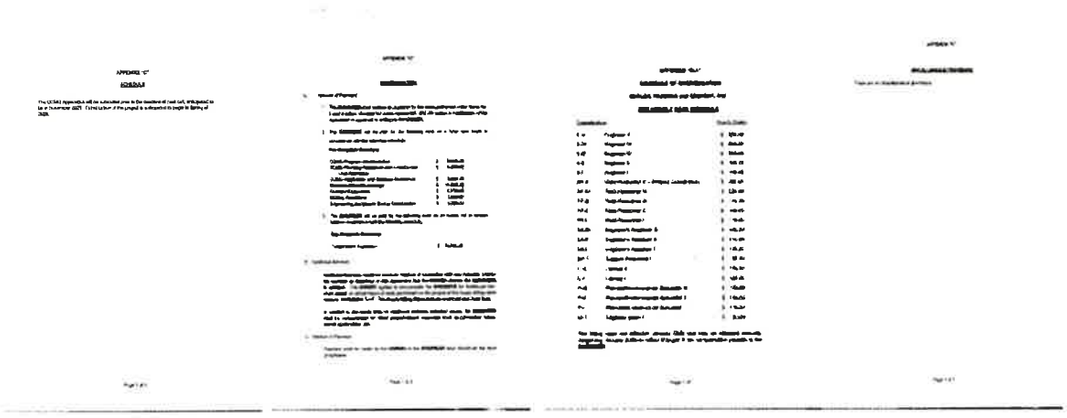
ENGINEER:
BUTLER, FAIRMAN and SEUFERT, INC.

Jacob L. Dannemann, Executive V.P.

OWNER:
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

By: _____
Steve King, Street Department
Director/Engineering Administrator





- Approval of Labor Negotiation Task Force Special Committee
- Added to the Agenda -
  - Approval of the Fiscal Advisory Services for bond issues with London Witte Group
  - Approval of ARPA Meeting Minutes of December 30, 2024

  Town Manager Griffin explained the items added to the agenda and the Labor Negotiation Task Force Special Committee.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac 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 was absent.

President Bella asked about a report, and Town Manager Griffin responded that he had nothing to report for the committee.

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

- **Street Department Summer Hours**—Because of the heat, the summer hours from Memorial Day until Labor Day are 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- **73rd Whitcomb Street** – Complaints regarding the trash have been received from twenty residents and the Street Department. Director Steve King added that the area is littered with trash and furniture. This has been an ongoing issue with 73rd Whitcomb Street. Councilor Uzelac recommended that Attorney Svetanoff send a letter to the property owners.
  Attorney Svetanoff responded that a letter will be sent to the property owners.

- **Local Parks and Bike Trails** – The local parks and bike trails in the Town of Merrillville are being mowed and maintained.
- **Branches** - The branches from the windstorm are still being picked up.

President Bella reminded residents that branch pickup is on a schedule. The Street Department follows a schedule to cover the Town of Merrillville's 33 square miles. Director Steve King added that the windstorm hit Councilor Uzelac's ward hard, and the department had to work the weekends.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS—PETTIT—Councilor Pettit reported that he would like to make a motion to finalize and approve the Employment Agreement between the Town of Merrillville and Town Manager Michael W. Griffin. Councilor Pettit added that Town Manager Griffin is doing an outstanding job as the Town Manager of Merrillville.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the Employment Agreement/Contract between the Town of Merrillville and Michael W. Griffin.

Councilor Haynes-Edwards inquired about an increase in pay for the Town Council.

Town Manager Griffin explained the Employment Agreement/Contract and how the current budget supports the increase in his pay for this year and next year. He also added that the council is responsible for the council's pay, and by Indiana law, nothing can be changed for 2025. However, the council can, by policy, look to make changes for 2026.

Town Manager Griffin also reported that he and Financial Advisor Hudson will be looking at some financial solutions to present to the finance committee and council because of Public Law 68-2025. The cuts will be $838,000.00 next year, $950,000,00 the year after, and $1,300,000.00 the year after that, which amounts to $2,500,000.00 that the Town of Merrillville must make up. In the third year, we are supposed to have an income tax. The other intervening variable is how this was done by the how this was done by the current legislations. If we can make it until 2028, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Councilor Uzelac added that since the nineties there has never been a raise for the council, but it should be considered.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January added that his concerns are Public Law 68-2025 (Senate Bill 1). With the budget uncertainties and debt, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January stated that he does not think increasing the Town Manager's salary is a wise decision until we have certainty regarding the revenue for those years that Town Manager Griffin discussed earlier, and there should be equity for all employees.

President Bella informed the council and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January that we are public servants giving service, and the salaries for these elected positions were known to all the members. The Town Manager's contract has been pending for months.

Town Manager Griffin explained the salary of $101,000.00 for 2025 and $110,000.00 for 2026 listed in the agreement/contract for the Town Manager of Merrillville. The code requires that there be an agreement with the Town Manager.

Upon a question from President Bella to Councilor Pettit regarding tabling his motion, Councilor Pettit responded that he would table his motion, and Councilor Uzelac confirmed her second still stands with the change of the motion.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to table the Employment Agreement/Contract between the Town of Merrillville and Michael W. Griffin because further discussion is needed.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The Employment Agreement/Contract between the Town of Merrillville and Michael W. Griffin was tabled because further discussion is needed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway was absent.

President Bella asked about a report, and Town Manager Griffin responded that, per his conversation with Councilor Hardaway, he had nothing to report for the committee.

Councilor Pettit added that he will be making a motion regarding Town Council members being named agents to serve as the collective bargaining task force to conduct negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards that the Town Council members be named agents to serve as the collective bargaining task force to conduct negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police.

Town Manager Griffin explained the reason this action is needed by the council.

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

President Bella informed Town Manager Griffin to let the Fraternal Order of Police know about the council's action regarding this matter.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac deferred to Director Matt Lake regarding the cleaning of the ponds. Director Matt Lake confirmed that the ponds owned by the Town of Merrillville have been cleaned, and there are still modifications pending, and he will elaborate on his report.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding what was put in Bon Aire Lake, Director Lake responded that the lake was stocked with tilapia, which is the natural mechanism to control algae. A non-toxic dye called Shade was also used. This is done annually for Bon Aire Lake.

Director Matt Lake also stated that no chemicals were added to the lake.

PUBLIC SAFETY- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway was absent.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a couple of ordinances and one resolution are on tonight's agenda and will be taken up under general orders.

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

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a committee meeting was held on Thursday, May 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. One of the items on the agenda was the property of Union Park and Moe's. The Park Board was also discussed.

Councilor Pettit asked Director Gerry McCarney to elaborate on some of the committee items.

Director Gerry McCartney updated the council on the following.

- **Park Board –** The Park Board in place will do a lot for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Dog Park** – There has been no movement regarding the Dog Park
- **Flooring** –ICC Flooring Plus is still working on re-quoting for the floors in the Hallway, Commercial Insight, McDonald, and two other smaller rooms at the D&BWCC. The first quote was too high, and Core Construction confirmed that the quote was too high. Core Construction recommended getting two additional quotes from other companies.

Director McCarney added that there are some additional items, but since the last meeting, nothing major has changed.

Councilor Pettit informed the council that he has a conflict for the June 26th standing meeting, and the meeting will be changed to a later date.

Councilor Uzelac added that a daycare center from the fourth ward will be coming into Rosenbaum Park to have a party on August 1, 2025.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON– Councilor Haynes-Edward reported the following statistics for May 2025:

- Code Calls - 522
- Warnings – 62
- Citations – 20

Councilor Haynes-Edwards also encouraged the residents to be mindful of the upkeep of their yards, houses, and cars.

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

President Bella asked Councilor Haynes-Edward to report 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, head north to 66th Place on Broadway.

    - **Hidden Lake** – Festivities and Fireworks will take place at Hidden Lake from 2:00 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.

- **Juneteenth** – The Town of Merrillville will not be hosting a Juneteenth event this year.

- **Job Fair** – The Town of Merrillville's Annual Job Fair will be held at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center on July 30th from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that before June 21st, she will be reaching out to residents and anyone else who are interested in being on the committee. The 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:

- **Fillmore Boulevard Project** – The entire boulevard is being regraded to improve the flow.
- **Sedona Retention Pond Project** – The pond is being converted into a dry basin.
- **Hickory Ridge Project** – The project is almost completed. We are in the process of consolidating at 56th Grant and we have been submitting reimbursement to the Little Calumet River Basin for them to pay for half of the project cost.
- **Tilapia Release** – The Tilapia have been released into Bon Aire Lake, and wildlife is thriving in the area.
- **Agricultural Areas** – There are problems in the agricultural areas of Merrillville with grindings being added to the ditches.
- **Kaizer Ditch** – Director Lake report that he reached out to the Lake County Surveyor and is waiting on his response regarding the full maintenance that was last done in 2013.
- **Taney Ditch Project** – Contractors are being lined-up to do the maintenance which will be completed this year.
- **Apple Orchard** – The apples are growing and will be ready to pick this fall. Signage for the apple orchard is going up from the US Forest Service.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway was absent.

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

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardway was absent.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilors Hardaway and Neal were absent.

CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE - JANUARY – Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported on the following financial statistics for May:

- **Cash Ending Balance as of May 31st** - (Comprises of Court, Fire Department, General Fund, Obligated & Non-Obligated Funds, Police Department, RDA, Stormwater, and other Funds) $40,318,908.57.
- **Food and Beverage Tax Revenue -** The Town received a check for $143,462.50. The fund to date has a balance of $1,770,261.38. 111 businesses paid the Food and Beverage Tax.
- **Riverboat Distribution –** The Town received a distribution of $8,505.00.
- **Payroll Month of May 2025** – The payroll for May was $952,147.02 for 234 employees.
- **Business Licenses** - The Town has 1,143 licensed businesses and 241 that have had their licenses rescinded. If we collect fees from the 241, assuming they are collectible, it would be $54,000.00. The council may want to consider an amnesty program for any late fees.

President Bella asked Town Manager Griffin to add the amnesty program ideal to the agenda for the next Town Council Workshop.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

Director McCartney – Parks Department
Director McCartney reported on the following:

- **Daddy and Daughter Dance** - June 13th at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. We have eight couples who are signed up.
- **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.
- **Apple Orchard** – The apple orchard signage is going up next week.

Director McCartney also publicly thanked Chris Geiger, Parks Recreation Coordinator for all his hard work.

Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses also reported on the following statistics for May 2025:

- **Calls for Service** – 2,681, which resulted in 4,959 Officer Responses.
- **Extra Patrols** – 182 assigned to Officers.
- **Premise Checks** – 153
- **Community Policing Assignments** – 10

- **Traffic Stops** – 393, which resulted in 450 tickets.
- **Adult Arrest** – 106
- **Juvenile Arrest** – 8

Chief Nuses informed the council and audience that he came across some comments on social media regarding traffic and the police's lack of response to the outcries. Chief Nuses assured the council and audience that the traffic woes of the Town of Merrillville are a top priority. We are all working together to address these traffic problems, but we ask for patience and your support. Chief Nuses explained how the Police Department's resources are used to combat the traffic problems as well as other critical responsibilities.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Shine reported that she has three BZAs and one Large Gathering on the agenda.

Director, King Street Department
Director King added the following to the Street's Department Report:

- **Speed Humps and Speeding** – Speed Humps have been installed throughout the Town of Merrillville to help with the speeding, but some individuals are driving around the speed humps on to private property. The residents are running into issues, and we will be removing the speed humps.
- **Planting Project** – The project is 99% completed.

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.

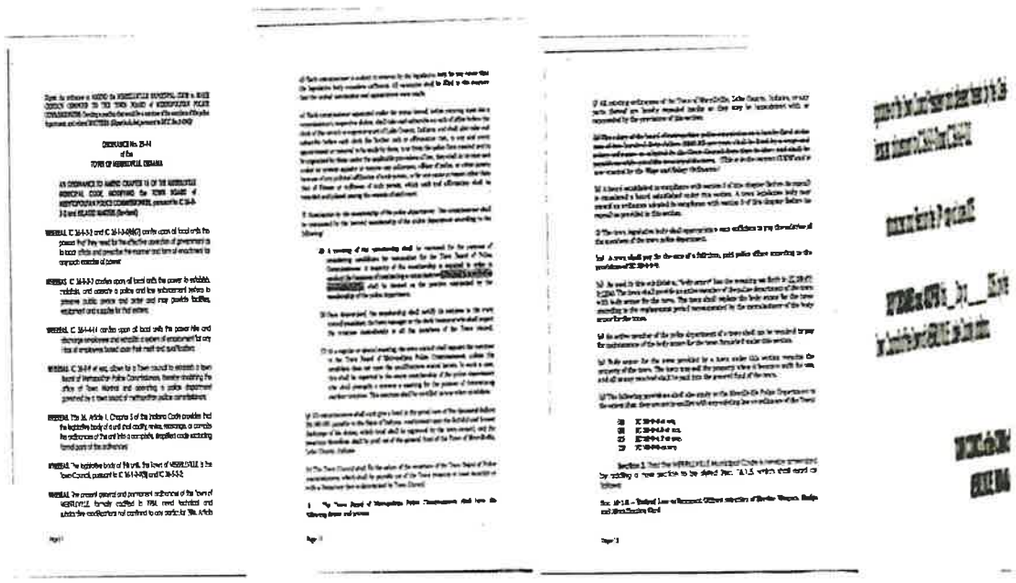
GENERAL ORDERS

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):

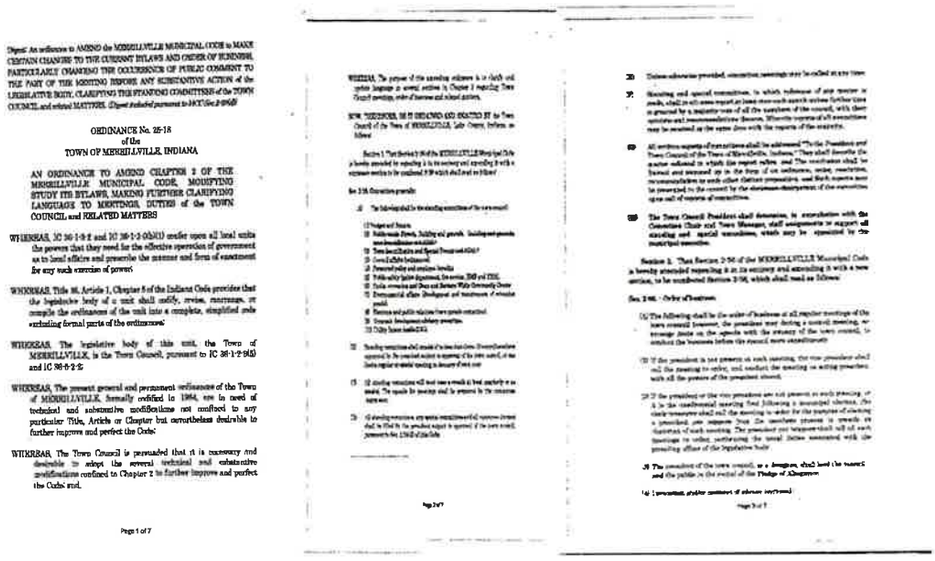
1. **Ordinance 25-14 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16 of the Merrillville Municipal Code, Modifying the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners, Pursuant to IC 36-8-2-2 and Related Matters (Revised).



It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Ordinance 25-14.

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

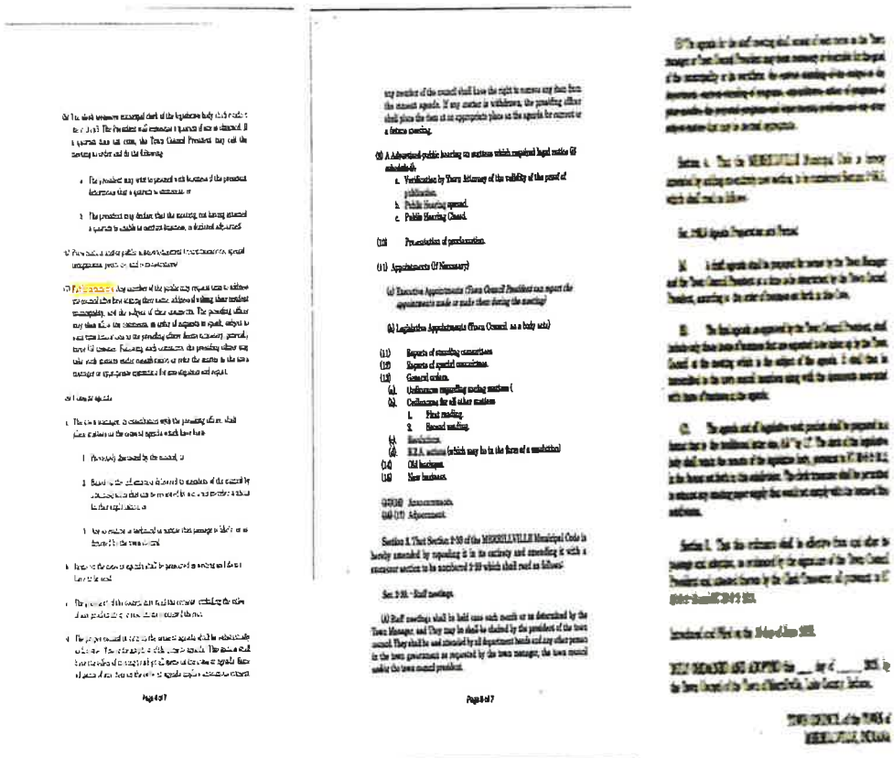
2. **<u>Ordinance 25-18 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)</u>**
   An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville Municipal Code Modifying Its Bylaws, Making Further Clarifying Language to Meetings, Duties of the Town Council, and Related Matters



ORDINANCE No. 25-18
of the
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE MERRILLVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE, MODIFYING STUDY ITS BYLAWS, MAKING FURTHER CLARIFYING LANGUAGE TO MEETINGS, DUTIES of the TOWN COUNCIL and RELATED MATTERS

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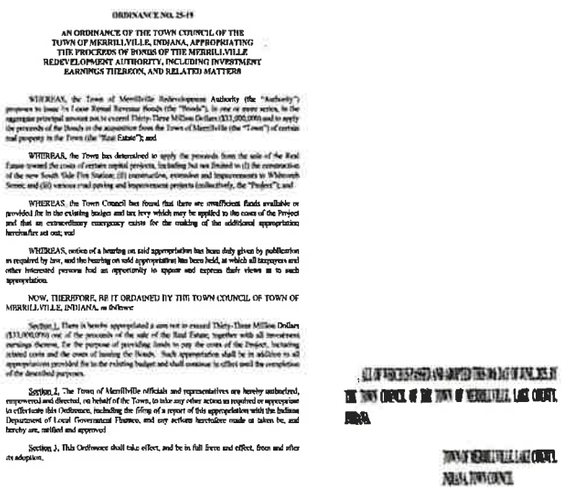


It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Ordinance 25-18.

Town Manager Griffin explained Ordinance 25-18.

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

3. **<u>Ordinance 25-19 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)</u>**
   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 Tax 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 in 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 MERRILLVILLE, 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]

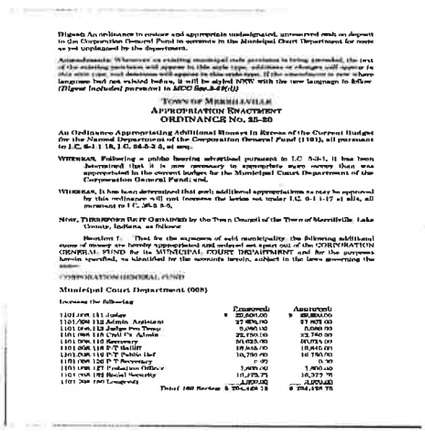
It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Ordinance 25-19.

President Bella asked Councilor Pettit to explain Ordinance 25-19. Councilor Pettit deferred to Adam Steuerwald of Banes & Thornburg, and Bob Swintz explained Ordinance 25-19 regarding the bond.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January voiced his concerns about paying bonds with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds.

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

4. **<u>Ordinance 25-20 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)</u>**
   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.



Digest: An ordinance to restore and appropriate unobligated, unreserved cash on deposit in the Corporation General Fund to accounts in the Municipal Court Department for items not yet emplanned 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 same type. new provisions will appear in this style type. If the amendment is now where language had not existed before, it will be styled NOW with the new language to follow: *(Digest Included pursuant to MCO Sec.2-4-9(1))*

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
APPROPRIATION ENACTMENT
ORDINANCE No. 25-20

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.

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 Municipal Court Department of the Corporation General Fund; and,

WHEREAS, It has been determined that such additional appropriations so many be approved by this ordinance will not increase the levies set under I.C. 6-1.1-17 et alia, 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:

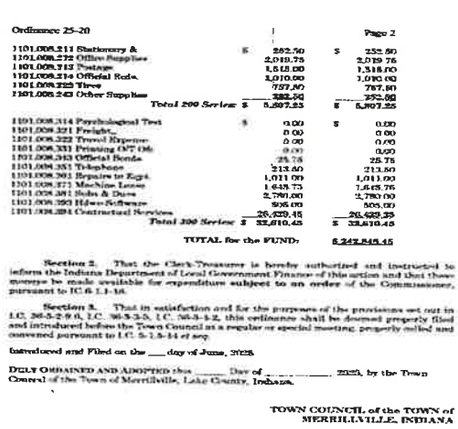
Section 1. That for the purposes of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the CORPORATION GRANDFUND FUND for the MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT and for the purposes herein specified, as identified by the accounts herein, subject to the laws governing the same:

CORPORATION GENERAL FUND

Municipal Court Department (008)

Increase the following

	Presently	Appropriate
1101.008.111 Judge	$ 22,601.00	$ 65,814.00
1101.008.112 Admin. Assistant	57,976.00	57,976.00
1101.008.113 Judge pro Tem	5,000.00	5,000.00
1101.008.118 Civil Cty Admin	25,750.00	25,750.00
1101.008.110 Secretary	50,023.00	50,023.00
1101.008.118 P-T Bailiff	19,848.00	19,848.00
1101.008.119 P-T Public Def	16,750.00	16,750.00
1101.008.120 P-T Secretary	0.00	0.00
1101.008.127 Probation Officer	1,400.00	1,400.00
1101.008.181 Social Security	10,275.75	10,275.75
1101.008.190 Longevity	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total 100 Series	$ 254,168.75	$ 254,168.75



Ordinance 25-20 — Page 2

1101.008.211 Stationery &	$ 252.50	$ 252.50
1101.008.272 Office Supplies	2,019.75	2,019.75
1101.008.312 Postage	1,518.00	1,518.00
1101.008.314 Official Rods	1,010.00	1,010.00
1101.008.323 Tires	787.80	787.80
1101.008.243 Other Supplies	322.00	322.00
Total 200 Series:	$ 5,907.25	$ 5,907.25
1101.008.314 Psychological Test	$ 0.00	$ 0.00
1101.008.321 Freight,	0.00	0.00
1101.008.322 Travel Expense	0.00	0.00
1101.008.331 Printing OT Ob	0.00	0.00
1101.008.343 Official Bonds	25.75	25.75
1101.008.351 Telephone	212.80	212.80
1101.008.391 Repairs to Equi	1,011.00	1,011.00
1101.008.372 Machine Lease	1,648.75	1,648.75
1101.008.381 Subs & Dues	2,780.00	2,780.00
1101.008.393 Hdwe/Software	505.00	505.00
1101.008.394 Contracted Services	26,929.45	26,929.45
Total 300 Series:	$ 33,610.45	$ 33,610.45
TOTAL for the FUND:		$ 342,845.45

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. 36-5-3-2, 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. 5-3-1-14 *et seq.*

Introduced and Filed on the ___ 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

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January explained Ordinance 25-20.

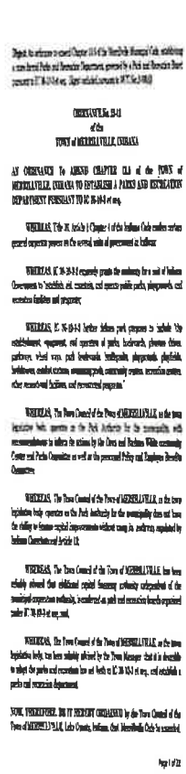
It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Ordinance 25-20.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, 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 25-12 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 13.5 Of The Town Of Merrillville Municipal Code, Establishing A More Formal Parks and Recreation Department, Governed by A Park, and Recreation Board Pursuant to I.C. 36-10-3 et seq.

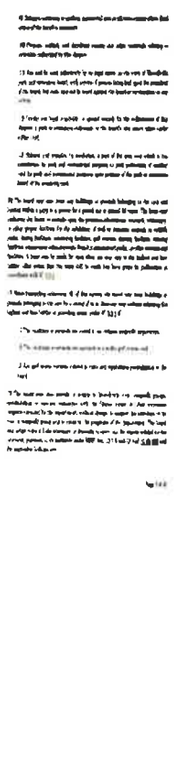
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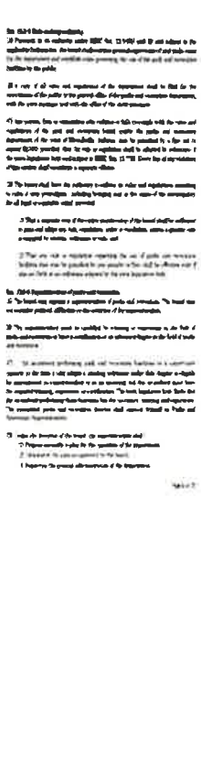


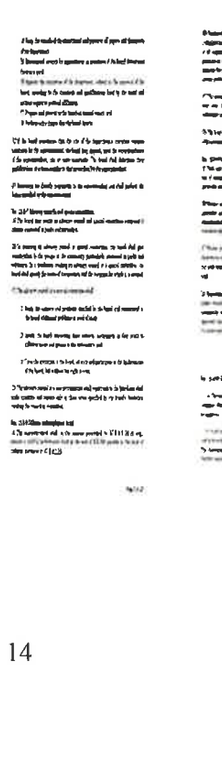






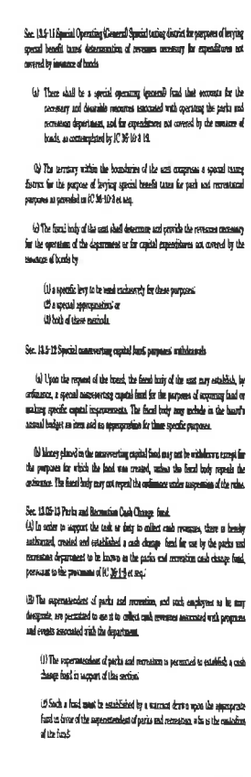








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Sec. 13.5-11 Special Operating (General) Special taxing district for purposes of levying special benefit taxes; determination of revenues necessary for expenditures not covered by issuance of bonds

(a) There shall be a special operating (general) fund that accounts for the necessary and desirable resources associated with operating the parks and recreation department, and for expenditures not covered by the issuance of bonds, as contemplated by FC 36-10-3 ff.

(b) The territory within the boundaries of the unit comprises a special taxing district for the purpose of levying special benefit taxes for park and recreational purposes as provided in FC 36-10-3 et. seq.

(c) The fiscal body of the unit shall determine and provide the revenues necessary for the operations of the department or for capital expenditures not covered by the issuance of bonds by

(1) a specific levy to be used exclusively for those purposes;
(2) a special appropriation; or
(3) both of these methods.

Sec. 13.5-12 Special nonreverting capital fund; purposes; withdrawals

(a) Upon the request of the board, the fiscal body of the unit may establish, by ordinance, a special nonreverting capital fund for the purposes of acquiring land or making specific capital improvements. The fiscal body may include in the board's annual budget an item and an appropriation for those specific purposes.

(b) Money placed in the nonreverting capital fund may not be withdrawn, except for the purposes for which the fund was created, unless the fiscal body repeals the ordinance. The fiscal body may not repeal the ordinance under suspension of the rules.

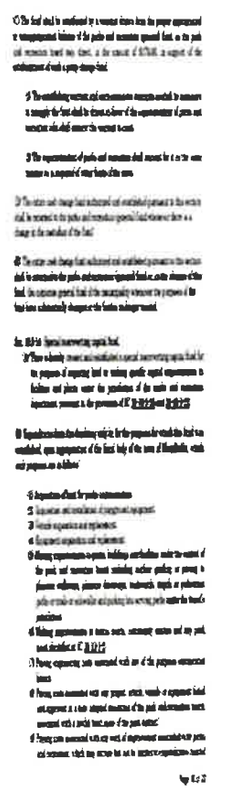
Sec. 13.5-13 Parks and Recreation Cash Change fund.

(A) In order to support the task or duty to collect cash revenues, there is hereby authorized, created and established a cash change fund for use by the parks and recreation department to be known as the parks and recreation cash change fund, pursuant to the provisions of FC 36-1-5 et. seq.;

(B) The superintendent of parks and recreation, and such employees as he may designate, are permitted to use it to collect cash revenues associated with programs and events associated with the department.

(1) The superintendent of parks and recreation is permitted to establish a cash change fund in support of this section.

(2) Such a fund must be established by a warrant drawn upon the appropriate fund in favor of the superintendent of parks and recreation, who is the custodian of the fund.



(C) The fund shall be reimbursed by a warrant drawn from the proper appropriation or nonappropriated balances of the parks and recreation (general) fund, or the park and recreation bond imp. fund, in the amount of $[illegible], in support of the establishment of such a petty change fund.

(D) The establishing warrant, and such amounts thereafter needed to maintain or reimburse the fund shall be drawn in favor of the superintendent of parks and recreation, who shall maintain the warrant in cash.

(E) The superintendent of parks and recreation shall account for it as he would treasurer as required of other funds of the town.

(F) The petty cash change fund authorized and established pursuant to this section shall be maintained for the parks and recreation (general) fund or other division of the fund, for expenses general to all of the municipality whenever the purposes of the fund have substantially changed or the funding is no longer needed.

Sec. 13.5-14 Special nonreverting capital fund.

(A) There is hereby created and established a special nonreverting capital fund for the purpose of acquiring land or making specific capital improvements to facilities and places under the jurisdiction of the parks and recreation department, pursuant to the provisions of FC [illegible] and [illegible]

(B) Expenditures from the nonreverting capital fund, for the purposes for which the fund was established, upon appropriation of the fiscal body of the town of Hemphillville, include and comprise, but are not limited to:

(1) Acquisition of land, for parks and recreation;
(2) Acquisition and installation of playground equipment;
(3) Erection, acquisition and replacement;
(4) Playground acquisition and replacement;
(5) Making improvements to sports, buildings and facilities under the control of the park and recreation board including outdoor grading or paving to promote walkways, entrance driveways, roadways, signals or pedestrian paths or roads or sidewalks and parking lots servicing parks under the board's jurisdiction;
(6) Making improvements to tennis courts, swimming courts and any pool, pool, shelterhouse or; [illegible]
(7) Paving, engineering, and associated work and all the purposes enumerated herein;
(8) Paving, costs associated with any project, artwork, murals or equipment listed and approved at a duly adopted resolution of the park and recreation board, associated with a specific bond issue of the park system;
(9) Paving costs associated with any work of improvement associated with parks and recreation, which may include but not be limited to: engineering, bonded



to facilities, landscaping, appurtenances, materials and supplies that are necessary and/or useful in building, locating, or improving any facility for the use, by people, of any recreational, sports, parks and/or entertainment, museum, and any of these, between, otherwise [illegible] and/or facilities constructed or owned and/or the ordinance of the park and recreation department;

(10) Paving, erection and placement of bonds and/or improvements furnished herein as well as interest rates associated with temporary loans made by the park and recreation bond and interest fund.

(11) Paving, erection and placement of bonds and/or improvements furnished herein as well as interest rates associated with temporary loans made by the park and recreation bond and interest fund.

(C) The treasurer of municipality for the purposes as follows:

1. An appropriation of the annual budget of the park and recreation general fund of the park and recreation department.
2. Revenues from the sale of surplus or other property of the parks and recreation department, both real and personal.
3. Revenue received from the investment of money or deposit in the custody of the fund, pursuant to provisions of [illegible] of law.
4. A gift of revenue from any person or entity which is specifically designated for these purposes.
5. Any designated contributions from developers or other persons or entities as a component of negotiated agreements which are presented as support of construction, reconstruction or improvements for parks, parks and recreation facilities.
6. Proceeds from the sale of bonds issued pursuant to FC [illegible]
7. Grants or other appropriations, reimbursements or contributions, and disbursements, reimbursements or contributions from any or all appropriate [illegible] sources for the fund.

(D) Expenditures from the treasurer to meet the proper charges or expenses and for the purposes of the fund may only be appropriated by the board and by the treasurer pursuant to claims for reimbursement or expenditures that have been approved by the board and submitted to the fiscal and accounting board, as required by general accounting procedures of [illegible] FC [illegible] et. seq.

(E) All annual and nonannual warrants to and issued by the park and recreation board must be countersigned by a duly authorized member of the board.

(F) The annual and nonannual balances of an appropriated sum not exceed the amount of $[illegible] and shall lapse into the surplus of the fiscal account of the municipality.

(G) The board may not encumber the money under expenses of the ordinance under the provisions of FC [illegible]

Section 2. That the Hemphillville Municipal Code be further amended by ordinance not inconsistent herewith.



Chapter 13.7 PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Sec. 13.7-01. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

(A) "Alcoholic beverage" means any liquid or solid which is a common, natural or defined by IC 7.1-1-3-4 as amended, and which is fit for human consumption and which contains alcohol or ethanol in the amount as a beverage.

(B) "Board" means the governing board, which is the Town and Business Owners Community Center and Parks Committee.

(C) "Department" means the parks and recreation department, which is composed of a park authority, a governing board, a parks and recreation director and other personnel that the governing board determines, subject to the budgetary approval of the park authority.

(D) "Director" means the park, without the amendment of the board.

(E) "Drugs" means any articles or substances as defined in the Indiana Controlled Drug Act, IC 35-48-1-9 through 35-48-1-9.3(b), as amended from time to time.

(F) "Educational" means any type of educational which has for its primary source of power an external combustion engine or electric motor and/or internal combustion.

(G) "Facility" means all developments, improvements, facilities, and any or all land, structures, waters, riverbeds or rights, easements and other reservations owned, leased, controlled or used by the department.

(H) "Firearm and ammunition" means any ammunition owned by the superintendent pursuant to the authority of the board for a specified park privilege, activity or event or permitting the performance of a specified act or acts in any park.

(I) "Rules and regulations" means any rule or regulation governing the use of the park and recreation facilities by the public.

(J) "Superintendent" means the parks and recreation superintendent of the department.

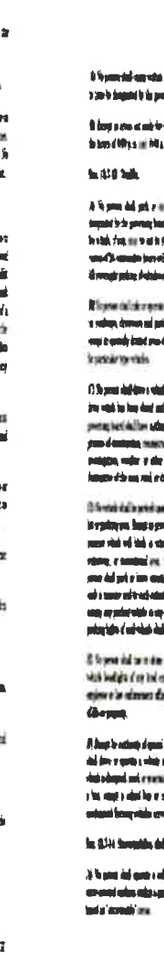
(K) "Vehicle" means any device, conveyance, or combination of conveyances, whether or not motor vehicle that transports, or transports, or is capable of, for or, attached to or which a person or thing is or may be carried and shall include without limitation bicycles, scooters, motorbikes, motorcycles and motorvehicles.

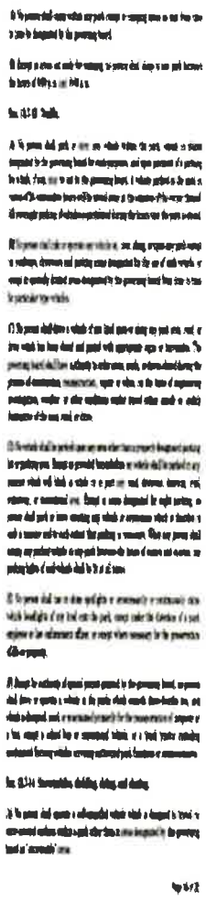
(L) "Watercraft" means all floatation devices constructed to convey a human passenger upon the water including boats of any type, kind, nature, construction and utilization [illegible] devices.

Sec. 13.7-02. Interpretation, exclusions and special exceptions.









(E) Before any immovable sign is erected within a park, permit for the passage [illegible] a sketch, drawing, or picture showing the size, shape, design, and location of the sign.

(F) All materials must be approved with the Clerk-Treasurer's department.

(G) All persons operating automobiles in the park shall obey by such notices and laws and persons operating automobiles and all such vehicles.

(H) No person shall, ride, ride on, or drive horses in the park except in areas designated for such purpose. The use of small scooter rides or pedal cars is prohibited.

Sec. 11.7-11 Golf.

No person shall swing a club or golf ball or play golf on any park property within or near any park.

Sec. 11.7-12 Horses and ponies.

The use of horses and ponies of any kind in the park is prohibited.

Sec. 11.7-13 Firearms.

No person shall discharge any kind of weapon, firearm or slingshot upon park land or within any structure, firing arrows, knives, spears or other apparatus for amusement, except by written permit. Any instruction that are owned by authorized or instructor holders in the normal field or hunted in laws and ordinances. A legal hunting in the event of an emergency will not be deemed a violation of this section.

Sec. 11.7-14 Swimming, boating and wading.

No person shall swim, wade or enter in any park, except for designated shores or beaches provided in the Grant and Barbara White Community Center.

Sec. 11.7-15 Disturbing the peace.

No person shall disturb or provoke any fight or picture, or any park without consent of those composing a group except park employees in the proper pursuit of their duties.

Sec. 11.7-16 Hours of closing.

The parks in summer months and locations. No person shall be permitted to remain, occupy or picket within the confines of any park between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Sundays, except on evenings, holidays, picnic groups, campers or designated youth camping areas, or on the grounds or with a special permit, unless participating in a functional activity or event, or unless lawfully other time authorized and posted hours are recognized by the governing board.

Sec. 11.7-17 Alcohol and drugs.

(A) No person shall furnish, sell, possess, provide a gift or offer for sale any alcoholic beverages or drugs within the parks nor shall any person within the parks use, consume, possess, offer for sale, possess, or make available to himself, or to any other person or persons, any alcoholic beverages or drugs.

(B) Notwithstanding subsection (A) of this section and MMC 11.7-5H, alcoholic beverages may be sold, dispensed, and consumed in the Dean and Barbara White Community Center and the Mike Anderson Special Events Center solely in conjunction with a catered event, banquet, permitted event or special event conducted in and confined to a specific function designated for consumption and rentals. This authorization is subject to provisions of IC 7.1-1 et seq., and 905 IAC 1 et seq. No person shall use, administer, transfer, offer for sale, possess or make available to himself or to any person or animal any drugs.

Sec. 11.7-18 Special events or activity with alcohol (SEAP).

(A) Notwithstanding MMC Sec. 11.7-17, alcoholic beverages may be sold, dispensed, and consumed solely in conjunction with a special event or activity authorized by a special event with alcohol permit (SEAP) issued by the park and recreation governing board, under this section and MMC Sec. 11.7-18(C), and approved by the Park Authority.

(B) Unless there is an activity or event operating with a valid special exemption permit issued by the park governing board under this section and MMC Sec. 11.7-18(C), the prohibitions under MMC Sec. 11.7-17 still apply.

(C) No special event with alcohol permit (SEAP) shall be issued by the park governing board under this section unless there is a companion event or activity for which a regular permit may be granted. A special event permit authorized under this section and MMC Sec. 11.7-18(C) may not be granted where (1) there is no companion activity or (2) the sole activity or event is the sale, dispensing and consumption of alcohol.

(D) A special event with alcohol permit (SEAP) authorized under MMC 11.7-17(A) shall be only issued and valid for an event or activity limited to the following venues to be determined by the park and recreation board.

(E) No special event with alcohol permit (SEAP) shall be issued by the park and recreation board unless it who has been approved by the town council, according to this section.

(F) A special event with alcohol permit authorized under this section requires the following process.

(1) Applicant filed request with parks and recreation department at least 30 days before the event;

(2) Parks and recreation Superintendent will review the application to be considered by the park and recreation board within a reasonable time.

(3) The governing board will consider the matter at a regular or specially called meeting. If the park and recreation board denies the application, it will approve the permit subject to the approval of the Town Council.

(4) The Town Council will consider the permit at the first regular or special meeting following the receipt of the permit action from the park and recreation board. If the Town Council approves the application, the permit is granted. If it rejects the applicant, the permit is denied without issuance.

(5) This section will not apply to special events conducted at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center.

Sec. 11.7-19 Gambling, harassment, and the like.

No person shall engage in any game of chance or on the use of any gambling device nor shall any person bet fortunes for pecuniary reward within the park.

Sec. 11.7-20 Permits and reservations for various activities.

(A) A permit shall first be obtained from the department for any picnic involving 15 or more persons, and also in every instance when a facility is rented to be used for a specified time by a group for picnic purposes within a park.

(B) For reservations of the area, a permit shall first be obtained from the department for the use of any tennis courts and any other group-oriented activities that require the use of park and recreation facilities.

(C) Reservations for children not to reach other primary lot. A shelter shall be used for an unknown at the time of reservation.

(D) A permit or reservation shall first be obtained prior to the use of any park property or facility whenever required by this chapter, or by any rule or regulation promulgated by the park and recreation board. In addition, the fee, if any, as required by the park and recreation board shall be paid at the time that such permit or reservation is applied for. All permits or reservations shall be applied for in advance of the park and recreation office. The park and recreation board may, at its discretion, issue such permit or reservation upon application when made in connection with the proper use and protection of the park property and lakeshore, or its discretion, may refuse the issuance of a permit.

Sec. 11.7-21 Fees and charges.

(A) Except as otherwise provided, fees and charges for the use of various facilities operated by the department or property of the department, including the Dean and Barbara White Community Center, or for various programs, when necessary, shall be established by the park and recreation board, and may be changed from time to time.

(B) No person, except those with valid permit, or those having special permission of the park and recreation board, pursuant to rules of same, shall [illegible] use any pay facility or participate in any pay program of the department without first paying the proper fee for the same as may be established from time to time.

Sec. 11.7-22 Commercial activities, soliciting and the like.

No person shall offer or exhibit any for sale, trade, barter, exchange, or offer for sale, trade, barter, exchange or offer to buy any article, thing, property, or service in or on any park property, or solicit, or offer to buy any article, thing, property, or service in any park property, or solicit or cause any solicitation of money or similar thing unless duly authorized by permit, or under contract with the department.

Sec. 11.7-23 Advertising and public meetings.

No person shall post, distribute, or post any sign, advertisement, circular, book or pamphlet, or display any banner, notice, or legend within the park without a permit.

Sec. 11.7-24 Bonus regulations.

Every person and vehicle entering shall not engage in the repair, repair of motor vehicles or any component of the park.

Sec. 11.7-25 Failure to comply with orders of park personnel.

No person shall fail or refuse to comply with any reasonable order relating to the regulation, direction, or control of traffic, or any order or prohibition of the governing board or authority board, council, council, or other any park personnel in the enforcement of law or any other officer in the execution of his office or duty, however [illegible] any person who, by his presence or activities in a park, shall violate a provision of this chapter, or who shall refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any park [illegible] shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 11.7-26 Nuisances of persons acting unlawfully.

No person shall commit any act which may tend to cause or cause to continue nuisance in the park or to annoy, hurt or injure in the enjoyment of the park by any person or property rights by any person entitled thereto, or which may interfere with the proper use of the park by any person entitled thereto, or which may interfere with the proper use of the park by any person entitled thereto, or which may interfere with the proper use of the park by any person entitled thereto.

Sec. 11.7-27 Use of bicycles, ATV vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles prohibited.

All bicycles, ATV vehicles, and any other all-terrain vehicles shall not be allowed in the park except on designated paths.

Sec. 11.7-28 Amendment or repeal.

(A) It is an offense for a person or persons to violate any of the provisions of this chapter or any amendments or supplements thereto, when adopted.

(B) This chapter, ordinance, resolution, amendment or supplement to the Code of Ordinances

(C) The walkways, grounds, improvements, buildings, recreations, playground areas and parking areas in the Dean and Barbara White Community Center.

(D) Signs conspicuously displayed near or on the premises giving notice of this prohibition regarding riding, driving or propelling a wheelchair on or around the described park property shall be posted giving notice of such regulation.

Sec. 11.7-29 Penalty.

(A) Any person, entity or organization who shall violate any provisions of this chapter or Chapter 11.05 MMC shall be fined in the amount set forth in the designated violations as a payable offense subject to information before the violations clerk of the ordinance violations bureau, or the citation as such as to be a Misdemeanor class payable offenses schedule in MMC 3-55-300.

(B) If such persons, entity or organization shall violate any provisions of this chapter or Chapter 11.5 MMC, and there is a failure to satisfy the civil violation as set forth in Sections 3-111 through 3-18 of the Merrillville Municipal Ordinances violations Bureau, then such violations shall be construed as punishable offenses and shall be subject to a fine of not less than $50.00 per violation, not more than $2,500. Each day of such violation shall accrue as a punishment shall be deemed a separate offense.

Section 8. That all existing Town Code Sections and Ordinances, or parts thereof, or conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby amended null, void, and of no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

Section 9. If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision, or portion of this Ordinance.

Section 10. That the existing fund styled in the parks and recreation operating fund, in order to maintain continuity of government, shall be renumbered and designated as the fund identified as MCC Sec. 11.8-11 of the Code as adopted. The current operating fund will continue and be designated and number three - sixty 1 (361). All ordinances and monies and are assigned to the renumbered fund.

Section 11. That the MERRILLVILLE Municipal Code is hereby amended and that this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after its passage by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and publication in such manner with requirements are

Introduced and Filed on the 2nd day of May 2025.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 10th day of June 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 25-12

Town Manager Griffin explained Ordinance 25-12.

Councilor Pettit added that the Food and Beverage Tax Revenue must be expended. not just accumulated for parks and recreation, economic development, and tourism.

No Public Comments were given.

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

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve letters of interest being submitted to Town Manager Griffin by July 31, 2025, from residents who are interested in being on the Park Board. The advertisement for the letters of interest will be on the Town's website with all the details.

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

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

1. **Resolution 25-22 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   A Resolution Of The Town Council Of The Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Approving A Lease Between The Town Of Merrillville Redevelopment Authority And The Town Of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission, And Addressing Other Matters Related Thereto.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, APPROVING A LEASE BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, AND ADDRESSING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission") has adopted (or expected to adopt) a resolution approving a proposed Lease Agreement in the form presented at this meeting (the "Lease") for the purpose of paying the principal and interest on one or more series of lease rental revenue bonds to be issued by the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") pursuant to IC 36-7-14.5 (the "Bonds"), for purposes of financing the acquisition from the Town of certain roads and streets in the Town (the "Real Estate"), with the proceeds of the sale by the Town to the Authority to finance or reimburse 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 (each, a "Project" and collectively, the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to approve the Lease pursuant to IC § 36-7-14-25.2, which provides that any lease approved by a resolution of the Commission must be approved by an ordinance or resolution of the fiscal body of the unit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, as follows:

Section 1. Approval of Lease and Bonds. The Town Council hereby approves the Lease substantially in the form of Exhibit A hereto, as approved by the Commission, pursuant to IC 36-7-14-25.2. The Commission may enter into separate Leases for each Project. The maximum annual rentals under the Lease shall not exceed $3,000,000 and, with respect to the portion allocable to South Side Fire Station project, $1,210,000. The maximum interest rate on the Bonds to be issued by the Authority, which Bonds are hereby approved to be issued in a maximum principal amount not to exceed $33,000,000, shall not exceed six percent (6.0%) per annum. The term of each Lease shall not extend beyond twenty (20) years beyond the date of issuance of the applicable series of Bonds. The Bonds may include a provision for the payment of capitalized interest, and shall have such redemption provisions as the Authority shall determine prior to the issuance of such Bonds. The Town Council hereby approves, pursuant to IC § 36-7-14.5-21, the trust indenture, to be entered into between the Authority and a trustee to be selected by the President of the Town Council, substantially in the form approved by the Authority with such changes and modifications as the President or any other officer of the Authority deems necessary or appropriate to effectuate these resolutions and to consummate the sale of the Bonds, said officer's execution and attestation thereof to be conclusive evidence of their approval of such changes.

Section 2. Approval of Commission Pledge of Special Benefits Tax. The Town Council hereby approves the pledge by the Commission of a special benefits tax levy to make the lease payments under the Lease.

Section 3. Authorization of Other Actions. The President of the Town Council, any member of the Town Council, and the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town, and any other officer, employee or agent of the Town, is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver any contract, agreement, certificate, instrument or other document and to take any action as such person determines to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by such person's execution of such contract, agreement, certificate, instrument or other document or such person's taking of such action. In addition, the Town Council hereby agrees to transfer, convey and assign to the Authority, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1-11-8, as amended, all interests or rights of the Town to the real property subject to the Lease as may be necessary to finance the Projects, and the President of the Town Council, any member of the Town Council, the Clerk-Treasurer, and any other officer, employee or agent of the Town is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the Town, to execute and deliver any contract, agreement, certificate, instrument or other document and to take any action as such person determines to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish such transfer, conveyance and assignment.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Town Council as required by law.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 10th DAY OF JUNE, 2025, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, TOWN COUNCIL

Councilor Pettit and Adam Steuerwald of Banes & Thornburg explained Resolution 25-22.

Councilor Pettit informed the council that Attorney Svetanoff has finalized the agreement with the property (6 acres) owner, Polycon Industries, to get the land donated to the town of Merrillville for fire station.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Resolution 25-22.

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

C. **BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS:**

Petitioner: Tumi 4 Health
Owner: Tumi 4 Health
Request: Variance of Use Approval
Purpose: To Allow A Crematorium
Location: 8560 Broadway
Zoning: C-3, Highway Commercial Zoning District

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

Director Shine recommends that the council reject the ABZA's approval and waive Section 6 in Article 6 of the re-application process. This will allow the Petitioner to resubmit an application earlier than the one-year waiting period and include in the newspaper advertisement crematorium, funeral services, and visitation.

Councilor Pettit informed the council and audience that the initial application presented by the ABZA only listed a crematorium.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Edwards to reject the ABZA with a waiver of Article 6 Section 6.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ABZA was rejected with a waiver of Article 6 section 6.

Petitioner: Jason Moorehead/Landmark Sign
Owner: Radoica Rutovic
Request: Variance of Use Approval
Purpose: To Allow an LED Message Center
Location: 9191 Mississippi Street
Zoning: A-1 Agricultural Zoning District

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

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

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

Petitioner: Nedra Treadwell
Owner: KS Edgewater GK LLC
Request: Special Exception Approval
Purpose: To Allow An Indoor Dog Park
Location: 6049 Broadway
Zoning: C-2 Community Commercial Zoning District

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

The Petitioner explained the nature of the business.

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

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

Petitioner: Nick Beader
Owner: St. Elijah Serbian Cathedral
Request: Large Gathering Permit
Purpose: Church Fundraiser
Location: 8700 Taft Street
Date: July 19th from 12pm-12am & 20th 12pm-5pm

Planning and Building Director Shine explained the Large Gathering Permit.

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

Upon a question from President Bella regarding any problems at this event, Chief Nuses responded that even though the crowd is large, there have never been any problems.

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

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 10, 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, June 24th at 6:30 p.m.
- RDC Meeting June 24th at 6:00 p.m.
- 4th of July Parade, July 4th, starting at noon going south down Broadway from 79th
- 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 adjourne at 8:30 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lew