Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
April 28, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

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

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

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

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

Councilor Rhonda Neal and Leona Chandler-Felton were absent.

Town Attorney Svetanoff was present to provide legal advice.

Councilor Leona Chandler-Felton came into the meeting around 6:45 p.m.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:

- MIS Student Council

  President Bella explained the roles and purposes of the Merrillville Intermediate School Student Council members present at the Town Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
One public comment was made by Jim Erso, Public Affairs Specialist with the Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Recovery, regarding disaster loans for businesses in the Town of Merrillville affected by the Lake Village tornado. We have uploaded a copy of the video from the Town Council Meeting held on April 28, 2026, to

the Town's website at:
https://www.merrillville.in.gov/government/town_council/town_council_meetings.php.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for April 28, 2026.
- Accounts Payable Register ARPA Voucher Approval for April 28, 2026
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026.
- Approval of Budget and Finance Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2026

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

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

SPECIAL ORDERS:

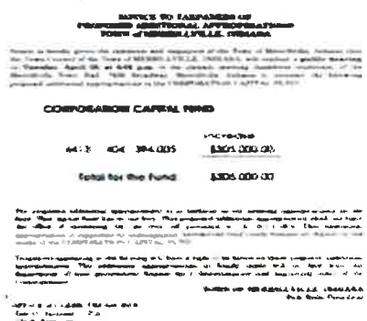
a) A Public Hearing on Matters which require Notice Uploaded to Gateway: RE: Ord 26-03 - Additional Appropriation:

i. Verification by Town Attorney Svetanoff of the validity of proof of Gateway's additional appropriation notice:

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


INDIANA Gateway for government units

Upload Notice of Additional Appropriations


CONSOLIDATED CAPITAL FUND

404 384.005 $365,000.00

Total for the Fund $365,000.00

ii. **Public Hearing Open:**

President Rick Bella opened the hearing for Ordinance 26-03

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

iii. **Public Hearing Closed:**
President Rick Bella closed the public hearing for Ordinance 26-03 and stated that action on this ordinance will be taken under General Orders.

b) Presentation of Declaration or Special Recognition:

i. **Arbor Day Declaration**

President Valerie of the Merrillville Intermediate School Student Council read the declaration into the record.

Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana
ARBOR DAY 2026

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and,

Whereas, this Holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of a million trees in Nebraska; and,

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and world; and,

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and,

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and,

Whereas, trees in our town increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and,

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana does hereby declared that Tuesday, April 28, 2026 be designated as "Arbor Day" in the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, and call upon the citizens of Merrillville to dedicate this day to the importance of health, safety and environmental issues affecting our community and the children who reside with all of us.

ADOPTED AND DECLARED THIS 28th DAY OF APRIL 2026.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the Arbor Day Declaration.

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

BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS*: NONE*

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

STREET DEPARTMENT & PARK MAINTENANCE - UZELAC– Councilor Uzelac reported that the storm caused major damage in the Town of Merrillville, such as trees uprooted, branches strewn in streets and on sidewalks, and power outages. Director Steve King of the Street Department and his staff are very busy clearing debris from the storm.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway had nothing

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac has nothing additional to add to her Environmental Affairs report.

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

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

In response to a question from President Bella regarding a report, Town Manager Griffin responded that there is nothing to report from the committee.

Councilor Uzelac added that the Primary Election is on Tuesday, May 5th, and there is no Plan Commission Meeting scheduled for that day.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) was held earlier tonight to approve the claims.

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

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that the committee held its regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 23rd. The following items were discussed:

- **Parks Maintenance Manager Position** - This position will be added to the salary ordinance. The Human Resources Department posted the position. Superintendent Jerry McCartney has the applications and interviews forthcoming.

- **Lawn Mower** – Upon a review of the lawn mowers, there are two good and two bad. Quotes will be obtained, and the funding will come from the

Food and Beverage Tax funding. Town Manager Griffing confirmed that the Food and Beverage Tax has been identified as a source, but he is also looking at MCCD as a potential funding source.

- **Dean and Barbara White Community Center Repairs** – The volleyball courts were $9,000.00. Town Manager Griffin will check if the Capital Fund can be used for this repair and other repairs. We will be checking with Legacy for reimbursement on these repairs.

- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan** – Tagi Arshami from the Arch Group was at the committee meeting. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approved the Park and Recreation Master Plan, which is contingent on our having a Park Board. We are still soliciting potential applicants for the five-member board, which will have its own bonding capacity.

  Town Manager Griffin added that the original deadline was April 30th, but it might have to be extended because we have only received two inquiries. Town Manager Griffin explained the Park Board selection process.

- **Landscaping** – The committee has received a quote for landscaping

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON– Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that residents need to be aware that they should clean up any junk and trash on their property.

She also stated that if any residents want to report any abandoned properties that need attention, please email her at shedwards@merrillville.in.com

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS – HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards had nothing to report.

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that the next meeting is on Wednesday, April 29th, at 5:00 p.m. If any residents are interested, you can still join the committee. Residents can contact her at shedwards@merrillville.in.gov.

We are looking for residents to lead this celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. The anticipated activities for this event so far are a dance team kick-off, mural, carnival, Taste of Northwest Indiana, time capsule, and fireworks.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that a meeting was held where the gavels were exchanged between the past and current chair. The new chair for 2026 is Austin Bonta, the current Mayor of Portage, Indiana.

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

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report

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

- **Food and Beverage Tax - $1,900,000.00.**

  Clerk-Treasurer Eric January corrected and stated the actual amount is $1,900,000.00, not $19,000,000.00. These corrections were made under the Parks and Recreation Department Report.

- **Cash Balances - $73, 531,543.78** (Obligated and Unobligated Funds) Town Court, Fire Department, General Fund, Police Department, RDA, Stormwater, etc.

  For the benefit of the MIS Student Council, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January explained some of the funds and how the Town of Merrillville utilizes them.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Roberts – Parks and Recreation

Superintendent Jerry McCartney was absent.
Assistant Superintendent Lisa Robert reported on the following events:

- **Arbor Day** – Two Willow Trees were planted in Rosenbalm Park
- **Closure** – The Dean and Barbara White Community Center (D&BWCC) will be closed Saturday, May 2nd, and Sunday, May 3rd, to the public due to an Epic Volleyball Tournament. The D&BWCC will close on Thursday, May 7th, due to the Ivy Tech Graduation.
- **Ping-Pong** – Lesson and free play are being offered on Mondays from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
- **Chess Club** – The club meets on Fridays from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
- **Senior Social Club** – The club meets on Tuesday from 11:00 am until 1:00 p.m.

All parks and recreation activities can be found at: https://merrillvilleparks.recdesk.com, the Facebook Page, and the mymerrillville app.

President Bella informed the council that the MIS Student Council would like to see other sports activities, such as softball and soccer games, and tournaments that are included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2025 through 2031.

Councilor Pettit added to the explanation regarding how the different Parks and Recreation projects will be funded with the Food and Beverage Tax revenue and other funds.

Director Matthew Lake – Stormwater Management
Director Matthew Lake was absent.

Police Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses was absent.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Sheila Shine, for the benefit of the MIS Student Council, explained the purpose of the Building and Planning Department.

Director King - Street Department
Director Steve King reported on the storm damage in the Town of Merrillville, spring cleanup, and road pavement.

President Bella informed the residents that any branches removed by the Street Department from the streets to homeowners' property to allow cars and school buses to pass will be removed.

Town Manager Griffin – Town Administration
Town Manager Griffin reported on the following:

- **Monthly Reports** – Town Manager Griffin reported that the Department Heads' reports compiled by Town Administrative and Building Manager Linda Rosas have been given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January.

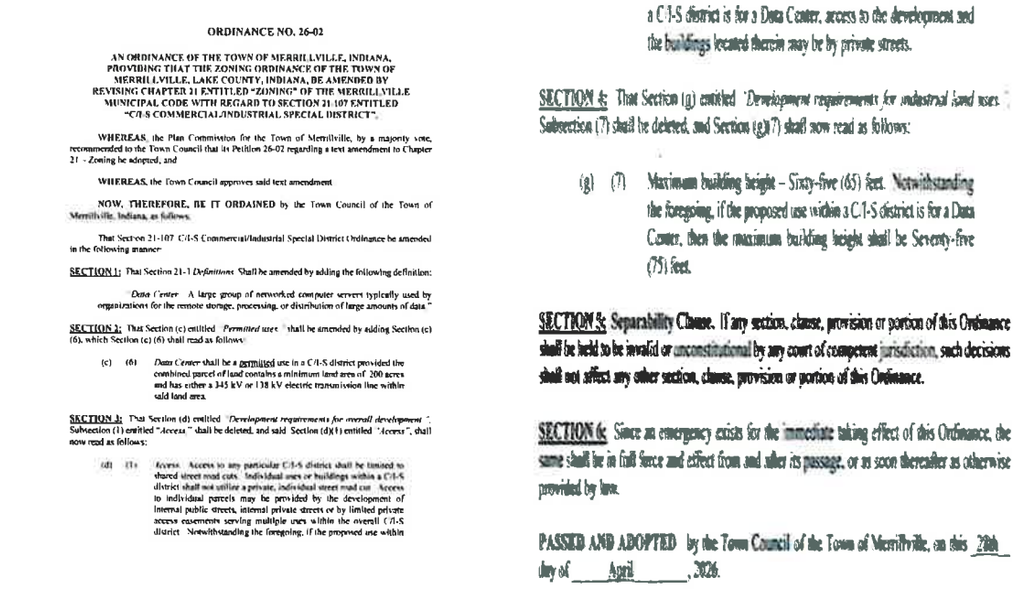
GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote):

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

Ordinance 26-02 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Providing That the Zoning Ordinance of the Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Be Amended by Revising Chapter 21

Entitled "Zoning" Of the Merrillville Municipal Code, With Regard to Section 21-107 Entitled "C/I-S Commercial/Industrial Special District".



ORDINANCE NO. 26-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, PROVIDING THAT THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 21 ENTITLED "ZONING" OF THE MERRILLVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE WITH REGARD TO SECTION 21-107 ENTITLED "C/I-S COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SPECIAL DISTRICT".

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission for the Town of Merrillville, by a majority vote, recommended to the Town Council that its Petition 26-02 regarding a text amendment to Chapter 21 - Zoning be adopted, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council approves said text amendment

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

That Section 21-107 C/I-S Commercial/Industrial Special District Ordinance be amended in the following manner:

SECTION 1: That Section 21-1 *Definitions* Shall be amended by adding the following definition:

Data Center - A large group of networked computer servers typically used by organizations for the remote storage, processing, or distribution of large amounts of data."

SECTION 2: That Section (c) entitled *"Permitted uses"* shall be amended by adding Section (c) (6), which Section (c) (6) shall read as follows:

(c) (6) *Data Center* shall be a permitted use in a C/I-S district provided the combined parcel of land contains a minimum land area of 200 acres and has either a 345 kV or 138 kV electric transmission line within said land area.

SECTION 3: That Section (d) entitled *"Development requirements for overall development"*, Subsection (1) entitled "Access" shall be deleted, and said Section (d)(1) entitled "Access", shall now read as follows:

(d) (1) *Access.* Access to any particular C/I-S district shall be limited to shared street road cuts. Individual uses or buildings within a C/I-S district shall not utilize a private, individual street road cut. Access to individual parcels may be provided by the development of internal public streets, internal private streets or by limited private access easements serving multiple uses within the overall C/I-S district. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the proposed use within a C/I-S district is for a Data Center, access to the development and the buildings located therein may be by private streets.

SECTION 4: That Section (g) entitled *"Development requirements for industrial land uses"*, Subsection (7) shall be deleted, and Section (g)(7) shall now read as follows:

(g) (7) Maximum building height – Sixty-five (65) feet. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the proposed use within a C/I-S district is for a Data Center, then the maximum building height shall be Seventy-five (75) feet.

SECTION 5: Separability Clause. 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 decisions shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6: Since an emergency exists for the immediate taking effect of this Ordinance, the same shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, or as soon thereafter as otherwise provided by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, on this 28th day of April, 2026.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Ordinance 26-02.

Director Sheila Shine of the Building and Planning Department explained the ordinance.

Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and two negatives. Councilors Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, and Bella voted in the affirmative. Councilors Haynes-Edward and Hardaway voted in the negative. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on first reading.

Ordinance 26-07 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance Reclassifying Certain Lands in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for Zoning Purposes, And Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, And All Amendments Passed Subsequent Thereto

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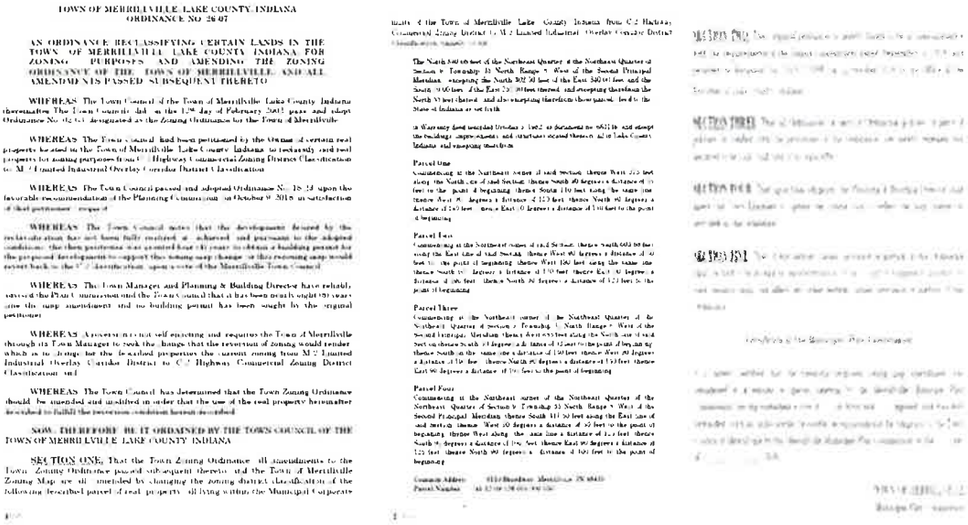


TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 26-07

AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN LANDS IN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA FOR ZONING PURPOSES AND AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, AND ALL AMENDMENTS PASSED SUBSEQUENT THERETO

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, thereinafter, The Town Council, did, on the 12th day of February, 2003, pass and adopt Ordinance No. 03-21, designated as the Zoning Ordinance for the Town of Merrillville;

WHEREAS, The Town Council, has been petitioned by the Owner of certain real property, located in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, to reclassify said real property, for zoning purposes, from a C-2 Highway Commercial Zoning District Classification to an M-2 Limited Industrial Overlay Corridor District Classification;

WHEREAS, The Town Council, passed and adopted Ordinance No. 26-24, upon the favorable recommendation of the Planning Commission, on October 9, 2026, in satisfaction of that petitioner's request;

WHEREAS, The Town Council, notes, that the development, desired by the petitioner, has not been fully realized, or achieved, and pursuant to the adopted ordinance, the then petitioner was granted, four (4) years, to obtain a building permit for the proposed development, to support the zoning change, or this rezoning, may, would revert back, to the C-2 classification, upon a vote of the Merrillville Town Council;

WHEREAS, The Town Manager, and Planning & Building Director, have reliably, assured the Plan Commission, and the Town Council, that it has been nearly, eight (8) years, since the, zone, amendment, and no, building, permit, has been, sought, by the, original, petitioner;

WHEREAS, A rezone, is not, self, executing, and, requires, the Town, of Merrillville, through its Town Manager, to seek the, hope, that the, reversion, of, zoning, would, render, which, is, no, longer, for the, re-called, properties, the, current, zoning, from, M-2, Limited, Industrial, Overlay, Corridor, District, to, C-2, Highway, Commercial, Zoning, District, Classification, and,

WHEREAS, The Town Council, has, determined, that, the, Town, Zoning, Ordinance, should, be, amended, and, modified, in, order, that, the, use, of, the, real, property, hereinafter, described, to, fulfill, the, previous, ordinance, herein, recalled,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE, IT, ORDAINED, BY, THE, TOWN, COUNCIL, OF, THE, TOWN, OF, MERRILLVILLE, LAKE, COUNTY, INDIANA,

SECTION ONE, That, the, Town, Zoning, Ordinance, all, amendments, to, the, Town, Zoning, Ordinance, passed, subsequent, thereto, and, The, Town, of, Merrillville, Zoning, Map, are, all, amended, by, changing, the, zoning, district, classification, of, the, following, described, parcel, of, real, property, all, lying, within, the, Municipal, Corporate,

Limits, of, the, Town, of, Merrillville, Lake, County, Indiana, from, C-2, Highway, Commercial, Zoning, District, to, M-2, Limited, Industrial, Overlay, Corridor, District, Classification, namely, to, wit,

The North 340 feet of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 35 North, Range 7, West of the Second Principal Meridian, excepting the North 302.50 feet of the East 540.00 feet, and the South 19.00 feet, of the East 230.00 feet, thereof, and excepting therefrom the North 50 feet, thereof, and also excepting therefrom those parcels, deeded, to the, State, of, Indiana, as, set, forth,

in, Warranty, deed, recorded, October, 3, 1962, as, Instrument, No., 98518, and, except, the, buildings, improvements, and, structures, erected, thereon, all, in, Lake, County, Indiana, and, excepting, therefrom,

Parcel One,
Commencing, at, the, Northeast, corner, of, said, Section, thence, North, 2[illegible], feet, along, the, North, line, of, said, Section, thence, South, 89, degrees, a, distance, of, [illegible], feet, to, the, point, of, beginning, thence, South, 150, feet, along, the, same, line, thence, South, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 123, feet, thence, North, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, East, 0, degrees, a, distance, of, 141, feet, to, the, point, of, beginning,

Parcel Two,
Commencing, at, the, Northeast, corner, of, said, Section, thence, South, 603, 50, feet, along, the, East, line, of, said, Section, thence, West, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 40, feet, to, the, point, of, beginning, thence, West, 150, feet, along, the, same, line, thence, North, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, East, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, North, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 123, feet, to, the, point, of, beginning,

Parcel Three,
Commencing, at, the, Northeast, corner, of, the, Northeast, Quarter, of, the, Northeast, Quarter, of, Section, 9, Township, 35, North, Range, 7, West, of, the, Second, Principal, Meridian, thence, South, 340, feet, along, the, East, line, of, said, Section, thence, West, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 40, feet, to, the, point, of, beginning, thence, West, along, the, same, line, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, North, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, East, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, South, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, to, the, point, of, beginning,

Parcel Four,
Commencing, at, the, Northeast, corner, of, the, Northeast, Quarter, of, the, Northeast, Quarter, of, Section, 9, Township, 35, North, Range, 7, West, of, the, Second, Principal, Meridian, thence, South, 340, feet, along, the, East, line, of, said, Section, thence, West, 40, degrees, a, distance, of, 40, feet, to, the, point, of, beginning, thence, West, along, the, same, line, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, North, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, East, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, thence, South, 90, degrees, a, distance, of, 150, feet, to, the, point, of, beginning,

Common, Address:, [illegible]
Parcel, Number:, [illegible]

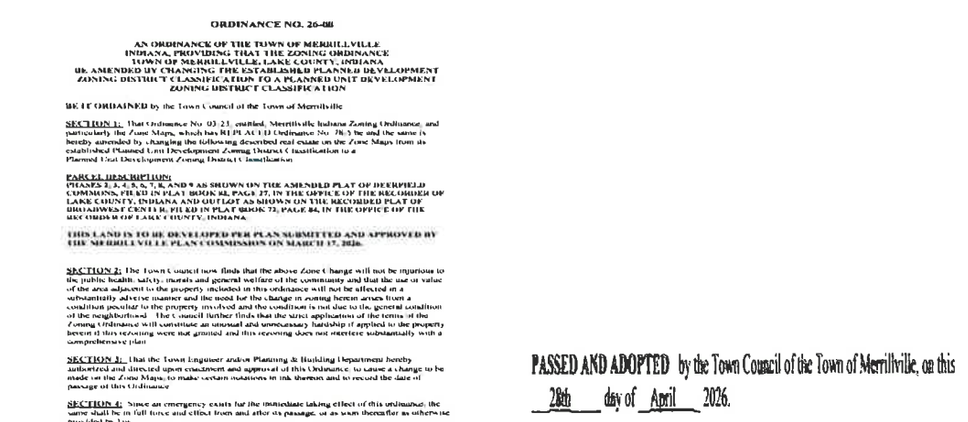
It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Ordinance 26-07.

Director Sheila Shine of the Building and Planning Department explained the ordinance.

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

Ordinance 26-08 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)

An Ordinance of The Town of Merrillville, Indiana, Providing That the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Be Amended by Changing the Established Planned Development Zoning District Classification to A Planned Unit Development Zoning District Classification.



ORDINANCE NO. 26-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE INDIANA, PROVIDING THAT THE ZONING ORDINANCE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA BE AMENDED BY CHANGING THE ESTABLISHED PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION TO A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville

SECTION 1: That Ordinance No. 03-21, entitled, Merrillville Indiana Zoning Ordinance, and particularly the Zone Maps, which has BEEN ACTED Ordinance No. 78-3 be and the same is hereby amended by changing the following described real estate on the Zone Maps from its established Planned Unit Development Zoning District Classification to a Planned Unit Development Zoning District Classification

PARCEL DESCRIPTION:
PHASES 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, AND 9 AS SHOWN ON THE AMENDED PLAT OF DEERFIELD COMMONS, FILED IN PLAT BOOK 82, PAGE 27, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA AND OUTLOT AS SHOWN ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF BROADWEST CENTER, FILED IN PLAT BOOK 72, PAGE 84, IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

THIS LAND IS TO BE DEVELOPED PER PLAN SUBMITTED AND APPROVED BY THE MERRILLVILLE PLAN COMMISSION ON MARCH 17, 2026.

SECTION 2: The Town Council now finds that the above Zone Change will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals and general welfare of the community and that the use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in this ordinance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner and the need for the change in zoning herein arises from a condition peculiar to the property involved and the condition is not due to the general condition of the neighborhood. The Council further finds that the strict application of the terms of the Zoning Ordinance will constitute an unusual and unnecessary hardship if applied to the property herein if this rezoning were not granted and this rezoning does not interfere substantially with a comprehensive plan

SECTION 3: That the Town Engineer and/or Planning & Building Department hereby authorized and directed upon enactment and approval of this Ordinance, to cause a change to be made on the Zone Maps, to make certain notations in ink thereon and to record the date of passage of this Ordinance

SECTION 4: Since an emergency exists for the immediate taking effect of this ordinance, the same shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, or as soon thereafter as otherwise provided by law

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, on this 28th day of April 2026.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Ordinance 26-08.

Director Sheila Shine of the Building and Planning Department explained the ordinance.

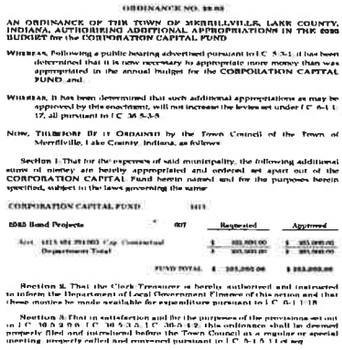
Upon a roll call vote, there were six affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on the first reading.

President Bella, for the benefit of the MIS Student Council, explained the responses of AYE and NAY in voting.

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

<u>Ordinance 26-03 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)</u>
An Ordinance of The Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing Additional Appropriations In The 2026 Budget for the Corporation Capital Fund.

Town Manager Griffin explained the ordinance. Town Manager Griffin also requested that the rules be suspended to read Ordinance 26-03 on the second and final reading.



ORDINANCE NO. [illegible]

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2026 BUDGET for the CORPORATION CAPITAL FUND

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 annual budget for the CORPORATION CAPITAL FUND, and

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

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

Section 1. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the CORPORATION CAPITAL Fund herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

CORPORATION CAPITAL FUND 1411

2025 Bond Projects	007	Requested	Approved
Acct. 1411 [illegible] Cap. Contractual		$ [illegible]	$ [illegible]
Department Total		$ [illegible]	$ [illegible]
	FUND TOTAL	$ [illegible]	$ [illegible]

Section 2. That the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and instructed to inform the Department of Local Government Finance of this action and that these monies be made available for expenditure pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18.

Section 3. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-5-3-5, I.C. 36-5-4-2, this ordinance shall be deemed properly filed and introduced before the Town Council at a regular or special meeting, properly called and convened pursuant to I.C. 5-1.5-1.1 et seq.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this ___ Day of _____, 2026, 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 26-03 on first reading.

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

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to suspend the rules to read Ordinance 26-03 on second and final reading.

Upon a roll call vote, there were six affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The rules were suspended to read Ordinance 26-03 on second and final reading.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Hardaway to approve Ordinance 26-03 on second and final reading.

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

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

Ordinance 26-01 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Current Budget for the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund (4402) pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, I.C 36-5-3-5, et seq.

Ordinance 26-01 was approved at the Town Council Meeting held on April 14, 2026, and was crossed off the agenda.

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

OLD BUSINESS: ***NONE***

NEW BUSINESS: ***NONE***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting May 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- Data Center Educational Workshop June 11th at 5:00 p.m. at D&BWCC

ADJOURNMENT:
Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President, Rick Bella, announced the meeting had adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis