Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
June 23, 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 Dennis Walton of Faith Temple of Christ Church.

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

Town Attorney Svetanoff was present to provide legal advice.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Several public comments were made regarding the Disaster Plan, the Town's response to the storms and tornado, debris removal, the Quality and Baymont Inns bed bug issues, buckling sidewalks, volunteers, and shelters for victims. The video of the Town Council Meeting held on June 23, 2026, can be viewed here:
https://www.merrillville.in.gov/our-government/meeting-calendar-minutes-and-video

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for June 23, 2026.
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2026.
- Approval of Special Council Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2026

- Letter from Lamar: Intent to Obtain License #249-01645-01
- Letter from Lamar: Intent to Obtain License #249-11760-01

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

Councilor Pettit will be abstaining from the vote due to a conflict of interest. He is an employee of Lamar.

It was moved by Councilor Haynes-Edwards and seconded by Councilor Hardaway to remove and delay all of the Lamar Letters listed on the Consent Agenda.

Upon a voice vote, with six affirmatives, one abstention, and no negatives, the motion passed. The Lamar Letters were removed from the Consent Agenda and delayed until further notice.

Councilor Pettit explained the letters from Lamar as an employee of Lamar and his opposition to the vote.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January voiced his financial concerns regarding approving the letters for the licenses.

Upon a voice vote, with six affirmatives, one abstention, and no negatives, the motion passed. The Consent Agenda was approved.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

a) A Public Hearing of Matters which require Notice Upload to Gateway: Re: Ordinance 26-14 - Additional Appropriation:

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



NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF
PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION(S)
TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA



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.

ii. **Public Hearing Open:**
President Rick Bella opened the hearing for Ordinance 26-14. Town Manager Griffin explained Ordinance 26-14.

Councilor Pettit added that the Parks, Recreation & D&BWCC committee reviewed the details listed in Ordinance 26-14.

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

iii. **Public Hearing Closed:**
President Rick Bella closed the public hearing for Ordinance 26-14 and stated that action on this ordinance will be taken under General Orders.

BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS*: NONE*

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

***BUDGET & FINANCE*—NEAL—** Vice President Neal reported that she will defer to Financial Advisor Hudson to give an overview of the Merrillville Town Court finances.

Financial Advisor Hudson gave an overview of the court's revenues and expenses for 2024, 2025, and mid-year 2026. Financial Advisor Hudson has a concern regarding the expenditure levels of $255,000.00 at the mid-year point. If this trend of spending continues, the expenditures level will reach $500,000.00, which is over the budget they have been assigned through the budget process. State statutes dictate that departments and the Town as a whole are to spend within the budget that the Department of Local Government Finances (DLGF) approves. The court department is one of the funds approved by DLGF. Financial Advisor Hudson had worksheets available for the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January.

Financial Advisor Hudson also reported that the Department Heads' initial budget workshop meetings are being scheduled for Monday and Tuesday of the week of June 29th. More in depts budget meetings will occur later in July and August.

Vice President Neal added that this year's budget meetings are running behind due to all the activities happening in the Town of Merrillville.

In response to a question from President Bella regarding the tax draw allocation for this year, Financial Advisor Hudson responded that no information has been received from the auditor's office as of the date of this meeting, and the deadline for release is the end of the month.

STREET DEPARTMENT & PARK MAINTENANCE - UZELAC– Councilor Uzelac reported that Pastor Dennis Walton and the organization 8 Days of Hope have been an immense help to the Town of Merrillville and its residents during the recovery efforts from the storm and tornado.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS—PETTIT—Councilor Pettit reported that a committee will be held on Tuesday, July 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at Town Hall.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway reported that two Labor Grade 1 positions are available in the Street Department, currently posted on the Town's website at https://www.merrillville.in.gov/our-government/job-opportunities/ and on the mymerrillville app (Apple and Google Play Stores). This position was posted on Friday and will close in fourteen business days from Friday. If anyone is interested and has the qualifications, please do not hesitate to apply.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac reported that she received a memo from Director Matthew Lake regarding the status of Kaiser Ditch. Phase 1 of the repairs will commence soon.

Director Lake of Stormwater Management added that the team will be mobilizing soon through the Lake County Surveyor Office.

Councilor Uzelac also addressed the storm sewer on 75th and Hendricks. The storm sewer on 75th Place, where flooding occurred with Director Lake. Director Lake stated that the problems are correctable and will be taken care of by reprofiling the corner.

PUBLIC SAFETY—HARDAWAY—Councilor Hardway reported on the storm recovery effort of the community and thanked the residents and the police department,

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice President Neal reported that the ribbon cutting for the new Gateway and Parks' signs had to be postponed due to the storm and tornado cleanup efforts. At the appropriate time, beautification efforts will take place to restore the Town of Merrillville.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) regular meeting and a RDC workshop occurred earlier tonight. Mr. Bob Swintz in the workshop gave an overview of the allocation areas and revenue that will be coming into RDC; Mitch Barlon and Tim Bown from Restoring Lake County were also in attendance.

Councilor Pettit also reported that in the regular RDC meeting, an RDC resolution was passed asking for 100% of the allocation for 2027. This is an annual report that Director Angie Chilcott of the Economic and Development Department and Mr. Swintz worked on and entered into Gateway. The RDC gave $24,000.00 out of the allocation area to Rebuilding South Lake County, who will make repairs and modifications to twelve homes. Town Manager Griffin and Director Chilcott will oversee the distribution of these funds.

Councilor Hardaway added that those twelve homes are in the Town of Merrillville and have been identified, but the agency reach is going to be more than the twelve homes because of the impact of the storm and tornado.

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

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that the standing committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 25th has been cancelled due to the recovery efforts. He also deferred to Superintendent Jerry McCartney for the rest of the report under Department Reports later on the agenda.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that the committee update is on hold due to the recovery efforts.

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS – HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that the council has before them a memo detailing the estimated cost for the 4th of July joint venture with Ross Township, which includes the following:

- Fireworks Show: $30,000.00
- Security Personnel: $13,500.00
- Golf Cart Rentals: $ 8.400.00

The total estimated cost is $51,900.00. It is expected that the Town of Merrillville will share 50% of the total cost at $25,950.00. Councilor Haynes-Edwards also stated that the estimated costs are subject to change based on actual cost of staff hire for emergency services and security personnel. The final invoice with all supporting documentation will be submitted to the Town.

In response to a question from President Bella regarding the detailed expense documentation, Councilor Haynes-Edwards responded that she thought it was already sent over. Town Manager Griffin responded that he only has the invoice.

President Bella added that we need all supporting documentation. Town Attorney Svetanoff added for the State Board of Accounts.

It was moved by Councilor Haynes-Edwards and seconded by Vice President Neal to approve the estimated cost not to exceed $27,000.00 contingent upon receiving all supporting documentation for the joint venture of Ross Township Trustee and the Town of Merrillville 4th of July event.

Upon a roll call vote, there were six affirmatives, one abstention, and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, and Hardaway voted in the affirmative. Councilor Bella abstained. The motion passed. The estimated costs were

approved not to exceed $27,000.00 and contingent upon receiving all supporting documentation.

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – The kick-off will be July 4th. The parade will start at 11:00 a.m., followed by festivities at Hidden Lake and other activities. including painting a mural. The fireworks at Hidden Lake will start at dusk. We are looking for residents, businesses, and Town Council members to lead this celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that the next meeting will be held on July 16, 2026.

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – NEAL - Vice President Neal reported that the next Lake County Solid Waste Management District Hazardous Waste (LCSWMD) Collection is on Saturday, July 25th at the Highland Public Works, located on 801 Kennedy Avenue, Highland, Indiana from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Paper shredding will be available for up to four grocery brown paper bags at every hazardous collection site this year. This information is available on the Town's website, the mymerrillville app, and LCSWMD's website, www.lcswmd.com.

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

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway and Vice President Neal had nothing to report.

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

- **As of June 23rd. Cash Balance** – The balance was $69,433,481.68
- **End of May 31st. Cash Balance** – The balance was $72,321,384.50
- **As of June 23rd , Expenditures** – We expended $2,887,902.82
- **Food and Beverage Tax** – The balance in the fund is $2,358,601.44. The Town received another check for $132,745,70.

In response to a question from President Bella regarding how much of the $69,000.000.00 accounts for typical spending in the budget, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January responded that the money is budgeted, and we spend about $2,000,000.00 a month, and the majority of it is payroll.

President Bella voiced his concern regarding the numbers in the bank when we talk about the finances being tight. The Town of Merrillville will have a shortfall of $840,000.00 in the budget. To present the numbers less confusingly, President Bella stated he would like the financial reporting to be more streamlined and to include accounts payable.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January responded that he is working with the new accounting software vendor to customize some financial statements.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

Superintendent Jerry McCartney – Parks and Recreation
Superintendent Jerry McCartney reported the following updates regarding the D&BWCC:

- **Sunset Market** – Thursday, June 25th at 4:00 p.m. There will be food trucks and live music at this community event. We will have three more Sunset Market events this summer.
- **Trees and Branches** – The department is removing fallen trees and branches from the Parks. We will have to contract out some of the removal process.
- **New Website: merrillville.in.gov** – The new website is up and more user-friendly for accessing Parks and Recreation.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January commented that wood from the fallen
tress can be donated to the schools for wood shop. Attorney Svetanoff asked Clerk-Treasurer Eric January to contact the school district regarding donating the wood.

Director Matthew Lake – Stormwater Management
Director Matthew Lake reported on activities at Stormwater Management:

- **Emergency Response** – The department has been very busy with emergency response and recovery assistance. Director Lake explained how Stormwater Management responded to the storm and tornado.
- **97th and Grant** – MJ Underground is mobilizing, and the project will start shortly. We received a briefing on the project from Bill Emerson.
- **Little Calumet River Basin** – Stormwater will be applying for cost-sharing funding for $353,000.00 for some of the stormwater projects in the Town of Merrillville at the July meeting. The June 17th meeting was postponed due to the emergency response.
- **EV Grant** – Director Lake is coordinating with Ryan Lisek from Drive Clean Indiana regarding cost sharing for up to $33,000.00 per vehicle.

Director Lake mentioned additional updates to the council.

Police Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses reported on the June 11th storm, tornado, and the destruction.

He stated, first and foremost, thanks be to God no life was lost. The tornado struck at dusk. There was limited visibility, heavy rain, power outages, blocked roadways, downed powerlines, and widespread debris everywhere. Despite these challenging conditions, the officers performed exceptionally well. Public Safety, the Police and Fire Departments worked together as a team

and coordinated resources following the Town of Merrillville Disaster Response Plan developed by Fire Chief Ed Yerga. The Police Department alone has logged 1,000 hours of overtime, not including the normal overtime hours.

Chief Nuses elaborated more about the June 11th disaster and recovery efforts.

Director Shine – Planning and Building
Director Sheila Shine informed residents to call the Planning and Building Department to assist them in the repair and restoration of their property with contractors. The department will provide helpful information about licensed contractors, required permits, and the permitting process to ensure that your repairs are safely completed and in compliance. Carefully review all contracts, agreements, and proposals for any repair work before you sign. You can contact us at (219) 769-3631 for assistance throughout this recovery process.

Director King - Street Department
Director Steve King was absent.

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

- **Personnel** – Town Manager Griffin informed the council that Director Steve King has resigned, and his last day is Friday, June 26th. Deputy Fire Chief Jim Lilley has retired, and his last day as well will be Friday, June 26th.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

Zoning: (Motion to adopt or reject; confer IC 36-5-2-10(d): ***NONE***

First Reading: **Ordinance (Discussion and Roll Call Vote): NONE**

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

Ordinance 26-04 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
An Ordinance Of The Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing Additional Appropriations In The 2026 Budget For Parks Non-Reverting Operating and Capital Funds;



Ordinance 26-04 Page 2

Section 3. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-3-3-5, 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. 5-14-1.5-1 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 Haynes-Edwards to approve Ordinance 26-04 on second and final reading.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, 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.

<u>Ordinance 26-14 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)</u>

An Ordinance Of The Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing Additional Appropriations In The 2026 Budget For The Redevelopment General Fund and The Park Non-Reverting Fund.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
APPROPRIATION ENACTMENT
ORDINANCE No. 26-14



It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Ordinance 26-14 on second and final reading.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, 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.

Resolutions (Discussion and Voice Vote):

Resolution 26-28 (Discussion & Voice Vote)
A Resolution Of The Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Transferring Monies Of The 2026 Budget Within The Local Road & Streets Budget.

RESOLUTION 26-28
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, TRANSFERRING MONIES OF THE 2026 BUDGET WITHIN THE LOCAL ROAD & STREETS BUDGET

WHEREAS, in the appropriation of funds for the year 2026, there is a need to transfer certain monies within the Local Roads & Streets Budget, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, that the following transfer of funds be approved.

	DECREASE	INCREASE
2202010224 Diesel	$6,000.00	
2202010185 Uniforms		$6,000.00
TOTAL	$6,000.00	$6,000.00

DULY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this 23rd day of June, 2026.

It was moved by Vice President Neal and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edward to approve Resolution 26-28.

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

Resolution 26-29 (Discussion & Voice Vote:
President Bella explained to the council and audience that an updated agenda was prepared that removed Resolution 26-29 because it was approved in a Special Town Council Meeting held on July 19, 2026.

Resolution 26-31 (Discussion & Voice Vote)
A Resolution Articulating The "Sense Of The Town Council" Affecting a Vision For Merrillville's Future Involving Community Partnership & Investment.



MERRILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Resolution No 26-31

A RESOLUTION ARTICULATING THE "SENSE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL" AFFECTING A VISION FOR MERRILLVILLE'S FUTURE INVOLVING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & INVESTMENT

WHEREAS The MERRILLVILLE Town Council as the fiscal and legislative body of the Town of MERRILLVILLE from time to time entertains points of public support and comment which arise in expression from the elected representatives as part of the public discourse on the matter

WHEREAS The Town of MERRILLVILLE has been advised of and continues to welcome a unique and exciting opportunity to enhance community services expand recreational offerings and strengthen long term financial sustainability an initiative that centers on a strategic partnership between the Crossroads YMCA as our community athletic recreational & wellness facilities and parks

WHEREAS The Town of Merrillville through its Town Council is ever aware of the need and desire to provide our residents at the highest possible quality while being fiscal at the lowest possible cost

WHEREAS The Town of Merrillville has been presented with an offer from the White Family Foundation and Crossroads YMCA which also includes but which requires serious consideration by the Town Council in that it provides the possibility of enhancing at the same time financial savings through the retirement of outstanding debt associated with the MBB the renovation of Wood and Scheidler public assets that will continue to serve the residents of this community and leave us in a enhancing the long term vision of the Parks and Recreation Five year Master Plan

WHEREAS The Town of MERRILLVILLE acknowledges that the offer requires formal [illegible] and [illegible] however it is determined that the proposal has been sufficiently rendered such that it is favorable to obtain a formal expression from the Town Council as the representative body to express the sense of the current elected body to pursue the next steps needed to formalize and perfect this opportunity and

WHEREAS The Town of MERRILLVILLE has and intends the Town Council wishes to offer a fullest and expression and to the public support of the matter and its intentions to the pursuit and execution of this [illegible] Town Council now does

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED That it the sense of the Merrillville Town Council as follows

Section 1 That it is the sense of the Town Council that as the legislative body of the Town the recitals set forth in the preamble of this resolution be hereby adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Council

Section 2 That the Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE Indiana hereby further makes the following findings and determinations

A That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA will strengthen Merrillville's financial ability to serving the community because as the Dean and Barbara White Community Center (DBWCC) retains approximately $25 million outstanding the Town's annual loan obligation allowing the repurposing of this financing up funding or other community priorities

B That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA will Maximize Optimize the White Family Foundation original Gift for the operation of the Dean and Barbara White Family Foundation by funding the ground balance remaining estimated to be approximately eight million dollars to be funded with half to support the renovation and ongoing operations of a new parks and recreation facility and half to support the YMCA transferring rebranding and expansion programming at the community water which will be complementary to the programming of the parks and recreation department

C That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA will accelerate parks and recreation facilities expansion serving the Town's interest in a new parks and recreation complex to become the municipal campus to include civic amenities allow such purpose programming tables spaces and assembly amenities where a support elements of other properties all while achieving recreational opportunities for Merrillville residents

D That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA will support a more strategic location for new facilities by supporting constructing and locating a new parks and recreation facility behind the municipal building creating a municipal campus at 920 Broadway extending west toward Madison Street and approximately 61 million from the White Family Foundation allocation will help fund this project

E That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA will accelerate the creation of a Dog Park as objectives in the Park Master Plan with a design to be adapted to fit the new location providing a fenced and enclosed space for recreational their pets to play and meet other pets

F That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA will be carried out with every effort to provide a seamless transition with continued services rendering members the YMCA and the Parks and Recreation staff will share space and schedule to minimize interrupted programming at the community water

G That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA provides continuity of some major partnerships by transitioning the existing sponsorships and partnerships with organizations at the DBWCC including those at Wirtz Field and with Mayor Gilroy Incentive Center Gone and Robinson Engineering to the YMCA which may continue and expand these partnerships consistent with its original model

H That the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA represents a thoughtful long term investment in Merrillville's future enhancing recreational opportunities improving public facilities and creating new partnerships that benefit residents for years to come

Section 3 That while supportive of the proposal and the initiative the Town Council will further study and determine the following

A That the Town will locate the situs of a storage facility for the Metropolitan Police Department on what will become a municipal campus with the intention that the structure will be designed to complement the aesthetic of the Parks building

B That the Town will work with the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to provide opportunities for existing employees to interview with the YMCA for positions if they choose or continue serving the Town as it advances major initiatives including the Parks Master Plan and development of a new regional park

C That the Town will move forward with a new 20 Acre Regional Park a first for Merrillville to be located along Whitcomb Street from land generously proffered by developer Randy Hall in exchange for a smaller less valuable parcel Adam Benjamin Park with the regional park to be part of the Liberty Estates development with this section to include walking trails a bandstand for community events and concerts soccer fields and family friendly playgrounds and

D That the Town will support at a later phase updates and enhancements to the Senior Center on 73rd Avenue to include repairs and modernization as well as retail service space as well as surround enhancement of the surrounding amenities including the apple orchard walking paths gazebo and playground

Section 4 That as plans progress a meaningful opportunity for community input will be scheduled before any plans are finally adopted

Section 5 That in order to further advance this project the Merrillville Town Council approves in sense of the Town Council that it approves with the proposal from the White Family Foundation and the Crossroads YMCA to transfer the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to the Crossroads YMCA subject to memorializing the final terms in an agreement that parks and incorporates the elements set forth in the findings and determinations

Section 6 That the Clerk Treasurer be hereby instructed and directed the execution by the President and Staff of the White Family Foundation the President and Staff of the Crossroads YMCA and such persons to make a formal [illegible] in regard to this matter and in executing those

persons to advance the objects and purposes of this "Sense of the Council" Resolution and that they may be authorized

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED this 23rd Day of June 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 Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Resolution 26-31.

President Bella informed the council that this was discussed in the council workshop as being the first step in moving forward, and then we can authorize Structure Point to design the new building behind Town Hall.

Councilor Pettit requested to make a secondary motion under Old Business. There was a debate whether that motion would be out of order. Councilor Pettit explained the reason for his requested

motion. In response to a question from President Bella regarding changing the motion, discussion, and comments. Councilor Pettit responded that these are comments.

In response to a question from Vice President Neal regarding clarification on Resolution 26-31, Town Manager Griffin explained the resolution.

Upon a roll call vote, there were three affirmatives, two abstentions, and two negatives. Councilors Uzelac, Pettit, and Bella voted in the affirmative. Councilors Neal and Chandler-Felton abstained. Councilors Haynes-Edwards and Hardaway voted in the negative. The motion failed. The resolution was not approved.

Resolution 26-32 (Discussion & Voice Vote)

An Exigent Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriation Balances from and among various Funds and Departments as Requested by the Proper Officer and Forwarded to the Town Council for its Action Pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA
RESOLUTION No. 26-32

An Exigent Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriation Balances from and among various Funds and Departments as Requested by the Proper Officer and Forwarded to the Town Council for its Action Pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.

WHEREAS, It has been determined that certain exigent conditions have developed since adoption of the original budget and it is now necessary to transfer certain appropriations into different categories than were initially appropriated for the various functions of the Fire and Hazmat Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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 appropriations are hereby transferred and set apart out of the funds hereinafter named for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same, such sums herein transferred unless otherwise stipulated by law;

Section 2. That it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the Fire and Hazmat Fund, which are not needed at this time for the purposes for which originally appropriated, and may be transferred to a newly authorized category of appropriation in order to satisfy an existing need and further that a new a as follows:

		Decrease	Increase
2250.C10.394	Wheel Tax/Contractual Services	$ 45,000.00	
2250.C10.147	Wheel Tax/Superintendent		$ 5,000.00
2250.C10.148	Wheel Tax/Preservation Crew		15,000.00
2250.C10.221.006	Wheel Tax/Gasoline		10,000.00
2250.C10.224.006	Wheel Tax/Diesel		10,000.00
2250.C10.243.006	Wheel Tax/Supplies Other		5,000.00
	Total of Increase		$ 45,000.00

Section 3. That the Clerk-Treasurer shall take steps needed to execute the changes set forth in this appropriation transfer resolution as this is a change to the budget.

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED by the TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this 23rd day of JUNE, 2026.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Vice President Neal and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edward to approve Resolution 26-32.

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

OLD BUSINESS: ***NONE***

NEW BUSINESS: ***NONE***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting July 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- Parade July 4th at 11:00 a.m.
- Merrillville Job Fair July 30th at 11:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:
Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President, Rick Bella, announced the meeting had adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. Januszy, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis