Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
October 14, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL of COUNCIL: – Present at the meeting were Councilors Rhonda Neal, 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.

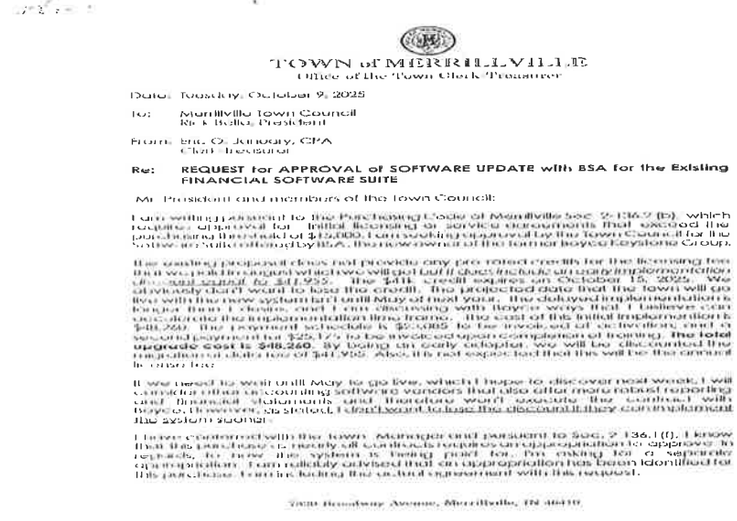
Councilor Leona Chandler-Felton was absent from the roll call.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS*: NONE*

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
No public comments were made at the meeting. A copy of the video from the Town Council Meeting held on October 14, 2025, has been uploaded to the Town's website at: https://www.merrillville.in.gov/government/town_council/town_council_meetings.php.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for October 14, 2025
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes September 23, 2025
- Approval of Work Study meeting Minutes of February 24, not the previous recorded.
- Letter from Clerk-Treasurer requesting purchase approval of Software upgrade.



TOWN of MERRILLVILLE
Office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2025

To: Merrillville Town Council
Rick Bella, President

From: Eric O. January, CPA
Clerk-Treasurer

Re: REQUEST for APPROVAL of SOFTWARE UPDATE with BSA for the Existing FINANCIAL SOFTWARE SUITE

Mr. President and members of the Town Council:

I am writing pursuant to the Purchasing Code of Merrillville Sec. 2-136.2 (b), which requires approval for initial licensing or service agreements that exceed the purchasing threshold of $15,000. I am seeking approval by the Town Council for the Software Suite offered by BSA, the new owner of the former Boyce Keystone Group.

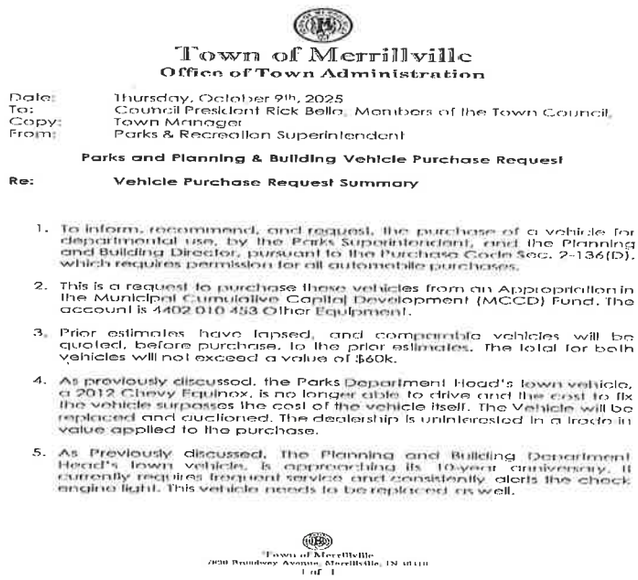
The existing proposal does not provide any pro rated credits for the licensing fee that we paid in August which we will get but it does include an early implementation discount equal to $11,955. The $41k credit expires on October 15, 2025. We obviously don't want to lose the credit. The projected date that the town will go live with the new system isn't until May of next year. The delayed implementation is longer than I desire, and I am discussing with Boyce ways that I believe can accelerate the implementation time frame. The cost of this initial implementation is $48,260. The payment schedule is $23,085 to be invoiced at activation, and a second payment for $25,175 to be invoiced upon completion of training. **The total upgrade cost is $48,260.** By being an early adopter, we will be discounted the migration of data fee of $41,955. Also, it's not expected that this will be the annual licensing fee.

If we need to wait until May to go live, which I hope to discover next week, I will consider other accounting software vendors that also offer more robust reporting and financial statements and therefore won't execute the contract with Boyce. However, as stated, I don't want to lose the discount if they can implement the system sooner.

I have conferred with the town Manager and pursuant to Sec. 2-136.1 (f), I know that this purchase is nearly all contracts requires an appropriation to approve in regards to how the system is being paid for. I'm asking for a separate appropriation. I am reliably advised that an appropriation has been identified for this purchase. I am including the actual agreement with this request.

7820 Broadway Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410

- Letter from Parks Superintendent requesting approval for purchase of two vehicles.



Town of Merrillville
Office of Town Administration

Date: Thursday, October 9th, 2025
To: Council President Rick Bella, Members of the Town Council,
Copy: Town Manager
From: Parks & Recreation Superintendent

Parks and Planning & Building Vehicle Purchase Request

Re: Vehicle Purchase Request Summary

1. To inform, recommend, and request, the purchase of a vehicle for departmental use, by the Parks Superintendent, and the Planning and Building Director, pursuant to the Purchase Code Sec. 2-136(D), which requires permission for all automobile purchases.
2. This is a request to purchase these vehicles from an Appropriation in the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development (MCCD) Fund. The account is 4402 010 453 Other Equipment.
3. Prior estimates have lapsed, and comparable vehicles will be quoted, before purchase, to the prior estimates. The total for both vehicles will not exceed a value of $60k.
4. As previously discussed, the Parks Department Head's town vehicle, a 2012 Chevy Equinox, is no longer able to drive and the cost to fix the vehicle surpasses the cost of the vehicle itself. The Vehicle will be replaced and auctioned. The dealership is uninterested in a trade in value applied to the purchase.
5. As Previously discussed, the Planning and Building Department Head's town vehicle, is approaching its 10-year anniversary. It currently requires frequent service and consistently alerts the check engine light. This vehicle needs to be replaced as well.

Town of Merrillville
2000 Broadway Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410
1 of 1

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

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

SPECIAL ORDERS: ***NONE***

BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS*:*

1) **Petitioner**: Mark Johnson
   Owner: Anthony Haddad
   Request: Special Exception Approval
   Purpose: To Allow a Used Car Dealership
   Location: 7809 Taft
   Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial Zoning District

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

Director Shine explained the request.

The Petitioner Mark Johonson explained the business.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding any additional information, Director Shine responded that she informed Mr. Johonson about the problems with the previous lessor that Code Enforcement reported. Mr. Johonson stated that the whole building from A to Z is going to be remodeled, and tires will not be stored on the property.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve the BZA.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and one negative. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. Councilor Keesha Hardaway voted in the negative. The motion passed. The BZA was approved.

2) **Petitioner**: Alvin Lacy
   Owner: Elevate Merrillville LLC
   Request: Variance of Use Approval

Purpose: To Allow a Sports Athletic Training Facility
Location: 1201 East 86th Place
Zoning: M-1 Limited Industrial Zoning District

Planning and Building Director Sheila Shine informed the council that the Petitioner is absent and would the council like to defer.

Attorney Svetanoff stated that the Petitioner should be at the meeting to answer any questions and support his petition.

Director Shine stated he will reschedule the Petitioner for the next Town Council Meeting.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to defer the petition.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The petition was deferred.

3) **Applicant**: Kris Simonovski
Owner: Kris Simonovski
Request: Approval for Large Gathering Permit
Purpose: Winter Wonder Lights
Location: 7595 East Lincoln Highway
Date & Time: November 21st – December 30, 2025, from 5:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. Daily

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

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve the Large Gathering Permit.

Councilor Pettit informed the council that this event is a replacement for the Festival of Lights that occurred at Hidden Lake.

Upon a roll call vote, there were six affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. The motion passed. The Large Gathering Permit was approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

***BUDGET & FINANCE*—NEAL**— Vice-President Neal had nothing to report.

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

- Park and Bike Trails Maintenance - Maintenance such as mowing, cleaning, and picking up trash is still ongoing for the parks and bike trails.
- Garbage Pick-Up – The Street Department is maintaining the streets and roads.
- Digital Signs – The digital signs have been repaired.

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac reported that Director Matthew Lake of Stormwater Management has completed the cleanup on the Kaiser Ditch located on Hendrick Street. The cleanup was paid for by Stormwater Management.

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

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice-President Neal had nothing to report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) meeting was held earlier tonight regarding the Wickham Street improvement project for the right-of-way acquisition. Robinson Engineering wants to retain Right of Away Jones out of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for this project. The RDC approved the contract for $143,000.00.

Councilor Pettit also informed the council that he received a couple of emails from Superintendent Dr. Suggs regarding the annual grant payment of $400,000.00 for 2025. There are two more years on the contract that RDC and the council agreed to with Merrillville Community School Corporation.

UTILITY LIAISON –CHANDLER-FELTON – Councilor Chandler-Felton was absent.

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit informed the council that he will defer to Director Jerry McCartney for the report, and there will be several items discussed at the committee meeting for the council workshop on October 15, 2025.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

- Number of Calls: 229 (tickets issued were 18, and warnings issued were 48)

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS – HAYNES-EDWARD – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported on the following events:

- **Red Cross Blood Drive** – The blood drive will take place at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center in October and November. If residents or council members are interested, you can register at redcrossblood.org.

- **Trunk or Treat** – The Town of Merrillville event will be on October 23rd from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. We are still seeking businesses, groups, and organizations to participate in this event. If you are interested, you can register for free at merrillville.in.gov./trunk/form.

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that she has several volunteers signed up to serve on the July 4th, 2026, Semi-Quincentennial Committee for the United States of America's 250th Anniversary. The first meeting will be next month.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES-LAKE – Director Matthew Lake was absent.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

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

- **Halloween Swap Shop** – Lake County Solid Waste Management is having a Halloween Swap Shop on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., until October 31st. You bring a costume, and you can swap it out for another costume. The costume must be clean and sanitized. You will also be able to exchange one costume for three accessories. The facility is located on 8695 Broadway in Merrillville, Indiana.

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardway reported that the 2025 Shared Ethics Entity Summit will be held on October 30th at the Avalon Manor from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The summit is open to the public, and interested individuals must RSVP by October 17th. This information is available on the mymerrillville app. This is a free event. The guest speakers are Mayors from the following cities:

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

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

CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE - JANUARY – Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported that the audit is in process for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 by the State Board of Accounts.:

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

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

- **Sunday Closure** – The message that went out regarding the Dean and Barbara White Community Center (D&BWCC) being closed on Sunday is on hold. The D&BWCC remains open on Sundays.
- **Winter Basketball** – Winter Basketball has an early bird registration where you can get $20.00 off the fee until October 31st.
- **Painting** – Five Star Painting has painted the community walls and classrooms. The hallway for the locker rooms will be completed by next week.
- **Floors at Community Center** – The contract with ICC is not ready, and Director McCartney will be contacting the representative.

Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses reported the statistics for September 2025

- **Calls for Service** – 2.537, which required 4,355 officers' responses.
- **Adult Arrest** – 118
- **Juvenile Arrest** – 7
- **Tickets Issued** – 468
- **Traffic Unit (2 Officers)**
  - Traffic Calls for Service -294 (includes traffic stops, accidents, private property accidents, personal injury accidents, and patrol when necessary)
  - Traffic Tickets Issued - 276
  - Traffic Stops – 169
  - Traffic Warnings – 145
  - Traffic Accidents – 47

Chief Nuses also reported that the average call for a patrol officer is right around thirty-two minutes versus nine minutes for a traffic unit. This shows us what can be accomplished with the proper structure of personnel, equipment, and other resources.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding additional resources and officers for a larger traffic unit, Chief Nuses responded that he would like to have at least four officers on traffic patrol for the Town of Merrillville.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Sheila Shine reported had nothing else to report.

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

- Asphalt Patching – Asphalt patching is occurring in the Town before leaf vacuum begins on Monday. The leaf vacuum schedule is listed in the Town's newsletter, on the website, and on the mymerrillville app.

President Bella reminded the Street Department about the streetlights being maintained in the Town.

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

- **Monthly Reports** – Town Manager Griffin's report has been given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January.
- **Trunk or Treat** – We have over fifty-eight participants this year. We always need volunteers to help with direct setup and traffic. If anyone is interested, please call Town Administration.

GENERAL ORDERS

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

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

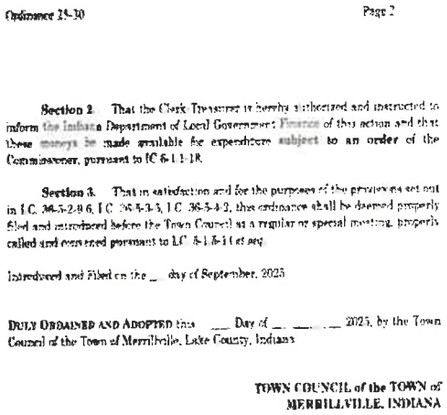
First Reading: **Ordinance (Discussion and Roll Call Vote):**

Ordinance 25-30 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Current Budget for the Motor Vehicle Highway-Restricted Fund (2203). All Pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18,I.C. 36-5-3-5, et seq.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
APPROPRIATION ENACTMENT
ORDINANCE No. 25-30

An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Current Budget for the Motor Vehicle Highway- Restricted Fund (2203) all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, I.C. 36-5-3-5, et seq.



Ordinance 25-30 Page 2

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

Section 3. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-5-3-3, 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 et seq.

Introduced and Filed on the _ day of September, 2025

DULY ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this __ Day of _ ___ ___ 2025, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve Ordinance 25-30.

Upon a roll call vote, there were six affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Hayes-Edwards, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on first reading.

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

Ordinance 25-31 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates.

An updated Ordinance 25-31 was distributed before the meeting was called to order. A copy is available in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

President Bella informed the council and audience that this is a second reading of the ordinance, and public comments were completed during the first reading at the Town Council Meeting held on September 23, 2025.

Financial Advisor Hudson explained Ordinance 25-31.

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding the council's power to raise taxes, Financial Advisor Hudson responded that taxes are raised based simply on the max levy.

President Bell informed the council and audience that the Fraternal Order of Police was gracious to do a one-year contract because of all the financial unknowns. When the final numbers come out in April of 2026, we will revisit raises for other departments.

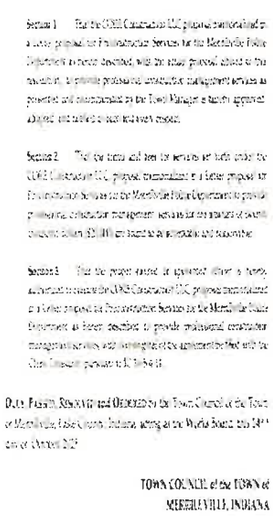
It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve Ordinance 25-31.

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

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

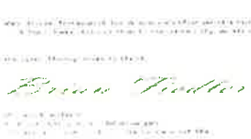
Resolution 25-36 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Town Of Merrillville, Through Its Town Council, Acting As The Works Board, And CORE Construction, LLC, For Professional Pre-Construction Management Services Associated With The Retrofit And Refurbishment Of The Police Department Offices In The Municipal Building.





TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA



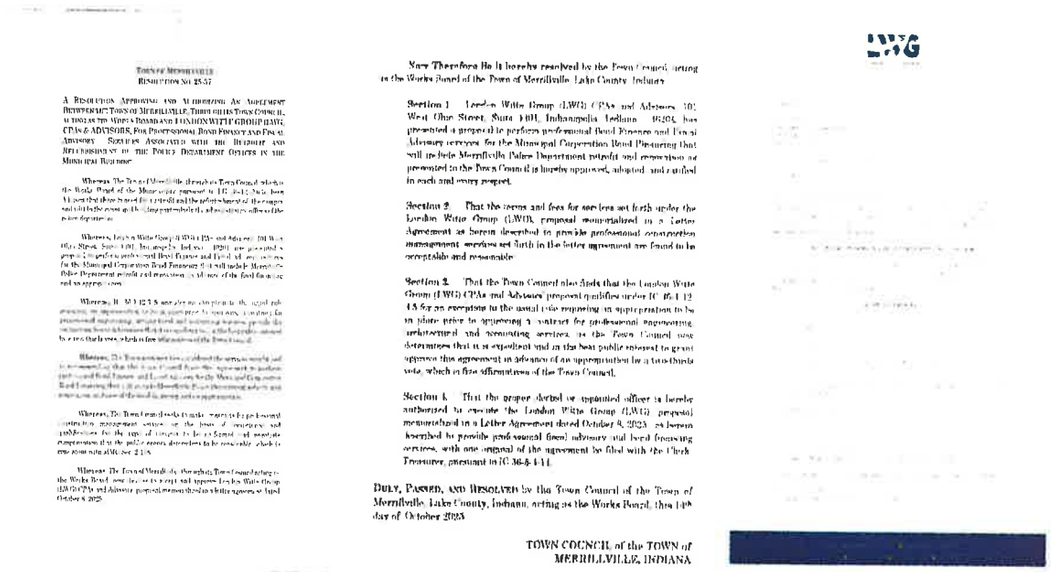


It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve Resolution 25-36.

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

Resolution 25-37 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)

A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Town Of Merrillville, Through Its Town Council, Acting As The Works Board and London Witte Group (LWG, CPA'S, & ADVISORS, For Professional Bond Finance And Fiscal Advisory Services Associated With A municipal Corporation General Obligation Bond Associated With Renovations To The Police Department Offices And Other Things. If he so finds, the Town Council President should state that he finds a two-thirds vote in the affirmative.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
RESOLUTION NO 25-37

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, THROUGH ITS TOWN COUNCIL, ACTING AS THE WORKS BOARD AND LONDON WITTE GROUP (LWG, CPA'S, & ADVISORS, FOR PROFESSIONAL BOND FINANCE AND FISCAL ADVISORY SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RENOVATIONS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICES IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council, acting as the Works Board of the Municipal Corporation pursuant to IC 36-9-15, Public Law 34, 2005 (the Board) has received the proposal and the professional services and will be the recipient of the services and will be the disbursing entity, of the services offered by the police department as

Whereas, London Witte Group (LWG) CPAs and Advisors, 101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1101, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, has presented a proposal to perform professional Bond Finance and Fiscal Advisory services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovations as presented to the Town Council and is hereby approved, adopted and ratified in each and every respect.

Whereas, It is in the best interest of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, to enter into a contract for professional engineering, architectural and accounting services, as the Town Council now determines that it is expedient and in the best public interest to grant approval this agreement in advance of an appropriation by a two-thirds vote, which is first affirmation of the Town Council.

Whereas, The Town Council finds certain services for professional construction management services for the Town of Merrillville and Considerations for the type of projects to be financed and reasonable compensation for the police services, determines to be reasonable, which is more fully set forth in IC 36-9-15.1.

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council acting as the Works Board, now desires to retain and approve London Witte Group (LWG, CPA's, and Advisors) proposal memorialized in a letter agreement dated October 8, 2025

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

Section 1. London Witte Group (LWG) CPAs and Advisors, 101 West Ohio Street, Suite 1101, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, has presented a proposal to perform professional Bond Finance and Fiscal Advisory services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovations as presented to the Town Council is hereby approved, adopted and ratified in each and every respect.

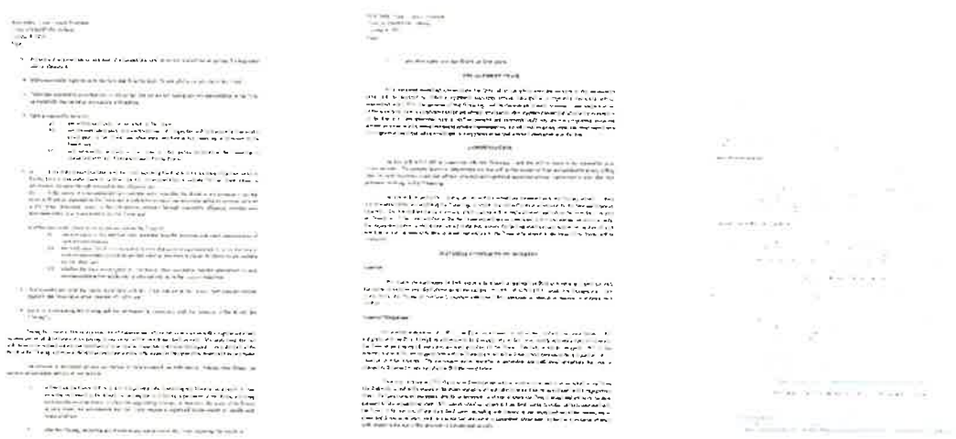
Section 2. That the terms and fees for services set forth under the London Witte Group (LWG) proposal memorialized in a Letter Agreement as herein described to provide professional construction management services set forth in the letter agreement are found to be acceptable and reasonable

Section 3. That the Town Council also finds that the London Witte Group (LWG) CPAs and Advisors proposal qualifies under IC 36-1-12-15 for an exception to the usual rule requiring an appropriation to be in place prior to approving a contract for professional engineering, architectural and accounting services, as the Town Council now determines that it is expedient and in the best public interest to grant approves this agreement in advance of an appropriation by a two-thirds vote, which is first affirmation of the Town Council.

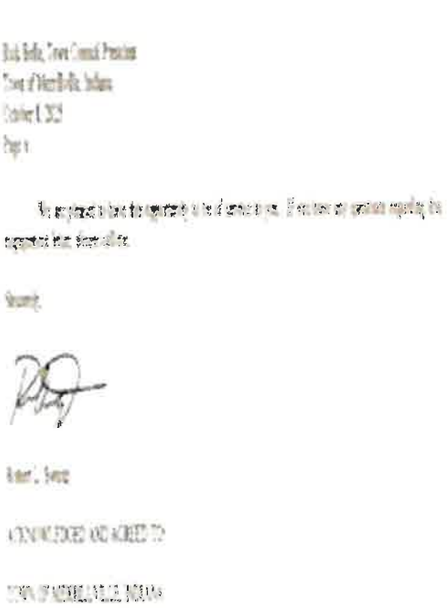
Section 4. That the proper elected or appointed officer is hereby authorized to execute the London Witte Group (LWG) proposal memorialized in a Letter Agreement dated October 8, 2025 as herein described to provide professional fiscal advisory and bond financing services, with one original of the agreement be filed with the Clerk Treasurer, pursuant to IC 36-9-15.1.

DULY, PASSED, AND RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Works Board, this 14th day of October 2025

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA





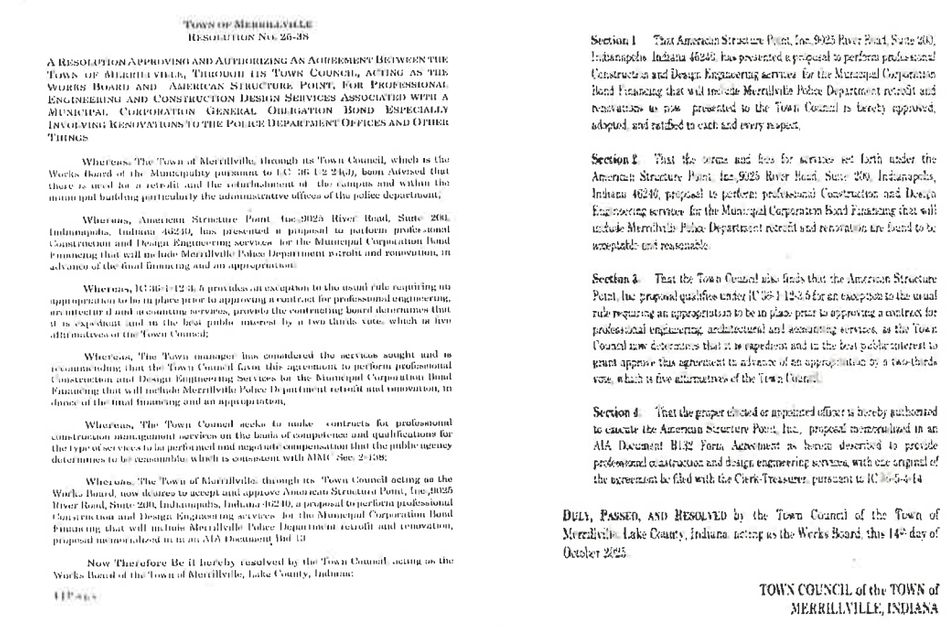


It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Resolution 25-37.

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

<u>Resolution 25-38 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)</u>

A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Town Of Merrillville, Through Its Town Council, Acting As The Works Board And American Structure Point, For Professional Engineering And Construction Design Services Associated With A Municipal Corporation General Obligation Bond Especially Involving Renovations To The Police Department Offices And Other Things. If he so finds, the Town Council President should state that he finds a two-thirds vote in the affirmative.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-38

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, THROUGH ITS TOWN COUNCIL, ACTING AS THE WORKS BOARD AND AMERICAN STRUCTURE POINT, FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION DESIGN SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ESPECIALLY INVOLVING RENOVATIONS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICES AND OTHER THINGS

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to I.C. 36-1-2-24(d), been advised that there is need for a retrofit and the refurbishment of the campus and within the municipal building particularly the administrative offices of the police department;

Whereas, American Structure Point, Inc.,9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240, has presented a proposal to perform professional Construction and Design Engineering services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation, in advance of the final financing and an appropriation;

Whereas, IC 36-1-12-4.5 provides an exception to the usual rule requiring an appropriation to be in place prior to approving a contract for professional engineering, architectural and accounting services, provided the contracting board determines that it is expedient and in the best public interest by a two thirds vote, which is five affirmatives of the Town Council;

Whereas, The Town manager has considered the services sought and is recommending that the Town Council favor this agreement to perform professional Construction and Design Engineering Services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation, in advance of the final financing and an appropriation;

Whereas, The Town Council seeks to make contracts for professional construction management services on the basis of competence and qualifications for the type of services to be performed and negotiate compensation that the public agency determines to be reasonable, which is consistent with AMC Sec. 2-108;

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council acting as the Works Board, now desires to accept and approve American Structure Point, Inc.,9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240, a proposal to perform professional Construction and Design Engineering services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation, proposal memorialized in in an AIA Document B132

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

(1) Page

Section 1. That American Structure Point, Inc.,9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240, has presented a proposal to perform professional Construction and Design Engineering services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation is now presented to the Town Council is hereby approved, adopted, and ratified in each and every respect.

Section 2. That the terms and fees for services set forth under the American Structure Point, Inc.,9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240, proposal to perform professional Construction and Design Engineering services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation are found to be acceptable and reasonable.

Section 3. That the Town Council also finds that the American Structure Point, Inc. proposal qualifies under IC 36-1-12-4.5 for an exception to the usual rule requiring an appropriation to be in place prior to approving a contract for professional engineering, architectural and accounting services, as the Town Council now determines that it is expedient and in the best public interest to grant approve this agreement in advance of an appropriation by a two-thirds vote, which is five affirmatives of the Town Council.

Section 4. That the proper elected or appointed officer is hereby authorized to execute the American Structure Point, Inc., proposal memorialized in an AIA Document B132 Form Agreement as herein described to provide professional construction and design engineering services, with one original of the agreement be filed with the Clerk-Treasurer, pursuant to IC 36-5-4-14

DULY, PASSED, AND RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana acting as the Works Board, this 14th day of October 2025.

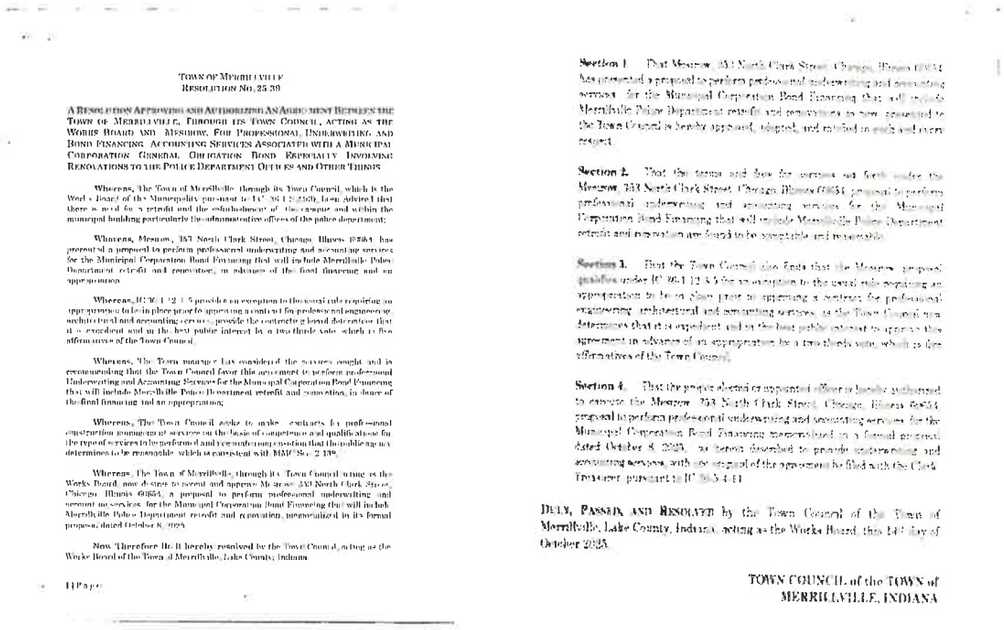
TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Haynes-Edwards and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Resolution 25-38.

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

Resolution 25-39 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)

A Resolution Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between The Town Of Merrillville, Through Its Town Council, Acting As The Works Board and Mesirow, For Professional Underwriting And Bond Financing. Accounting Services Associated With A Municipal Corporation General Obligation Bond Especially Involving Renovations To The Police Department Offices And Other Things. If he so finds, the Town Council President should state the he finds a two-thirds vote in the affirmative.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-39

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, THROUGH ITS TOWN COUNCIL, ACTING AS THE WORKS BOARD AND MESIROW, FOR PROFESSIONAL UNDERWRITING AND BOND FINANCING. ACCOUNTING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ESPECIALLY INVOLVING RENOVATIONS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICES AND OTHER THINGS

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to I.C. 36-1-2-2(6), has advised that there is need for a retrofit and the refurbishment of the current and within the municipal building particularly the administrative offices of the police department;

Whereas, Mesirow, 353 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654, has presented a proposal to perform professional underwriting and accounting services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation, in advance of the final financing and an appropriation;

Whereas, IC 36-1-12-1-5 provides an exception to the usual rule requiring an appropriation to be in place prior to approving a contract for professional engineering, architectural and accounting services, provide the contracts g bond determines that it is expedient and in the best public interest by a two-thirds vote, which is five affirmatives of the Town Council;

Whereas, The Town manager has considered the services sought and is recommending that the Town Council favor this agreement to perform professional Underwriting and Accounting Services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation, in advance of the final financing and an appropriation;

Whereas, The Town Council seeks to make contracts for professional construction management services on the basis of competence and qualifications for the type of services to be performed and a consideration question that the public agency determines to be reasonable, which is consistent with MMC Sec. 2-13[illegible];

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council acting as the Works Board, now desires to accept and approve Mesirow, 353 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654, a proposal to perform professional underwriting and accounting services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation, memorialized in its formal proposal dated October 8, 2025.

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

Section 1. That Mesirow, 353 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654, has presented a proposal to perform professional underwriting and accounting services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovations as now presented to the Town Council is hereby approved, adopted, and ratified in each and every respect.

Section 2. That the terms and fees for services set forth under the Mesirow, 353 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654, proposal to perform professional underwriting and accounting services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing that will include Merrillville Police Department retrofit and renovation are found to be acceptable and reasonable.

Section 3. That the Town Council also finds that the Mesirow proposal qualifies under IC 36-1-12-1-5 for an exception to the usual rule requiring an appropriation to be in place prior to approving a contract for professional engineering, architectural and accounting services, as the Town Council now determines that it is expedient and in the best public interest to approve this agreement in advance of an appropriation by a two-thirds vote, which is five affirmatives of the Town Council.

Section 4. That the proper elected or appointed officer is hereby authorized to execute the Mesirow, 353 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60654, proposal to perform professional underwriting and accounting services for the Municipal Corporation Bond Financing memorialized in a formal proposal dated October 8, 2025, as hereby described to provide underwriting and accounting services, with one original of the agreement to be filed with the Clerk-Treasurer pursuant to IC 36-5-4-11.

DULY, PASSED, AND RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Works Board, this 14th day of October 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Haynes-Edwards and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Resolution 25-39.

Councilor Pettit clarified that the resolutions also include a roof renovation for Town Hall, park signs, and welcome signs.

Upon a question from Clerk-Treasurer Eric January regarding Mesirow providing accounting services. Financial Advisor Hudson responded that it is contract language. Mesirow's role in the bond is underwriter.

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

Resolution 25-40 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)

An Exigent Resolution Providing For The Transfer Of Appropriation Balances From And Among Major Budget Classifications In The Administration Department In The CCD Fund. As Requested By The Proper Officer And forward To The Town Council For Its Action Pursuant To I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.

RESOLUTION No. 25- 40
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

AN EXIGENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING for the TRANSFER of APPROPRIATION BALANCES from and AMONG MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATIONS in the ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT in the CCD FUND as REQUESTED BY THE PROPER OFFICER AND FORWARDED to the TOWN COUNCIL for its ACTION PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.

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 Administration Department in the CCD Fund; and

WHEREAS, The need revealed itself as the year-end processing was occurring and due to the calendar, the Council is only now able to address the need.

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.

Section 2. That it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the CCD Fund, which are not needed at this time for the purposes for which originally appropriated, and may be transferred to another category of appropriation in order to satisfy an existing need:

Decrease:		
4402010453	CCD/Other Equipment	$ 35,000.00
	Total Decrease:	**$ 35,000.00**
Increase:		
4402010394	CCD/Contr Svc	$ 35,000.00
	Total Increase:	**$ 35,000.00**

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED by the TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this 14th day of October, 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Haynes-Edwards and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Resolution 25-40.

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

OLD BUSINESS: ***NONE***

NEW BUSINESS: ***NONE***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting October 28th at 6:30 p.m.
- RDC Meeting October 28th at 6:00 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat October 23rd at 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Costume contest at 7:00 p.m. at the D&BWCC
- Town Council Workshop, October 15th at 5:00 p.m.

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

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis