Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
May 27, 2025, 2025 - 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Acting President Rhonda Neal 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 Acting President Rhonda Neal.

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 Rhonda Neal, Shauna, Leona Chandler-Felton, Haynes-Edwards, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, and Keesha Hardaway. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Attorney Ricardo Hall was present in the absence of Attorney Joseph Svetanoff.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:

- **Employee of the Month**
  Town Manager Michael Griffin and Building & Planning Director Sheila Shine presented Regina San Miguel, who serves in the Planning and Building Department, as May's Employee of the Month for the Town of Merrillville to the council and audience. Ms. San Miguel received a certificate of recognition and a gift card. Planning and Building Director Shine expounded on Ms. San Miguel's exemplary work and qualities at the department.

PUBLIC HEARING: ***NONE***

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for May 27, 2025
- ARPA Acc. Payable Register Voucher May 27, 2025
  - There was no ARPA Account Payable Register for May 27, 2025
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes May 13th, 2025
- Approval of Work Study Meeting Minutes of May 13th, 2025

- Affirmation of the President's re-appointment of Deann Patena to serve on the Lake County Convention Center & Visitors Bureau as Merrillville's representative

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

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding a roll-call vote, Attorney Hall responded concerning the matter that was just determined, which is that you need a roll-call vote.

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

PRESENTATION OF DECLARATIONS:

- **Declaration celebrating the US Army years of service.**

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January read the following Declaration into the record:

Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana

The Town Council of Merrillville Recognizes the
250th Birthday of the United States Army

Whereas, on June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, representing the citizens of 13 American colonies, authorized the establishment of the Continental Army; and,

Whereas, the collective expression of the pursuit of personal freedom that caused the authorization and organization of the United States Army led to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the codification of our country's basic principles and vaules in the Constitution; and,

Whereas, for the past 250 years, the Army's central mission has been to fight and win our Nation's wars; and,

Whereas, the motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" is the creed by which the American soldier lives and serves; and,

Whereas, no matter what the cause, location or magnitude of future conflicts, Americans can rely on their Army to produce well-trained, well-led and highly motivated soldiers to carry out the missions entrusted to them; and,

Whereas, several citizens in the Merrillville community have proudly served and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country's freedom while serving in the United States Army, past and other branches of our nation's military.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, hereby commend the soldiers of the United States Army, past and present, and recognize the historic significance of June 14, 2025 as the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army.

We express our appreciation of the citizens of Merrillville to the United States Army and to the dedicated soldiers who have served for 250 years. Thank you all.

Declared and signed by the following Honorable Town of Merrillville Town Councilors and attested to by the Honorable Town Clerk-Treasurer, this 27th day of May, 2025.

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

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

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES REPORTS:

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

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

- **Branches and Debris** – Due to the high winds, the Street Department has been busy throughout the Town with cleaning up branches and debris.
- **Beautification of the Town** – Plants are being planted and hung throughout the Town of Merrillville.
- **Local Parks** – The Town of Merrillville's local parks and bike trails are being mowed and maintained.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS—PETTIT—Councilor Pettit reported that the Council Affairs Committee reviewed three outstanding ordinances, one of which is on tonight's agenda under General Orders.

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding the other two pending ordinances, Town Manager Griffin responded that one is regarding moving public comments to the front of the agenda, and the other is bylaw changes. The one listed on the agenda, Ordinance 25-12(a), first reading, if passed, the ordinance will go back to Councilor Affairs to address policy questions.

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding any additional pending ordinances for Council Affairs to review, Attorney Hall responded that he is not aware of any.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway deferred to Director King.

Director King reported that applications for summer help in the Street Department are being accepted. The summer position is posted on the Town's website at www.merrillville.in.gov/departments/human_resources. The applicant must be graduating from high school and attending college this Fall graduate If you know of someone who meets the qualification requirements, please do not hesitate to apply.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS—UZELAC—Councilor Uzelac reported that the Stormwater Department has been cleaning and treating the lakes and retention ponds with chemicals to eliminate algae.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding the Hendrick Street Drainage Project costing $82,236.81, Director Matthew Lake responded that the cost covered from Turkey Creek North of 73rd to the railroad tracks.

Director Lake explained the Hendrick Street Drainage Project and its challenges.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding payment for the project, Director Lake responded that the project was paid through Stormwater Management.

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

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice-President Neal reported that the last Gateway sign drawing has been finalized. The committee anticipates breaking ground in early Fall for the signs. The committee is planning other projects, and more information will be forthcoming.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that Redevelopment Commission (RDC) and Redevelopment Authority (RDA) meetings were held, and the committees are moving forward with the bond for the following projects:

- Whitcomb Street Project
- Merrillville Fire Station Project
- Phase II of the Ones and Twos Pavement Project

Councilor Pettit informed the council that a potential buyer is interested in the Union Park (the old Merrillville lumber location) property of the Town. We need to meet to determine the value of the property with Council, Attorney Joseph Svetanoff, Attorney Ricardo Hall at the June 4th Council Workshop to discuss this and other items, such as the Dog Park and David Lewis of Sons of David's request for incentives to build a residential and office building on Northwest Corner of Madison and 73rd.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding the Dog Park, Councilor Pettit responded that it was discussed in the meeting about relocating the Dog Park to the back of Madison Street.

Upon a question from Councilor Pettit regarding the designs for the Dog Park, Town Manager Griffin added that the designs for the Dog Park are in his mailbox.

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

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a committee meeting was held on Thursday, May 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. There is an ordinance on the agenda for first reading regarding the creation of a Park Board. The committee still needs to decide the final number of members who will be on the Park Board.

Councilor Pettit informed the council that the Food and Beverage Tax Revenue must be expended at some point and the Park Board can help with some of the larger projects listed in the 5-Year Master Plan, such as the Dog Park and Security Camera Upgrades in the Parks. The cost estimates for the Dog Park are $750,000.00 to $900,000.00. The cost estimates for the security cameras are $200,000.00 for ten.

Council Pettit also reported that once the Park Board is established, it will have bonding capacity, and the debt service could be paid out of the Food and Beverage Tax Revenue.

Councilor Pettit gave the following update:

- **Flooring** – The flooring estimate from ICC Flooring was high, and Director McCartney is collaborating with the vendor to obtain another quote. Core Construction is covering the cost of the flooring and installation for the hallway and four rooms at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding the Food and Beverage Tax Current Balance, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January responded that the amount is $1,626,798.88 as of tonight's meeting.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding Wheel Tax Revenue, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January responded that the Town had $1,164,120.36. Director Steve King added that the funding is used as a match for our Community Crossing Grant.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

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

- **July 4th** – The Fourth of July details are posted on the Town's website at merrillville.in.gov under Town Events.

    - The parade is going to take place on Friday, July 4th, at noon. This year's parade will have a Sensory Sensitivity Zone (SSZ) where no sirens, loud noises, or other high-volume effects will be prohibited to accommodate residents who are sensitive to loud sounds. The SSZ is going to start on 80th Place between Madison and Broadway. Once the parade passes the SSZ, the parade will commence as usual with high-volume noises. This non-SSZ parade will start at 80th Place, heading North to 66th Place on Broadway.

    - Fireworks – After the parade, the fireworks will be at Hidden Lake Park

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards had nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

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

- **MS4** – Stormwater Management has been audited by MS4 Compliance and did well. Director Lake also attended the MS4 Annual Meeting.
- **Jet Vac Truck** – The new Jet Vac Truck was purchased for $462,602.00 with a $130,000 trade-in for our old Jet Vac Truck.
- **169th Connecticut Project** – The project is almost completed.
- **Hickory Ridge Project** – We had the groundbreaking ceremony, and the ribbon cutting will be in about four weeks.
- **97th Grand** – Progress is being made on this project. We have both parties in agreement regarding the easement.
- **Orchard Maintenance** – We held a workshop at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding the cleaning of Kaiser Ditch, Director Lake responded that the state maintains Kaiser Ditch, and Stormwater Management maintains Taney Ditch. Director Lake informed the council that he spoke with Bill Emerson from the state regarding Kaiser Ditch,

Upon a question from Clerk-Treasurer Eric January regarding diverting a river that runs through private property, Director Lake responded that diverting or blocking a river is prohibited by Indiana's Drainage Law. The owner of the property is responsible for maintaining the river or ditch.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – A meeting was held on May 10th, where changing some of the language in a few resolutions was discussed to qualify for federal funding.

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-NEAL– Vice-President Neal reported that a meeting was held last Thursday, and there were no recent updates. The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be on Saturday, May 31st, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Hudson Campbell, located at 455 Massachusetts Street in Gary, Indiana. Shredding will be available at the Hudson Campbell location.

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that training will be on Thursday, May 29th at 5:30 p.m. at the Avalon.

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 241 businesses have not renewed their business licenses and 1,143 approved business licenses.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January stated that it is not fair to every other business that is paying their fees, while others are still operating without paying the business license fees.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

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

- **Youth Flag Football and Basketball** – Over 120 youth have signed up for the Basketball League and over 55 for the Flag Football League, which are starting up next week. Director McCartney informed the council that the league will be able to practice on our field and not at Hidden Lake. The tournament will be held at Hidden Lake.

- **Father and Daughter Dance** - June 13th at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Director McCartney informed the council and audience that they can register for open activities at merrillvilleparks.recdesk.com. We also discussed adding ADA access points to the Town's seven parks.

Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses reported that there has been an increase in the number of people coming to the Town of Merrillville, and police presence will also be increasing in public areas. The other concern is traffic. We are continuously working to keep the public safe. Code Enforcement is working diligently to keep up with all the calls regarding tall grass, noxious weeds, and other concerns.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Shine had to leave the meeting.

Director, King Street Department
Director King added the following to Councilor Uzelac's Street Department report:

- **Planting** – Planting occurred at Town Hall and 93rd Avenue. All planting should wrap up by Friday.
- **Paving Program**
  - 20,213.4 tons of asphalt have been laid.
  - 4,500 feet of curb and gutter have been removed and replaced.
- **Speed Humps** – We laid all the speed humps We have a couple of pieces left to use for repairs.

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

Town Manager Griffin informed the council that in order not to overwhelm the Street Department with Park Care, we are going to try and experiment with having contractors give us quotes. These contractors will be called out to enforce the code for our noxious weeds (grass that' over 8 inches). He is requesting quotes for 2025 going into 2026. After finalizing the contractor, the contract estimated to be over $15,000.00, will be brought before the council for action.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported a tree that was down.

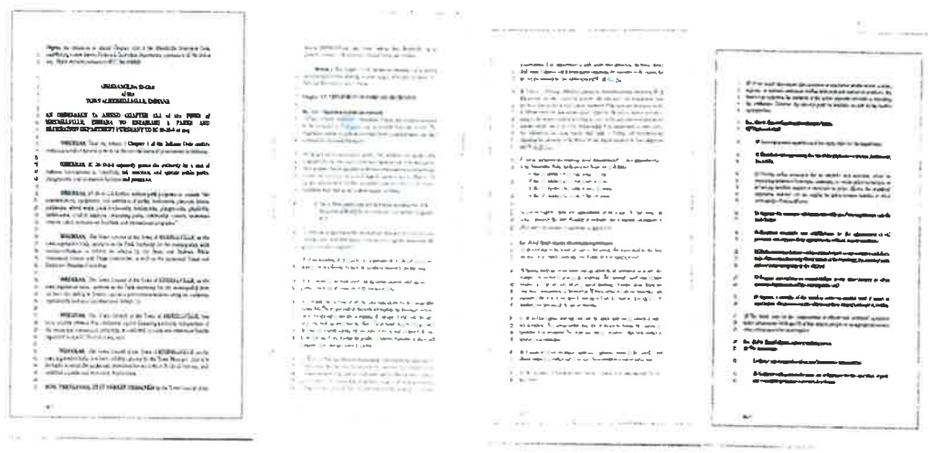
GENERAL ORDERS

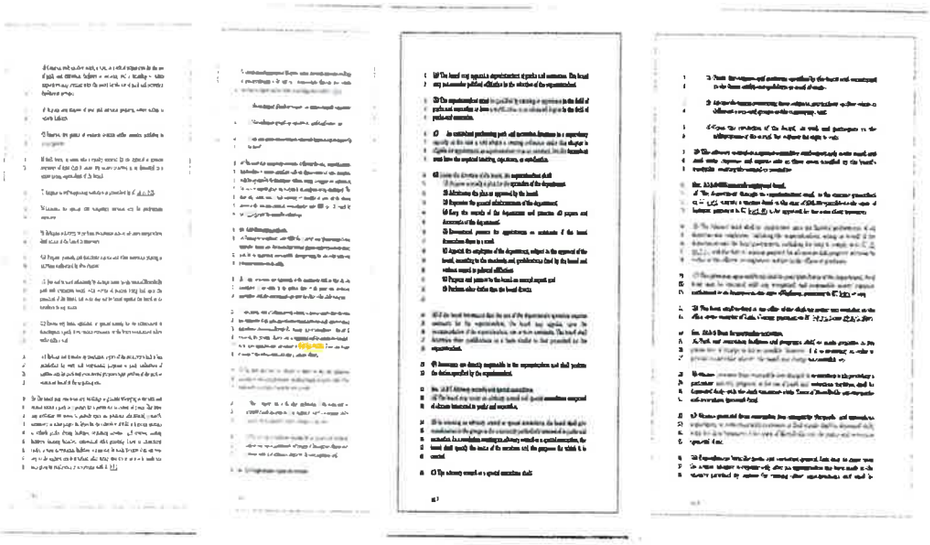
A. **Ordinances: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote):** ***NONE***

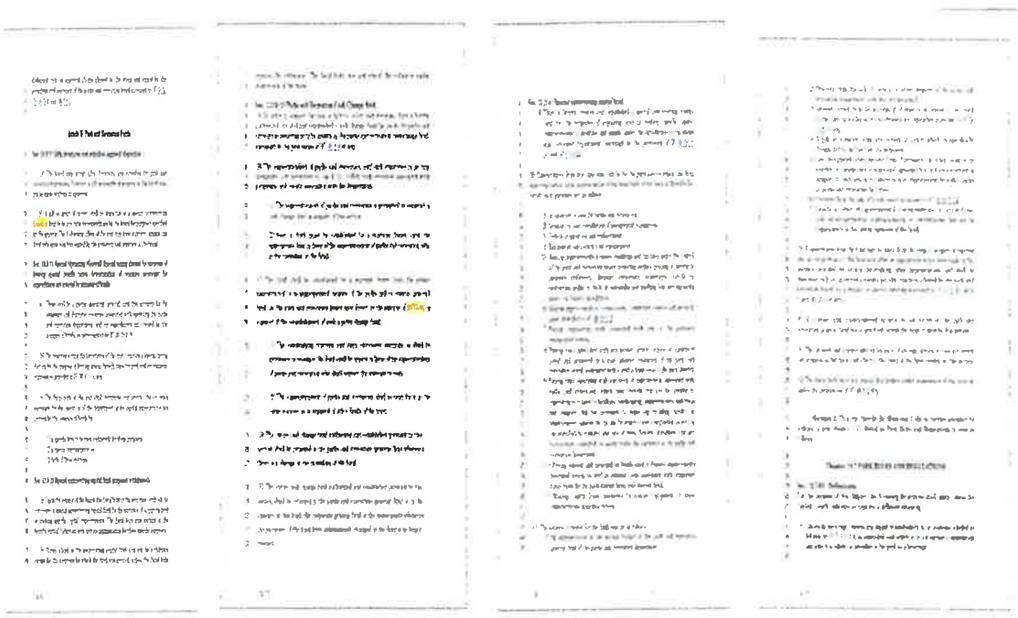
Zoning: (motion to adopt or reject; confer IC 36-5-2-10(d)

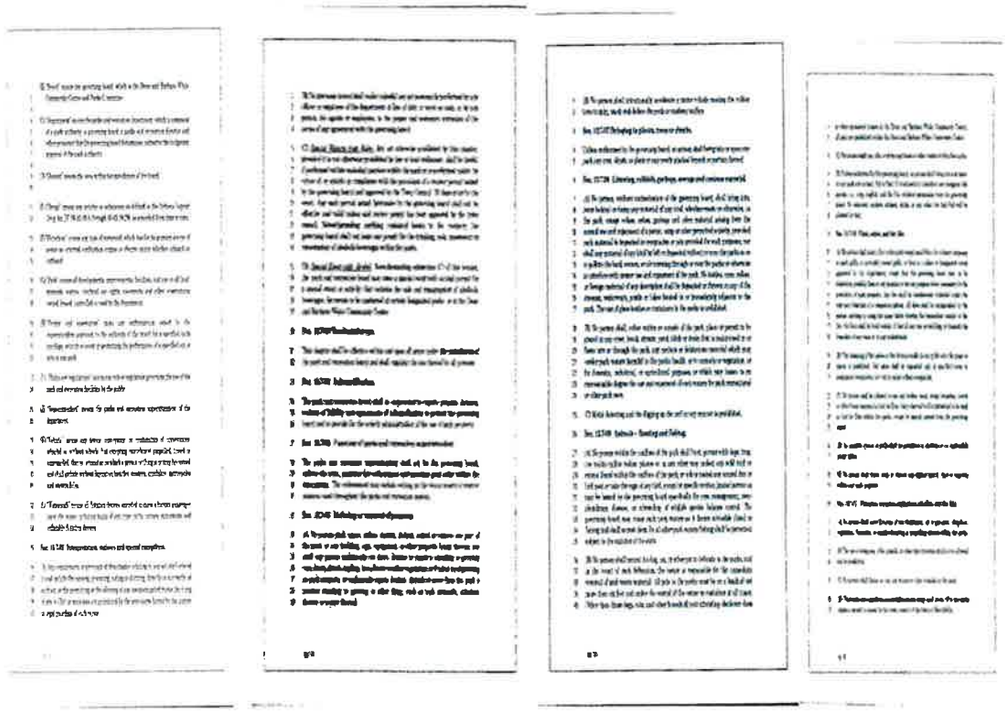
First Reading: Ordinance (Discussion and Roll Call Vote):

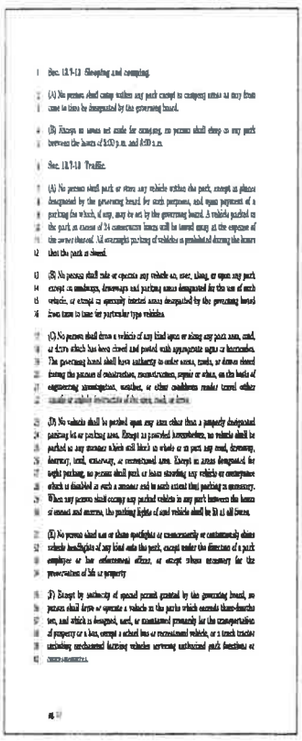
1. **Ordinance 25-12(a) (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 13.5 Of The Town Of 10 Merrillville, Indiana To Establish Parks And 11 Recreation Department Pursuant To IC 36-10-3 Et. Seq.

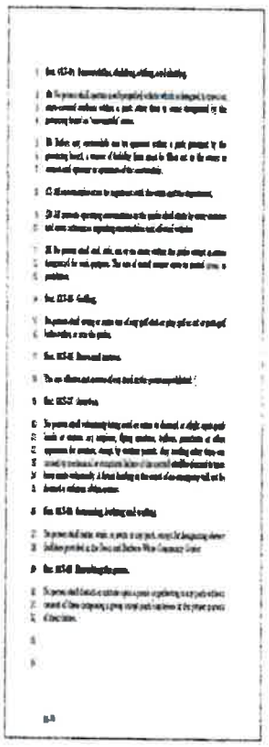


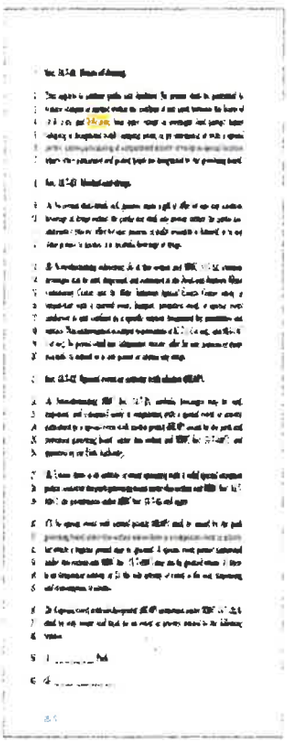


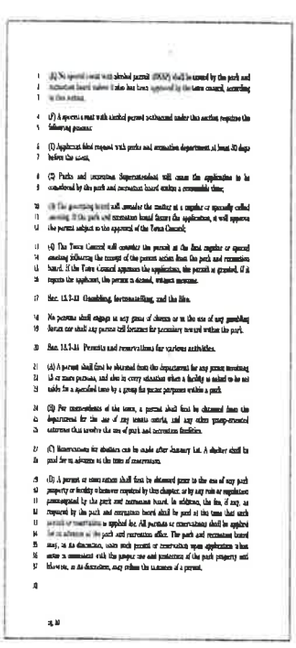


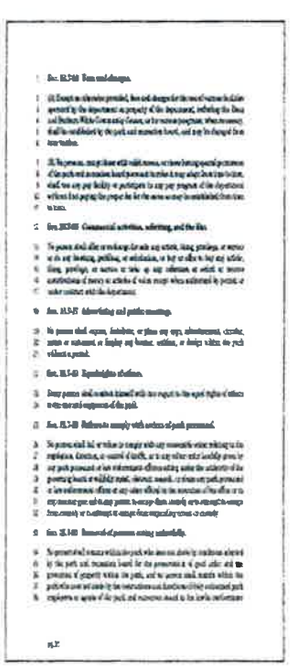


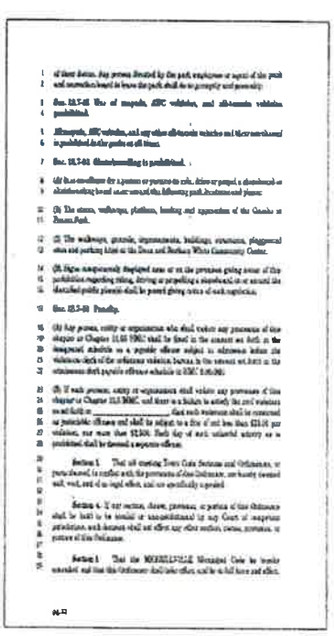












from and after its passage by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and publication in conformance with applicable law.

Introduced and Filed on the ____day of _____, 2025.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2025 by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Ordinance 25-12(a).

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

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

1. **Ordinance 25-13 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Transferring Dormant Fund Balances Not Raised by Either by a General or Special Taxing Levy, And Authorizing Transfers, Pursuant to IC 36-1-3 Et Sequitur.

ORDINANCE No. 25-13
of the
TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING DORMANT FUND BALANCES NOT RAISED BY EITHER A GENERAL OR SPECIAL TAXING LEVY, AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS, PURSUANT TO IC 36-1-3 ET SEQUITUR.

WHEREAS, The Town of MERRILLVILLE is a local unit of general government governed by a Town Council which is both the fiscal and legislative body of the Town;

WHEREAS, IC 36-1-3-2 confers upon all local units the powers that they need for the effective operation of government as to local affairs;

WHEREAS, IC 36-1-3-6 (b)(1) prescribes that any such exercise of power shall be authorized through enactment of an ordinance passed by the legislative body;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-1-8-5 provides expressly for the transfer of dormant fund balances existing in funds of the municipality which raised funds through either a general or special tax levy but is silent for those funds whose balances were not raised from any general or special tax levy;

WHEREAS, The Town Council has been advised of some dormant funds and unexpended dedicated funds of the unit hosting a cash balance, which funds remain on account to the municipality *but which balances when raised were not raised by any general or special tax levy on the unit;*

WHEREAS, The Town Council has been further advised of some dormant funds of the unit, which balance is currently on account to the municipality *but which was not raised by any general or special tax levy on the unit;*

WHEREAS, The Town Council has been still further advised that the purposes for which the balances were raised for the subject funds have been fulfilled, abandoned, a or reassured by another fund of the unit or requires the action of this ordinance to perfect the proper deposit of the fund balances;

WHEREAS, The Town Council has been still further advised that since there funds were not raised by any general or special tax levy of the unit, the provisions of IC 36-1-8-5, which would ordinarily be relied upon to address these dormant balances, does not apply; and,

WHEREAS, The Town of MERRILLVILLE, through its Town Council now desires to dispose of the dormant fund balances, under its authority conferred by IC 36-1-3-et seq., as if these funds were governed by IC 36-1-8-5;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY the Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That the Town Council hereby finds and determines the following:

(A) That there are unused, unencumbered balances on deposit to the credit of the following funds of the Town:

1. Fund 2208 Levy Excess Fund	$ 23,747.46
2. Fund 2248 LIT 2016 Special Dist	$ 2,967.03
3. Fund 2360 Comm. Center Gift	$ 11,910.00

(B) That the unused, unencumbered, and unexpended balances on deposit to the credit of the funds above should be transferred for deposit to the credit of other funds of the town;

(C) That the purposes for which the *the funds were established* established have been fulfilled or require the added step of transferring the fund balance to another fund in order to perfect the transactions.

Section 2. That owing to the foregoing findings and determinations, the unused, unencumbered balance on deposit to the credit of Fund 2208 Levy Excess Fund in the amount of twenty two thousand, seven hundred forty seven dollars and forty-six cents ($22,747.46) be transferred to the Corporation General Fund (1101), credited to the cash balance therein.

Section 3. That owing to the foregoing findings and determinations, the unused, unencumbered balance on deposit to the credit of Fund 2248 LIT Special Dist. Fund in the amount of two thousand, nine hundred sixty-seven dollars and three cents ($2,967.03) be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund (2226), credited to the cash balances therein, pursuant to IC 36-1-8-5.1.

Section 4. That owing to the foregoing findings and determinations, the unused, unencumbered balance on deposit to the credit of Fund 2360 Community Center Gift Fund in the amount of eleven thousand, nine hundred ten dollars and co cents ($11,910.00) be transferred to the Parks Non Reverting Operating Fund (2211), credited to the cash balance therein.

Section 5. That the Community Center Gift Fund be hereby balanced and abolished, provided such balancing and abolition not be exercised before an approval audit of the State Board of Accounts has been been conducted.

Section 6. That the clerk treasurer as municipal fiscal officer, is hereby directed and authorized to perform such duties and keep such accounts as to fulfill the purpose of the bond and to carry out the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 7. This ordinance shall become and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and adopted upon its signature by the executive in the manner prescribed by IC 36-3-6-10(a).

Introduced and Filed on the 28th day of April 2025.

DULY ENACTED and ADOPTED this ___ Day of ____ 2025 by the Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, Lake County, Indiana.

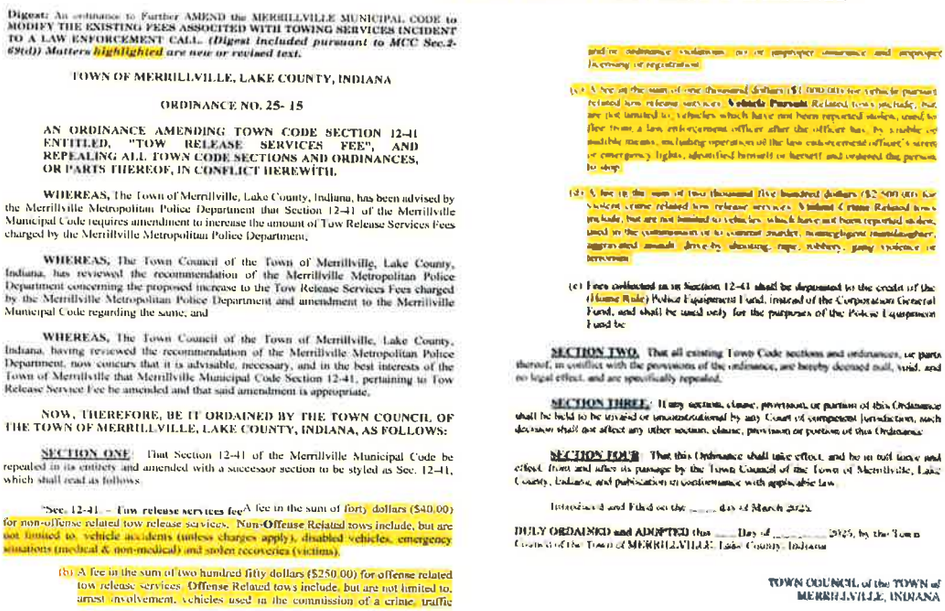
TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Ordinance 25-13 on second and final reading.

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

2. **Ordinance 25-15 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance Amending Town Code Section 12-41 Entitled, "Tow Release Services Fee", And Repealing All Town Code Sections and Ordinances, Or Parts Thereof, In Conflict Herewith

-THIS SECTION LEFT BLANK-



Digest: An ordinance to Further AMEND the MERRILLVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE to MODIFY THE EXISTING FEES ASSOCITED WITH TOWING SERVICES INCIDENT TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT CALL. *(Digest included pursuant to MCC Sec.2-69(d)) Matters highlighted are new or revised text.*

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORDINANCE NO. 25- 15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWN CODE SECTION 12-41 ENTITLED, "TOW RELEASE SERVICES FEE", AND REPEALING ALL TOWN CODE SECTIONS AND ORDINANCES, OR PARTS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, The Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, has been advised by the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department that Section 12-41 of the Merrillville Municipal Code requires amendment to increase the amount of Tow Release Services Fees charged by the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department;

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, has reviewed the recommendation of the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department concerning the proposed increase to the Tow Release Services Fees charged by the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department and amendment to the Merrillville Municipal Code regarding the same; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, having reviewed the recommendation of the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department, now concurs that it is advisable, necessary, and in the best interests of the Town of Merrillville that Merrillville Municipal Code Section 12-41, pertaining to Tow Release Service Fee be amended and that said amendment is appropriate;

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

SECTION ONE: That Section 12-41 of the Merrillville Municipal Code be repealed in its entirety and amended with a successor section to be styled as Sec. 12-41, which shall read as follows:

"Sec. 12-41. – Tow release services fee.A fee in the sum of forty dollars ($40.00) for non-offense related tow release services. Non-Offense Related tows include, but are not limited to, vehicle accidents (unless charges apply), disabled vehicles, emergency situations (medical & non-medical) and stolen recoveries (victims).

(b) A fee in the sum of two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) for offense related tow release services. Offense Related tows include, but are not limited to, arrest involvement, vehicles used in the commission of a crime, traffic and/or ordinance violations, and/or improper insurance and improper licensing or registration.

(c) A fee in the sum of one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) for vehicle pursuit related tow release services. **Vehicle Pursuit** Related tows include, but are not limited to, vehicles which have not been reported stolen, used to flee from a law enforcement officer after the officer has, by visible or audible means, including operation of the law enforcement officer's siren or emergency lights, identified himself or herself and ordered the person to stop.

(d) A fee in the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500.00) for violent crime related tow release services. Violent Crime Related tows include, but are not limited to vehicles which have not been reported stolen, used in the commission of a violent murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, drive-by shooting, rape, robbery, gang violence or terrorism.

(e) Fees collected in as Section 12-41 shall be deposited to the credit of the (Home Rule) Police Equipment Fund, instead of the Corporation General Fund, and shall be used only for the purposes of the Police Equipment Fund be

SECTION TWO. That all existing Town Code sections and ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of the ordinance, are hereby deemed null, void, and no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

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

SECTION FOUR That this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and publication in conformance with applicable law.

Introduced and Filed on the ____ day of March 2025.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this ____ Day of _____, 2025, by the Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, Lake County, Indiana

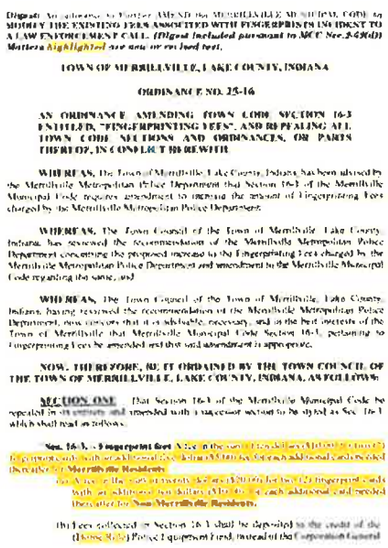
TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Ordinance 25-15.

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

3. **Ordinance 25-16 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**

An Ordinance Amending Town Code Section 13-3 Entitled, "Fingerprinting Fees". And Repealing All Town Code Sections and Ordinances, Or Parts Thereof, In Conflict Herewith.



Digest: An ordinance to Further AMEND the MERRILLVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE to MODIFY THE EXISTING FEES ASSOCIATED WITH FINGERPRINTS INCIDENT TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT CALL. *(Digest included pursuant to MCC Sec. 5-49(d)) Matters highlighted are new or revised text.*

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

ORDINANCE NO. 25-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWN CODE SECTION 16-3 ENTITLED, "FINGERPRINTING FEES", AND REPEALING ALL TOWN CODE SECTIONS AND ORDINANCES, OR PARTS THEREOF, IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, has been advised by the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department that Section 16-3 of the Merrillville Municipal Code requires amendment to increase the amount of Fingerprinting Fees charged by the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department;

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, has reviewed the recommendation of the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department concerning the proposed increase to the Fingerprinting Fees charged by the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department and amendment to the Merrillville Municipal Code regarding the same; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, having reviewed the recommendation of the Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department, now concurs that it is advisable, necessary, and in the best interests of the Town of Merrillville that Merrillville Municipal Code Section 16-3, pertaining to Fingerprinting Fees be amended and that said amendment is appropriate.

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

SECTION ONE. That Section 16-3 of the Merrillville Municipal Code be repealed in its entirety and amended with a successor section to be styled as Sec. 16-3 which shall read as follows:

Sec. 16-3. - Fingerprint fees. A fee in the sum of ten dollars ($10.00) for two (2) fingerprint cards with an additional five dollars ($5.00) for each additional card needed thereafter for **Merrillville Residents.**

(a) A fee in the sum of twenty dollars ($20.00) for two (2) fingerprint cards with an additional ten dollars ($10.00) for each additional card needed thereafter for **Non-Merrillville Residents.**

(b) Fees collected in Section 16-3 shall be deposited to the credit of the (Home Rule) Police Equipment Fund, instead of the Corporation General Fund, and shall be used only for the purposes of the Police Equipment Fund.

SECTION TWO. That all existing Town Code sections and ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of the ordinance, are hereby deemed null, void, and no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

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

SECTION FOUR: That this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after its passage by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, and publication in conformance with applicable law.

Reviewed and recommended by the Council Affairs Committee on _____, 2025.

Introduced and Filed on the ____ day of May 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 Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Ordinance 25-16.

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

B. **Resolutions:** ***NONE***

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

OLD BUSINESS:
NONE

NEW BUSINESS:
NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were several public comments, and a copy of the video from the Town Council Meeting held on May 27, 2025, has been uploaded on the Town's website at https://www.merrillville.in.gov/government/town_council/town_council_meetings.php.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting Tuesday, June 10th at 6:30 p.m.
- 4th of July Parade, July 4th, starting at noon, going South down Broadway from 79th
- Job Fair July 30th from 11:30 – 2:30 at the D&BWCC

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President announced the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis