Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Special Meeting of
June 19, 2026, 12:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: President Rick Bella called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

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

Councilor Shauna Haynes-Edward was absent from the roll call.
Councilor Leona Chandler-Felton was absent from the roll call.
Councilor Margaret Uzelac was absent from the roll.

Town Attorney Svetanoff was present to provide legal advice.

Councilor Shauna Haynes-Edwards came into the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

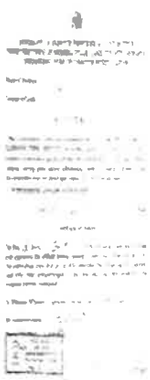
A. Ratification of Clemons Tree Services Debris Collection Agreement
Under the provisions of IC 5-22-10-4 et seq., IC 5-22-16, and MCC Sec. 2-136.5 (e).


Clemons Tree Service
13510 Chase Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Description of Work
Emergency Debris Pick-up
$995 per cubic yard







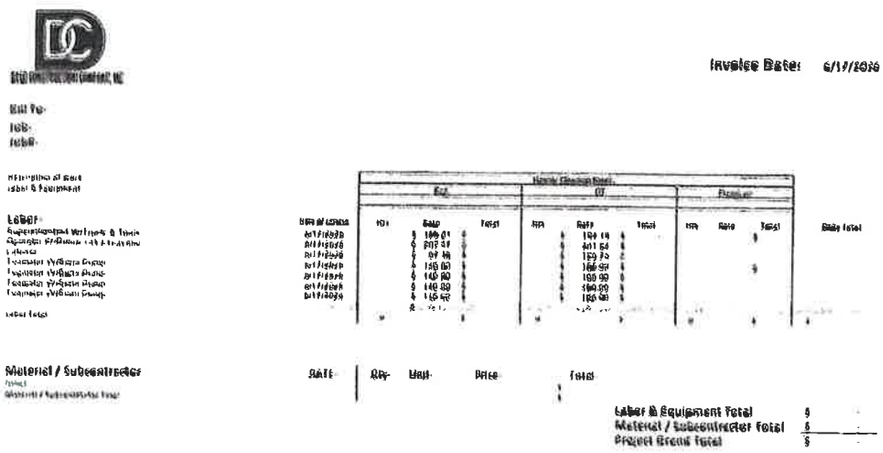
Town Manager Griffith explained Executive Powers and the Debris Collection Agreement with Clemons Tree Services.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice President Neal to approve the Clemons Tres Services Debris Collection Agreement Contract.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January commented that he would like the Town of Merrillville to use local contractors within the Town.

Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Pettit, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The Clemons Tres Services Debris Collection Agreement Contract was approved.

B. Ratification of Dyer Construction Debris Collection Agreement
Under the provisions of IC 5-22-10-4 et seq., IC 5-22-16, and MCC Sec. 2-136.5 (e).


Invoice Date: 6/17/2026

Bill To:
Job:
Job#:

Labor:

Material / Subcontractor

Labor & Equipment Total $
Material / Subcontractor Total $
Project Grand Total $

Town Manager Griffith explained the Debris Collection Agreement with Dyer Construction.

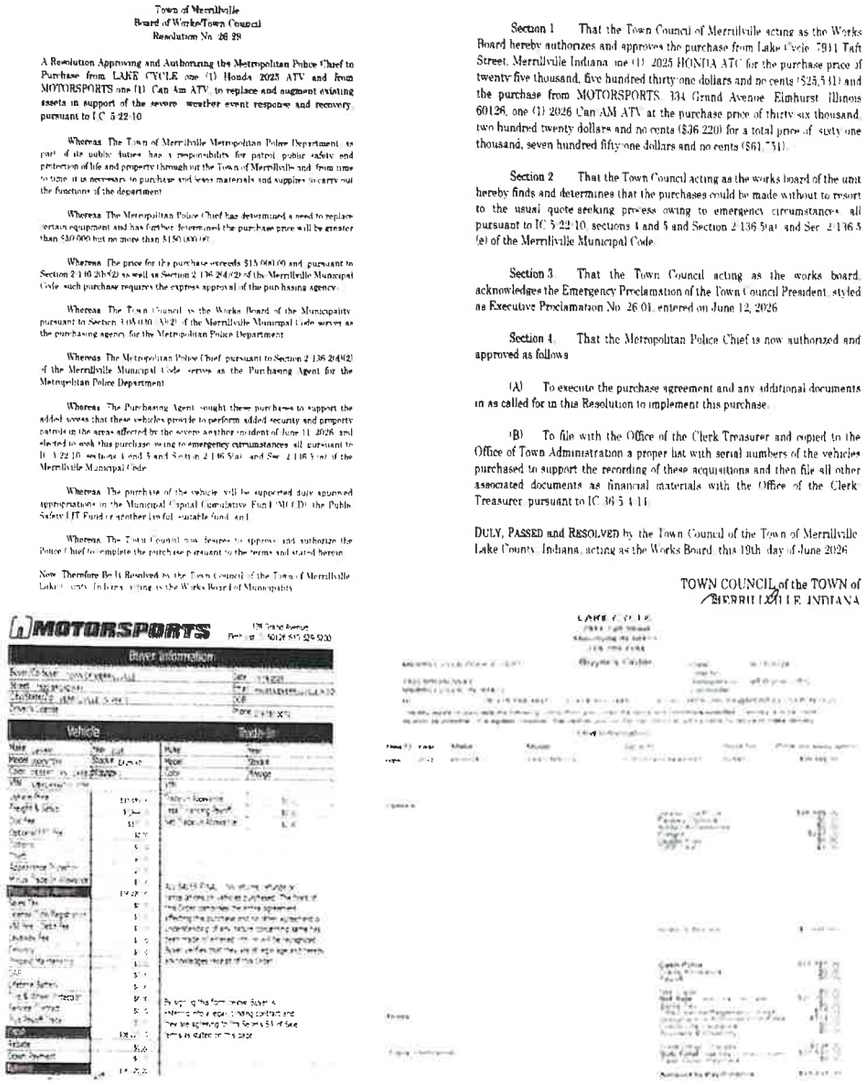
It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Hardaway to approve the Dyer Construction Debris Collection Agreement Contract.

Councilor Pettit commented that Dyer Construction, the main contractor on the widening of Mississippi Street from US 30 to 101st Avenue, did an outstanding job on the project.

Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Pettit, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no

negatives. The motion passed. The Dyer Construction Debris Collection Agreement Contract was approved.

C. **Resolution No. 26-29 (Discussion and Roll Call Voice Vote):**
A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Metropolitan Police Chief to Purchase from LAKE CYCLE one (1) Honda 2025 ATV and from MOTORSPORTS ONE (1) Can-Am ATV, to replace and augment existing assets in support of the severe weather event response and recovery, pursuant to I.C. 5-22-10.



Town of Merrillville
Board of Works/Town Council
Resolution No. 26-29

A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Metropolitan Police Chief to Purchase from LAKE CYCLE one (1) Honda 2025 ATV and from MOTORSPORTS one (1) Can-Am ATV, to replace and augment existing assets in support of the severe weather event response and recovery, pursuant to I.C. 5-22-10.

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville Metropolitan Police Department, as part of its public duties, has a responsibility for patrol, public safety and protection of life and property through out the Town of Merrillville and from time to time, it is necessary to purchase and lease materials and supplies to carry out the functions of the department.

Whereas, The Metropolitan Police Chief has determined a need to replace certain equipment and has further determined the purchase price will be greater than $30,000 but no more than $150,000.00.

Whereas, The price for this purchase exceeds $15,000.00 and, pursuant to Section 2.1.10.2(b)(2) as well as Section 2.136.2(d)(2) of the Merrillville Municipal Code, such purchase requires the express approval of the purchasing agency.

Whereas, The Town Council, as the Works Board of the Municipality, pursuant to Section 3.05.010 (A)(2) of the Merrillville Municipal Code serves as the purchasing agency for the Metropolitan Police Department.

Whereas, The Metropolitan Police Chief, pursuant to Section 2.136.2(d)(2) of the Merrillville Municipal Code, serves as the Purchasing Agent for the Metropolitan Police Department.

Whereas, The Purchasing Agent sought these purchases to support the added access that these vehicles provide to perform added security and property patrols in the areas affected by the severe weather incident of June 11, 2026, and elected to seek this purchase owing to emergency circumstances, all pursuant to IC 5-22-10, sections 4 and 5 and Section 2.136.5(a) and Sec. 2.136.5 (e) of the Merrillville Municipal Code.

Whereas, The purchase of the vehicle will be supported duly approved appropriations in the Municipal Capital Cumulative Fund (MCCD), the Public Safety LIT Fund or another lawful, suitable fund, and

Whereas, The Town Council now desires to approve and authorize the Police Chief to complete the purchase pursuant to the terms and stated herein.

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

Section 1. That the Town Council of Merrillville acting as the Works Board hereby authorizes and approves the purchase from Lake Cycle, 7911 Taft Street, Merrillville, Indiana, one (1) 2025 HONDA ATC for the purchase price of twenty-five thousand, five hundred thirty-one dollars and no cents ($25,531) and the purchase from MOTORSPORTS, 334 Grand Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126, one (1) 2026 Can-AM ATV at the purchase price of thirty-six thousand, two hundred twenty dollars and no cents ($36,220) for a total price of sixty-one thousand, seven hundred fifty-one dollars and no cents ($61,751).

Section 2. That the Town Council acting as the works board of the unit hereby finds and determines that the purchases could be made without to resort to the usual quote seeking process owing to emergency circumstances, all pursuant to IC 5-22-10, sections 4 and 5 and Section 2.136.5(a) and Sec. 2.136.5 (e) of the Merrillville Municipal Code.

Section 3. That the Town Council acting as the works board, acknowledges the Emergency Proclamation of the Town Council President, styled as Executive Proclamation No. 26-01, entered on June 12, 2026.

Section 4. That the Metropolitan Police Chief is now authorized and approved as follows:

(A) To execute the purchase agreement and any additional documents in as called for in this Resolution to implement this purchase.

(B) To file with the Office of the Clerk Treasurer and copied to the Office of Town Administration a proper list with serial numbers of the vehicles purchased to support the recording of these acquisitions and then file all other associated documents as financial materials with the Office of 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 19th day of June 2026.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

MOTORSPORTS

Buyer Information

Vehicle

Trade-In

LAKE CYCLE

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice President Neal to approve Resolution 26-29.

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

D. Resolution No. 26-30 (Discussion and Voice):
Finding, Determining, and Extending an Emergency Proclamation of the Municipal Executive, and to permit funding by the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29 and IC 36-9-15.5-8 (c).

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL/WORKS BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 26-30
DECLARATION of the MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODY

FINDING, DETERMINING AND EXTENDING AND EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION OF THE MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE AND TO PERMIT FUNDING BY THE MUNICIPAL CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, PURSUANT TO IC 10-14-3-29 AND IC 36-9-15.5-8(C)

Whereas From time to time circumstances exist such that an exigency occurs that could not reasonably be foreseen and that threatens the public health, welfare, or safety and requires immediate action, and

Whereas The Town of Merrillville through its Town Council President as the principal executive officer did previously to issue a finding and determination that an emergency exists sufficient to support the declaration of a *Local Disaster Emergency* dated June 12 2026 all pursuant to IC 10 14 3-29, as regards the *Tornado related weather incident of June 11 2026*.

Whereas IC 10 14 3 29 limits the period of an emergency proclamation of the Executive to seven days which in this case would end after *June 19* 2026 unless extended by action of the Legislative body

Whereas There were certain costs incurred in connection with the response to the correcting damages which were incurred in consequence of the emergency and weather incident of June 11, 2026 as well as the costs of response and recovery the Town desires to use resources on deposit to the credit of the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund pursuant to IC 36 9 15 5 8(c) to support some of the costs associated with the disaster costs and,

Now Therefore be it hereby Proclaimed and declared by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County Indiana as follows

Section 1 That the Executive Emergency Proclamation issued by the Town Council President pursuant to IC 10-14 3 29 in which he determined and proclaimed that there existed a local disaster emergency in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County Indiana to be continued for a period not to exceed seven (7) days from the date of its entry, is hereby affirmed, approved and extended beyond the seven day limitation as follows in the following seven day increments

June 19 2026 to June 25 2026;
June 26 2026 to July 2 2026
July 3 2026, to July 8, 2026;
July 9, 2026 to July 15, 2026; and
July 16 2026 to July July 22, 2026.

Section 2. That having affirmed and extended the Town Council President's original Emergency Proclamation, finding that the public health, welfare, or safety is in immediate danger such that it requires the expenditure of money in the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, and such other funds as may be required, provided such expenditure shall be for purposes to protect the public health, welfare, or safety in this emergency situation that demands immediate action, *it is hereby authorized and approved for the expenditure of resources from the fund for costs associated with the June 11, 2026 incident*, all pursuant and IC 36-9-15.5-8(c).

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED pursuant to and under the authority of C 10-14-3-29. Entered this 19th day of June 2026 by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

TOWN COUNCIL acting as the
WORKS BOARD of the TOWN of
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

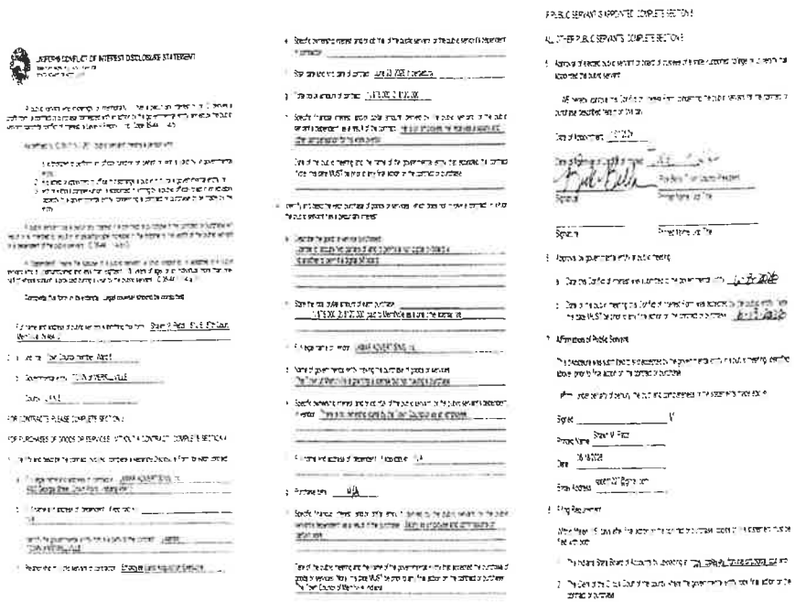
Town Manager Griffin explained the resolution.

In response to a question from Town Manager Griffin regarding the review of Resolution 29-30, Town Attorney Svetanoff stated that he has reviewed Resolution 26-30 and that it is necessary and proper.

It was moved by Councilor Hardaway and seconded by Vice President Neal to approve Resolution 26-30.

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

E. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form: Councilor Pettit, an employee of LAMAR Advertisements, files this disclosure pursuant to IC 35-44.1-1-4©(6) (D) and subdivision (D)



Town Manager Griffin explained the filing of this Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form by Councilor Pettit.

Councilor Pettit informed the council that he would be abstaining from the voting.

It was moved by Councilor Hardaway and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form from Councilor Shaun Pettit.

Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives, no negatives, and one abstention. Councilors Neal, Haynes-Edwards, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. Councilor Pettit abstained from the vote. The Conflict-of-Interest Form from Councilor Pettit was approved.

ADJOURNMENT:
Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President, Rick Bella, announced the meeting had adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis