Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
March 11, 2025, 2025 - 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilor 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 Councilor Bella.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE: A brief invocation was given, along with a moment of silence by Pastor Dennis Walton of Faith Temple of Christ Church.

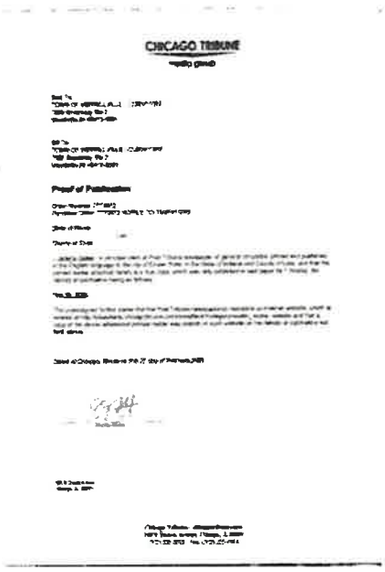
ROLL CALL of COUNCIL: – Present at the meeting were Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, Keesha Hardaway, and Rick Bella. Councilor Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Town Attorney Ricardo Hall review of Proof of Publication(s): Add Proof of Publication with a public hearing date of March 11th, 2025, Re: Ord 25-05 Additional Appropriation.**



CHICAGO TRIBUNE
media group

Proof of Publication



CHICAGO TRIBUNE
media group

Attorney Ricardo Hall reported that he has reviewed the Proof of Publication, and everything is in order and conforms with the Indiana Code. The council may proceed with the public hearing.

2. **Public Hearing: Re ORD 25-05**
   Public Hearing will take place under General Orders.

3. **Action on Proposed Ordinance**
   Action on the ordinance will be taken up under General Orders.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for March 11th, 2025
- ARPA Accts Payable Register Voucher for March 11th, 2025.
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes February 25th, 2025
- D&BWCC Meeting Minutes of February 27th, 2025.

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

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

PRESENTATION of DECLARATIONS:

- **Declaration: Myles Mosby**
  Clerk-Treasurer Eric January read into the record the following declaration:



Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana

The Town Council of Merrillville Recognizes

MYLES MOSBY

for outstanding Swimming Accomplishments

Whereas, 11-year-old Merrillville resident Myles Mosby is a competitive swimmer with aspirations of swimming in the Olympics; and,

Whereas, after competing against the fastest swimmers in the Region, Myles Mosby has qualified to swim in the 50 Breaststroke, 100 Breaststroke, 200 Medley Relay, and 200 Freestyle Relay in the 11-year-old age group in the March 21st State Swim Meet in Indianapolis; and,

Whereas, Myles Mosby was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes on October 28, 2020; and,

Whereas, although diabetes has created challenges in his life, Myles has faced those hurdles head-on and with a positive attitude; and,

Whereas, the Mosby family has received immense support from the medical team at Comer Children's Hospital, the Friends for Life organization in Orlando, Florida, support groups, and many others; and,

Whereas, Tiffany Mosby, Myles Mosby's mother, has published books about her son's experiences, providing emotional support to other families facing similar situations; and,

Whereas, despite the constant monitoring and challenges associated with controlling diabetes, Myles Mosby swims at a high level and inspires others,

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of Merrillville, Indiana, hereby congratulates Myles Mosby on his swimming achievement and wish him the best of luck in the State Swim Meet and ask the residents of the Town of Merrillville to cheer him on as he represents The Heart of the Region in the competition.

Let's rally together to spread awareness, educate others, and actively support Myles Mosby as he continues his journey and his dream to one day swim for the USA in the Olympics.

Approved and signed by the following Honorable Town of Merrillville Town Councilors and attested to by the Honorable Town Clerk-Treasurer, this 11th day of March, 2025.

It was moved by Councilor Chandler-Felton and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve the declaration.

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

- **Declaration: Merrillville High School Wrestlers**
  Clerk-Treasurer Eric January read into the record the following declaration:

Town of Merrillville
DECLARATION
State of Indiana

The Town Council of Merrillville Recognizes

Merrillville High School Wrestlers

Whereas, Merrillville High School wrestlers have made history and achieved exceptional results on the mat during the 2024-2025 season; and,

Whereas, girls wrestling was sanctioned by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) ahead of the 2024-2025 wrestling season; and,

Whereas, the MHS 2024-2025 Girls Wrestling Team consists of Joy Cantu, Izah Garcia, Honesty Lacy, Kayla Williams, Elani Alvarez, Charisma Lawrence, Patience Turner, Josie McKnight, Jaisha Tuggle, Jaelynn Arce, Legend Blackwell, Coje Arnold, Julianne Cantu, Kamilah Khan, Zaria Olugosi, Meagan Thomas, and Z'Mari Williams; and,

Whereas, the MHS Girls Coaching Staff consists of Paul Maldonado, Dave Maldonado, Shiela Lerit, and Juan Maldonado IV; and,

Whereas, Joy Cantu is the state champion in the 110-pound weight class; and,

Whereas, Joy Cantu and the MHS Girls Wrestling team are highly-ranked in the country; and,

Whereas, the MHS Boys Wrestling team also had amazing performances this season; and,

Whereas, Boys Wrestler Adrian Pellot is the state champion in the 165-pound weight class; and,

Whereas, the Boys Wrestling team is coached by Dave Maldonado, Paul Maldonado, Craig Fruth, and Tom Kelly;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, hereby congratulate the Merrillville High School wrestlers for their history-making season and the outstanding accomplishments they have made on and off the mat and ask that the residents of the town help us in congratulating the accomplishments of the MHS girls and boys wrestling team.

Go Pirates!

DEC. 30 1971

Approved and signed by the following Honorable Town of Merrillville Town Councilors and attested to by the Honorable Town Clerk-Treasurer, this 11th day of March, 2025.

:

It was moved by Councilor Hardaway and seconded by Vice-President Neal 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 reported that she will add Resolution 25-19 to the agenda.

It was moved by Vice-President Neal, and Counselor Hardaway seconded, that Resolution 25-19 be added to the agenda.

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

- Pothole Patching – The Street Department is filling potholes throughout the Town.
- Trash Pick-Up - Trash is being picked up from the streets about 300 bags.
- Parks Maintenance – Park maintenance is ongoing. The top of the shelter will be replaced at Meadowland Park and the gazebo at Pruzin Park.

Upon a question by President Bella regarding 53rd Avenue the Northern Boundary with the City of Gary, Director Steve King responded that he verified with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) that 53rd Avenue is in the Gary's Roadway Inventory and the City of Gary as of today is doing the patchwork.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS- PETTIT– Councilor Pettit reported that Town Manager Griffin has a couple of ordinances and Town Attorney Svetanoff may have a couple to be discuss so a meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday March 18th at 5:00 p.m. In this meeting, Building & Planning and Parks Non-Reverting fees will also be discussed.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac reported that she received several telephone calls from residents in Ward 4 regarding people throwing branches into Kizer Ditch and asked Director Matthew Lake of Stormwater to investigate the matter.

Director Lake requested that Councilor Uzelac refer those kinds of calls directly to his department in order to get information to compile a report to the Lake County Surveyor's Office.

Upon a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding the guardrail off Jenning Street, Director Lake responded that he collaborated with Director Steve King and the guardrail has been installed on both sides of the ditch.

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

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice-President Neal deferred to Director Steve King for the report.

Director King reported that Spring beautification is in process with planting and planters. At Moe's Building, about 1,900 plants are growing.

Vice-President Neal added that this is the first year that the Town has planted the flowers. We usually purchase the baskets. Updates for the Gateway signs will be forth coming later.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a resolution related to Panduit Corporation at Silos at Sander Farms for a personal property tax abatement is coming up later the agenda. There will be a public hearing for this resolution.

Councilor Pettit also informed the council that on Wednesday, March 19th there will be a ribbon cutting and tour for the million-square-foot Amazon building from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Corporate Headquarters Representatives as well as Congress Mrvan, State Officials, and County Officials.

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

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a committing meeting was held, and the following items were discussed:

- Cleaning Services Contract – The contract must be approved in a public meeting.
- Flooring – Core Construction will replace the flooring in four rooms at the Community Center at no cost to the Town.
- Sponsorships – Sponsorships are coming up for renewal throughout the Dean and Barbara White Community Center for the three basketball courts, fitness center, event center, and walking track. The committee will be soliciting new sponsors and asking current sponsors about renewing for another five years. Sponsors have the option of paying a lump sum or paying annually. This is worked through th Legacy Foundation and the revenue goes into the Capital Fund to make capital repairs.
- HVAC – All seven thermostats are working, and the repairs were made by Circle R at no cost to the Town because of the warranty.
- New Carlisle Tour – A group from New Carlisle toured the Dean and Barbara White Community Center to get ideas regarding building a smaller Community Center in New Carlisle.
- Rock Climbing Wall – The wall is going to be repurpose.

Councilor Pettit also reported that in the upcoming meeting, there will be several agenda items including finances and the park system.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding the Chamber of Commerce event, Councilor Pettit responded that the event held at the Mike Anderson Event Center at the Dean & Barbara White Community Center was the Leadership Award which over 300 people attended. Councilor Pettit elaborated on the event.

Councilor Pettit also added that the committee has received the fully executed lease from the Boys and Girls Club.

Councilor Uzelac added that the Street Department manages the maintenance of the local Parks including mowing.

Councilor Pettit added that the park and gateway signs were approved, one sign for Stefek Park and the Gateway sign on 93rd Avenue Merrillville.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON– Councilor Haynes-Edward reported the following:

- Cold Calls or Ordinance Violations Follow-Ups - 360
- Warnings Issued– 61
- Tickets Issued – 36
- Vacant Abandoned & Blighted Properties – 15 (same as last reported)
- Blighted Properties - 6

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS - NEAL – Vice-President Neal reported that a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 13th to discuss the upcoming Town of Merrillville events for Easter, Juneteenth, and July 4th.

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

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

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

- Advisory Board – Director Lake attended the meeting and made a presentation on two projects for cost-sharing:
  - Hendrick Street Drainage Improvement Project for $212,000.00
  - Stormwater Master Plan Update for $39,000.00

  The vote on these projects is expected next month. While at the meeting, Director Lake supported two other projects, the Lake County Drainage Board Project and Kaiser Ditch Maintenance.

- Southmoore Park – We had Badger doing hydro-excavating and checking utilities before plans are finalized to put the project out for bid.
- Stormwater Board – The board approved a new John Deere Tractor and Tiger Mower for a cost of $210,000.00.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway reported that the meeting is scheduled for May 15th.

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT-NEAL– Vice-President Neal reported that Lake County Solid Waste Management's household hazard waste collection schedule for 2025 has been posted on the Town's website at www.merrillville.im.gov. The next collection will be on March 22nd at Lake County Fairgrounds from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on March 20th at 6:30 p.m.

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway the next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13th at 8:00 am.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Vice-President Neal has nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January – Clerk's Office
Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported on the following:

- Payroll for February – 1,082,030.63
- Food and Beverage Tax - The Town has received a check for the period ending January 31, 2025, for $146,586.18

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

- Parks Master Plan Survey – Parks Director McCartney reported that 149 surveys have been filled out to date from the community. He encouraged the residents to fill out the survey.
- Adult and Youth Yoga, Dance, and Fitness Programs – The details are being finalized for these programs. The programs will be marketed through our marquee, social media, and the Town's website.

Chief Nuses– Police Department

Chief Nuses reported the following statistics for January and February:

- January 2025
  - Calls for Service – 2,682 (4,200 Officers Responded)
  - Traffic Stops – 492 (324 Tickets Issued)
  - Adult Arrest – 105
  - Juvenile Arrest – 2

- February 2025
  - Calls for Service – 2,513 (3,800 Officers Responded)
  - Traffic Stops – 477 (447 Tickets Issued)
  - Adult Arrest – 80
  - Juvenile Arrest – 2

Chief Nuses also reported that on Saturday, March 8th physical agility and written tests were completed on new applicants. Fourteen applicants made the first cut.

Director Shine – Building and Planning

Director Shine informed the council and residents that they should be careful when they are having work done this spring and summer on their roofs, sheds, doors, windows, sidewalks, and driveways replacements. Permits will need to be issued by the Building and Planning Department for these types of jobs and the contractor needs to be licensed. If you have any questions regarding permits, please contact the Building and Planning Department at (219) 769-4670.

Director King – Street Department

Director King reported on the following:

- Parks Maintenance Division – The Division has officially started, and an evaluation of the Parks has beer completed. We have already given the Parks Director McCartney a list of equipment that needs to be repaired or replaced, The department is ordering garbage cans and other items.

Town Manager Griffin – Town Administration

Town Manager Griffin was absent.

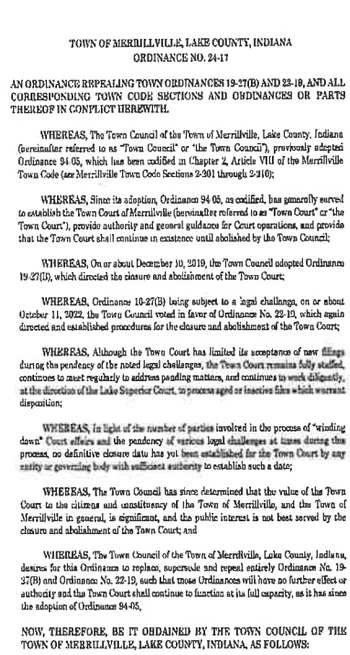
GENERAL ORDERS

A. Ordinances: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

Zoning: (motion to adopt or reject; confer IC36-5-2-10(d)
NONE

First Reading: Ordinance (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

1. **Ordinance 24-17**
   "The Continuation of Voting for Ordinance 24-17"



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 24-17

AN ORDINANCE RREPEALING TOWN ORDINANCES 19-27(B) AND 22-19, AND ALL CORRESPONDING TOWN CODE SECTIONS AND ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana (hereinafter referred to as "Town Council" or "the Town Council"), previously adopted Ordinance 94-05, which has been codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Merrillville Town Code (see Merrillville Town Code Sections 2-301 through 2-310);

WHEREAS, Since its adoption, Ordinance 94-05, as codified, has generally served to establish the Town Court of Merrillville (hereinafter referred to as "Town Court" or "the Town Court"), provide authority and general guidance for Court operations, and provide that the Town Court shall continue in existence until abolished by the Town Council;

WHEREAS, On or about December 10, 2019, the Town Council adopted Ordinance 19-27(B), which directed the closure and abolishment of the Town Court;

WHEREAS, Ordinance 19-27(B) being subject to a legal challenge, on or about October 11, 2022, the Town Council voted in favor of Ordinance No. 22-19, which again directed and established procedures for the closure and abolishment of the Town Court;

WHEREAS, Although the Town Court has limited its acceptance of new filings during the pendency of the noted legal challenges, the Town Court remains fully staffed, continues to meet regularly to address pending matters, and continues to work diligently, at the direction of the Lake Superior Court, to process aged or inactive files which warrant disposition;

WHEREAS, In light of the number of parties involved in the process of "winding down" Court affairs and the pendency of various legal challenges at times during this process, no definitive closure date has yet been established for the Town Court by any entity or governing body with sufficient authority to establish such a date;

WHEREAS, The Town Council has since determined that the value of the Town Court to the citizens and constituency of the Town of Merrillville, and the Town of Merrillville in general, is significant, and the public interest is not best served by the closure and abolishment of the Town Court; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, desires for this Ordinance to replace, supersede and repeal entirely Ordinance No. 19-27(B) and Ordinance No. 22-19, such that those Ordinances will have no further effect or authority and the Town Court shall continue to function at its full capacity, as it has since the adoption of Ordinance 94-05,

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

SECTION ONE: That Ordinance 19-27(B) is hereby REPEALED in its entirety.

SECTION TWO: That Ordinance 22-19 is hereby REPEALED in its entirety.

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance shall repeal and supersede both Ordinance 19-27(B) and Ordinance 22-19, to the extent that neither Ordinance 19-27(B) nor Ordinance 22-19 shall have any force or authority upon adoption of this Ordinance.

SECTION FOUR: That, upon adoption of this Ordinance, all sections of the Town Code of Merrillville which have been modified or supplemented by either Ordinance 19-27(B) or Ordinance 22-19 shall be restored to the form in which they existed prior to the adoption of Ordinance 19-27(B) and/or Ordinance 22-19.

SECTION FIVE: That, to the extent not otherwise provided for herein, this Ordinance shall preserve full effect and authority of Sections 2-301 through 2-310 of the Merrillville Town Code, as those Sections existed prior to the passage of Ordinance 19-27(B).

SECTION SIX: That 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 SEVEN: That all existing Ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby deemed null, void, and of no legal effect, and are specifically repealed.

SECTION EIGHT: That this Ordinance shall take effect, and shall be in full force and effect, from and after its passage and adoption by the Town Council.

Introduced at the Town Council meeting of May 14th 2024

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this ___ Day of May 2024, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

Attorney Hall's statement regarding the Town of Merrillville Court will be available upon request.

Upon a question from President Bella regarding whether Clerk-Treasurer Eric January would like to cast a vote, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January responded that he would like to cast a vote.

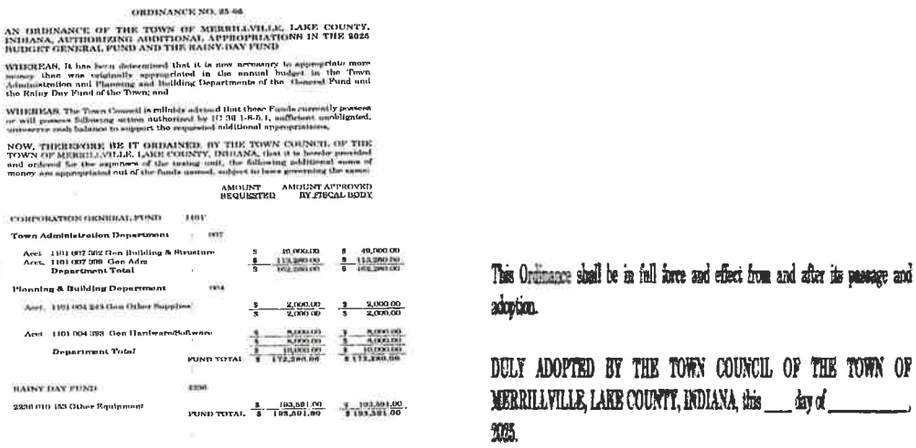
Clerk-Treasurer Eric January read into the record the post-voting results of keeping the Town of Merrillville Court open:

Vice-President Rhonda Neal - ABSTAINED
Councilor Shauna Haynes-Edward – YES
Councilor Leona Chandler-Felton – YES
Councilor Margaret Uzelac - YES
Councilor Shawn Pettit – NO
Councilor Keesha Hardaway - NO
President Rick Bella – NO

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January cast a yes vote to keep the Town of Merrillville Court open. Ordinance 24-17 is adopted on first reading.

2. **Ordinance 25-05 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)**
   An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County Indiana, Authorizing Appropriations in the 2025 Budget General Fund and the Rainy-Day Fund.

President Bella informed the council, Clerk-Treasurer Eric January, and the audience that Ordinance 25-05 should be listed under the first reading, not the second reading.



ORDINANCE NO. 25-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 2025 BUDGET GENERAL FUND AND THE RAINY-DAY FUND

WHEREAS, It has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was originally appropriated in the annual budget in the Town Administration and Planning and Building Departments of the General Fund and the Rainy Day Fund of the Town; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council is officially advised that those Funds currently possess or will possess following action authorized by IC 36 1-8-5.1, sufficient unobligated, unreserve cash balance to support the requested additional appropriations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, that it is hereby provided and ordered for the expenses of the taxing unit, the following additional sums of money are appropriated out of the funds named, subject to laws governing the same:

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED BY FISCAL BODY
CORPORATION GENERAL FUND 1101		
Town Administration Department 1017		
Acct. 1101 1017 262 Gen Building & Structure	$ 10,000.00	$ 49,000.00
Acct. 1101 1017 390 Gen Adv	$ 133,280.00	$ 133,280.00
Department Total	$ 192,280.00	$ 182,280.00
Planning & Building Department 1054		
Acct. 1101 1054 243 Gen Other Supplies	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
Acct. 1101 1054 393 Gen Hardware/Software	$ 8,000.00	$ 8,000.00
	$ 8,000.00	$ 8,000.00
Department Total	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
FUND TOTAL	$ 172,280.00	$ 172,280.00
RAINY DAY FUND 2230		
2230 010 193 Other Equipment	$ 193,881.00	$ 193,881.00
FUND TOTAL	$ 193,881.00	$ 193,881.00

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption.

DULY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this ___ day of _____, 2025.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve Ordinance 25-05 on the first reading.

Financial Advisor Hudson explained Ordinance 25-05

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, 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 the first reading.

Second Reading: (Discussion, Public Comments, Roll Call Vote):

1. **<u>Ordinance 25-04 (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)</u>**
   An Ordinance To Fix And Establish The Wage and Salary Rates Of The Elected Officers, The Non-Elected Officers, And The Employees Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana.

Digest: An ordinance to further amend the existing Wage and Salary Ordinance to modify salaries in the Park Department and change a position in Town Administration. *Digest included pursuant to MCC Sec.2-60(d)*

ORDINANCE No. 25-04
of the
TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE to FIX and ESTABLISH THE WAGE and SALARY RATES of the ELECTED OFFICERS, the NON-ELECTED OFFICERS, and the EMPLOYEES of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA.

WHEREAS, Title 36, Article 1 Chapter 4 of the Indiana Code confers certain general corporate powers on the several units of government in Indiana;

WHEREAS, Section fifteen of that chapter specifically provides that a unit of government may fix the level of compensation of its officers and employees; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2 further provides in pertinent part that the town legislative body shall provide reasonable compensation for the other town officers and employees;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2(b), still further provides that the Town Legislative body shall, by ordinance, fix the compensation of its own members and the Town Clerk-Treasurer;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to IC 36-8-9-5, the town legislative body shall appropriate a sum sufficient to pay the salaries of the members of the town police department;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to IC 36-8-9-4(b), the town legislative body shall determine the compensation to be paid to members of the police department in amounts that are just and reasonable, which has been particularly defined in Section 7 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Fraternal Order of Police Merrillville Lodge Number 168 and the Town of Merrillville, dated March 14th, 2023;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2(e) still further provides that the compensation of an elected town officer may not be changed in the year for which it is fixed, nor may it be reduced below the amount fixed for the previous year;

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, as the town legislative body, adopted Ordinance No. 24-49 amended by Ordinance No 25-01, fixing the compensation of its elected officers, appointed officers, and employees of the Town for the year 2025 and thereafter;

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, as the town legislative body, has been reliably advised by the Town Manager that it is desirable

to fix the compensation of the sworn members of the Metropolitan Police Department as particularly defined in Section 7.3 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement mentioned herein and to fix the compensation for all officers and employees of the Town for the year ensuing and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, as the town legislative body, has been reliably further advised by the Town Manager that it is desirable to modify CERTAIN provisions related to the wages, salaries and staffing in the several departments of the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, Lake County, Indiana, that the Wages, Salaries, of the Officers and Employees of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, are hereby established and fixed, pursuant to the provisions ordained herein and as follows:

Section 1. (A) That except as otherwise expressly provided in this ordinance or the remained police manual, an ordinance dealing with standing matters of municipality, the salaries or wages outlined in this ordinance are hereby authorized for all officers, regular full time employees and part time employees of the municipality who occupy an authorized position of the municipality at the time of its passage and adoption, or who may occupy a position of the municipality, with any changes set forth herein to be effective from the date indicated in this ordinance;

Section 2. (A) That unless otherwise provided by this ordinance, the rates and salaries for the elected or appointed officers and employees of the municipality represent the maximum that may be paid for each discretely identified starting position or an amendment to a position set forth in this ordinance;

(B) That for the purposes of this ordinance, starting position applies to any person who has up to one year or less of service in the position identified. For the purposes of this ordinance, an incumbent position applies to any person who has more than one year of service in the position identified;

(C) Approved workforce levels. That the approved staffing levels for certain positions in the various offices and departments, shown under the column heading stated throughout, are hereby fixed, and approved as indicated by a parenthetical number, or in the absence of a discrete number, are limited to the combined total wage and salary budgetary limit set forth in the same column. If a position has no discrete number or a wage and salary budgetary limit, there is no authorization to hire, without an amendment to this ordinance;

(D) Town Council Stipend. Whenever a member of the Town Council is appointed as a legislative member to the Plan Commission, in addition to the salary authorized in this ordinance, a stipend as identified in this ordinance shall be added to the existing salary as a continuing stipend, payable while serving on the plan commission, pursuant to IC 36-5-3-2(g)(1).

Section 3. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the Elected Officers of the Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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Section 4. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the Officers and employees in the Office of Town Administration of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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Section 5. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the Officers and employees in the Finance Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



Section 6. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the Officers in the Finance Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



Section 7. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the Officers and employees in the Municipal Court Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:



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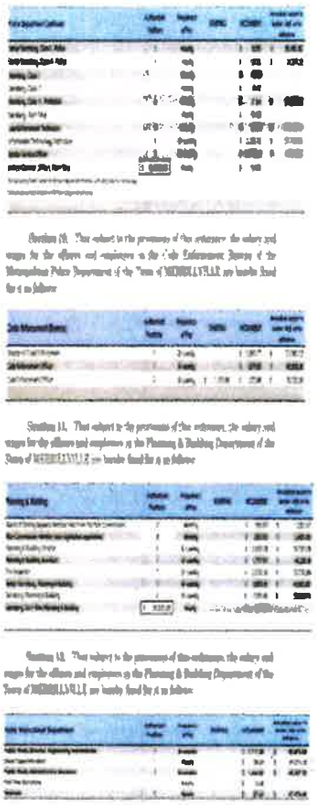
Section 8. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

Section 9. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Metropolitan Police Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:



Section 10. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Enforcement Bureau of the Metropolitan Police Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

Section 11. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Planning & Building Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

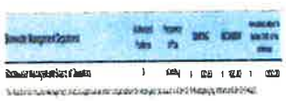
Section 12. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Planning & Building Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:



Section 13. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Police and Corrections Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE are hereby fixed for it as follows:

Section 14. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Fire Protection Services of the Town of MERRILLVILLE shall be fixed by the Fire Protection Services Board of Directors pursuant to Section 10 of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, ordinance number 0- 10-13-14.

Section 15. That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the officers and employees in the Stormwater Management Department of the Town of MERRILLVILLE shall be fixed by Board of Stormwater Management Directors pursuant to IC 8-1.5-5-8, adopting by reference "A" 8-1.5-5 supra. The wages for the members of the Board of Directors shall be fixed as follows:



Section 16. *Longevity/Full Time Employees.* The Longevity Program is adopted for full time employees as well as elected officials. Please refer to Section 6.12 in the Personnel Policy Manual for the policy and levels of longevity compensation.

Section 17. *Holidays.* The Holiday Schedule for Calendar Year 2025 is as follow that adopted by the Town Council as Resolution 21-16, and the provisions set forth in Section 7.9 of the Personnel Policy Manual.

Section 18. *Overtime, Holiday Pay, Vacation Leave, Sick Leave and Personal Days.* Refer to the current Personnel Policy Manual for the Overtime, Holiday Pay, Vacation Leave, Sick Leave and Personal Days policies.

Section 19. That all portions of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed and are of no further force nor effect. That unless there is an express conflict, that this ordinance in all other respects is a companion and complement to the existing Wage and Salary Ordinance as amended.

Section 20. That except where otherwise stated herein, other compensation and benefits matters not expressly provided herein for salaried and hourly employees and the other officers of the municipality, shall be as set forth in the Personnel Policy Manual, Codified as Section 2-67 of the Merrillville Municipal Code, customarily called the personnel Policy Manual as amended from time to time.

Section 21. Pay Period. *Except where expressly defined differently for public safety sworn workers, and for those officers whose pay frequency is monthly,* the pay period for salaried and hourly employees is hereby defined as bi-weekly. The bi-weekly term for such pay represents the fourteen (14) day period, commencing at 12:01 a.m. Sunday and extending to and concluding just before Midnight of the second, following Saturday, immediately preceding the week of the scheduled pay day, beginning on December 29, 2024, and continuing thereafter.

Section 22. *Merrillville Police Depart specific policies.* The policies outlined in APPENDIX A involving the employees of the Merrillville Police Department are hereby adopted.

Section 23. *Merrillville Fire Protection Territory specific policies.* The policies outlined in APPENDIX B involving the employees of the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory are hereby adopted.

Section 24. (A) That this ordinance shall become effective and shall

remain in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and adoption, subject to any express provisions herein, and to any express effective dates herein described to the contrary and until its repeal or amendment by subsequent ordinance;

(B) That the annualized limitation for statistical purposes is based upon a year in which 26 paydays occur. For those years for which there is an additional or 27th pay period, the annualized limit is waived. Further, for those officers whose pay frequency is monthly, the payday or time that the pay should be remitted should be as close to the end of the month as possible to comply with IC 5-10-3 et. seq., which prohibits officers from drawing their pay in advance;

(C) That in addition to the salaries authorized by the passage and adoption of this ordinance for the police chief and the assistant police chief, a one-time corrective stipend is hereby authorized for the persons who were serving as police chief and assistant police chief in the year 2023, in order to make their compensation in that year, to be more equitably aligned with the base pay for the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief as fixed FY 2023. The one-time corrective stipends are as follows:

(1) For the person who served as police chief in 2023 a one-time payment of six thousand, one hundred, sixty-nine dollars and eighty cents ($6,169.80);
(2) For the person who served as assistant police chief in 2023 a one-time payment of five thousand, two hundred, thirty-four dollars and six cents ($5,234.06);

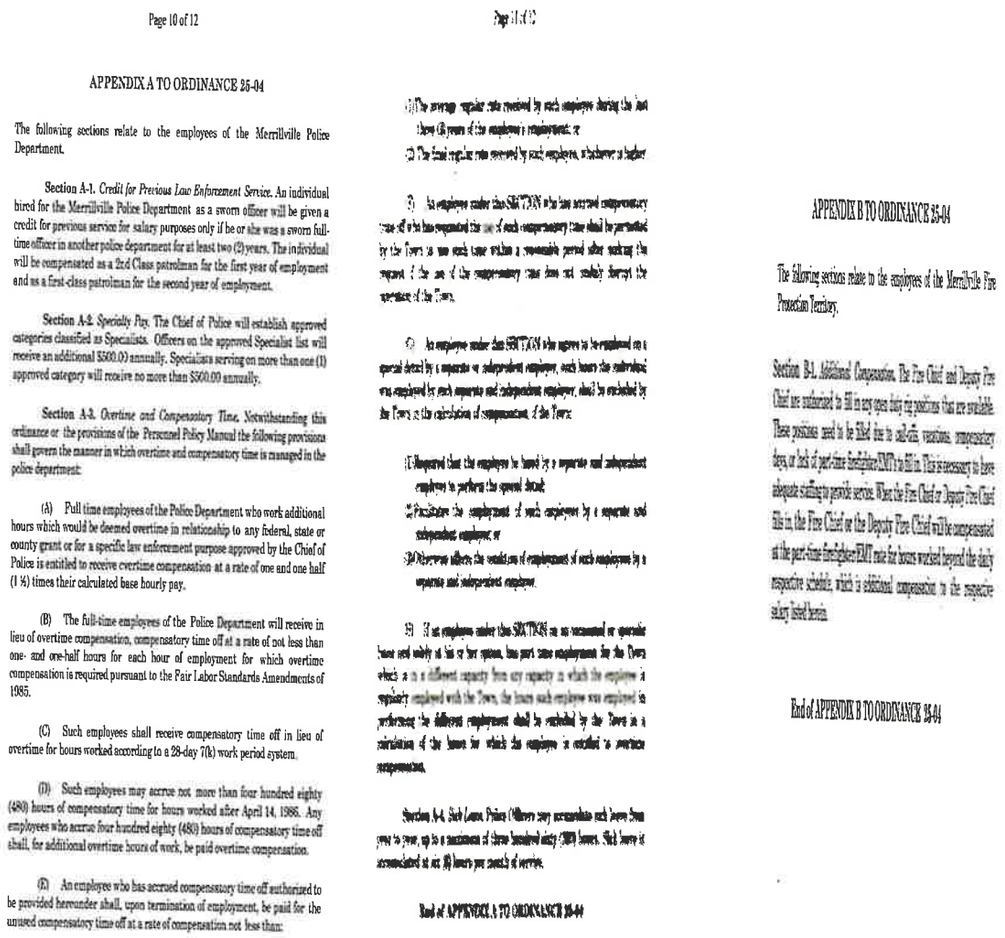
The Clerk-Treasurer is instructed and requested to implement the changes authorized by this ordinance with all due deliberation and dispatch and is further authorized to encumber the necessary resources from the following account identified as 1101 005 112, including the applicable payroll taxes;

(D) That pursuant to Section 6.8 (2) of the Personnel Policy Manual as amended, under the authority expressly set forth in IC 36-5-5-6 (a) (3) & (4), and codified by reference as Section 2-67 of the Merrillville Municipal Code, effective to the pay period beginning December 29, 2024 and continuing thereafter, the three-percent employee contribution set forth in IC 5-10.3-3-3(b) will be paid by the employer;

(E) That the Clerk-Treasurer shall have authority to implement the provisions of this ordinance pursuant to the authority expressly set forth in IC 36-5-5-6 (a) (3) & (4).

Introduced and Filed 25th day of February 2025.

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



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APPENDIX A TO ORDINANCE 26-04

The following sections relate to the employees of the Merrillville Police Department.

Section A-1. *Credit for Previous Law Enforcement Service.* An individual hired for the Merrillville Police Department as a sworn officer will be given a credit for previous service for salary purposes only if he or she was a sworn full-time officer in another police department for at least two (2) years. The individual will be compensated as a 2nd Class patrolman for the first year of employment and as a first-class patrolman for the second year of employment.

Section A-2. *Specialty Pay.* The Chief of Police will establish approved categories classified as Specialists. Officers on the approved Specialist list will receive an additional $500.00 annually. Specialists serving on more than one (1) approved category will receive no more than $500.00 annually.

Section A-3. *Overtime and Compensatory Time.* Notwithstanding this ordinance or the provisions of the Personnel Policy Manual the following provisions shall govern the manner in which overtime and compensatory time is managed in the police department:

(A) Full time employees of the Police Department who work additional hours which would be deemed overtime in relationship to any federal, state or county grant or for a specific law enforcement purpose approved by the Chief of Police is entitled to receive overtime compensation at a rate of one and one half (1 ½) times their calculated base hourly pay.

(B) The full-time employees of the Police Department will receive in lieu of overtime compensation, compensatory time off at a rate of not less than one- and one-half hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1985.

(C) Such employees shall receive compensatory time off in lieu of overtime for hours worked according to a 28-day 7(k) work period system.

(D) Such employees may accrue not more than four hundred eighty (480) hours of compensatory time for hours worked after April 14, 1986. Any employees who accrue four hundred eighty (480) hours of compensatory time off shall, for additional overtime hours of work, be paid overtime compensation.

(E) An employee who has accrued compensatory time off authorized to be provided hereunder shall, upon termination of employment, be paid for the unused compensatory time off at a rate of compensation not less than:

[illegible]

End of APPENDIX A TO ORDINANCE 26-04

APPENDIX B TO ORDINANCE 25-04

The following sections relate to the employees of the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory.

Section B-1. Additional Compensation. The Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief are authorized to fill in any open duty rig positions that are available. These positions need to be filled due to call-offs, vacations, compensatory days, or lack of part-time firefighters/EMT's to fill in. This is necessary to have adequate staffing to provide services. When the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief fills in, the Fire Chief or the Deputy Fire Chief will be compensated at the part-time firefighter/EMT rate for hours worked beyond the daily respective schedule, which is additional compensation to the respective salary listed herein.

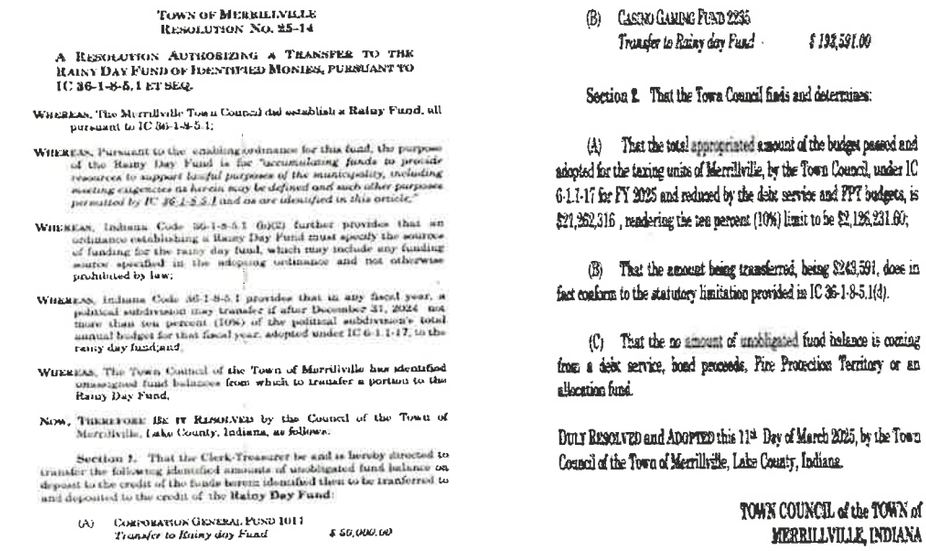
End of APPENDIX B TO ORDINANCE 25-04

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve Ordinance 25-04 on the second and final reading.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, 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 the first reading.

B. **Resolutions:**

1. **<u>Resolution 25-14 (Discussion & Voice Vote)</u>**
   A Resolution Authorizing a Transfer to the Rainy-Day Fund of Identified Monies Pursuant to IC 36-1-8-5-1.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-14

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER TO THE RAINY DAY FUND OF IDENTIFIED MONIES, PURSUANT TO IC 36-1-8-5.1 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, The Merrillville Town Council did establish a Rainy Fund, all pursuant to IC 36-1-8-5.1;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the enabling ordinance for this fund, the purpose of the Rainy Day Fund is for "accumulating funds to provide resources to support lawful purposes of the municipality, including meeting exigencies as herein may be defined and such other purposes permitted by IC 36-1-8-5.1 and as are identified in this article;"

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-8-5.1 (b)(2) further provides that an ordinance establishing a Rainy Day Fund must specify the sources of funding for the rainy day fund, which may include any funding source specified in the adopting ordinance and not otherwise prohibited by law;

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-8-5.1 provides that in any fiscal year, a political subdivision may transfer if after December 31, 2024 not more than ten percent (10%) of the political subdivision's total annual budget for that fiscal year, adopted under IC 6-1.1-17, to the rainy day fund;and,

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville has identified unassigned fund balances from which to transfer a portion to the Rainy Day Fund,

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

Section 1. That the Clerk-Treasurer be and is hereby directed to transfer the following identified amounts of unobligated fund balance on deposit to the credit of the funds herein identified then to be tranferred to and deposited to the credit of the **Rainy Day Fund**:

(A) CORPORATION GENERAL FUND 1011
Transfer to Rainy day Fund $ 50,000.00

(B) CASINO GAMING FUND 2235
Transfer to Rainy day Fund $ 193,591.00

Section 2. That the Town Council finds and determines:

(A) That the total appropriated amount of the budget passed and adopted for the taxing units of Merrillville, by the Town Council, under IC 6-1.1-17 for FY 2025 and reduced by the debt service and PPT budgets, is $21,262,316 , rendering the ten percent (10%) limit to be $2,126,231.60;

(B) That the amount being transferred, being $243,591, does in fact conform to the statutory limitation provided in IC 36-1-8-5.1(d).

(C) That the no amount of unobligated fund balance is coming from a debt service, bond proceeds, Fire Protection Territory or an allocation fund.

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED this 11th Day of March 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 Resolution 25-14.

Financial Advisor Hudson explained the Resolution 25-14

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

2. **<u>Resolution 25-15 (Discussion & Voice Vote) – Public Hearing</u>**
Resolution Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Regarding Waive Of Non-Compliance.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January read the resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-15

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, REGARDING WAIVER OF NON-COMPLIANCE

(Panduit Sales Corp)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville has heretofore adopted its resolutions (the "Resolutions") establishing an economic revitalization area (the "ERA") for certain property (the "Project") of Panduit Sales Corp, or an affiliate thereof (the "Taxpayer") pursuant to the provisions of I.C. 6-1.1-12.1; and

WHEREAS, the Taxpayer did not file and/or made a late filing of the form SB-1/Personal Property (the "Non-Compliance"); and

WHEREAS, I.C. 6-1.1-12.1-9.5 and I.C. 6-1.1-12.1-11.3 authorize the Town Council to waive the Non-Compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Taxpayer has requested that the Town Council waive the Non-Compliance; and

WHEREAS, this Town Council on March 11, 2025, held a public hearing pursuant to notice duly published in the *Northwest Indiana Times*, and has heard and considered the testimony of any person interested in the proceedings regarding the foregoing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville that the Town Council hereby waives the Non-Compliance.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS __ DAY OF MARCH, 2025, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, TOWN COUNCIL

Public Comments

1. Bryor Mesarch of Merrillville Indiana voiced his concerns regarding the waiver of non-compliance.

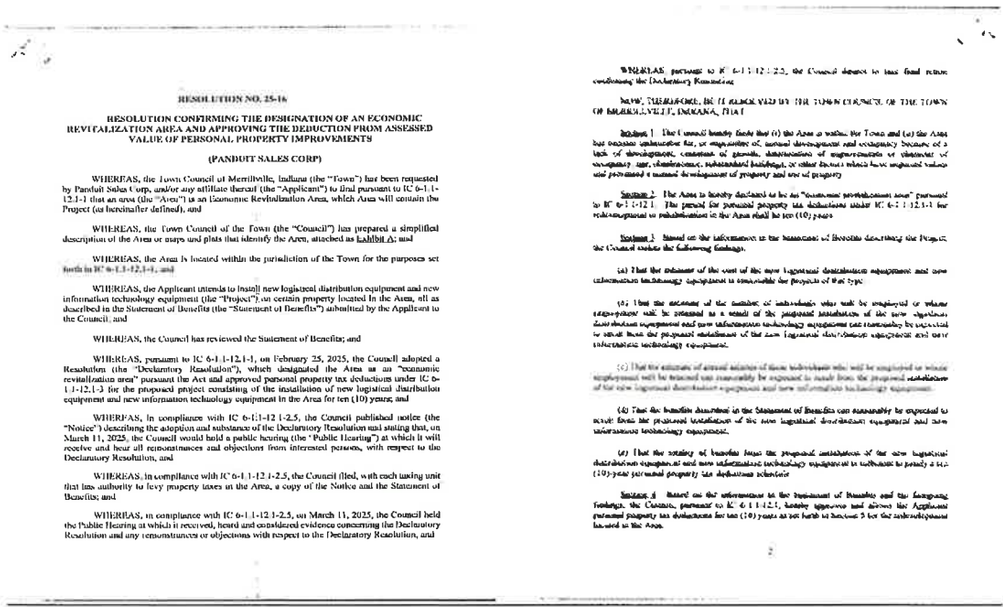
   Councilor Pettit explained why the Town Council is acting on the resolution for the waiver.

2. Pablo Payan of Merrillville Indiana voiced his concerns regarding the waiver of non-compliance.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve. Resolution 25-15.

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

3. **Resolution 25-16 (Discussion & Voice Vote) – Public Hearing**
   Resolution Confirming The Designation Of An Economic Revitalization Area And Approving The Deduction From Assessed Value Of Personal Property Improvement.



RESOLUTION NO. 25-16

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE DESIGNATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA AND APPROVING THE DEDUCTION FROM ASSESSED VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

(PANDUIT SALES CORP)

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Merrillville, Indiana (the "Town") has been requested by Panduit Sales Corp, and/or any affiliate thereof (the "Applicant") to find pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-1 that an area (the "Area") is an Economic Revitalization Area, which Area will contain the Project (as hereinafter defined); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town (the "Council") has prepared a simplified description of the Area or maps and plats that identify the Area, attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Area is located within the jurisdiction of the Town for the purposes set forth in IC 6-1.1-12.1-1; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant intends to install new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment (the "Project") on certain property located in the Area, all as described in the Statement of Benefits (the "Statement of Benefits") submitted by the Applicant to the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed the Statement of Benefits; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-1, on February 25, 2025, the Council adopted a Resolution (the "Declaratory Resolution"), which designated the Area as an "economic revitalization area" pursuant the Act and approved personal property tax deductions under IC 6-1.1-12.1-3 for the proposed project consisting of the installation of new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment in the Area for ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5, the Council published notice (the "Notice") describing the adoption and substance of the Declaratory Resolution and stating that, on March 11, 2025, the Council would hold a public hearing (the "Public Hearing") at which it will receive and hear all remonstrances and objections from interested persons, with respect to the Declaratory Resolution; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5, the Council filed, with each taxing unit that has authority to levy property taxes in the Area, a copy of the Notice and the Statement of Benefits; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5, on March 11, 2025, the Council held the Public Hearing at which it received, heard and considered evidence concerning the Declaratory Resolution and any remonstrances or objections with respect to the Declaratory Resolution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5, the Council desires to take final action confirming the Declaratory Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, THAT:

Section 1. The Council hereby finds that (i) the Area is within the Town and (ii) the Area has become undesirable for, or impossible of, normal development and occupancy because of a lack of development, cessation of growth, deterioration of improvements or character of occupancy, age, obsolescence, substandard buildings, or other factors which have impaired values and prevented a normal development of property and use of property.

Section 2. The Area is hereby declared to be an "economic revitalization area" pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1. The period for personal property tax deductions under IC 6-1.1-12.1-3 for redevelopment or rehabilitation in the Area shall be ten (10) years.

Section 3. Based on the information in the Statement of Benefits described in the Report, the Council makes the following findings:

(a) That the estimate of the cost of the new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment is reasonable for projects of that type.

(b) That the estimate of the number of individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained as a result of the proposed installation of the new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment is reasonable for projects of that type.

(c) That the estimate of annual salaries of those individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained can reasonably be expected to result from the proposed installation of the new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment.

(d) That the benefits described in the Statement of Benefits can reasonably be expected to result from the proposed installation of the new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment.

(e) That the totality of benefits from the proposed installation of the new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment is sufficient to justify a ten (10)-year personal property tax deduction schedule.

Section 4. Based on the information in the Statement of Benefits and the foregoing findings, the Council, pursuant to IC 6-1.1-12.1, hereby approves and allows the Applicant personal property tax deductions for ten (10) years as set forth in Section 5 for the redevelopment located in the Area.

2. Section 5. With respect to the new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment described in the Statement, the percentage of deductions for each of said ten (10) years shall be as follows:

YEAR OF DEDUCTION	% ABATED
1	100%
2	100%
3	100%
4	87.5%
5	75%
6	62.5%
7	50%
8	37.5%
9	25%
10	12.5%

Section 6. The Council hereby confirms the Declaratory Resolution, and the actions set forth in this Resolution are final, except for the limited rights of appeal provided under IC 6-1.1-12.1-2.5, and subject to the Applicant's compliance with a Deduction Fee Agreement relating to the payment of annual fees substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Section 7. The Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized to make all filings necessary or desirable and to take all other necessary actions to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution and the deductions approved hereunder.

Section 8. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ___ DAY OF MARCH, 2025, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, TOWN COUNCIL

Public Comments:

1. Pablo Payan of Merrillville Indiana voiced his concerns regarding tax abatements.
2. Samuel Payan of Merrillville Indiana voiced his concerns regarding tax abatements.
3. Bryor Mesarch of Merrillville Indiana voiced his concerns regarding tax abatements and TIF Zones.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January commented that he opposes tax abatements and TIFs for numerous reasons. If the Tax Abatements and TIFs are used correctly they can be beneficial to the Town of Merrillville to pay for public safety and the school district. We cannot afford to put the Town in a precarious financial position.

Director Angie Chilcott of the Economic Development invited anyone who is interested in tax abatements to attend the Town's Tax Talk workshop and explain the opportunities that Panduit is bringing to the Town of Merrillville in economic development.

4. Chris Holtz of Merrillville Indiana voiced his concern regarding making the Town of Merrillville a better community.

It was moved by Councilor Pettie and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Resolution 25-16.

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

4. **Resolution 25-19 (Discussion & Voice Vote)**
An Exigent Resolution Proving for the Transfer of Appropriation Balances from and Among Major Budget Classifications in the Municipal Court (Department) in the General Fund; as Requested by the Proper Officer And Forward to the Town Council for its Action Pursuant To L.C. 6-1.1-18-6.

RESOLUTION No. 25- 19
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

AN EXIGENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING for the TRANSFER of APPROPRIATION BALANCES from and AMONG MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATIONS in the MUNICIPAL COURT (DEPARTMENT) in the GENERAL 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 a different category than was initially appropriated for the various functions of the Office of the Municipal Court (Department) in the GENERAL Fund;

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

Section 1. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following appropriations are hereby transferred and set apart out of the funds hereinafter named for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same, such sums herein transferred unless otherwise stipulated by law;

Section 2. That it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the Office of the Municipal Court (Department) of the GENERAL 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, as follows:

Decrease:		
1101.008.126	General/P-T Secretary	$ 5,772.00
	Total Decrease:	**$ 5,772.00**
Increase:		
1101.008.394	General/ Contractual Services	$ 5,772.00
	Total Increase:	**$ 5,772.00**

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED by the TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this 11TH day of March 2025.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

Financial Advisor Hudson explained the resolution,

It was moved by Vice-President Neal and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Resolution 25-19.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS :
NONE

NEW BUSINESS:
NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Pablo Payan of Merrillville Indiana voiced his concerns regarding TIF Zones.

2. Honorable Judge Eugene Velazco of Merrillville Indiana thanked Clerk-Treasurer Eric January for his support and vote for keeping the Town of Merrillville Court open and his concern regarding tax abatements.

3. Lois Whittaker of Merrillville, Indiana introduced herself to the council. She is CEO of Royalty Strategist Consultants and offered her grant writing services to the Town of Merrillville to secure additional funding.

4. Amy Shollenberger of Merrillville, Indiana offered to work with Merrillville High School to start swimming classes and get the pool open to residents.

5. Bryor Mesarch of Merrillville Indiana thanked Councilor Leona Chandler-Felton for the Q & A session she held on Saturday, March 8th, and garden clubs, bike clubs, and several other community activities.

6. Ursula Peppers of Merrillville Indiana voiced her concerns regarding corporations moving to the Town of Merrillville and the hiring Merrillville residents.

7. Bonita Brown of Merrillville Indiana voiced her concerns regarding the lack of communication and the conduct of the council.

8. Chris Holtz of Merrillville Indiana thanked several people for their positivity of working together.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting Tuesday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m.
- Redevelopment Commission Meeting March 25th at 6:00 p.m.

President Bella reminded everyone to mark their calendar regarding the April 10th Tax Talk Event on the agenda is the Allocation of TIF Districts and Tax Abatements.

Councilor Haynes-Edward informed the council and residents of the Coffee and Conversation event scheduled for Saturday, March 15th from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at 5418 Broadway.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President announced the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council Presiden.

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis