Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Special Meeting of
November 20, 2024 – 5:10 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilor Bella called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M.

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

GENERAL ORDERS

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

Second Reading: (Discussion, Public Comment, and Roll Call Vote): **NONE**

B. Resolution: (Discussion and Voice Vote)

1. **Resolution 24-35 (Discussion and Voice Vote)**
A Resolution Of The Merrillville Town Council Opting Out of The Establishment of a Merit System for The Merrillville Police Department Pursuant To Indiana Code Section 36-8-3-5-5.5

TOWN of MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 24-35

A RESOLUTION OF THE MERRILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL OPTING OUT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE MERRILLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE SECTION 36-8-3.5-5.5

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Indiana Code § 36-9-3.5-5.5, an eligible police department will establish a merit system for its members unless, not later than December 31, 2024, the legislative body of the governmental unit adopts a resolution opting out of the establishment of a merit system which is also approved by a majority of the active full-time, paid members of the police department; and,

WHEREAS, The Merrillville Police Department (hereinafter "MPD") is an eligible police department as defined by Indiana Code § 36-8-3.5-5.5(b). MPD has more than twelve (12) active, full time, paid members providing law enforcement services to a geographic area that has a resident population of at least twenty thousand (20,000) people,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Merrillville Town Council that the Council opts to out of the establishment of a merit system as allowed by Indiana Code § 36-8-3.5-5.5(e).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Merrillville Town Council that the active, full-time members of the MPD shall now conduct a vote upon whether to opt out of the establishment of a merit system as follows:

Section 1. The vote shall take place within sixty (60) days after the adoption of this Resolution.

Section 2. The MPD Chief shall give all active members of the MPD no less than three (3) weeks' advance notice as to the date, time and process to vote to opt out of the merit system. Notice sent by way of the MPD email system is acceptable.

Section 3. The MPD Chief shall ensure that notice is posted in prominent places around the station. The notice shall designate the date, time, place and purpose of the vote. Any issues relating to the voting process shall be addressed and resolved by the MPD Chief and FOP President.

Section 4. A copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to each MPD member.

Section 5. Only active members of the MPD may vote.

DULY PASSED, ADOPTED and RESOLVED this ____ Day of NOVEMBER 2024.

TOWN of MERRILLVILLE,
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

Town Manager Griffin explained Resolution 24-35

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Neal to approve Resolution 24-35.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, and Rick Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The Resolution was approved.

OLD BUSINESS
NONE

NEW BUSINESS
NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President announced the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, ~~Clerk~~-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis