

REGULAR MEETING – December 16, 2008

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday evening, December 16, 2008, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., local time, in the Common Council Chambers, located in the lower level of the City Hall Building, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Ron Meer.

Roll call was authorized and the following were noted present and/or absent:

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Patricia Boy, Phillip Jankowski, Marc Espar Robert McKee, Ron Meer, Richard Murphy, Joe Doyle, and Angie Nelson, (8).

ABSENT: Willie Milsap(1).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk - Tom Fedder, Deputy Clerk – Gale Neulieb and Council Attorney – James Meyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Meer inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the regular Meeting of December 2, 2008 and hearing none, the minutes were approved as printed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Espar reported on the Finance Committee held on Tuesday, December 9, 2008.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Council President Meer commented on the information he and the Council received in regards to the suspension by the Park Department of two soft ball coaches.

(NOTE: For the record Councilman Milsap arrived at the meeting.)

REPORTS of OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

There were no reports of other city officers and departments.

PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no communications

RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk read by title only, there being no objections,

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**RESOLUTION NO. 4408**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY,
INDIANA, AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY TRANSFERS OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008**

WHEREAS, delays in the collection of property tax revenue for the year 2008 have caused deficit cash balances in several City funds; and

WHEREAS, cash balances exist in certain other funds of the City in amounts sufficient to offset the deficit balances; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-8-4(a) allows municipalities to make temporary transfers between funds for the specific purpose of eliminating deficit cash balances; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-8-4(b) provides that, if an emergency exists, the repayment of the temporary transfers may be delayed until June 30 of the following year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, has determined that an emergency exists due to the delay in the collection of property tax revenues and authorizes the City Controller to make temporary cash transfers between funds under the provisions of Indiana Code 36-1-8-4, as follows:

| <u>Fund From</u> | <u>Fund To</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 0417 Blue Chip Development | 0101 General | \$4,500,000.00 |
| 0429 Major Moves Construction | 0101 General | 4,000,000.00 |
| 0108 Levy Excess | 0342 Police Pension | 325,000.00 |
| 0429 Major Moves Construction | 0341 Fire Pension | 375,000.00 |
| 9000 Riverboat | 0341 Fire Pension | 100,000.00 |
| 0990 Cumulative Channel Maintenance | 8203 Sanitary District Refuse | 1,300,000.00 |
| 9000 Riverboat | 1301 Park and Recreation | 750,000.00 |
| 9000 Riverboat | 2102 Aviation Operating | 150,000.00 |
| 0990 Cumulative Channel Maintenance | 1001 Barker Civic Center | 75,000.00 |
| 0990 Cumulative Channel Maintenance | 8201 Sanitary District Operating | <u>125,000.00</u> |
| | Total amount transferred | <u>\$11,700,000.00</u> |

All amounts transferred are to be returned on or before June 30, 2009 and a copy of this Resolution is to be filed with the Indiana State Board of Accounts and the Department of Local Government Finance.

This Resolution to be effective upon passage by the Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Councilman Marc Espar

Councilman Espar moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman McKee.

President Meer asked if there were any comments or questions by the Council and hearing none, the Resolution was adopted by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS McKee, Meer, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, and Milsap (9). NAYS: None (0).**

The Clerk read by title only, there being no objections,

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 4409

A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF THE CENTRAL MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND #0101 FOR THE YEAR 2008, IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, there exists certain circumstances within the budget of the Central Maintenance Department of Michigan City which require increasing and decreasing of appropriations for the line items in this Department of the General Fund #0101 for the year 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana, that:

Section 1. It is deemed advisable and necessary, in order to meet the circumstances facing said Central Maintenance Department of the General Fund of the City, that the Common Council approve the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:

CENTRAL MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL FUND

| | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| DECREASE : | A/C #0101 0119 01 412.024 Civilian Longevity Bonus | \$17,688 |
| | A/C #0101 0119 01 411.001 Salaries & Wages | \$40,000 |
| INCREASE | A/C #0101 0119 02 423.002 Repair Parts | \$17,688 |
| | A/C #0101 0119 03 436.002 Equipment Repair & Maintenance | \$40,000 |

Section 2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage and approval by the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Marc Espar

Councilman Espar moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilman McKee.

Charlie Cate, Superintendent, Central Maintenance addressed the Council regarding the proposed appropriation.

There was discussion between Mr. Cate and Councilman Espar in reference to the resolution.

President Meer asked if there were any comments or questions by the general public or Council and hearing none, the Resolution was adopted by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Meer, Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, and McKee (9). NAYS: None (0).**

ORDINANCES

The Clerk read on first reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4037 SETTING SALARIES AND WAGES FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

Introduced by: Robert McKee

Councilman McKee advised that this ordinance is to provide compensation to the newly formed Ethics Advisory Commission.

Councilman Espar stated his concerns in regards to the \$50.00 per diem to each member in attendance at a duly called meeting (regular or special).

The Clerk read on second reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4034 COMMONLY CALLED THE ETHICS ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

Introduced by: Patricia Boy
Joseph Doyle
Bob McKee

Councilwoman Boy moved to adopt the following amendment by substitution, seconded by Councilman McKee;

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 4034
COMMONLY CALLED THE ETHICS ORDINANCE
FOR THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Michigan City has adopted Ordinance No. **4034** over the Mayor's veto; and

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the Common Council that amendments need to be made to said Ordinance in order to correct certain errors, lessen the administrative burden of compliance, and to more accurately reflect the intent of the Common Council at the time it passed said Ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana that Michigan City Ordinance No. **4034** is hereby repealed and the following is hereby adopted to take its place:

Section 1. Purpose and Intent.

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City finds that the proper operation of representative government requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that government decisions and policies be made in the proper channels of governmental structure; and that public office not be used for personal gain. Accordingly, it is the purpose and requirement of this ordinance to maintain a high level of professionalism; to establish legal and ethical standards of conduct for all officials and employees of the city, whether elected or appointed, paid or unpaid; to set forth those acts that are incompatible with such standards; to require disclosure by such officials and employees of private, financial, or other interests in matters that may affect the city; and to provide effective means for enforcement thereof.

Section 2. General Provisions.

- a. All department heads, boards, commissions, and employees shall receive from the Office of the City Clerk a copy of this ordinance within 45 days after its adoption.
- b. An electronic copy of this ordinance shall be available for review by all officials and employees. Any candidate for public office or any individual being considered for

appointment as a public official shall be provided with a copy of this article prior to their appointment and all such individuals shall be advised that their appointment will be subject to the terms and conditions of this ordinance and that they shall be bound by this article if appointed or elected. In addition, all vendors and contractors doing business with the City shall be given notice, as provided in Appendix B, of this Ordinance and direction as to where they may obtain a copy hereof.

- c. Any official or employee shall address any inquiries concerning the provisions or references made herein to the Ethics Advisory Commission in writing. The Commission shall respond in writing to any request from any official or employee for an interpretation of a rule, regulation, or any section of this ordinance.
- d. In the event that any section of this ordinance is or comes into conflict with any federal or state law or ruling of a federal or state agency, such law, rule, and/or ruling of the federal or state agency shall supersede the terms of that section of this ordinance. All remaining sections found not to be in conflict with any federal or state law or ruling of a federal or state agency shall remain in effect.
- e. This ordinance shall not prohibit an official or employee from being reimbursed for expenses, receiving money as a campaign contribution, participating in collective bargaining, or being paid for service as a public official except as may be prohibited by applicable state law or state rules and regulations, or any ruling of a state agency of the State of Indiana.
- f. Any official or employee may appear before any public body on their own behalf regarding any matter in which they have a personal financial interest provided that full disclosure is made in advance and such activity is not otherwise prohibited by law.
- g. Any employment, appointed position, or contractual relationship that exists prior to adoption of this ordinance shall not be a violation of this ordinance.
- h. No official shall represent a person, entity, or petitioner in any matter before the City for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days following termination of duties or responsibilities to the City.
- i. In addition to review and recommendations by the Ethics Advisory Commission, the Common Council shall review this article and act on any recommended changes at least once every four years, and may do so more frequently as needed.
- j. This ordinance shall not be construed so as to impair the ability of these officials and employees to participate in ceremonial, representational, or informational functions in the pursuit of their official duties.
- k. This ordinance is enacted to ensure public confidence in the integrity of city government, and shall be liberally construed in favor of protecting the public interests by fully disclosing conflicts of interest and promoting ethical standards of conduct for all city officials and employees.
- l. Violations of this ordinance may result in disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

Section 3. Definitions.

For purposes of this ordinance, the words and phrases defined in this section shall have the following meanings:

- a. *Agency* means any authority, board, commission, committee, council, department, division, office, or other instrumentality of the executive and administrative departments of city government of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, or any subdivision thereof.
- b. *Business Entity* means a proprietorship, partnership, limited partnership, unincorporated association, trust, firm, corporation, or limited liability corporation.
- c. *(the) City* means the City of Michigan City, Indiana.
- d. *Commission* means the Ethics Advisory Commission created by this ordinance.
- e. *Compensation* means any money, thing of value, service or financial benefit conferred upon or received by any person in return for services rendered or to be rendered, whether by that person or another.

- f. *Conflict of Interest* means any situation in which an individual exploits a position for personal or financial gain. Such conflict of interest shall apply to pecuniary interests, and also to votes cast in actions by councils, boards, and commissions.
- g. *Doing Business* means engaging in an activity: (1) for profit or gain or (2) that requires a license or permit by an agency.
- h. *Employee* means any individual, other than an elected or appointed official, whether on a full-time or part-time basis or pursuant to a contract, whose duties are subject to the direction and control of an employer with regard to the material details of how the work is to be performed, and who receives compensation for services performed for the City of Michigan City, Indiana, but does not include an independent contractor.
- i. *Employer* means any agency of the City of Michigan City, Indiana.
- j. *Ethics Advisory Commission* means the Commission established by Section 9 of this ordinance, and is also an agency under the jurisdiction of this ordinance.
- k. *Fair Market Value* means the price that would be paid by a willing buyer to a willing seller in a good faith transaction into which neither party is compelled to enter.
- l. *Financial Interest* means an interest:
- 1) In a purchase, sale, lease, contract, option, or other transaction between an agency and any person; or
 - 2) Involving property or services.
- The term includes an interest arising from employment or prospective employment for which negotiations have begun. The term does not include an interest of an official or employee in the common stock of a corporation unless the combined holdings in the corporation of the official or employee, or that individual's relative, are more than one percent (1%) of the outstanding shares of the common stock of the corporation. The term does not include an interest that is not greater than the interest of the general public or any city official or employee.
- m. *Gifts or Honoraria* means money or other property having economic value which is transferred to an official or employee without consideration in money or money's worth, but does not include:
- 1) Food or drink consumed by an official or employee or a relative, during the conduct of official public business or attendance at public ceremonies as a public official or employee;
 - 2) Mementos or souvenirs of nominal value received at public ceremonies or commemorating official business;
 - 3) Invitations or tickets to political fund raising dinners or public charitable benefits when used by an official or employee or a relative;
 - 4) Food or drink consumed by an elected official or department director during attendance in connection with official duties at a convention of public officials, if consumed at a reception or gathering with other public officials, or in connection with local meetings for official business.
- n. *Handbook* means an employee handbook, personnel manual, or similar document of any agency, or a Board Handbook for all boards, commissions, committees, or councils of the City of Michigan City.
- o. *Information of a Confidential Nature* means information:
- 1) Obtained by reason of the position or office held; and
 - 2) Which:
 - (a) A public agency is prohibited from disclosing under IC 5-14-3-4(a);
 - (b) A public agency has the discretion not to disclose under IC 5-13-3-4(b); and that the agency has not disclosed; or
 - (c) The information is not in a public record, but if it were, would be confidential.
- p. *Interest* means any direct or indirect monetary or material benefit accruing to a city official or employee as a result of a contract or transaction which is or may be the subject of an

- official act or action by or with the city (except for such transactions which would confer similar benefits to all other persons and/or property similarly situated).
- q. *Material Interest in a Business* means ownership of five (5) percent or more of a business entity.
 - r. *Mayor* means the mayor of the City of Michigan City, Indiana.
 - s. *Nepotism* means the appointment or hiring of a relative by an official or employee.
 - t. *Official* means any individual elected or appointed to an office or position in any agency of the city, whether such individual is paid or unpaid. This definition includes all elected officials of the city; members of all commissions, committees, and boards established by state statute or local ordinance, resolution, or motion; and all individuals appointed by the Mayor or the Common Council.
 - u. *Open Door Law* means IC 5-14-1.5, Public Meetings.
 - v. *Pecuniary Interest* means an interest that will result or is intended to result in an ascertainable increase in the income or net worth of the official or employee or a relative.
 - w. *Person* means any individual, association, corporation, or other legal entity.
 - x. *Probable Cause* means such cause as is found to exist upon a reasonable inquiry that would induce a reasonably intelligent and prudent person to believe that a person has committed an act or acts constituting an ethical violation under this chapter.
 - y. *Relative* means spouse, child, parent, sibling, or grandchild. Relatives also include persons related by marriage (including in-laws); those related by law (including adoption); and other persons who reside in the official or employee's residence or who are financially dependent upon the official or employee.
 - z. *Resident* means a person who makes their home within the corporate limits of the City of Michigan City. To be considered a resident, a person who has another home or other residence outside of the city must spend more than 60% of their time in the home within the city.

Section 4. Application of policy.

- a. This Ordinance shall apply to all officials and employees of the city, as defined in Section 3 of this ordinance. The written acceptance of this policy shall be condition for initial and continuing service with the city by an appointed official. All individuals excluded hereby from the application of this Ordinance are invited to voluntarily comply with the financial disclosure requirements of this ordinance.
- b. The singular of any noun, when used in this ordinance, includes the plural whenever appropriate and the masculine includes the feminine and vice versa.

Section 5. Non-partiality and non-discrimination.

While performing official duties, no official or employee shall grant or make available to any person any consideration, treatment, advantage, or favor beyond that which is the City policy to grant or make available to the public at large, without prior Common Council approval. No official or employee shall discriminate against any person in violation of federal law, state law, or the ordinances of this City.

Section 6. Adoption of State Law.

The state laws governing Ethics and Conflicts of Interest (IC 4-2-6), Campaign Contributions (IC 3-9-2), Public Meetings (Open Door Law, IC 5-14-1.5), Access to Public Documents (IC 5-14-3), Disclosure of Economic Interests by Consultants in Public Projects (IC 5-16-11), and Statutory Conflict of Interest (IC 35-44-1-3) as amended and supplemented, are hereby incorporated herein by reference so as to make it clear that such acts and all amendments thereto are effective and operative as to the City.

Section 7. Standards of Ethical Conduct.

Any potential or existing conflicts of interest shall be fully disclosed in the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. A copy of the form shall be made available in the Personnel Office of the City of Michigan City, and is included in Appendix A of this Ordinance. The Personnel Director shall keep completed forms on file in the Personnel Office.

- a. **Disqualification from acting on city business.** Any official or employee shall disqualify himself and refuse to act on any matter in which such official or employee or a relative, or the private employer of the official or employee, has a pecuniary interest or might derive a

profit and upon which the official or employee would be required to act in the discharge of official duties.

- b. **Improperly using official position.** No official or employee shall use or permit the use of any individual, funds or property under the control, direction, or custody of that official or employee, or of any funds or property of an agency, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for the private benefit of the official or employee or any other person; provided that nothing shall prevent the private use of property of an agency which is available on equal terms to the public generally (such as the use of library books or tennis courts), or use of property of an agency in accordance with municipal policy in the conduct of official business (such as the use of automobiles of an agency), or the use of off-duty equipment by law enforcement officials assigned to those law enforcement officials, if allowed by the rules of the respective department, if, in fact, the property is used appropriately.
- c. **Improper influence.** No official or employee, except in the course of official duties, shall assist any person in any transaction with an agency when such official or employee's assistance is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, enhanced by that official or employee's position with an agency; provided that this subsection shall not apply either to officials or employees appearing on their own behalf or representing themselves as to any matter in which they have a proprietary interest, if not otherwise prohibited by law.
- d. **Prohibition of certain financial interest.** No official or employee, regardless of prior disclosure thereof, who has a material interest, personally or through a relative, in any business entity doing or seeking to do business with an agency shall influence or attempt to influence the selection of or the conduct of business with such business entity by an agency.
- e. **Gifts or loans prohibited.** No official or employee shall solicit or receive any thing of monetary value from any person when it has been solicited, received or given or, to a reasonable person, would appear to have been solicited, received or given with the intent to give or obtain special consideration or influence as to any action by such official or employee in official capacity; provided that nothing shall prohibit contributions, including political contributions, which are reported in accordance with applicable law or which are accepted on behalf of an agency, or an honorarium, travel or other expenses reimbursed to any official or employee as a result of a speaking engagement or personal appearance made as a result of that individual's official position.
- f. **Gifts or honoraria in excess of \$100.00 prohibited.** No official or employee shall accept personal gifts or honoraria (including such received by a relative) that exceed an aggregate value of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in any twelve (12) consecutive months from an individual business entity that is doing business or attempting to do business with the agency in which the official or employee holds an office or position of employment.
- g. **Disclosure of privileged information.** No official or employee shall disclose or use any information gained through official position for the immediate or anticipated personal gain or benefit of the official or employee or any other person; provided that nothing shall prohibit the disclosure or use of the information which is a matter of public knowledge or which is available to the public on request.
- h. **Nepotism.**
 - 1) No official or employee shall hire, promote, or transfer a relative to any position that:
 - (a) Places the official or employee in the same agency or department, nor shall any such relative be entitled to receive any compensation for services out of any appropriation of the Common Council; or
 - (b) Places the official or employee in direct or indirect supervisory or managerial capacity over a relative; or
 - (c) Allows the official or employee to directly or indirectly influence salary adjustments, career progress, or other managerial activities involving a relative; or
 - (d) Requires the official or employee to audit or review the work of another relative.

- 2) This section shall not be construed to prevent relatives of an official or employee from being elected to public office, nor shall it prevent such an occurrence due to change in marital status.

i. No person shall apply for a job or contract with an agency for which the person has served as a member of the governing board or commission of that agency until at least one hundred eighty (180) days after her membership has ended.

Section 8. Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement.

The Commission shall require:

- a. All administrative or executive officials of the City of Michigan City; and
- b. All elected officials of the City of Michigan City; and
- c. All members of boards and commissions for the City of Michigan City; and
- d. Any employee who has the power to hire or discharge other employees, or make financial decisions or purchases for the City or a department or agency thereof; and
- e.

to file a Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement on or before the first day of May of each year and updated as new conflicts arise. Copies of this form shall be made available in the Personnel Office of the City of Michigan City, and is included as Appendix A of this Ordinance. The Personnel Director or designee or designees appointed by the Mayor shall keep completed forms on file in the Personnel Office or the related department.

Section 9. Appointment of the Ethics Officer.

- a. The Mayor shall appoint an Ethics Officer with the advice and consent of the Common Council. The appointee shall be: a current legal resident of the City; must have been a legal resident for the two consecutive years immediately preceding appointment; must remain a legal resident for the remainder of the term; and must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at appointment. The Ethics Officer is not a voting member of the Commission.
- b. The Ethics Officer shall not be a paid position, but shall be a responsibility of a member of the Personnel Department.
- c. The Ethics Officer shall be the first contact to city employees. The mission of the Ethics Officer is to encourage compliance with this ordinance, but also to encourage each employee and department head to adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior.
- d. The duties of the Ethics Officer include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 1) Develop policies, programs, and strategies to deal with all ethics-related matters;
 - 2) Develop training and implementation of educational programs concerning ethics;
 - 3) Attend all meetings of the Ethics Advisory Commission;
 - 4) Encourage compliance with both the spirit and the letter of this ordinance and the ethics laws of the State of Indiana;
 - 5) Periodically review this ordinance and other applicable laws and regulations and recommend to the Commission any appropriate amendments;
 - 6) Serve as liaison between Ethics Advisory Commission and the department heads and employees of the city;
 - 7) Seek formal opinions from the Commission on interpretation of duties of the Ethics Officer or of this ordinance; and
 - 8) Handle complaints submitted to the Ethics Officer.

Section 10. Creation and Composition of the Ethics Advisory Commission.

- a. **Creation.** There is hereby created and established an Ethics Advisory Commission, consisting of the following members who shall be: current legal residents of the City; must have been legal residents for two consecutive years immediately preceding appointment; must remain legal residents for the remainder of a term; and must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age at appointment.
 - 1) Four (4) Appointed board members: two (2) appointed by the Mayor and two (2) appointed by majority vote of the Common Council, who do not hold a position of

- employment in any agency, and are not declared candidates for elected, non-party public office:
- (a) One (1) Mayoral appointment and one (1) Council appointment shall be for an initial period of one year; and
 - (b) One (1) Mayoral appointment and one (1) Council appointment shall be for an initial period of two years.
- 2) The two Mayoral appointments shall not be members of the same political party and the two Council appointments shall not be members of the same political party.
- b. **Counsel.** The Corporation Counsel of the City or another attorney appointed by the Mayor shall serve ex officio as secretary of the Commission, and shall advise and counsel the Commission, but shall not be a member.
 - c. **Compensation.** A per diem, as established in the city's annual budget, shall be paid to each member in attendance at a duly called meeting (regular or special).
 - d. **Qualifications.** The Ethics Officer and the Appointed Members shall not receive any other remuneration as salary, wages, or stipend from the city or any of its other boards or subdivisions. Each member shall take an oath of office to conscientiously discharge the Commission's duties before participating on the Board. A signed copy of each oath shall be filed with the Board of Works and with the City Clerk. Additionally, no Ethics Officer or Appointed Member of the commission may be:
 - 1) A city official or relative of a city official; or
 - 2) A city employee or relative of a city employee; or
 - 3) An elected public official; or
 - 4) A candidate for elected public office; or
 - 5) Any person having any economic interests with any council member or mayor; or
 - 6) Anyone who has been a paid campaign worker or political consultant for any city council or mayoral candidate.
 - e. **Appointment Terms.** Other than the initial appointments, all appointments to the Commission shall be for two years, beginning January 1 of the first year and ending December 31 of the second year. Members appointed after September 30 of a calendar year shall fill their position through December 31 of that same year, and their full term of appointment shall commence on January 1 of the following year. Each appointee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority until a successor is duly appointed and qualified. Appointees may be removed at any time for just cause by their appointing authority. If for any reason a vacancy occurs, the appropriate appointing authority as set forth in this section shall name a replacement to fill out the unexpired term within 30 days of actual or official notice that the vacancy exists. All replacements shall comply with the requirements of this section. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the duration of the unexpired term. No individual shall serve for a period of more than three consecutive two-year terms.
 - f. **General authority of the Ethics Advisory Commission.** The Commission shall have the powers and responsibilities:
 - 1) To review and make findings concerning any alleged violation of this Ordinance by any person subject to those provisions, including but not limited to current city officials and employees, former city officials and employees, and persons doing business with the city, if a complaint is filed within one year after the date of the alleged violation.
 - 2) The termination of a city official's or employee's duties does not affect the jurisdiction of the Commission with respect to alleged violations occurring prior to the termination of the official's or employee's official duties.
 - 3) The following is a list of current state statutes that affect the conduct and business of officials and employees. In the event that any such statutes are amended by the General Assembly or additional statutes are adopted by the General Assembly, such amendments or additional statutes shall be considered to be a part of this chapter:

- (a) IC 35-44-1-1, pertaining to bribery;
 - (b) IC 35-44-1-2, pertaining to official misconduct;
 - (c) IC 35-44-1-3, pertaining to conflicts of interest;
 - (d) IC 35-44-1-7, pertaining to profiteering from public services;
 - (e) IC 35-44-2-4, pertaining to ghost employment;
 - (f) IC 36-4-8-3, pertaining to approval of order for issues of warrants;
 - (g) IC 36-4-8-13, pertaining to obligations in excess of appropriation;
 - (h) IC 36-7-4-207, pertaining to membership of city Plan Commission;
 - (i) IC 36-7-4-216, pertaining to qualifications of the Plan Commission;
 - (j) IC 36-7-4-223, pertaining to zoning matters, conflict of interest;
 - (k) IC 36-7-4-905, pertaining to BZA, restrictions on holding office;
 - (l) IC 36-7-4-909, pertaining to BZA, conflict of interest;
 - (m) IC 36-7-12-14, pertaining to EDC, removal of Commissioner;
 - (n) IC 36-7-12-16, pertaining to EDC, conflict of interest;
 - (o) IC 36-7-14-9, pertaining to removal of Redevelopment Commissioners;
 - (p) IC 36-7-14-10, pertaining to Redevelopment Commission, conflict of interest;
 - (q) IC 36-7-18-9, pertaining to removal of Commissioner;
 - (r) IC 36-7-18-11, pertaining to conflict of interest, commissioner of a housing authority;
 - (s) IC 5-16-11-6, pertaining to conflict of interest disclosure; and
 - (t) IC 5-16-11-5.5, pertaining to consultant conflicts.
- 4) The above statutes are available on the State of Indiana website at www.in.gov.
- 5) The Commission has the following powers only:
- (a) To adopt, amend and rescind rules and procedures governing its internal organization and operations.
 - (b) To review all city handbooks and make recommendations for any changes, and to adopt a handbook specifically for members of boards, commissions, and committees. Such handbooks shall form the basis of decisions on complaints regarding possible violations of this ordinance. Complaints covered by handbooks shall be subject to action by the City, department, or agency involved; complaints not covered by handbooks shall be subject to the hearing, appeal, and enforcement sections of this Ordinance.
 - (c) To ensure that all employees and officials are informed and aware of the provisions of this Ordinance as well as those in their respective city handbooks, and to gather, maintain, and annually review the filing of the most currently signed "Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement" for each official or employee.
 - (d) To meet as often as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.
 - (e) To make recommendations to the City Council for amendments to this ordinance and for such other legislation affecting the subject matter of this Ordinance as the Commission may deem necessary or desirable.
 - (f) To receive from the city administration such staff support as they reasonably request to carry out the duties of the Commission.
 - (g) To make findings of fact as necessary for the disposition of a complaint.
 - (h) To make notifications, extend deadlines, and conduct investigations.
 - (i) To subpoena such witnesses and documents as the Commission deems relevant.
 - (j) To render advisory opinions concerning matters of governmental ethics, ethical conduct, conflicts of interest and the application of ethical standards set forth in this Ordinance, and issue an advisory opinion in writing as to any such question. The Commission shall publish its opinions with any deletions or modifications necessary to prevent disclosure of the identity of the person who is the subject of the opinion and they shall be filed in the City Clerk's office.

- (k) To provide a continuing program of educational assistance and information regarding ethical conduct of all officials and employees.

Section 11. Meetings and Rules of Procedure.

The Commission shall follow Robert's Rules of Order except where rules otherwise established by the Commission will supersede, such rules to include the following:

- a. **Officers.** At the initial meeting of the Commission and at the first meeting of every year, the members of the Commission shall elect from among themselves a chair and a vice-chair to officiate at meetings.
- b. **Quorum.** Three (3) of the four (4) Commission members shall constitute a quorum to conduct a hearing, or a regular or special meeting, and a majority of the members is required for a majority vote. All official actions of the Commission, other than approval of a motion to adjourn if less than three (3) members are present, shall require a majority vote. A member not voting with the majority may issue a minority opinion. If the Commission is determined to be unlawfully comprised as to qualifications set out in Section 10 of this Ordinance, the Commission shall hold void any votes on any order of business of any member who caused such violation.
- c. **Meetings.** The inaugural meeting will be held within one month of enactment of this ordinance. The Commission shall hold an annual meeting in January, and any special meetings throughout the year as may be deemed necessary for the transaction of Commission business. All such meetings, except executive sessions to hear complaints or charges brought against a person by another official or employee or a private citizen, shall be open to the public, and the Commission shall designate the time and place within the City for the holding of the meetings. Any member of the Commission may call for a special session, and all meetings shall conform to State Statute as adopted by Section 6 of this ordinance.

The Commission shall set its own rules and procedures for meetings provided they are not in conflict with those set forth in this Ordinance.

The chair shall generally supervise the affairs of the Commission, presiding at all meetings or any hearings before the Commission. The secretary shall see that all notices are duly given; make and keep a permanent record of the minutes of all Commission proceedings, its acts and actions; and be custodian of the books provided for these records, which shall be open for inspection at all reasonable times. The secretary shall be custodian of all documents or other evidence received by the Commission. To assist the secretary, the Commission may employ the services of a stenographer to take notes of meetings and hearings, and the Commission shall be empowered to retain the services of additional legal counsel subject to budgetary authority.

Section 12. Questions, Complaints, and Investigations.

- a. **Questions.** Officials and employees, when in doubt about the applicability and interpretation of this Ordinance to themselves in a particular context, may submit in writing the facts of the situation to the Commission with a request for an advisory opinion to establish the standard of public duty. Any official or employee who has the power to hire, promote, discipline, transfer, or terminate employees may likewise seek an advisory opinion from the Commission regarding the application of the provisions of this Ordinance to any employee or applicant for employment. The Commission shall render an advisory opinion, and each such opinion shall be numbered, dated, and published. Such opinion, until amended or revoked, shall be binding on the conduct of the official or employee who sought the opinion or with reference to whom the opinion was sought, unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for an advisory opinion.
- b. **Filing a Complaint.** Any person or the Commission on its own initiative, believing there has been a violation of this chapter, may file a notarized, sworn complaint, under penalty of perjury, with the Personnel Department. If a member of the Commission files such complaint, such member is then disqualified from participating in any proceedings that may arise from the complaint. The complaint shall be in writing and signed by the complainant. The written complaint shall:
 - 1) Identify the person or persons who allegedly committed the violation;
 - 2) Provide a detailed statement of the facts on which the complaint is based;
 - 3) To the extent possible, identify the ethics provision or provisions allegedly violated; and
 - 4) Identify sources of evidence and witnesses, if any, that the complainant recommends should be considered by the Commission.
- c. **Directing Complaints and Findings to the Proper Authority.** Complaints and findings filed with the Personnel Department regarding possible violations of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the appropriate entity:
 - 1) Complaints concerning members of the Fire Department and Police Department shall be forwarded to the Commission of the respective Department for appropriate action

- under the laws, ordinances, and rules pertaining to those departments and no further action shall be taken under this Ordinance concerning said complaints.
- 2) All other complaints concerning employees or officials that are department heads shall be submitted to the Ethics Officer, who shall:
 - (a) Notify the official or employee that a complaint has been filed and allow the official or employee to respond, in writing, to the complaint;
 - (b) Meet individually with all parties and make recommendations to the Mayor and department head, if applicable;
 - (c) Forward the complaint to the Commission if:
 - (i) The complaint alleges a severe violation of this Ordinance;
 - (ii) No resolution or agreement is reached between the parties with the assistance of the Ethics Officer.
 - 3) All other complaints concerning officials who are not city employees shall be submitted to the Chair of the Commission, who shall provide unredacted copies of the complaint to all members of the Commission, the attorney for the Commission, and the person who is the subject of the complaint.
 - 4) Upon receipt of a complaint, the Commission may:
 - (a) Upon a majority vote, reject, without further proceedings, a complaint that the Commission considers frivolous, inconsequential, or outside the purview of this Ordinance;
 - (b) Upon a majority vote, reject, without further proceedings, a complaint that the Commission is satisfied has been dealt with appropriately by a federal, state, or local agency; or
 - (c) Upon a majority vote, determine that the complaint does not allege facts sufficient to constitute a violation of this Ordinance and dismiss the complaint.
 - (d) A determination that a complaint be dismissed can only be made upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members. Written notice of the dismissal must be sent to both the person who made the complaint and the person charged with the complaint, identifying the reason or reasons for dismissal of the complaint. If the complaint is dismissed, the record shall remain confidential unless the person charged with the complaint requests disclosure.
 - (e) If the complaint is not disposed of under the preceding provisions in this section, the Commission may undertake any additional investigation deemed appropriate to determine if probable cause exists to support the allegations in the complaint. If the Commission finds by a majority vote that probable cause exists to support an alleged violation of this Ordinance, it shall set a public hearing on the matter within sixty (60) days after making that determination. The person who is the subject of the complaint shall be notified in writing within fifteen (15) days of the Commission's determination of probable cause. A copy of such determination shall be delivered to the complainant, to the person charged with the complaint, and, where appropriate, to the person's superior. Notice of such public hearing shall be published at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting as specified in IC 5-14-1.5-5.
 - (f) Either the subject of the complaint or the person filing the complaint may request a continuation of the hearing, and the Commission may grant such continuation, but it shall be scheduled no later than thirty (30) days after the original hearing date. However, if the Commission determines that the preliminary investigation must be completed in less than thirty (30) days in order to avoid prejudice or irreparable harm to the person charged with the complaint, the Commission shall complete the preliminary investigation in a shorter period of time.
- d. **Confidentiality.** No official or employee shall reveal information relating to the filing or processing of a complaint, except as required for the performance of official duties. This ordinance prohibits *ex parte* communications by or to members of the Commission. All attorney work product and attorney-client papers and related communications as to a complaint are confidential to the extent allowed by law, except that all evidence is public

information. The complaint remains confidential until there has been a finding that probable cause exists, unless the subject of the complaint or investigation elects to have said information disclosed, or the Commission elects to respond to public statements by the person who filed the complaint. The Commission may acknowledge:

- 1) The existence of an investigation before the finding of probable cause; or
- 2) That the Commission did not find probable cause to support an alleged violation.

A complaint filed with the Commission shall be open for public inspection after the Commission finds that probable cause exists. The Commission may compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of relevant records and documents by subpoena enforceable by the Circuit Court or Superior Court of LaPorte County.

- e. **False accusations and responses.** The Personnel Department shall, in writing, advise the person filing the complaint that falsely accusing someone of a violation of this Ordinance may result in criminal prosecution of anyone who knowingly makes a false accusation. Response to the complaint shall be in writing signed under oath by the person charged in the complaint and filed with the Personnel Department not later than twenty (20) days after he receives a copy of the complaint. The Personnel Department shall, in writing, advise the person charged in the complaint that falsely responding to a complaint may result in criminal prosecution of anyone who knowingly makes a false report under oath.
- f. **Recommendations.** If the Commission determines after a public hearing that a city official or employee has violated the provisions of this Ordinance, the Commission may recommend to the proper authority that the official or employee be subject to disciplinary action.

Section 13. Hearings.

If it is determined by the Commission that an investigational hearing is needed, the following guidelines shall apply:

- a. **Record.** In any and all hearings before the Commission, a competent and complete record of the entire proceedings and of oral and physical evidence shall be kept.
- b. **Conduct of hearings.** The procedures which shall be followed at such hearings shall be in conformance with applicable state laws, the regulations set forth in this section, and other objective rules and standards adopted by the Commission to ensure the appropriate preservation of decorum and due process.
- c. **Notice and appearance.** The person charged with the complaint shall be sufficiently informed of the nature and specific grounds for bringing an action against him, and is entitled to a hearing. The person charged may examine and make copies of all evidence in the Commission's possession relating to the complaint. If the person timely files a response and, thereafter, writes the Commission to request a hearing, the Commission shall proceed to set the matter for hearing and shall cause written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing to be served either in person or by copy left at the last and usual place of residence of the person charged with the complaint, at least 14 days before the date set for the hearing. Both the person filing the complaint and the person charged with the complaint shall be required to attend the hearings, unless excused for good cause by the Commission. Unexcused absence from such a hearing may, at the discretion of the Commission, be deemed admission of guilt or grounds for dismissal.
- d. **Evidence and testimony.** Hearings shall be formal, and shall be conducted promptly and in such a manner as to obtain all facts material to the hearing, to protect the proper interests of all parties and to render findings in accord with the evidence presented. To comply with concepts of fairness and justice, the person charged with the complaint shall have an adequate opportunity to prepare and present a defense at the hearing; the right to be represented by counsel; the right to call and examine witnesses; the right to introduce exhibits; and the right to present such evidence to the Commission as deemed pertinent to the inquiry. Any other person, whom the Commission finds to have a direct interest in the matter, including the person who filed the complaint, shall be entitled to the same rights. All oral evidence to be considered shall be given under oath administered by the Commission. The Commission shall have the power to require the production of documentary and other evidence by subpoena. The burden of proof shall be on the complainant. The Commission may grant a request for a continuance of the hearing if, in its discretion, good and proper cause is shown.
- e. **Decision; review of decision.** When the Commission has reached a decision, it shall provide a report, in writing, of its findings of fact. A finding, by a majority vote of the members, of a violation of this Ordinance, or any other statute or rule establishing standards of ethical conduct for City officials or employees, shall be signed by a majority of the Commission members and shall be made public. The report shall be presented to:

- 1) The subject of the complaint and the complainant;
 - 2) The Mayor; and
 - 3) The members of the Common Council.
- f. The Commission may also forward its report to any of the following:
- 1) The prosecuting attorney and law enforcement agency of each county in which the violation occurred;
 - 2) The State Board of Accounts;
 - 3) The attorney general; or
 - 4) Any other appropriate person or agency.

Section 14. Appeals.

A person charged with a complaint who is adversely affected by a decision of the Commission may appeal through the judicial process, so informing the Commission in writing of the court appeal within ten (10) days after the appeal is initiated. In the event of an appeal from its finding or order, the Commission shall provide for a written or taped transcript of hearings and any evidence that was introduced, together with findings of fact, Commission orders, and the basis thereof. A copy of this transcript, certified as the official hearing record by the Commission secretary and either the chairman or vice-chairman, shall be delivered and filed in the court having jurisdiction over such appeal within ten days after issue and service of summons on the Commission which shall be made by delivery thereof to the Personnel Department and the attorney for the Commission. All copies shall be at the appellant's expense.

Section 15. Enforcement.

Any official or employee who fails to file a Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement when required by Section 8 of this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each thirty (30) days such statement is delinquent, which shall be in addition to the other provisions of this section. Following a hearing, the Commission shall have the discretion to waive any fine imposed by this section. The maximum penalty under this subsection in any one (1) year time period is one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Failure of any official or employee to file a Uniform Conflict of Interest Statement when required by Section 8 of this Ordinance may result in the Commission reporting such failure to the appropriate supervisory or appointing authority and may be cause for suspension, discharge, removal from office, or such other disciplinary action as may, by the appropriate authority, be deemed necessary and proper.

A violation of this ordinance may be cause for fine, suspension, discharge, or removal from office, or such other disciplinary action as may be deemed necessary and proper by the appropriate authority, and consistent with personnel ordinances and rules. The appropriate authority shall make a written response to the Commission, outlining any action taken as a result of either a violation or a written recommendation from the Commission within forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of the written recommendation. This section shall not derogate from employee rights under any collective bargaining agreement or personnel ordinance, or rules promulgated thereunder. If the appropriate authority determines that the written response required in this section cannot be made within forty-five (45) calendar days after receipt of the recommendation, because of procedures prescribed under any collective bargaining agreement, personnel ordinance, or rule promulgated thereunder, the appropriate authority shall so report to the Commission within forty-five (45) days after receipt of the recommendation, stating the date on which the written response will be submitted to the Commission. Upon receipt of the written response, or in the event no response is received, the Commission shall review such matter and make such further recommendation as may be appropriate.

Section 16. Retaliation.

A city official or employee shall not retaliate or threaten to retaliate against an employee or a former employee because the employee or former employee did any of the following:

- a. Filed a complaint with the Commission.
- b. Provided information or other evidence to the Commission.
- c. Testified at a Commission proceeding.

A city official or employee may take appropriate action against an employee or former employee who took any of the actions listed above if the employee or former employee:

- d. Did not act in good faith; or
- e. Knowingly or recklessly provided false information or testimony to the Commission.

Section 17. Prohibitions.

A person may not do any of the following:

- a. Knowingly or intentionally induce or attempt to induce, by threat, coercion, suggestion, or false statement, a witness or informant in a Commission proceeding or investigation to do any of the following:
 - 1) Withhold or unreasonably delay the production of any testimony, information, document, or other evidence;
 - 2) Avoid legal process summoning the person to testify or supply evidence;
 - 3) Fail to appear at a proceeding or investigation to which the person has been summoned;
 - 4) Make, present, or use a false record, document, or other evidence with the intent that the record, document, or other evidence appear in a Commission proceeding or investigation to mislead a Commission member, the Ethics Officer, or Commission employee.
- b. Alter, damage, or remove a record, document, or other evidence except as permitted or required by law, with the intent to prevent the record, document, or other evidence from being produced or used in a Commission proceeding or investigation.
- c. Make, present, or use a false record, document, or other evidence with the intent that the record, document, or other evidence appear in a Commission proceeding or investigation to mislead a Commission member, the Ethics Officer, or Commission employee.

Any such action by a person shall be considered a violation of this Ordinance and subject that person to the procedures and penalties stated herein.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect after passage and signature of the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY: Patricia Boy, Member
Joseph Doyle, Member
Bob McKee, Member

Council President Meer asked if there were any comments or questions on the motion by the general public or Council and hearing none, the amendment by substitution was adopted by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, McKee, and Meer (9). NAYS: None (0).**

Councilman McKee moved to adopt the following amendment:

However, in regards to a complaint against a Council Member, the Commission will forward a copy of the complaint and findings to the Council's Ethics Committee.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Nelson.

Council President Meer stated that the Council has been the only board that has had an Ethics Ordinance over them for the past fifteen (15) years.

Councilwoman Boy commented on the Ethics Ordinance the Council follows to date.

President Meer asked if there were any comments or questions by the general public or Council and hearing none, the amendment was adopted by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, McKee, Meer, and Milsap (9). NAYS: None (0).**

Councilman Espar moved to adopt the following amendments:

ORDINANCE NO. _____**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A CODE OF ETHICS AND
TO CREATE AN ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD
FOR THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City, Indiana strives to promote a higher quality of life for all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City, Indiana recognizes the role municipal government plays in developing and maintaining a high quality of life that is sustainable over the long term; and

WHEREAS, confidence in the integrity of governmental officials, both elected and appointed, as well as of city employees, is critical to citizen engagement in the full life of the community, to attracting business, and to promoting commerce, and is shaken by reported and suspected incidences of waste, fraud, and mismanagement; and

WHEREAS, ethics ordinances provide guidelines for elected and appointed officials in the exercise of their public duties, benchmarks against which to assess their behavior, and tools to restore and increase public confidence in the integrity of local government; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and businesses of the City of Michigan City, Indiana are entitled to representation by municipal government that has earned their trust and confidence through fairness, accountability, and ethical standards;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana that:

Section 18. Purpose and Intent.

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City finds that the proper operation of representative government requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that government decisions and policies be made in the proper channels of governmental structure; and that public office not be used for personal gain. Accordingly, it is the purpose and requirement of this ordinance to maintain a high level of professionalism; to establish legal and ethical standards of conduct for all officials and employees of the city, whether elected or appointed, paid or unpaid; to set forth those acts that are incompatible with such standards; to require disclosure by such officials and employees of private, financial, or other interests in matters that may affect the city; and to provide effective means for enforcement thereof.

Section 19. General Provisions.

- a. All officials and employees shall receive a copy of this ordinance from the Office of the City Clerk within 45 days after its adoption. Any candidate for public office or any individual being considered for appointment as a public official shall be provided with a copy of this article prior to their appointment and all such individuals shall be advised that their appointment will be subject to the terms and conditions of this ordinance and that they shall be bound by this article if appointed or elected. In addition, all vendors and contractors doing business with the City shall be given notice, as provided in Appendix C, of this Ordinance and direction as to where they may obtain a copy hereof.
- b. Any official or employee shall address any inquiries concerning the provisions or references made herein to the Ethics Advisory Commission in writing. The Commission shall respond in writing to any request from any official or employee for an interpretation of a rule, regulation, or any section of this ordinance.
- c. In the event that any section of this ordinance is or comes into conflict with any federal or state law or ruling of a federal or state agency, such law, rule, and/or ruling of the federal or state agency shall supersede the terms of that section of this ordinance. All remaining sections found not to be in conflict with any federal or state law or ruling of a federal or state agency shall remain in effect.
- d. This ordinance shall not prohibit an official or employee from being reimbursed for expenses, receiving money as a campaign contribution, participating in collective bargaining, or being paid for service as a public official except as may be prohibited by applicable state law or state rules and regulations, or any ruling of a state agency of the State of Indiana.

- e. Any official or employee may appear before any public body on their own behalf regarding any matter in which they have a personal financial interest provided that full disclosure is made in advance and such activity is not otherwise prohibited by law.
- f. Any employment, appointed position, or contractual relationship that exists prior to adoption of this ordinance shall not be a violation of this ordinance.
- g. No official shall represent a person, entity, or petitioner in any matter before the City for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days following termination of duties or responsibilities to the City.
- h. In addition to review and recommendations by the Ethics Advisory Commission, the Common Council shall review this article and act on any recommended changes at least once every four years, and may do so more frequently as needed.
- i. This ordinance shall not be construed so as to impair the ability of these officials and employees to participate in ceremonial, representational, or informational functions in the pursuit of their official duties.
- j. This ordinance is enacted to ensure public confidence in the integrity of city government, and shall be liberally construed in favor of protecting the public interests by fully disclosing conflicts of interest and promoting ethical standards of conduct for all city officials and employees.
- k. Violations of this ordinance may result in disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

Section 20. Definitions.

For purposes of this ordinance, the words and phrases defined in this section shall have the following meanings:

- a. *Agency* means any authority, board, commission, committee, council, department, division, office, or other instrumentality of the executive and administrative departments of city government of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, or any subdivision thereof.
- b. *Business Entity* means a proprietorship, partnership, limited partnership, unincorporated association, trust, firm, corporation, or limited liability corporation.
- c. *(the) City* means the City of Michigan City, Indiana.
- d. *Commission* means the Ethics Advisory Commission created by this ordinance.
- e. *Compensation* means any money, thing of value, service or financial benefit conferred upon or received by any person in return for services rendered or to be rendered, whether by that person or another.
- f. *Conflict of Interest* means any situation in which an individual exploits a position for personal or financial gain. Such conflict of interest shall apply to pecuniary interests, and also to votes cast in actions by councils, boards, and commissions.
- g. *Disparate Treatment* means the discriminatory treatment of a relative by an official or employee under circumstances in which a similarly situated non-relative employee ordinarily would be treated differently.
- h. *Doing Business* means engaging in an activity: (1) for profit or gain or (2) that requires a license or permit by an agency.
- i. *Employee* means any individual, other than an elected or appointed official, whether on a full-time or part-time basis or pursuant to a contract, whose duties are subject to the direction and control of an employer with regard to the material details of how the work is to be performed, and who receives compensation for services performed for the City of Michigan City, Indiana, but does not include an independent contractor.
- j. *Employer* means any agency of the City of Michigan City, Indiana.
- k. *Ethics Advisory Commission* means the Commission established by Section 9 of this ordinance, and is also an agency under the jurisdiction of this ordinance.
- l. *Fair Market Value* means the price that would be paid by a willing buyer to a willing seller in a good faith transaction into which neither party is compelled to enter.
- m. *Financial Interest* means an interest:

- 1) In a purchase, sale, lease, contract, option, or other transaction between an agency and any person; or
- 2) Involving property or services.

The term includes an interest arising from employment or prospective employment for which negotiations have begun. The term does not include an interest of an official or employee in the common stock of a corporation unless the combined holdings in the corporation of the official or employee, or that individual's relative, are more than one percent (1%) of the outstanding shares of the common stock of the corporation. The term does not include an interest that is not greater than the interest of the general public or any city official or employee.

- n. *Gifts or Honoraria* means money or other property having economic value which is transferred to an official or employee without consideration in money or money's worth, but does not include:
- 1) Food or drink consumed by an official or employee or a relative, during the conduct of official public business or attendance at public ceremonies as a public official or employee;
 - 2) Mementos or souvenirs of nominal value received at public ceremonies or commemorating official business;
 - 3) Invitations or tickets to political fund raising dinners or public charitable benefits when used by an official or employee or a relative;
 - 4) Food or drink consumed by an elected official, deputy mayor or department director during attendance in connection with official duties at a convention of public officials, if consumed at a reception or gathering with other public officials, or in connection with local meetings for official business.
- o. *Handbook* means an employee handbook, personnel manual, or similar document of any agency, or a Board Handbook for all boards, commissions, committees, or councils of the City of Michigan City.
- p. *Information of a Confidential Nature* means information:
- 1) Obtained by reason of the position or office held; and
 - 2) Which:
 - (a) A public agency is prohibited from disclosing under IC 5-14-3-4(a);
 - (b) A public agency has the discretion not to disclose under IC 5-13-3-4(b); and that the agency has not disclosed; or
 - (c) The information is not in a public record, but if it were, would be confidential.
- q. *Interest* means any direct or indirect monetary or material benefit accruing to a city official or employee as a result of a contract or transaction which is or may be the subject of an official act or action by or with the city (except for such transactions which would confer similar benefits to all other persons and/or property similarly situated).
- r. *Material Interest in a Business* means ownership of five (5) percent or more of a business entity.
- s. *Mayor* means the mayor of the City of Michigan City, Indiana.
- t. *Nepotism* means the appointment or hiring of a relative by an official or employee without the prior approval of the Ethics Advisory Commission. *Nepotism* also means the "preferential treatment" or "disparate treatment," as defined herein, of a relative by an official or employee, at any time subsequent to the relative's hiring or appointment.
- u. *Official* means any individual elected or appointed to an office or position in any agency of the city, whether such individual is paid or unpaid. This definition includes all elected officials of the city; members of all commissions, committees, and boards established by state statute or local ordinance, resolution, or motion; and all individuals appointed by the Mayor or the Common Council.
- v. *Open Door Law* means IC 5-14-1.5, Public Meetings.
- w. *Pecuniary Interest* means an interest that will result or is intended to result in an ascertainable increase in the income or net worth of the official or employee or a relative.

- x. *Person* means any individual, association, corporation, or other legal entity.
- y. *Preferential Treatment* means the favorable treatment of a relative by an official or employee under circumstances in which a similarly situated non-relative ordinarily would be treated differently.
- z. *Probable Cause* means such cause as is found to exist upon a reasonable inquiry that would induce a reasonably intelligent and prudent person to believe that a person has committed an act or acts constituting an ethical violation under this chapter.
- aa. *Relative* means spouse, child, parent, sibling, or grandchild. Relatives also include persons related by marriage (including in-laws and common-law marriage); those related by law (including adoption, guardianship, and foster parent relationships); and other persons who reside in the official or employee's residence or who are financially dependent upon the official or employee.
- bb. *Resident* means a person who makes their home within the corporate limits of the City of Michigan City. To be considered a resident, a person who has another home or other residence outside of the city must spend more than 60% of their time in the home within the city.

Section 21. Application of policy.

- a. This Ordinance shall apply to all officials and employees of the city, as defined in Section 3 of this ordinance. The written acceptance of this policy shall be condition for initial and continuing service with the city by an appointed official. All individuals excluded hereby from the application of this Ordinance are invited to voluntarily comply with the financial disclosure requirements of this ordinance.
- b. The singular of any noun, when used in this ordinance, includes the plural whenever appropriate and the masculine includes the feminine and vice versa.

Section 22. Non-partiality and non-discrimination.

While performing official duties, no official or employee shall grant or make available to any person any consideration, treatment, advantage, or favor beyond that which is the City policy to grant or make available to the public at large, without prior Common Council approval. No official or employee shall discriminate against any person in violation of federal law, state law, or the ordinances of this City.

Section 23. Adoption of State Law.

The state laws governing Ethics and Conflicts of Interest (IC 4-2-6), Campaign Contributions (IC 3-9-2), Public Meetings (Open Door Law, IC 5-14-1.5), Access to Public Documents (IC 5-14-3), Disclosure of Economic Interests by Consultants in Public Projects (IC 5-16-11), and Statutory Conflict of Interest (IC 35-44-1-3) as amended and supplemented, are hereby incorporated herein by reference so as to make it clear that such acts and all amendments thereto are effective and operative as to the City.

Section 24. Standards of Ethical Conduct.

Any potential or existing conflicts of interest shall be fully disclosed in the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. A copy of the form shall be made available in the Personnel Office of the City of Michigan City, and is included in Appendix A of this Ordinance. The Personnel Director shall keep completed forms on file in the Personnel Office.

- a. **Disqualification from acting on city business.** Any official or employee shall disqualify himself and refuse to act on any matter in which such official or employee or a relative, or the private employer of the official or employee, has a pecuniary interest or might derive a profit and upon which the official or employee would be required to act in the discharge of official duties.
- b. **Improperly using official position.** No official or employee shall use or permit the use of any individual, funds or property under the control, direction, or custody of that official or employee, or of any funds or property of an agency, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for the private benefit of the official or employee or any other person; provided that nothing shall prevent the private use of property of an agency which is available on equal terms to the public generally (such as the use of library books or tennis courts), or use of property of an agency in accordance with municipal policy in the conduct of official business (such as the use of automobiles of an agency), or the use of off-duty equipment by law enforcement officials assigned to those law enforcement officials, if allowed by the rules of the respective department, if, in fact, the property is used appropriately.

- c. **Improper influence.** No official or employee, except in the course of official duties, shall assist any person in any transaction with an agency when such official or employee's assistance is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, enhanced by that official or employee's position with an agency; provided that this subsection shall not apply either to officials or employees appearing on their own behalf or representing themselves as to any matter in which they have a proprietary interest, if not otherwise prohibited by law.
- d. **Prohibition of certain financial interest.** No official or employee, regardless of prior disclosure thereof, who has a material interest, personally or through a relative, in any business entity doing or seeking to do business with an agency shall influence or attempt to influence the selection of or the conduct of business with such business entity by an agency.
- e. **Gifts or loans prohibited.** No official or employee shall solicit or receive any thing of monetary value from any person when it has been solicited, received or given or, to a reasonable person, would appear to have been solicited, received or given with the intent to give or obtain special consideration or influence as to any action by such official or employee in official capacity; provided that nothing shall prohibit contributions, including political contributions, which are reported in accordance with applicable law or which are accepted on behalf of an agency, or an honorarium, travel or other expenses reimbursed to any official or employee as a result of a speaking engagement or personal appearance made as a result of that individual's official position.
- f. **Gifts or honoraria in excess of \$100.00 prohibited.** No official or employee shall accept personal gifts or honoraria (including such received by a relative) that exceed an aggregate value of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in any twelve (12) consecutive months from an individual business entity that is doing business or attempting to do business with the agency in which the official or employee holds an office or position of employment.
- g. **Disclosure of privileged information.** No official or employee shall disclose or use any information gained through official position for the immediate or anticipated personal gain or benefit of the official or employee or any other person; provided that nothing shall prohibit the disclosure or use of the information which is a matter of public knowledge or which is available to the public on request.
- h. **Nepotism.**
 - 1) No official or employee, without the advance approval of the Ethics Advisory Commission, shall appoint, hire, promote, or transfer a relative to any position that:
 - (a) Places the official or employee in the same agency or department, nor shall any such relative be entitled to receive any compensation for services out of any appropriation of the Common Council; or
 - (b) Places the official or employee in direct or indirect supervisory or managerial capacity over a relative; or
 - (c) Allows the official or employee to directly or indirectly influence salary adjustments, career progress, or other managerial activities involving a relative; or
 - (d) Requires the official or employee to audit or review the work of another relative.
 - 2) This section shall not be construed to prevent relatives of an official or employee from being elected to public office, nor shall it prevent such an occurrence due to change in marital status.
 - 3) Any official or employee intending to appoint, hire, promote or transfer a relative into any position described in this Section shall refer the matter, together with all relevant information to Ethics Advisory Commission for its review and approval.
 - 4) The Ethics Advisory Commission may approve the requested appointment, hiring, promotion or transfer of a relative into a position described in this Section, if the Commission determines that the relative is the best and most qualified individual for the position. The Commission may refuse approval, if in its absolute discretion, the Commission determines that the best interests of the City are not served by the requested appointment, hiring, promotion or transfer. The decision of the Ethics Advisory Commission shall be final.

- i. No person shall apply for a job or contract with an agency for which the person has served as a member of the governing board or commission of that agency until at least one hundred eighty (180) days after her membership has ended.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Murphy.

Discussion ensued among Council Members Meer, Espar, McKee, Doyle, and Murphy.

Council President Meer directed the Clerk to take the vote on the amendment: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBER Espar (1). NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Jankowski, McKee, Meer, Milsap, and Murphy (8).** The amendment did not pass.

Council President Meer asked if there were any other amendments to be offered on the Ordinance.

President Meer asked if there were any questions or comments from the general public or Council regarding this Ordinance and hearing none, the amended ordinance was laid over for third reading.

The Clerk read on second reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA AMENDING THE MICHIGAN CITY ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCE NO. 2114 BY REZONING A PARCEL OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS LOTS 3, 4, 5 AND 6 IN ORR AND COBB'S ADDITION TO MICHIGAN CITY FROM RESIDENTIAL R2 TO BUSINESS B2.**

Introduced by: Pat Boy

Councilwoman Boy stated that everyone should have received a copy of the Findings of Fact from the Plan Commission regarding the rezoning of this parcel which is required before adopting the Ordinance.

Attorney Steven Hale, 101 W. 2nd Street, introduced Gloria and John Newcomb of Newcomb Printing Solutions, addressing the Council with information regarding the history of their business and reasons for the rezoning of this parcel.

Council President Meer repeated three times, "Any questions or comments by the general public at this time?"

Ken Fryar, 413 E. Coolspring Avenue, stated facts supporting the rezoning of this parcel.

Councilwoman Nelson stated several things the Newcomb Family has done to help to better our community and that she supports the rezoning of their parcel.

Council President Meer repeated three times, "Any questions or comments by the General public at this time?" There was no response and the public hearing was closed. The Ordinance was laid over for third reading.

The Clerk read on second reading by title only, **APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR TRANSFER INTO THE BUDGET OF THE BOYD DEVELOPMENT FUND (DECREASE: Fund # 0417 Boyd Development Unappropriated \$1,050,000.00 INCREASE: Fund # 0417 0000 04 443.007 Park Projects \$850,000.00 . Fund # 0417 0000 04 449.00 Grant Match \$200,000.00)**

Introduced by: Marc Espar

Councilman Espar moved to adopt the following amendment by substitution, seconded by Councilman McKee:

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
FOR TRANSFER INTO THE BUDGET OF THE
BOYD DEVELOPMENT FUND**

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated to the Council that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2009 Annual Budget for the Boyd Development Fund; and

WHEREAS, there are available additional unappropriated funds which can be appropriated for the Boyd Development Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purpose specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

DECREASE:

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fund # 0417 Boyd Development | Unappropriated | \$1,050,000.00 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|

INCREASE:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| Fund # 0417 0000 04 443.007 | Park Projects (for necessary improvements to the Guy Foreman Bicentennial Amphitheater in Washington Park) | \$ 500,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| Fund # 0417 0000 04 443.007 | Park Projects (for engineering services related to construction of a soccer building and parking lot at Patriot Park and for engineering services related to drainage system design and playground improvements at Adams Park) | \$ 150,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|
| Fund # 0417 0000 04 443.007 | Park Projects (for electrical upgrades in the area of Washington Park west of the main entrance road) | \$ 125,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| Fund # 0417 0000 04 443.007 | Park Projects (for crowning of baseball and softball fields at Patriot Park) | \$ 75,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| Fund # 0417 0000 04 449.007 | Grant Match (for the local share of land acquisition at the Karwick Nature Preserve) | \$ 55,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| Fund # 0417 0000 04 449.007 | Grant Match (for the local share of engineering of the Singing Sands Trail and the Peanut Trail) | \$ 145,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Councilman Marc Espar

Councilman Espar addressed Tony Childers, 205 Douglas Avenue, questions and concerns regarding the appropriation.

President Meer asked if there were any comments or questions by the general public or Council and hearing none, the amendment was adopted by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, McKee, Meer, Milsap, Murphy, and Nelson (9). NAYS: None (0).**

President Meer asked if there were any other comments or questions by the general public or Council on the amended Ordinance and hearing none, the Ordinance was laid over for third reading.

The Clerk read on second reading by title only, **APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR TRANSFER INTO THE BUDGET OF THE RIVERBOAT FUND (DECREASE: Fund # 9000 Riverboat Unappropriated \$280,000.00 INCREASE: Fund # 9000 0000 04 444.013 Refuse Equipment \$150,000.00. Fund # 9000 0000 04 444.002 Street Equipment \$130,000.00)**

Introduced by: Marc Espar

Councilman Espar moved to adopt the following amendment by substitution, seconded by Councilman McKee:

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR TRANSFER INTO THE BUDGET OF THE RIVERBOAT FUND

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated to the Council that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2009 Annual Budget for the Riverboat Fund; and

WHEREAS, there are available additional unappropriated funds which can be appropriated for the Riverboat Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purpose specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| DECREASE: | | |
| Fund # 9000 Riverboat | Unappropriated | \$ 300,000.00 |
| | | |
| INCREASE: | | |
| Fund # 9000 0000 04 444.013 | Refuse Equipment (for the purchase of a new refuse truck replacing a 1994 unit) | \$ 150,000.00 |
| Fund # 9000 0000 04 444.002 | Street Equipment (for DuraPatch equipment used to repair damaged streets) | \$ 38,000.00 |
| Fund # 9000 0000 04 444.002 | Street Equipment (for two 1-Ton trucks replacing two 2000 units; two 8-foot "V" plows; and two 8-foot chain spreaders) | \$ 112,000.00 |

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Marc Espar

Councilman Espar stated the additional transfer expenses appropriated are out of the funds purposed.

President Meer asked if there were any other comments or questions by the general public or Council on the amended Ordinance by substitution and hearing none, the Ordinance by substitution was adopted by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL**

MEMBERS Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, McKee, Meer, Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, and Boy (9). NAYS: None (0).

Council President Meer asked if there were any questions or comments by the general public or Council and hearing none, President Meer opened the formal public hearing, repeating three times "Any questions or comments by the general public at this time?" There was no response and the public hearing was closed. The Ordinance was laid over for third reading.

The Clerk read on second reading by title only, **REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 320 AND REQUIRING SPENDING FROM THE RIVERBOAT FUND TO BE RESERVED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Introduced by: Marc Espar
Bob McKee
Phil Jankowski

Councilman McKee moved to **TABLE** the Ordinance indefinitely, seconded by Councilman Espar.

Councilman Espar suggested a Task Force be formed to evaluate and look into how best to operate the City Government and services that the community has come to expect. Mr. Espar stated the Task Force can then report back to the Council with their findings.

Council President Meer directed the Clerk to take the vote, **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Espar, Jankowski, McKee, Meer, Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, and Doyle (9). NAYS: None (0).** The Ordinance was **TABLED**.

The Clerk read on second reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2053, THE BUILDING CODE AND ALL SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS**

Introduced by: Pat Boy

Councilman Murphy moved to **TABLE** the Ordinance, seconded by Council Members McKee and Espar.

Councilman McKee called a point-of-order advising the Council that he spoke with John Pugh, Director of Planning and Inspection Department regarding this matter and that Mr. Pugh's understanding is the amendments need to go back to the Plan Commission.

Discussion ensued among Attorney Meyer, Council Members McKee, Meer, Murphy, and Espar.

The Ordinance was **TABLED** until the first Council meeting in February (February 3, 2009) by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Jankowski, McKee, Meer, Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar (9). NAYS: None (0).**

Councilman Espar moved to revoke the referral of the Ordinance to the Plan Commission, seconded by Councilman McKee.

Council President Meer asked if there were any other comments or questions by the general public or Council and hearing none, the motion passed by the following vote, **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS McKee, Meer, Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, and Jankowski (9). NAYS: None (0).**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Oberlie has requested advice and consent for the appointment of Mr. Todd Dickard as a member of the Michigan City Port Authority. President Meer advised that Mr. Dickard will be serving the remainder term of Mr. Jim Baldwin term, who has resigned from the Board effective 12-31-08 and his term will expire 3-18-13.

Councilman McKee moved to give the requested advice and consent, seconded by Councilman Doyle. The motion carried by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Meer, Milsap, Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, and McKee (9). NAYS: None (0).**

Council President Meer stated the procedures for the nominations and elections to fill two (2) appointments on the Redevelopment Commission and two (2) appointments on the Urban Enterprise Association which expire on December 31, 2008.

Council President Meer opened the floor for nominations on the first appointment on the Redevelopment Commission:

Councilwoman Nelson nominated Lynn Kaser, seconded by Councilman McKee. Councilman Murphy nominated Neil Kienitz, seconded by Council Members Doyle and Jankowski.

Council President Meer asked if there were any other nominations at this time and hearing none, Lynn Kaser was nominated by the following vote:

NEIL KIENITZ: Milsap (1).

LYNN KASER: Murphy, Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, McKee, Meer (8).

Council President Meer opened the floor for nominations on the second appointment on the Redevelopment Commission:

Councilman Milsap nominated Cranston Harris, seconded by Councilwoman Boy. Councilman Murphy nominated Neil Kienitz, seconded by Councilman Doyle.

Council President Meer asked if there were any other nominations at this time and hearing none, Neil Kienitz was nominated by the following vote:

CRANSTON HARRIS: Boy, McKee, Meer, Milsap (4).

NEIL KIENITZ: Murphy, Nelson, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski (5).

Council President Meer opened the floor for nominations on the first appointment on the Urban Enterprise Association:

Councilman Milsap nominated Lestor Norvell, seconded by Councilwoman Nelson.

Council President Meer asked if there were any other nominations at this time and hearing none, Lestor Norvell was nominated by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Nelson, Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, McKee, Meer, Milsap, and Murphy (9). NAYS: None (0).**

Council President Meer opened the floor for nominations on the second appointment on the Urban Enterprise Association:

Councilman Milsap nominated Marie Meriweather, seconded by Councilwomen Nelson and Boy.

Council President Meer asked if there were any other nominations at this time and hearing none, Marie Meriweather was nominated by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Boy, Doyle, Espar, Jankowski, McKee, Meer, Milsap, Murphy, and Nelson (9). NAYS: None (0).**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Scott Kaletha, 7485 Peachtree Lane, stated his concerns regarding the nine (9) hour hearing, the procedures and findings that took place with regards to the Park Department.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilwoman Nelson thanked the Mayor for the update he provided regarding the projects that were requested.

Councilwoman Nelson addressed putting together the Task Force in reference to House Bill 1001.

Councilwoman Nelson stated that she reviewed the nine (9) hour hearing regarding the suspension of two (2) coaches and agreed with Councilman Meer's earlier comments.

Councilwoman Nelson stated reasons to support building a new Career and Technical Center in Michigan City.

Councilwoman Nelson wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilman Espar advised that Saturday December 20, 2008, the Minority Health Coalition of LaPorte County is holding a Health Fair/Fashion Show, titled "It Takes A Real Man". Mr. Espar stated that this event will be held at the Michigan City Senior Center.

Councilwoman Boy wished everyone a happy holiday and drive safely.

Councilman Doyle stated he supports the Career and Technical Center and questioned where the best location would be.

Councilman Milsap reminded anyone in the 5th Ward needing snow removed to call the 5th Ward Neighborhood Center at 861-0331.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Doyle, supported by Councilman Espar, and there being no further business to transact, President Meer declared the meeting ADJOURNED (approximately 9:00 p.m.).

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk