

REGULAR “ZOOM” MEETING – January 18, 2022

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, January 18, 2022, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., Hosted by “Zoom” and streamed live on “My Michigan City” Facebook Page.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Angie Nelson Deutch.

Councilwoman Deutch advised that when taking any vote to make sure the camera is on you when stating “AYE” or “NAY”

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

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Bryant Dabney, Sean Fitzpatrick, Michael Mack, Angie Nelson Deutch, Gene Simmons, Don Przybylinski and Tracie Tillman (7).

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS Paul Przybylinski and Dalia Zygas (2).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

ALSO, PRESENT: Attorney Meyer, Gale Neulieb City Clerk and Asst. Deputy Clerk Dawn Debald.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Deutch advised there are two sets of minutes a “Hybrid/Zoom” Meeting of December 21, 2021 and a Regular “Zoom” meeting held on January 4, 2022 that will be approved this evening; asking if there were any deletions, additions, or corrections to either of them.

Councilman Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes of the Hybrid/Zoom meeting of December 21, 2021 and the Regular “Zoom” meeting held on January 4, 2022, a second was made by Councilman D. Przybylinski.

Both minutes were approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski and Simmons (7). **NAYS:** None (0).

REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES

President Deutch asked if there were any reports of standing committees, there was no response.

FINANCE REPORT

President Deutch asked if there was a finance committee meeting held.

Councilwoman Tillman stated that the Finance Committee didn’t meet; stating there was only one (1) item on the claim docket under the Riverboat EFT Fund be paid to ESG contract in the amount of \$487,377.62, and it was self-explanatory.

CLAIMS DOCKET

President Deutch read the following claims for the record.

January 4, 2022 Riverboat/Boyd Claim Docket

Fund #2042 – Riverboat – Claims	\$.00
EFT	\$	487,377.62
Fund #2031 – Boyd – Claims-	\$.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	\$	487,277.62

President Deutch asked if the Council had any questions regarding the claim docket, there was no response.

A motion was made to approve the Riverboat/Boyd claims from January 18, 2022 by Councilman Don Przybylinski, second by Councilwoman Tillman.

The motion was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski and Simmons (7). **NAYS:** None (0).

REPORTS OF SPECIAL or SELECT COMMITTEES

President Deutch asked if there were any reports of Special or Select Committees, there was no response.

President Deutch stated that she hasn't sent out the list of the 2022 Council Committee Assignment lists as of today; but will do that tomorrow after we vote on the committees that have voting members this evening under "New Business".

REPORTS of OTHER CITY OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

President Deutch asked if there were any reports of Other Officers and Departments, there was no response.

PETITIONS

President Deutch asked if there were any petitions.

Clerk Neulieb read the following petition that was received in the Clerk's office on January 5, 2022

**Petition P-103-21 REZONING R1C TO R3A
HOMEWARD BOUND, INC.
316 KARWICK ROAD, MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

Clerk Neulieb advised that there is A proposed ordinance regarding the rezoning of this property later in the agenda.

President Deutch advised that there are a few people present that wish to address this matter and we will do so during first reading of the proposed ordinance

COMMUNICATIONS

President Deutch asked if there were any communications this evening.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 10, 2022 from Attorney James Meyer regarding the list of TIF funds (Northside/Southside) from 2017-2021 - Accounts Payable by G/L Distribution report

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on January 4, 2022 from City Engineer, Jeff Wright regarding the Acceptance of ESG Final Report on Energy Savings- Year 1 of 18 April 2020 – March 2021 and Construction Report of the City of Michigan City May 2019- March 2020

President Deutch advised that there would be a proposed resolution on the next Council agenda on February 1, 2022 that we will vote to accept the above ESG report that City Engineer Jeff Wright approved.

NOTE: Councilwoman Zygus was able to connect to our meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk read the following resolution by title only.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 4824

APPROVING THE CONTINUATION OF LEGAL SERVICES FROM ATTORNEY JAMES MEYER FOR THE MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

WHEREAS, last month, Attorney James Meyer informed the Common Council of his intent to start slowing down the amount of work he undertakes, and as a result thereof, discontinue representing the Michigan City Common Council; and

WHEREAS, because the Common Council has not secured a new attorney, Attorney Meyer has agreed to continue to represent the Common Council into 2022 until such time as the Common Council secures a permanent attorney; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Meyer has submitted his proposed written contract to extend his services for the Common Council, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to now extend the contract with Attorney Meyers at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

1. The aforementioned "Whereas" sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
2. The Common Council approves the contract with Attorney James Meyer as set forth in **Exhibit A** and authorizes the Council President to execute the same.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Michigan City Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Angie Nelson Deutch, President
Michigan City Common Council

NOTE: EXHIBIT "A" is attached to Resolution No. 4824 in file CR-103 and cross referenced in BA-83

President Deutch advised Exhibit "A" is attached to our proposed resolution and is a contract with Attorney Meyer to continue his service on a month to month bases until we move forward with a new attorney.

President Deutch stated that the Council has received correspondence from a law firm interested in being the Council Attorney and that she is hoping that we will receive more; advising if not we will schedule an executive session for anyone that is interested, hoping to get this done in the next few weeks.

President Deutch asked if there were any comments from the public.

Attorney Willoughby stated that he would like to support Attorney Meyer advising that he has been a wonderful person to work with and his experience and knowledge as an attorney and mentor helped him along the way and would appreciate the Council approve his contract to continue his services with the Council.

Councilman D. Przybylinski advised that he is in full support to continue his contract as the Council's consultant for the legal services to this council; stating several reasons why he supports this resolution.

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the Council.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the proposed ordinance, second by Councilwoman Tillman.

The proposed ordinance was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, and Zygus (8). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following proposed resolution by title only, **ACKNOWLEDGING GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ADHOC SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Introduced by: Angie Nelson Deutch

Co-Sponsored by: Paul Przybylinski
Gene Simmons
Sean Fitzpatrick
Tracie Tillman
Don Przybylinski
Dalia Zygus
Bryant Dabney
Michael Mack

President Deutch read the following proposed resolution in its entirety.

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 4825**

**ACKNOWLEDGING GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS
AND ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ADHOC SELECT COMMITTEE OF
THE COMMON COUNCIL TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON GUN
VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Common Council ("Council") recognizes tragedies that have occurred due to gun violence in Michigan City, Indiana, and we are saddened by the deaths and injuries caused by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, gun violence is an epidemic tearing across our nation and City creating a tear in the fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the need for community engagement and partnerships with organizations, including but not limited to mental health organizations, neighborhood groups, and the Michigan City Police Department, to recommend strategies for prevention, intervention, and response to reduce the incidents of gun violence and address the effects on our community; and

WHEREAS, gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the United States. More than 38,000 people are killed and nearly 85,000 people are injured by guns each year. As a longtime advocate for violence prevention policies, the American Public Health Association recognizes a comprehensive public health approach to addressing this growing crisis is necessary; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) nationwide, there were 39,707 firearm-related deaths in the United States. Males account for 86% of all victims of firearm deaths and 87% of nonfatal firearm deaths. Seven (7) out of every ten (10) medically treated firearm injuries are from firearm-related assaults; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) nationwide, more than 16,250 people were the victims of homicide and more than 38,360 people took their own life in one year, according to the most recent data available; and

WHEREAS, across all states, Indiana has the 16th highest rate of gun homicides in the country, and of all homicides in Indiana, 77% involve a gun, compared to 74% nationally; and

WHEREAS, black people are 14 times as likely to die by gun homicide as white people, compared to 10 times nationally; and

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens, with more than 1,800 children and teens dying by gun violence every year; and

WHEREAS, in Indiana, young black children and teens are six (6) times likely to as their white peers to die by guns; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has found that although there are a significant number of violent deaths in this country each year, there are many more individuals who survive violence and are left with permanent physical and emotional scars, and that this violence erodes communities by reducing productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services; and

WHEREAS, exposure to youth violence can lead to a wide array of negative health behaviors and outcomes, including alcohol use, drug use, and suicide. In addition, depression, anxiety, and other psychological problems can result from exposure to violence; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing findings demonstrate the prevalence of violence and the detrimental effects that violence has on the citizens of this nation, state, and our City; and

WHEREAS, communities across the country require multidisciplinary solutions that address the root causes of violence; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities we serve is one of our highest responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need to provide positive and safe environments for children through community programs as well as mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the City will work with Michigan City Area Schools and LaPorte County, other local municipalities, and community partners to expand out-of-school time programming for all youth; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence in Michigan City; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the residents of this City that we support the existing collaborations to establish an evidence-based public health response to address the underlying social, economic, and systemic factors that promote gun violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Michigan City Common Council as follows:

1. Gun violence is a public health crisis, and as a result thereof, the need exists for the Michigan City Common Council and City administration to create working relationships with other local municipalities, community partners, and community members to establish an evidence-based public health response to address the underlying social, economic, and systemic factors that promote gun violence; and
2. The Michigan City Common Council hereby establishes an ad hoc standing committee of the Common Council to be known as the “Gun Violence Prevention Committee.” This Committee will report quarterly on findings and recommendations to the Common Council.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Michigan City Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Angie Nelson Deutch, President
Michigan City Common Council

CO-SPONSORS: /s/ Paul Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Gene Simmons, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Sean Fitzpatrick, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Tracie Tillman, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Dalia Zygas, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Michael Mack, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Mack asked if any of the Co-sponsors had anything to add at this time.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that he feels this resolution is an important one especially at this time in our lives more than ever; advising that he has been looking at what has been taking place in Indianapolis House Bill 1077 which does not require anyone that carried a hand gun to have a permit passing at the House of a vote 64 to 29; with it moving on to the Senate for their hearings and their final vote; advising if the bill becomes law anyone 18 or older, who carries a handgun will not need a permit stating the bill is called "firearms matter" and will repeal the law that requires a person to obtain a permit to carry a handgun in Indiana

Councilman Dabney agreed with Councilman D. Przybylinski comments stating that our state has not given any cities in Indiana any help whatsoever; they simply do not care about public safety and are doing everything they can to allow guns to be in the hands of just about anyone; stating that the sad part about this is that this decision is revolved around money thru gun lobbying these bills that should not be passed.

Councilman Dabney supports this resolution seeing an opportunity for our City if we can come up with a budget, get the discussion going and talk about what our next move forward should be; stating that the AARP funds we received might be a thought to start doing investments in some real security apparatus that would help us in our community with the gun violence and safety issues.

Councilman Simmons concurs with Councilman Dabney, it is scary to hear Don read what the state level is doing and that we're already in a crisis as far as guns go, and it's a universal issue, in every corner of America; but it's incumbent on us to find solutions to address the issues here in this community, and try to partner with the schools, the commander date and police department.

Councilman Simmons stated that you know a lot of these young kids running around in our community are caring guns, you follow them home and their parents know what they are doing; stating that's where we have to work, we have to keep on their parents as well, we have to include them; the parents need to be part of the solution advising that in our community it is sad but the people caring guns are 13/14 years old, and is in favor of doing whatever we can to bring a solution to the table to address the issues we have in our community.

Councilman Mack stated this a great resolution and looking forward to talking and discussing this very difficult issue; commenting on some of the language in the proposed resolution and is disturbing to hear about the Bill that is going to the Senate that Councilman D. Przybylinski brought to our attention this evening and that he agrees that there is a gun issue and that we need to start addressing some of these public perceptions that we see here in our City; commenting on numbers that are given to the public regarding these gun homicide those figures make everyone look bad Questioning statistics about guns and suicide; asking if we could go beyond race and go into what he called an aggressively extremely aggressive investment in programming and facilities to capture our youth early no matter the race or what child circumstances he or she were born into and is looking forward to moving forward on this great resolution.

Councilman Fitzpatrick reiterated what everyone else has said and is definitely fully in favor of this resolution and being someone that is directly impacted by this because he works in the death industry and has seen the numbers increase over the eight years he's been with the coroner's office and sixteen years of doing assistant autopsies; we could take gun violence and gun deaths off the table it would be making strides toward a better life; stating that it's a great start having these conversations; advising that there a lot more that needs to be brought to the forefront thanking President Deutch for bringing this to the Council.

President Deutch asked if there were any other Council comments at this time, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if there are any comments from the public.

Tommy Kulavik, 1613 Ohio Street, read Section 50-403 of the Michigan City Municipal code: Fine for Discharging a Firearm. The fine for discharging a firearm required by Section 78-2 shall be a minimum of a measly \$100; stating that he feels this ordinance needs to be amended to \$1,000.00.

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the public, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the Council.

Councilman D. Przybylinski made a motion to approve the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Dabney.

The proposed resolution was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas and Tillman (8). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following resolution by title only.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. **4826**

APPROVING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FOR THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2022 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM & SUPPORTING THE LOCAL MATCH FOR SAID GRANT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 2-236 of the Michigan City Municipal Code, the Michigan City Common Council must pre-approve all grant applications requiring a local match; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City, Indiana intends to submit a grant application seeking funding through the Indiana Department of Transportation for the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City will be requesting up to \$1,000,000 in grant funds for various street paving projects that will require a dollar for dollar match; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sec. 2-236, the City Controller and City Engineer have provided the following information pertaining to the Grant:

1. **Name of grantor and grant title:** Indiana Department of Transportation – Community Crossings Matching Grant Program.

2. **Why it is beneficial to the City to apply for this grant:** This grant will allow the City to double the budget for street paving.
3. **The purpose of the grant and the proposed use of grant funds:** This grant will be used to pave streets in the worst condition as determined by the City Engineer based on the PASER report.
4. **The person who will be responsible for managing the grant for the City:** Jeff Wright, City Engineer
5. **All relevant time frames and schedule, including any deadlines for submitting the application and closing out the grant:**
 - a. The application process opens at 8:00am ET, Monday, January 3, 2022.
 - b. The deadline to submit the application is 5:00pm ET, Friday, January 28, 2022.
6. **The amount of any required or proposed City monetary match or voluntary contribution and the proposed source for the matching funds and contributions:**
 - c. Cities with a population of greater than 10,000 will receive funds using a 50/50% match.
 - d. The max amount eligible to receive is \$1,000,000.
 - e. The matching funds are budgeted in the 2022 MVH Restricted budget.
7. **The description of the types and sources of any in-kind match or contribution:** NA
8. **Whether the Controller wishes to have a new, separate fund created for the grant:** No, the Controller does not wish to have a new, separate fund created for the Grant. A separate grant fund has previously been established and this Grant will run through that existing fund.

WHEREAS, all relevant information required by Sec. 2-236 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**-Notice of Application for Grant and **Exhibit B**-Grant Set-Up Form.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

1. The aforementioned "Whereas" sections are incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
2. The Michigan City Common Council approves the submission of the 2022 Community Crossings Matching Grant Application and supports and commits to funding the local match for said Grant from the 2022 MVH Restricted funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after passage by the Michigan City Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Angie Nelson Deutch, Member

(Note: This resolution was "TABLED" at the January 4, 2022 Council meeting until the January 18, 2022 Council meeting)

NOTE: EXHIBIT "A" AND EXHIBIT "B" ARE ATTACHED TO RESOLUTION NO. 4826 IN FILE CR-103

President Deutch advised that this resolution was TABLED at the last Council meeting on January 4, 2022 until this meeting; stating that a list of streets was sent out to everyone for their review.

President Deutch stated Jeff Wright City Engineer is present this evening to address any questions the Council may have.

President Deutch asked if the public had any questions or comments at this time, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if there were any questions or comments from the council.

NOTE: Councilman P. Przybylinski connected to our meeting by telephone.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that he has a few problems with this resolution, questioning where exactly is all this money coming from to fund the Community Crossing Grant and why aren't the streets and roads that are going to be done listed in this proposed resolution

President Deutch advised that Controller Hoffmaster is on to answer any questions.

Controller Hoffmaster advised in the 2022 budget there is \$750,000 budgeted in the MVH restricted Fund, which is a fund that is set up solely for the preservation of payment and there is \$250,000 budgeted in the Local Road and Street Fund, so that's the million dollars that we can this Community Grant with.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that the Controller talked about the MVH fund being reduced 20% last year asking if the \$100,000 a carryover from last year making this fund only having \$650,000

Controller Hoffmaster stated she believed the cash carry over at the end of last year in the MVH restricted Fund was \$500,000

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked why we are not using the \$500,000 that was left over in the 2021 MVH restricted fund for this project or maintenance of road.

Controller Hoffmaster advised that the Mayor can do an additional appropriation if he desires to do so.

Discussion ensued between Controller Hoffmaster and Council P. Przybylinski Regarding where the funds are coming from for the 2022 Community Crossing Grant; advising the funds that are left in the Local Roads and Street funds should not be depleted

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked Controller Hoffmaster, with the 500,000 that's being carried over from last year; how long can this money be carried over to 2023.

Controller Hoffmaster advised the money can stay in there until it is spent.

Councilman D. Przybylinski said that there is talk that Michigan Blvd may need to be black topped in the next few years; questioning if money is being put in the bank for that particular project.

Controller Hoffmaster's response was that it could be, advising that she doesn't have any idea how much it would cost to pave Michigan Blvd.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated he was asking a question to see if there is money being put aside to do Michigan Blvd. within the next few years.

Councilman Dabney stated that he had to agree with Councilman P. Przybylinski asking why we have that \$500,000 in that fund and just sitting on it.

Jeff Wright, City Engineer advised there is \$500,000 and Controller Hoffmaster can correct me if I'm wrong, but we have a final invoice that has to be paid to Reith Riley in the area of \$700,000 with the invoice not being paid to date.

President Deutch asked if we could resolve this.

Councilman D. Przybylinski also agreed with Councilmen Dabney and P. Przybylinski; stating that we have a \$500,000 balance/carry over; finding out that there is a \$700,000 invoice from 2021 that has to be paid, leaving us in dept still owing a \$200,000 balance to Reith and Riley from 2021.

Jeff Wright City Engineer stated that he is not the finance person but here is how it works; there is a \$700,000 invoice that needs to be paid with a large portion of that comes out of the MVH fund and we have a matching portion from community crossing grant that we haven't applied for those funds yet; advising that's a direct answer, there is a PO and an invoice sitting out there that money is spent, but that doesn't reflect on the end of the balance at the of the year.

Mr. Wright stated there is an invoice out there for Reith Riley; a large portion will be paid out of the MVH fund and the other portion will be matched whenever it is available through the Community Crossing Grant.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that he never got an answer to his original question; repeating his question: is the \$500,000 balance in the LRS Funds is going to be used for Michigan Blvd in 2023 or are we using in this year and would like to get an answer.

President Deutch stated the answer she heard was that any appropriation will come from the Mayor and she thinks this something that we can follow up with the Mayor to ask him where this money is going specifically; advising that she doesn't think Controller Hoffmaster, or Mr. Wright based on their explanation can provide that to us tonight.

Councilman D. Przybylinski requested from the Controller Hoffmaster, if she could talk to the Mayor and see exactly what the \$500,000 is going to be used for and let this council know his response.

President Deutch stated that she feels we should take this matter offline, commenting on what this Council discussed this evening; advising there will be an email sent to the Mayor and another sent to Controller Hoffmaster to answer Councilman D. Przybylinski questions.

Discussion ensued between City Engineer Jeff Wright and Councilman P. Przybylinski regarding the Community Crossing Grant that the City is applying with the deadline at the end of this month; if the monies from this grant that we are applying for is processed and received it will pay the 2021 Reith Riley Invoice that is outstanding

City Engineer Wright stated that Controller Hoffmaster is the money person and that he couldn't answer his question; with discussion following between Mr. Wright and Councilman P. Przybylinski about the possibility of Michigan Blvd being repaved soon.

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked one more time "is the 2021 Reith Riley Invoice going to be paid out of the 2022 Community Crossing Grant monies"

President Deutch asked Controller Hoffmaster that you advised us that where the money was coming for 2022 and what we're asking and what Councilman P. Przybylinski is asking is a valid question; Is the 2022 grant application that is before us with the street that have been shared with this council, is this grant only going to cover streets that are on that list and nothing from a previous cycle's.

Controller Hoffmaster stated the current invoice for Reith Riley is being covered un the money was appropriated in 2021 from the 2021-22 grant cycle

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the Council, there was no response; asking for a motion.

City Engineer Wright explained if you don't approve the fund to submit the grant application, the next round to apply for this grant is in July and there will be no paving until 2023 through the Community Crossing Grant.

Councilman Fitzpatrick made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution, second by Councilman D. Przybylinski.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman and Dabney (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following ordinance on first reading by title only, **AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA TO REZONE PROPERTY OWNED BY HOMEWARD BOUND, INC. FROM R1C TO R3A**

Introduced by: Angie Nelson Deutch
Gene Simmons

President Deutch stated that a 48-hour notice to the media was done on January 13, 2022; the advertisement for the formal public hearing by the Plan Commission was in the paper on December 17, 2021 and the formal public hearing took place by the Plan Commission on December 26, 2021.

President Deutch asked if the authors had anything to add.

Councilman Simmons stated that he is delighted to see movement and some development happening in the Sixth Ward and meets with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

President Deutch asked if there were anyone from the public that wish to speak at this time; advising there are representatives from Homeward Bound, Inc. present if the Council has any questions or comments for them.

Attorney Chris Willoughby stated that he is representing Homeward Bound Inc., and that he has Sandy Keller who is a representative of their executive board and Jeff Oltmanns from Global Engineering present and will keep it brief in terms of the packet of information that you received pointing out the petition for their request to rezone the property at 316 Karwick Road from R1C to R3A.

Attorney Willoughby advised that currently this area is a little bit of a mixed use in this neighborhood and the bottom line is we are seeking the approval to rezone this land and create a housing development that will be some affordable housing that is sorely need in our community and that there was a unanimous vote at the Planning Commission level and that we are here tonight to answer any questions the Council might have; requesting to suspend the rules and do all three readings this evening.

Attorney Meyer advised President Deutch that because it's a zoning law the state law only requires one reading for that; but the Council's rules requires you to have three readings so it is up to the Council to decide if they want to do one, two or three readings.

President Deutch asked if there were any other public comments, there was no response.

President Deutch asked Councilman Dabney who represents the Council on the Plan Commission to give us a couple comments.

Councilman Dabney reiterated what Attorney Willoughby stated advising the commission came through with a unanimous favorable recommendation to rezone this property; stating that when he spoke with Planning Director Skyler York, he asked to be a co-sponsor on this ordinance as well.

Councilwoman Zygas also asked to be a co-sponsor too.

Clerk Neulieb stated that she would add Councilman Dabney and Councilwoman Zygas to the proposed ordinance.

Councilman Fitzpatrick questioned that it was stated these homes will be affordable housing; asking Attorney Willoughby what the price range of them is going to be.

Attorney Willoughby advised Councilman Fitzpatrick that these units will be rental units and they are going to be stringent requirements on those that rent and that he would defer more of the specifics and the kind of philosophy behind that to Jeff Oltmann representing Global Engineering on this project; advising they will be rental units that will be approximately \$400 a month; and will have an onsite manager.

Councilman Fitzpatrick asked what the size of these units in square footage are.

Attorney Willoughby advised Councilman Fitzpatrick that this project is a work in progress with this being the first stage; so the ultimate size of them will be as small as 500 square; referring this question to Jeff Oltmann from Global Engineering.

Mr. Oltmann stated that is correct these is I think the smallest that they can be is 500 square feet by City code; advising they are working with Planning Director York on how small they ultimately can be and to make sure it fits the code and that it basically going to fit in with what the city's goal is.

Councilman P. Przybylinski questioned if the "Homeward Bound Inc. is going to be subsidized housing.

Attorney Willoughby stated that he isn't saying that at all and that he thinks that there's a negative connotation associated with that because there is a need around the community for that as well.

Discussion ensued between Councilman P. Przybylinski, Attorney Willoughby and Mr. Oltmann regarding the width of the lot and depth of this property what size of the property each unit will be on, how many units there will be and that these plans are very preliminary and that we are here to ask for the rezoning of this property and what will be allow Homeward Bounds Inc. can do on their property being in a nonprofit.

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked Attorney Willoughby who is the developer on this project and does he have any other plans in our community, or any other projects within a 50 mile radius of Michigan City.

Attorney Willoughby stated that the term "developer" is my client, and his client is developing and will oversee this plan with the assistance of Global Engineering and retaining the contractors from there so the concept of it is going be built but is going to be funded as the developer which is "Homeward Bound".

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the Council.

Councilman Mack made a motion to suspend the rules and have all three readings this evening, second by Councilman Simmons.

The motion was approved to suspend the rules and have second and third reading this evening by the following vote. **AYES:** Council members Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman and Dabney (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading, **AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA TO REZONE PROPERTY OWNED BY HOMEWARD BOUND, INC. FROM R1C TO R3A**

Introduced by: Angie Nelson Deutch
Gene Simmons
Bryant Dabney

President Deutch asked if there were any additional comments from the sponsors, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if there were any additional comments from the public.

Tom Kulavik, Michigan City stated that he would like to see what is being developed on this property and that you can go on the internet and see who the developer is Councilman D. Przybylinski.

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the public, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if the Council had anything else to add.

Councilman P. Przybylinski questioned if Homeward Bound, Inc. is in any way connected with the enterprises in Porter County; Attorney Willoughby stated that no they are not.

President Deutch asked if there were any further comments from the Council, there was no response; asking the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance on third reading.

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only.

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL
ORDINANCE NO. 4613**

AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

TO REZONE PROPERTY OWNED BY

HOMEWARD BOUND, INC. FROM R1C TO R3A

WHEREAS, Petitioner, Homeward Bound, Inc., by and through its counsel, Christopher L. Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Janes, Inc., filed a Petition with the Michigan City Plan Commission requesting that certain vacant real estate situated in Michigan Township, City of Michigan City, County of LaPorte, Indiana be rezoned from R1C to R3A, which is described as follows:

The North Half of the North Half of the South Half of the West Half of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 26, Township 38 North, Range 4 West, in LaPorte County, Indiana, EXCEPT: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Section 26, Township 38 North, Range 4 West; thence South 02°19' East, a distance of 1343.135 feet for the place of beginning for the following description; thence North 89°07' East, a distance of 674.84 feet; thence South 02°03' East, a distance of 216.25 feet; thence South 89°05'; thence 2°19' West, a distance of 216.25 feet to the place of beginning, ALSO EXCEPT the West 40 feet thereof,

Commonly known as: 316 Karwick Road (*vacant lot*),

PARCEL ID of: 46-01-26-151-024.000-022.

WHEREAS, following the filing of the Petition, the Plan Commission scheduled a public hearing on the Petition for December 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission found that the Petitioner properly gave the necessary notice of the filing of the Petition and of the date and time of the public hearing on the subject Petition by publication in the manner prescribed by IC § 5-3-1-1 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission found that the Petitioner properly gave the necessary notice of the filing of the Petition as well as the date and time of the hearing on the subject Petition to the persons entitled to notice under the Indiana and Michigan City Codes; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission conducted the public hearing on the Petition December 28, 2021, and following said hearing determined that the above-described real estate should be rezoned from R1C to R3A all as permitted by the Joint Zoning Ordinance and Indiana law, and certified its findings and determinations, including those required by IC § 36-7-4-603, with a favorable recommendation for passage of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has caused the necessary notice of its intention to consider the proposed change in the zoning map as required by IC § 5-14-1.5-5; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has paid reasonable regard, consideration, and attention to the recommendation of the Plan Commission, to the documentation and other evidence presented to the City Council regarding the proposed zoning change, and to the legal requirements applicable to the City Council's decision, including, the requirements set forth in IC § 36-7-4-603; Article 30 of the Joint Zoning Ordinance; the City's Comprehensive Plan; the current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in each district; the most desirable uses for which the land in each district is adapted; the conservation of property values throughout the City; and responsible development and growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Michigan City, Indiana, pursuant to applicable laws, including IC § 36-7-4-608 and Article 30 of the Joint Zoning Code, as follows:

1. The City Council finds, based on all the evidence before it, that:
 - A. The requested change in zoning for the property described above from R1C to R3A is compatible with the City's Comprehensive Plan, the current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in each district; the most desirable uses for which the land in each district is adapted; the conservation of property values throughout the City; and responsible development and growth; and
 - B. The requested change in zoning will provide for the most reasonable use for which the affected property is adapted, and the proposed land use will not have an adverse effect on surrounding land; and
 - C. The requested change in zoning will not be injurious or detrimental to the surrounding property values and will further the conservation of property values throughout the City; and
 - D. The requested change in zoning will promote orderly and responsible community growth and development and will not adversely affect the community; and
 - E. The topography, soil condition, and other physical features of the land involved are suitable for the proposed use and zoning change; and
 - F. The change in zoning is not "spot zoning" which will confer a special benefit on a relatively small tract without commensurate benefit to the community; and
 - G. The change in zoning will not disrupt or destroy any neighborhood plan.
2. The City Council finds it is in the best interests of the Michigan City, Indiana and its citizens to accept and approve the favorable recommendation of the Plan Commission that the requested change in the City's zoning map be approved by the City Council.
3. The zoning for the above-described real estate located in Michigan Township, City of Michigan City, County of LaPorte, State of Indiana, should be and is changed from R1C to R3A; the zoning map of Michigan City, Indiana shall be amended to reflect this change; and the amended zoning map shall be available in the office of the Plan Commission for review and copying by the public.

4. A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be recorded with the LaPorte County Recorder in order that the same may be placed of record with that Office and filed with the LaPorte County Assessor.

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/ Angie Nelson Deutch, President
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Gene Simmons, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Dalia Zygas, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Deutch asked if there were any comments from the sponsors, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if the public had any additional questions or comments, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if the Council had any comments, there was no response; asking for a motion.

Councilman Fitzpatrick made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman D. Przybylinski.

The proposed ordinance was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick and Mack (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

Introduced by: Don Przybylinski
Paul Przybylinski
Bryant Dabney

President Deutch asked if there were any comments from the sponsors.

Councilman D. Przybylinski advised that this evening he will be asking to have second and third reading and has nothing to add at this time; stating that we are setting the 2022 salaries for the MCPD and are still in the mists of negotiations with the FOP.

President Deutch asked if there were any comments from the public, there was no response.

President Deutch asked for a motion to move forward having second and third reading this evening.

Councilman P. Przybylinski made a motion to suspend the rules and have second and third reading this evening, second by Councilwoman Tillman and Councilman Dabney.

The rules were suspended to have second and third reading this evening by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack and Deutch (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Deutch stated that we are still on second reading asking if there were any additional comments from the council before we move forward, there was no response; requesting the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance on third reading by title only.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only,

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4614

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the salaries for the Police Department must be set by ordinance, pursuant to IC 36-8-3-3; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City, by and through the Common Council's Labor Relations Committee ("LRC"), have attempted to negotiate a new contract with the Indiana F.O.P Labor Council, Inc. ("FOP") and have engaged in numerous communications and meetings with the FOP since April 2021; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2021, the LRC and negotiating team of the FOP met and tentatively agreed to the terms of a new contract for 2022-2024, however, on December 27, 2021, the LRC was advised by the negotiating team of the FOP that they did not take the offer to the full FOP membership, rather, the negotiating team decided to reject the offer and ask the LRC to come back to the negotiating table; and

WHEREAS, until a new contract is negotiated, all the terms and conditions of the current contract continue, thus, the need currently exists for the City to set wages for the Michigan City Police Department for 2022 in the same amounts as were previously set in 2021.

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

Section 1. The salaries for the Police officers for the year 2022 shall be set as follows, subject to the terms and conditions of a labor agreement between the City of Michigan City and the Indiana F.O.P. Labor Council, Inc.:

	<u>Bi-Weekly</u>
Probationary Patrolman	\$ 1,667.07
Patrolman	\$ 1,798.20
1 st Class Patrolman-(47 years service)	\$ 2,076.92
Corporal	\$ 1,906.08
Sergeant	\$ 2,020.47
Lieutenant	\$ 2,141.69
Captain	\$ 2,270.21

Section 2. Set salaries are in effect for all payrolls issued in the calendar year governed by this Ordinance.

This Ordinance to be effective retroactive to January 1, 2022 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/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Paul Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council
/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Deutch asked if any of the sponsors had anything to add at this time, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if the Council had any comments.

Councilman D. Przybylinski made a motion to adopt the 2022 Michigan City Police Department salary ordinance, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

The 2022 MCPD Salary ordinance was adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch and D. Przybylinski (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following Ordinance on second reading by title only, **PROHIBITING THE USE OF MVH FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTING OR CAPITAL REPAIRS OF STREETS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF CITY TIF DISTRICT**

Introduced by: Paul Przybylinski

(Note: This ordinance was “TABLED” at the January 4, 2022 Meeting on 2nd reading until the next Council meeting on January 18, 2022)

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on the meeting they had this last week regarding this ordinance and how the vote content went down at our last Council meeting on January 4, 2022; he asked to remove his sponsorship to this ordinance.

President Deutch asked if there were any other council member willing to take on the sponsorship of this ordinance at this time, there was no response, removing the proposed ordinance from the agenda.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on third reading by title only, **AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2-457 COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES**

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman

President Deutch asked if the sponsor had any comments at this time.

Councilwoman Tillman reiterated that this is an amendment regarding the members of the Social Status of African American Males, whether it should be LaPorte County or Michigan City residency; advising as it states now reads; therefore, be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana that the last two sentences of Section 2-457 be amended to in the Municipal Code to read as follows: All members shall continue to serve until their successor is appointed.

President Deutch asked if there were any comments or questions from the public at this time.

The following people addressed the council regarding their thoughts and concerns regarding the amendment being proposed this evening Tommy Kulavik 1316 Ohio Street, Nila Williams 806 Fern Street, Kerry Hogan 1026 Chicago Street, Faye Moore 515 Grace Street, Marty Corley 218 Gladys Street, Rodney McCormick 617 Union Street, Albertine Allen 309 Euclid Avenue and Joan Ganschow 628 Pine Tree Drive.

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the public, there was no response.

President Deutch asked if there were any comments from the Council.

Councilwoman Tilman stated that she does support the amendment Section 2-457; advising that this amendment has been pending since July of 2021 and agrees that this matter should have been resolved before this evening and that her position of being liaison to the Social Status of African American Male Commission was voted upon by

the Council; stating several reasons why she supports this amendment and addressed comments made under public comments asking for the support of her colleagues.

Councilman Fitzpatrick questioned why being at third reading this evening that not person had any input regarding this amendment but what we received from Councilman Tillman; and also asked Mr. Hogan about the comment he made the anger of a few; questioning about this is only voting members that would have to be a City resident and that anyone could serve as a volunteer and work with the commission; and last if there has been any issue regarding a commission serving as a voting member that doesn't live within the city limits asking why this has been brought to the table now after all these years.

President Deutch asked Councilwoman Tillman if there is discrepancy in the language of the proposed ordinance today; with Councilwoman Tillman stating yes that when she first proposed the amendment, the original ordinance indicated residents of LaPorte County, which should have read residents of Michigan City and it was just a change.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that he is in support of having commissioners be residents of Michigan City and that as it was stated before these participants can still be active in the Commission on sub committees.

Councilman Mack reiterated what he spoke about at the last meeting; that he suggested that the council should watch the last two meetings of the Social Status of African American Males where they are actually talking about this topic; stating that he feels this Council hasn't any real vested interest in overriding these dedicated long term members that have done a lot in our community serving as members; advising when the commission voted on this amendment at their last commission meeting the vote was 8 to 2 against changing it to Michigan City Residents and has let us know this isn't what they want, asking this council to think about their vote.

Councilman Dabney stated that he agrees with Councilman Mack and what he stated and that he is still trying to figure out where I made comments about somebody's education; advising that he agrees in the facts that were brought up this evening and that he disagrees with the proposed amendment in terms of overturning this.

Councilman Fitzpatrick questioned about this commission already has sub committees since they can't do all the work themselves and this committee is an extreme value and that the volunteers can't vote but they are an asset to this commission helping out with the work that needs to be done.

President Deutch stated that she knows there was a letter of support that keeps being mention asking was in support of the committee in general or was it something in support of keeping it LaPorte County residents.

Councilwoman Tillman stated that it was submitted from the Executive Director of Social Status of African American Males by Mr. Garrett and that letter was submitted during the time of the original amendment that was vetoed by the Mayor and then passed.

President Deutch asked then there wasn't a letter received from Mr. Garrett since then; with Councilwoman Tillman stating "yes".

President Deutch questioned that at one time the commission was called, Social Status of African American Males of LaPorte County.

Councilwoman Tillman advised that in 2003 in their bylaws indicate residents of LaPorte County; stating in the amended ordinance that was passed she made all the amendments to read Michigan City and was brought to her attention to amend that ordinance to that was missed to read Michigan City Residents.

President Deutch asked if there were any other comments from the Council, there was no response and entertained a motion.

Councilwoman Tillman made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

The proposed ordinance failed by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Fitzpatrick, and Deutch (4). **NAYS:** Council members Zygas, Dabney, Mack, D. Przybylinski, and Simmons (5).

NEW BUSINESS

President Deutch stated that she made a few changes to the 2022 Council Committee assignments; asking if there is no objection, they will go through each of the following 2022 voting positions on the 2022 Committee Assignment list; there was no response.

President Deutch advised that once this is completed the Committee Assignments will be sent out; stating if these positions are not filled tonight, she will make some phone calls.

President Deutch opened nominations for the Animal Control Board; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations”; Councilman D. Przybylinski nominated Councilman Mack; second by Councilwoman Tillman. President Deutch asked if there were any other nominations; there was no response.

Councilman Mack was appointed to the Animal Control Board by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons and Zygas, (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Deutch congratulated Councilman Mack.

President Deutch opened nominations for the Plan Commission Committee; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations”; Councilman P. Przybylinski nominated Councilman Fitzpatrick; second by Councilwoman Tillman. Councilwoman Zygas nominated Councilman Dabney; second by Councilman Mack.

Councilman Fitzpatrick was appointed to the Plan Commission Committee by the following vote: **Councilman Fitzpatrick** - Council members Tillman, Fitzpatrick, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons and P. Przybylinski (6) **Councilman Mack** - Dabney, Mack and Zygas (3).

President Deutch congratulated Councilman Fitzpatrick.

President Deutch opened nominations for the Public Art Committee; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations”; Councilman Simmons nominated Councilman D. Przybylinski; second by Councilman P. Przybylinski. President Deutch asked if there were any other nominations; there was no response.

Councilman D. Przybylinski was appointed to the Public Art Committee by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski and Tillman (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Deutch congratulated Councilman D. Przybylinski.

President Deutch opened nominations for the Social Status of African American Males Commission; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations”; Councilman D. Przybylinski nominated Councilwoman Tillman; second by Councilman P. Przybylinski. Councilwoman Zygas nominated Councilman Mack; second by Councilman Dabney.

Councilwoman Tillman was appointed to the Social Status of African American Males Commission by the following vote: **Councilwoman Tillman** - Council members Fitzpatrick, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons P. Przybylinski and Tillman (6) **Councilman Mack** – Mack, Zygas and Dabney (3).

President Deutch congratulated Councilwoman Tillman.

President Deutch opened nominations for the Solid Waste Management Committee; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations”; Councilman Simmons nominated Councilman D. Przybylinski; second by Councilwoman Tillman. President Deutch asked if there were any other nominations; there was no response.

Councilman D. Przybylinski was appointed to the Solid Waste Management Committee by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney and Fitzpatrick (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Deutch congratulated Councilman D. Przybylinski.

President Deutch opened nominations for the Tree Board; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations”; Councilman Dabney nominated Councilwoman Zygas; second by Councilman Mack. Councilwoman Tillman nominated Councilman P. Przybylinski; second by Councilman Fitzpatrick.

Councilman P. Przybylinski was appointed to the Tree Board by the following vote: **Councilwoman P. Przybylinski** - Council members Deutch, D. Przybylinski, P. Przybylinski, Tillman and Fitzpatrick (5) **Councilwoman Zygas** – Simmons, Zygas, Dabney and Mack (4).

President Deutch congratulated Councilman P. Przybylinski.

President Deutch opened nominations for the Urban Enterprise Association; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations”; Councilman P. Przybylinski nominated Councilwoman Tillman; second by Councilman Fitzpatrick. President Deutch asked if there were any other nominations; there was no response.

Councilwoman Tillman was appointed to the Urban Enterprise Association by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack and Deutch (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Deutch congratulated Councilwoman Tillman.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Deutch stated the Council has six (6) appointments to the Commission on the Social Status of African American Males reading the following incumbents: Ms. Albertine Allen – Minority Health Partners of the County, Pastor Jacarra Williams. - Ministerial Assoc.; Dr. Wendall McCollum- MCAS; Mr. Willie Milsap - Swanson Center (letter was received on his behalf); Ms. LaTonya Troutman – NAACP; Pastor Dennis Carroll - Human Rights Commission (letter was received on his behalf). **Note-all 6 terms expire 02/15/2022**

President Deutch asked if there were any additional letters received; Clerk Neulieb stated no we have not received any other letters.

Discussion ensued between Councilman P. Przybylinski and President Deutch regarding how many Council appointments there are for the Commission on the Social Status of African American Males. President Deutch stated there are seven (7) appointments including a Michigan City resident.

President Deutch opened nominations for Willie Milsap- Swanson Center and Pastor Dennis Carroll- Human Rights Commission; advising that letters are needed from the other incumbent's if they would like to stay on the Commission.

P. Przybylinski made a motion to nominate Willie Milsap- Swanson Center and Pastor Dennis Carroll -Human Rights Commission; second by Councilwoman Tillman.

President Deutch asked if there was any objection to having the vote this evening; there was no response.

Mr. Willie Milsap – Swanson Center and Pastor Dennis Carroll- Human Rights Commission were appointed to the Commission on the Social Status of African American Males by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch and D. Przybylinski (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Deutch stated the Council has one (1) appointment appointing a member on the Commission on the Social Status of African American Males (term expires 02/15/2022; Incumbent: Rodney McCormick- Michigan City resident.

Clerk Neulieb advised an application was received from Mr. Rodney McCormick; advising no other forms were received.

President Deutch asked if there was any objection to having the vote this evening; there was no response.

Councilman P. Przybylinski made a motion to appoint Mr. Rodney McCormick as a member to the Commission on Social Status of African American Males- Michigan City resident; second by Councilwoman Tillman.

Mr. Rodney McCormick was appointed as the Michigan City resident to the Commission on the Social Status of African American Males by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski and Simmons (8). **NAYS:** Dabney (1).

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Deutch asked if there is anyone from the public who wished to speak; limiting everyone to three (3) minutes; asking them to state their name and address for the record.

Faye Moore thanked the Council for the hard work and the positive changes they have made; stating the Social Status Commission of African American Males needs to stay the same as far as the members being LaPorte County residents; advising the Social Status member representing the NAACP has relocated out of the City and Marty Corley (Eastport Neighborhood Association) has resigned.

President Deutch stated the amended ordinance making the members on the Social Status of African American Males Commission Michigan City residents was voted down.

Rodney McCormick, 617 Union Street commented on the workshop that is set up for all Boards & Commissions; advising it is a great idea and it will help explain how the Boards & Commissions should be ran; hoping that everyone that chimed in tonight will

participate in the workshop; stating it is crucial that the members learn the rules so that everyone can move forward.

Mr. McCormick thanked everyone for re-appointing him to the Commission on Social Status of African American Males; stating he will do his best as always.

Mr. McCormick further commenting on the Housing Authority liaison and Commissioners.

Marty Corley, member on the Commission of Social Status of African American Males, Eastport Neighborhood Association advised that he did not resign from the Commission, his term expired, and he did not renew it; stating he will continue to work on the sub-committee for the Commission.

President Deutch asked if there were any further comments from the public; there was no response.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

President Deutch asked if the Mayor was on the call and if he had any comments; there was no response.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

President Deutch asked if there were any Council comments.

Councilman D. Przybylinski thanked Councilman Simmons for his nominations to the Public Art Committee and Solid Waste Management; stating that he enjoys both Committees very much.

Councilman D. Przybylinski commented on the workshop that was held with the Redevelopment Commission in regard to the MVH funds and the TIF districts.

Councilwoman Zygus reminded everyone that Covid is alive and running; LaPorte County is at a record high this week; advising the government has released at home test kits and the URL to get the free kits is "special.usps.com/test" kits.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on I.C. codes regarding TIF monies, or any outside monies that cannot be used for paving; stating he asked the attorneys at the workshop if it is illegal to use TIF monies and no one answered the question; continuing to question how TIF monies can be used.

Councilman P. Przybylinski continued to comment on Martin Luther King and his non-violent approach to getting something done.

President Deutch asked if there were any further comments from the Council; there was no response.

President Deutch stated there is going to be a "Zoom" Workshop on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. for Boards & Commissions; advising she will try and have a meeting once a quarter to further discuss Board & Commissions and they will be recorded.

President Deutch asked if there were any Attorney's or firms or if the Council has anyone in mind to fill Attorney Meyers position; if so, asking that a letter of intent be sent to the Clerk's Office; stating an Executive Session will be set up to meet with the Attorney's that have submitted a letter; explaining one letter has been received.

President Deutch commented on the holiday weekend; thanking everyone that spoke at tonight's meeting; explaining Covid is going strong, and we are still in the red; she will contact the Council members about Hybrid meetings as we transition from red to orange and the numbers start going down; explaining the Council may have an option to be in person or via "Zoom"; advising this needs to be discussed with the administration first.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilman D. Przybylinski, second by Councilman Fitzpatrick and there being no further business to transact, President Deutch declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 9:10 p.m.)

Gale A. Neulieb

