

## REGULAR MEETING – MAY 1, 2007

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday Evening, May 1, 2007, at the hour of 7:30 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 7:30 p.m. by Council President Willie Milsap, who presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a short period of silent prayer were observed.

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

**PRESENT:** **COUNCIL MEMBERS** Evelyn D. Baker; Patricia Boy; Angelo Corley, Joseph Doyle; Phillip Jankowski, Virginia Martin; Ronald Meer, Willie Milsap, and Paul Przybylinski (9).

**ABSENT:** None (0).

**A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT.**

### APPROVAL of MINUTES

President Milsap inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2007, and, to the Executive Session of April 17, 2007, and, on motion by Councilman Meer, seconded by Councilman Przybylinski, declared the minutes approved as written.

### REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

### REPORTS of SPECIAL or SELECT COMMITTEE

Councilman Jankowski commented on the last meeting (April 9<sup>th</sup>) of the Redevelopment Commission. He spoke on the old Brewery property. Councilman Jankowski responded to questions by Councilman Przybylinski regarding the Brewery property. Councilman Jankowski said the next scheduled meeting for the Redevelopment is May 14<sup>th</sup>.

### REPORTS of OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

Council President Milsap instructed the Clerk to submit a letter to the Planning Department regarding the vacant structure located at the intersection of Carroll Avenue & Holliday Street near the South Shore tracks. He said the building is not posted with a street address. Council President said in the letter please address the status of the owner, the future plans of the structure, if there are any utilities to the structure, and if this structure is a fire hazard to the City of Michigan City.

### PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

### COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

### RESOLUTIONS

There were no Resolutions.

## ORDINANCES

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**, as Sponsored by Evelyn D. Baker and Co-Sponsored by Council Members Patricia A. Boy and Joseph Doyle.

Councilwoman Boy informed the Council that Mr. Seifert (member of the Licensing Board/giving advice re: State regulations) was not present. Mrs. Boy said she believed he was going to give the Council an update on whether the Council needed to increase the amounts of insurance.

With recommendation by Councilman Przybylinski, Councilwoman Boy moved to suspend the rules to table the Ordinance on second reading, seconded by Councilman Doyle.

The motion carried and the **Ordinance** was **tabled on second reading** by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Milsap, Przybylinski, Baker, Boy, Corley, Doyle, and Jankowski (7). NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS Martin and Meer (2) .**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The City Clerk read by the following communication received from Roseann Lindsay, Michele Keltz, and Janet Sharp (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers, Niemann School):

Last Friday, April 13, 2007 was indeed Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at Niemann. One of our special education teachers, Ms. Gail Arndt, was informed that the next school year she would be working at another school. All special needs children, at all grade levels would be taught by one teacher, Mrs. Diane Furore. Currently there are 36 children receiving special education services and others in the DEI program, some of which will be tested.

This action is a great disservice to these students. Mrs. Furore has worked with the primary students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3 and Ms. Arndt has worked with those in grades 4 and 5. To put these 36 students into one classroom with one teacher is not a feasible plan for student success. These students have a range of disabilities which have to be addressed individually in specific ways. These teachers have had success in raising academic scores of their children as well as meeting some of their social and emotional needs. Some of these students have passed portions of the ISTEP & testing.

Strategies one and two of the MCAS Strategic Plan provide possible avenues that address student support. Listed are limiting class sizes, including special education, Strategy 2, Plan 2. This strategy also lists adequate professional development to meet the needs of all students. If inclusion is a future possibility, all the research indicates that inclusion only works when the staff is intensively trained, not just attending a one or two day workshop.

Several special needs students have discipline/emotional problems. Having them in a regular classroom setting also is a disservice to the students in the general education classroom because of frequent interruptions and divided time by the teacher.

Niemann has a high percentage of low socioeconomic families. This fact alone puts many of our students at risk for failure because of limited life experiences and advantages. Title 1 services have been removed for students in grades one through five even though ISTEP & scores have gone up and in the 2005-06 the students have met AYP. Now special education services are being decreased putting these already challenged students in jeopardy of failure! How is this showing support for student success of all students!

Please think about these proposals and make inquiries into how this plan could possibly work and the effects it would have on all children at Niemann. Thank you for your considerations in this matter.

Councilman Meer made various comments pertaining to the communication. He stated he felt it was important, since the Council is committed to working with the school system on all aspects, that these teachers took the time to communicate this concern. Councilman Meer said since he is on the selected committee to the school system he will address their concerns.

Councilman Przybylinski said this letter should be seriously considered and taken to heart by the Council because of the shift in resources as special education and special needs children in our system. He went on to make numerous comments pertaining to special needs and special education children.

Council President Milsap asked if there were any comments or questions by the Council or public and there was no response.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Robert Beckman, LaPorte County Prosecutor, recommends Mr. Rodney Washington, 220 N. Calumet Avenue, replace Thomas Alevizos (Prosecutors appointment) to the Commission on the Social Status of African American Males.

Councilman Przybylinski moved to appoint Mr. Washington to the Commission on the Social Status of African American Males (replacing Mr. Alevizos). Councilwoman Boy seconded the motion, which carried by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Przybylinski, Baker, Boy, Corley, Doyle, Jankowski, Martin, Meer, and Milsap (9). NAYS: None (0).**

Due to the untimely death of Joseph L. Ramion (4 yr. term, expires 01-31-2010) Council appointment to the Economic Development Commission is necessary.

For informational purposes, Councilwoman Boy passed out some of the State code that refers to the Economic Development Commission.

Councilwoman Boy moved to appoint Mr. Don Przybylinski (term to expire 2010) to the Economic Development Commission, seconded by Council Members Jankowski and Corley. (Councilman Przybylinski commented on the willingness of his brother to serve on the Commission.) The motion was carried by the following vote: **AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS Baker, Boy, Corley, Doyle, Jankowski, Martin, Meer, Milsap, and Przybylinski (9). NAYS: None (0).**

Council Members Baker and Przybylinski made positive and memorable comments regarding the life of Joseph Ramion.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

Councilwoman Boy commented on **Law Day USA** in response to the American Bar Association vision of a special day to celebrate our legal system.

Councilman Przybylinski spoke on issues regarding the Solid Waste Board and asked the Planning Department to develop a list of problem properties in our community (getting a report monthly or quarterly to the Council).

Council President Milsap thanked the Urban Enterprise Association for the new trash containers for a large portion of Michigan Boulevard corridor.

Mayor Oberlie responded to questions by Council President Milsap regarding an update regarding the status of Michigan Boulevard negotiations with the State.

Councilman Jankowski questioned Mayor Oberlie about Able Disposal picking up trash in the Shorelane Hills area, in which he responded to.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Interim Fire Chief Randy Novak addressed concerns regarding a fire on Washington and Fulton Streets. Chief Novak said Smoke Detectors and/or batteries are available to the public if needed. He also said if the public needs assistance regarding installation there is someone available.

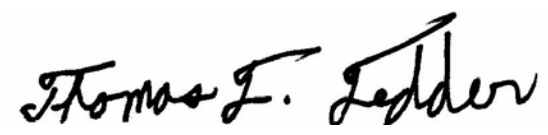
There was discussion among Councilman Meer and Interim Fire Chief Novak regarding the distribution of Smoke Detectors throughout our community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilman Meer, supported by the majority of the Council, and there being no further business to transact, President Milsap declared the meeting ADJOURNED (approximately 8:00 p.m.)

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Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Fedder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'T'.