

REGULAR MEETING – January 5, 2021

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, January 5, 2021 at the hour of 6:40 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 Sean Fitzpatrick.

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, Don Przybylinski, Paul Przybylinski, Gene Simmons, Dalia Zygus and Tracie Tillman (9).

ABSENT: none (0).

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Meyer – Council Attorney and Gale Neulieb City Clerk.

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

President Sean Fitzpatrick stated the first order of business this evening is the election of officers; asking City Clerk to open the nominations for President; City Clerk Neulieb asked (repeating three (3) times) “are there any nominations for president; with Council President Fitzpatrick nominating Michael Mack, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

City Clerk Neulieb asked if there were any other nominations; repeating three (3) times; there was no response and nominations were closed.

Councilman Mack was elected as the 2021 Council President by the following vote: Council members Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, P. Przybylinski Simmons, Zygus, and Tillman (9).

President Fitzpatrick congratulated Councilman Mack; with President Mack taking over the meeting.

President Mack thanked his fellow Council members for having the confidence in him to serve as their 2021 President; commenting on a few items and goals he would like to accomplish during his term as President; thanking Councilman Fitzpatrick for the great job he did in 2020.

President Mack stated his first order of business is to open nominations for the 2021 Vice President; repeating three (3) times “are there any nominations for Vice President”; with Council President Mack nominating Councilwoman Deutch, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski;

President Mack asked if there any other nomination for Vice President; repeating three (3) times; there was no response and nominations were closed.

Councilwoman Deutch was nominated as the 2021 Vice President by the following vote **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, P. Przybylinski, Tillman and Dabney (9) **NAYS:** None (0).

President Mack congratulated Councilwoman Deutch as the 2021 Council Vice President stating he looks forward working with her as well.

President Mack stated his next order of business was appointing Councilwoman Zygus as the 2021 Parliamentarian.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Mack inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the Regular "Zoom" Meeting of December 15, 2020; there was no response.

President Mack asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council "Zoom" meeting minutes from December 15, 2020; with a motion from Councilman D. Przybylinski and second by Councilman P. Przybylinski. The minutes were approved as printed 9 -0.

REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES

Chairman Dabney presented the following Finance Committee meeting minutes addressing the claims from January 5, 2021

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Dabney to review claims filed since the last meeting. Committee members Tillman and Paul Przybylinski were present as well as Council members Fitzpatrick, Zygas, and Nelson Deutch. City Controller Yvonne Hoffmaster was in attendance as well. Claims reviewed totaled \$3,543.80 and EFT payments of \$340.73 from the Riverboat Fund for a total of \$3,884.53, and \$2,692.30 from the Boyd Development Fund, for a total docket of \$6,576.83. There was discussion of paying a purchase order payment to Kiesler Police Supply, Inc. Councilwoman Tillman moved to recommend approval of the docket minus the approval of the already paid Kiesler Police Supply Inc. invoice for \$3,543.80, and with a second by Councilman Przybylinski, the motion was approved with a 2-1 vote. Councilman Dabney was the nay vote. On a motion made by Councilman Przybylinski and a second by Councilwoman Tillman, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

The summary of claims are as follows:

From the Riverboat Fund:

Kiesler Police Supply Inc - \$3,543.80

Total Riverboat Payment - \$3,543.80 Not approved

EFT Payment

COMCAST - \$211.04

COMCAST - \$129.69

TOTAL EFT Payments - \$340.73

TOTAL from Riverboat Fund: \$340.73

From Boyd Development:

Accounts Payable – City of Michigan City - \$2,692.30

TOTAL from Boyd Development: \$2,692.30

TOTAL CLAIMS DOCKET - \$3,033.03

Councilman D. Przybylinski questioned why the claim from Kiesler Police Supply Inc. was denied; with Councilman Dabney advising that Councilwoman Tillman didn't feel this was an essential purchase; advising that this was a purchase order that was approved in July of 2020 but couldn't get payed by the Controller's office until an invoice was received.

Councilman Dabney advised that this was the same claim that wasn't approved at the Council's December 15, 2020 finance committee meeting.

Councilman P. Przybylinski advised the amount of this claim is \$3,543.80; stating that during the budget hearings it was discussed with the MCPD that the status of the

ammunition was good and they would not need any additional supplies thru 2021; with Controller Hoffmaster advising that this claim has been processed and paid.

President Mack stated that we need to move forward; advising that he did approve to have the claim to Kiesler Police Supply Inc. in the amount of \$3,543.00 paid; stating that the City received what they ordered and that this company should be paid for the product they delivered.

CLAIMS DOCKET

President Mack read the claims docket from January 5, 2021 as follows:

January 5, 2021 Riverboat/Boyd Claim Docket

Fund #2042 – Riverboat – Claims-	\$	not approved
EFT	\$	340.73
Fund #2031 – Boyd – Claims-	\$	2,692.30
TOTAL CLAIMS	\$	3,033.03

President Mack asked if there was a motion to approve the claims from the January 5, 2021; Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the claims; second by Councilman Fitzpatrick.

President Mack asked all in favor to signify by saying “AYE” (9): those opposed NAY: there was no response (0). Claims were approved (9-0).

Councilman D. Przybylinski called a “Point of Order” requesting that he would like to report under “Standing Committee Reports”; stating that he is the liaison to the Human Rights Commission and at their meeting he was advised that there is an association called the “Legal Aid Service of Indiana” in South Bend and they will assist anyone free of charge with any legal issues they may have excluding criminal issues. (telephone Number: 574 234-8122)

President Mack asked if there were any other standing committee reports this evening; there was no response.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read the following correspondence that was received in the Clerk’s office:

Correspondence was received in the Clerk’s Office on November 10, 2020 from City Engineer Jeff Wright regarding the 2020 CCMG – TIF District Candidates Resurface Projects

Correspondence was received in the Clerk’s Office on November 17, 2020 from Marty Corley, Chairman of the Michigan City Commission of the Social Status of African American Males

Correspondence was received in the Clerk’s Office on November 24, 2020 from Mr. Michael Noland, President of Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) regarding the Double Track Project and Eminent Domain in the Station Block Property Acquisition

Correspondence was received in the Clerk’s Office on December 2, 2020 from Yvonne Hoffmaster, City Controller addressing Councilman D. Przybylinski’s request for the amount paid out within the City for longevity.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 14, 2020 from the Swanson Center re-appointing Mr. Willie Milsap to serve on the Social Status of African American Males Commission

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 15, 2020 from Mr. Bassam Abdulla, property owner of 1002 Franklin Street regarding the purchase offer he received for his property - Double Track parking garage

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 14, 2020 from the Michigan City Tree Board regarding the secretary position that was removed from their budget starting 2021

(Note: it was requested this be read in its entirety for the record)

The Clerk read the following in its entirety

Michigan City Tree Board Michigan City, IN

RE: Open letter to Michigan City Common Council on the behalf of the Michigan City Tree Board

The Michigan City Tree Board approved a motion to send this letter to the Common Council regarding the cancellation of secretarial/organizational services effective January 1, 2021.

The Tree Board would ask that the City Council reconsider this important service and reallocate the funds. The Tree Board does not have the secretarial/organizational personnel to perform the necessary meeting obligations that the State of Indiana requires. Currently, these services keep the City's Tree Board in compliance with meeting agendas, mailings, an accurate recording of conversations and Board business, and a transcribed record of the meetings. There are many other essential duties of this position which Board members will not be able to do.

Currently, the Tree Board has not approved their budget for the 2021 Financial year, and we will continue to "TABLE" it until the Common Council and Tree Board resolve this issue.

We would like to present a solution to this issue. The Tree Board has funds remaining in their 2020 budget from cancellation of numerous meetings this year (Board member compensation) and other funds that could not be used (office supplies, education, membership and dues) because of the Covid crisis.

In closing, the Tree Board requests that these secretarial/organizational services be re-instated in order to be more effective in its mission to the citizens of Michigan City. If the Common Council has any ideas, the Tree Board would be willing to hear their thoughts.

Michigan City Tree Board President, Mick Wulff

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 16, 2020 regarding Felice Kelly's resignation and the H.O.P.E. (Helping our People Excel) organization asking to no longer participate in the MCSSAAM association

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 17, 2020 from Mr. Ken Fly regarding the number of members and the work that has been done on the Social Status of African American Males Commission

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 22, 2020 from Mayor Parry regarding a person having Covid-19 in City Hall; addressing the procedures that will be followed moving forward

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on December 29, 2020 from Yvonne Hoffmaster, City Controller addressing an incident in the police calls on December 26, 2020 regarding stolen funds from the City

RESOLUTION

The Clerk read the following proposed resolution by title only;

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**RESOLUTION [4798](#)****APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY AND MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS FOR TWO (2) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE SCHOOL BY THE CITY, BY AND THROUGH THE MICHIGAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR 2021**

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-1-7-1, et seq., permits governmental entities to enter into interlocal cooperation agreements to make the most effective use of their powers and resources by contracting and utilizing services for the mutual benefit of the participating governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Michigan City (“the City”) is a unit of local government located in LaPorte County, Indiana, with jurisdiction over all real property and residents within the municipal corporate boundaries of Michigan City, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Area Schools (“the School”) is a municipal corporation located in LaPorte County, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan City Police Department (“MCPD”) is a Department of the City composed of duly qualified and sworn law enforcement officers of the State of Indiana authorized by law to enforce the laws of the State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the School and City previously entered into an Interlocal Agreement for a School Resource Officer (“Original Interlocal Agreement”), and said Agreement was recorded with the LaPorte County Recorder’s Office on January 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Original Interlocal Agreement contemplated that the City would provide the School with one (1) school resource officer from the MCPD for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020, and the school would pay the City \$44,000.00 a year for this service; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 13, 2018, the parties entered into the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement wherein the parties agreed to increase the number of school resource officers from one (1) to two (2) and agreed to increase the compensation payable to the City each year from \$44,000.00 to \$100,000.00 for the years 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Interlocal Agreement and the First Amendment to the 2018 Interlocal Agreement expired on December 31, 2020, and the parties desire to enter into another Interlocal Agreement for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has determined that entering into and executing an Interlocal Agreement with the School for 2021 to provide the School with two (2) school resource officers from the Michigan City Police Department is in the best interests of the City and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, La Porte County, Indiana as follows:

(1.) The aforementioned “whereas” paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein as though fully set forth in these resolving clauses.

(2.) The Common Council hereby approves the Interlocal Government Agreement between the Michigan City Area Schools and the City of Michigan City for the year 2021, which is attached hereto as “Exhibit A.”

(3.) That after the Agreement receives all necessary approvals and has been properly executed by both parties, the Michigan City Clerk shall record the fully executed Agreement with the LaPorte County Recorder’s Office, provide copies of the recorded Agreement to each party to the Agreement as provided in the Agreement, and file a copy of said Agreement with the State Board of Accounts within sixty (60) days after the effective date of the Agreement.

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/ Don Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

NOTE: EXHIBIT “A” can be reviewed in the Clerk’s Office in file CR-101

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated from the proposed resolution that the original Interlocal Agreement contemplated, the City would provide the School with (1) school resource officer from the MCPD for the years 2018 thru 2020 and the school would pay the City \$44,000.00 a year for this service with an amendment being approved to add another resource officer with the school paying \$100,000 each year; and are asking to continue this agreement for 2021; advising what the payment schedule would be from MCAS school system and stating several duties the resource officer would be doing on a daily bases.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that these are two vital positions needed in our school system; advising that he would be supporting this resolution; asking his fellow colleagues to support this as well.

Rodney McCormick, 617 Union Street, addressed the Council regarding a few concerns he had about the proposed agreements language; asking that the Council have some input about who will be assigned to work in the schools and what training they will receive.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the public; repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked if the Council had any comments;

Discussion ensued between Councilman D. Przybylinski and Councilwoman Tillman regarding the two (2) resource officers that are assigned; and with the community still addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and students not being in school.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on the monetary amount the City is receiving from the Michigan City Area Schools; asking if the officers return to the police department during the summer months; and if there should be an amendment to the Board of Public Works and Safety agreement in the language of this agreement to address concerns being mentioned this evening.

Councilman Simmons stated that the officers that are assigned come back to the department and are usually assigned to work in the Juvenile Department or on the streets to patrol our community.

Councilwoman Zygask asked if we could encourage the officers assigned to take training to better help them with working at the schools with students; advising she was sure the United Way would have funding for the training.

Councilman Fitzpatrick agreed with Councilwoman Zygask; advising the Laporte County “JDAI” study group does invite the resource officers from the Michigan City area schools when having a training session.

President Mack commented on the programs/training the entire police department goes thru each year; stating that this study group is an asset to our community and he is in support of this resolution.

Councilwoman Nelson Deutch made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution, second by Councilman Dabney.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the Council; there being no response: asked all in favor to signify by saying “AYE” all responded “AYE” those opposed, there was no response; the resolution was adopted 9 – 0.

RESOLUTION

The Clerk read the following resolution by title only, **SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY CROSSING LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES MATCHING GRANT CONTRACT FOR 2021 & SUPPORTING THE CITY'S LOCAL MATCH FOR SAID GRANT**

Introduced by: Dalia Zygas

President Mack asked if the author had anything to add;

Councilwoman Zygas addressed the Council advising this is a grant that will repave streets depending on the PASER scores that were done and it is ran by the Indiana Department of Transportation (Total cost \$1.55 million dollars); \$600,000 is being matched by the Redevelopment Commission with the Council appropriating \$250,000; asking for the Councils support.

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

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the Council;

Councilman Dabney stated that due to him working for INDOT and this being a grant from them he would be abstaining from the vote.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated at this time he feels the Redevelopment Commission should be funding the entire match for him to move forward and support this resolution; that most of this work is being done in the TIF Districts; advising that the monies in the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund should be left there so it can be used in other neighborhoods in the City.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated his concern about how many years it has been since there was any road repairs/repaving done in his Ward (except for York Street in 2020); asking if Mayor Parry sent a notice out advising each council person what streets were being repaired/paved in their wards.

Councilman P. Przybylinski questioned how much money the Redevelopment Commission has; requesting several times to have a joint workshop/committee meeting with them to address what their financial status is; stating that he would not be supporting either of the proposed documents at this time.

Councilman Fitzpatrick questioned the verbiage in the proposed ordinance where it states "WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund #2003 to be appropriated for that purpose; questioning what sufficient funds constitute and requesting some clarity of what the actual balance is in fund #2003.

Councilwoman Zygas addressed Councilman Fitzpatrick's concerns advising she didn't know the balance but we are not supposed to be paving streets based on what we think the best streets to be paved are; this is based on the 2020 CCMG TIF District Candidate Resurface Project report the Council received from our City Engineer on November 10, 2020.

Skyler York, Planning/Inspection Director addressed Councilwoman Tillman's question regarding how the list the Council received on November 10th was comprised and who decided what areas this study was going to be done in. Mr. York advised the study was done over the entire city not just one area and they are PASER rated which is used across the nation to rate our roads from 1 -10; explaining how they determined what roads need to be paved according to the study; stating that the monies received from the Redevelopment Commission had to be used in the TIF areas.

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked if the Redevelopment wouldn't have given the \$600,000 to match this grant, where would the City of gotten the monies (\$750,000)

needed to match what was needed to be able to participate in this program; Mr. York advised that the City wouldn't be doing this project if they wouldn't have received the monies from Redevelopment and that there wouldn't be any paving done this year.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated he realizes this project is 1.5 million dollars; with matching monies coming from the State, Redevelopment Commission, and the City; advising that he feels the 1.5 million dollars is enough to spend this year; if there are contingencies to take in addition to the 1.5 million that is budgeted; the \$75,000 left should be used in some other area in the city for street repairs, crack sealing, etc.

Councilwoman Deutch echoed some of Councilman D. Przybylinski comments; with discussion ensuing between Planning Director York and Ms. Deutch regarding if a requirement for a contingency plan for this project is necessary and has to be proposed.

Mr. York addressed the Council advising when submitting the segments of roads for this grant they have to be in an "Asset Management Plan" and they have to be PASER rated to even apply for this grant; advising these are estimates that were submitted; that when receiving the grant the City will then move forward with the process and solicit bids for the projects proposed.

Discussion ensued between Planning Director York and Councilwoman Tillman regarding how often the PASER rating study is done and when a street is upgraded/repared will it be updated on the City's GIS program and taken off the list of roads to be repaired.

Planning Director York and Councilman D. Przybylinski discussed how long it would take to bring the streets up that are rated at the PASER rating of one (1) to above five (5) throughout the city.

Councilman Fitzpatrick commented on the project that was just finished on York Street where bricks were put back and that the City has several brick street that have been there for decades; asking why does the City do chip/seal and asphalt when we know that is going to have to be repaired again in a few years; asking what would be more sufficient.

Discussion ensued between Mr. York and Councilman Fitzpatrick regarding the costs of repaving and why asphalt is used.

Discussion ensued between Councilwoman Zygus and Councilman D. Przybylinski regarding the proposed resolution and the monies being requested.

President Mack thanked everyone for their input and feels everyone has established their position and will continue talking; stating they need to finish the debate and come to a conclusion.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated several reasons why the monies in the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund should be left there to do paving/repairs in other neighborhoods throughout the City; asking that the total matching grant should come out of the Redevelopment Commissions account.

Councilman Fitzpatrick made a motion to "TABLE" the proposed resolution until they have a Streets/Alley Committee meeting; requesting the balance of MVH Fund #2003 as well as the updated PASER ratings; second by Councilwoman Tillman.

President Mack stated there is a motion to "TABLE" the proposed resolution until there is a Streets/Alley Committee meeting by Councilman Fitzpatrick, second by Councilwoman Tillman; with the resolution being "TABLED" by the following vote:

AYES: Council members Simmons, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Fitzpatrick, and D. Przybylinski (5) **NAYS:** Council members Zygus, Mack, and Deutch (3) **ABSTAINED:** Councilman Dabney (1)

ORDINANCE

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,
APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY RESTRICTED FUND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CITY'S LOCAL MATCH AND UNFORESEEN CONTINGENCIES FOR THE COMMUNITY CROSSING LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES MATCHING GRANT PROJECT FOR 2021

Introduced by: Dalia Zygas

(DECREASE Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund #2003 Unappropriated Balance \$250,000.00; INCREASE ACCOUNT#2003 000 443.030. \$250,000.00 Capital Outlay – Streets)

President Mack asked if the author had anything to add;

Councilwoman Zygas asked how she should proceed since the prior proposed resolution regarding the same grant was "TABLED".

Councilwoman Deutch asked President Mack to refer this and the proposed resolution that was referred to the Streets/Alley Committee for review and recommendation.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the public, repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the Council;

Councilman Fitzpatrick made a motion to "TABLE" the proposed ordinance on 1st Reading and to call a Streets/Alley Committee for their review and recommendation, second by Councilman D. Przybylinski.

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked to take an individual vote; with President Mack asking the Clerk to take the vote.

The proposed ordinance was "TABLED" by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, and Simmons (8) **NAYS:** None (0). **ABSTAINED:** Councilman Dabney (1)

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only,
AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2-457, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 4548 COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman
 Angie Nelson Deutch

Councilwoman Tillman stated the Council received a letter in the Clerk's office from Felice Kelly requesting the H.O.P.E (Helping Our People to Excel) organization be no longer a part of the Social Status of African American Males Organization; removing them and amending the ordinance adding a representative from the Michigan City Area Schools.

Councilwoman Deutch addressed the Council regarding discussions made months ago with discrepancies within their ordinance; stating it has been updated and amended; with that being said she made a motion to adopt the following amendments that were received in the Clerk's office in writing prior to this meeting.

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2-457-COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES

WHEREAS, Common Council has become aware that it is in the best interest of the City of Michigan City and the Commission On The Social Status of African-American Males (Commission) that certain provisions of the Commission’s enabling Ordinance be amended and that the Commission should take the necessary steps to amend its By-Laws to incorporate the amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, that the provisions of Section 2-457 of the Michigan City Municipal Code referenced below shall be amended to read as follows:

1. 2-457(b)(2) The Commission shall consist of fifteen (15) voting members. Each member shall be a resident of Michigan City and shall be appointed by the group or organization whom he/she represents within Michigan City unless otherwise specified herein below. The appointments shall be made as follows:

(2)(a) The mayor shall appoint seven (7) members to a two year term. Those seven appointments shall consist of members from the following groups as follows:

- 1. Three appointments from the justice system;
- 2. One member nominated by the county labor coalitions;
- 3. One member nominated by a neighborhood group association; and
- 4. One member from a workforce development agency, career tech center or higher education institution
- 5. One member chosen by the mayor

(2)(b) Eight (8) appointments shall be made by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City on a yearly basis and shall be members of or participants in the following groups and entities:

- 1. One (1) from the Human Rights Commission
- 2. One (1) from the Minority Health Partners
- 3. One (1) from the Swanson Center

- 5. One (1) Michigan City Resident Appointed By Common Council
- 6. One (1) from the Michigan City Area Schools
- 7. One (1) from the NAACP
- 8. One (1) member of the Common Council Appointed by the Common

Council

All other provisions of Section 2-457 shall remain in full force and effect.

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Council and approval by the Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY: _____,

Tracie Tillman, Member
Michigan City Common Council

Angie Nelson Deutch
Michigan City Common Council

President Mack asked to take the vote by acclamation asking if there were any other comments from the Council; there being no response, President Mack asked all in favor to signify by saying “AYE” all responded “AYE” those opposed, there was no response ; the proposed amendments were adopted by the following vote 9 – 0.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the amended proposed ordinance, repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the council, repeating three times, there was no response; stating this proposed amended ordinance will be held over on third reading at the January 19, 2021 council meeting.

The Clerk read the following ordinance on second reading by title only, **AMENDING SECTION 70-101 IN DIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 70 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION**

Introduced by: Paul Przybylinski

Note: This proposed ordinance was “**TABLED**” at the November 4, 2020 Council meeting on 2nd Reading.

President Mack asked if the author had anything to add;

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked if there was no objection to have amendments on third reading at the next Council meeting on January 19, 2021.

Councilwoman Deutch called a “Point of Order” stating that the proposed ordinance has to be removed from being “TABLED” before addressing it.

Discussion ensued between Councilmen P. Przybylinski, D. Przybylinski, Attorney Meyer, and Councilwoman Deutch regarding moving to remove the proposed ordinance from being “TABLED” before discussing it and that it is still on second reading this evening.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the public, repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the Council, repeating three times;

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked to make a motion to remove this proposed ordinance from being “TABLED” at the next Council meeting on January 19, 2021, second by Councilwoman Deutch.

President Mack asked all in favor to signify by saying “AYE” all responded “AYE” those opposed, there was no response; the proposed ordinance was removed from being “TABLED” by the following vote 9 – 0.

President Mack stated this proposed ordinance will be on second reading at the January 19, 2021 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only, **AMENDING THE RULES REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR A VACATION BONUS**

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman

President Mack asked if the author had anything to add;

Councilwoman Tillman made a motion to adopt the following amended ordinance by substitution;

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AMENDING THE RULES REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR A VACATION BONUS

WHEREAS, the Policy and Procedure Manual for the Civil City of Michigan City, Indiana (City), Section: Benefit Programs, Policy: Vacation Bonus, Policy No: 304, Effective: 1-1-04, Revised: 1-1-07, contains the current rules regarding eligibility of City employees and elected officials for the City's Vacation Bonus employment benefit; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to current City rules, in addition to paid vacation leave, non-contract, non-seasonal, full-time City employees, Mayor, and Clerk will be paid a Vacation Bonus (Bonus) each year after completing one continuous year (12 months) of service. This Bonus is based on the previous year's earnings and a calculation using the following schedule.

1 to 4 years continuous full-time service	1%
5 to 9 years continuous full-time service	2%
10 years and over continuous full-time service	3%

Payment to be made on the payroll immediately following the employee's request for the Bonus, but not sooner than February 15th; and

WHEREAS, should an employee who is eligible for the Bonus separate from the City, he/she will receive a pro-rata share of the Bonus based on the portion of the current year worked prior to separation; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that due to an ambiguity in the wording of the City's rules for qualifying for a vacation bonus in regards to bridging a returning employee's period of absence in calculating their qualification for and size of vacation bonus, there needs to be clarification as to when returning employees, the Mayor, and the Clerk are able to include their previous service as non-seasonal, non-contract, full time employees, Mayor, or Clerk of the City in the determination as to what amount, if any, Vacation Bonus they are entitled to.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGN CITY, INDIANA that the determination as to whether a current full time, non-seasonal, non-contract, employee or Mayor or Clerk may include their prior service with the City in determining their eligibility for a Vacation Bonus or the amount thereof shall be determined as follows:

1. Bridging Benefits is the combining of two separate periods of employment with the City of Michigan City for the purpose of determining years of service for Vacation Bonus benefit purposes.
2. Separate periods of employment can be bridged for Bonus eligibility and amount determination if a non-contract, non-seasonal, full time employee, the Mayor, or the Clerk meet two criteria: a) they completed at least two consecutive years of City service in a non-contract, non-seasonal, full time employment position or at least two consecutive years as Mayor or Clerk immediately prior to the last separation from City service or change to a non-eligible work status, and b) must have returned to a non-contract, non-seasonal, full time position or as Mayor or Clerk in less than one year therefrom. Time spent in a temporary position lasting one year or less is not counted when determining if two years of service have been completed; and
3. Vacation Bonus benefits for returning employees, Mayor, and Clerk are subject to the approval of the Common Council; and

4. Upon approval by the Common Council, employees, Mayor, and Clerk who are found by the Common Council to meet both requirements stated above and who have satisfied the applicable waiting period for said Vacation Bonus as a result of including the prior qualified City service time, will be entitled to a Vacation Bonus in the appropriate amount calculated based on the properly combined City service times.
5. This Ordinance to be applicable to any former employee or city official returning to the City payroll after a period of absence on or after January 1, 2021.

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage and approval of the Mayor and is to be applied beginning January 1, 2021.

SPONSORED BY: _____
Tracie Tillman, Member
Michigan City Common Council

Councilman Fitzpatrick seconded the motion to adopt the proposed amended ordinance by substitution.

President Mack asked if the public had any comments or questions regarding the proposed amended ordinance, repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the Council, repeating three times;

Councilman Fitzpatrick questioned when an employee leaves the City, do they receive their annual vacation bonus.

Councilwoman Tillman stated that to her understanding, according to the policy when leaving a person will receive their prorated vacation bonus and the sick time they accumulated.

President Mack asked if there were any other questions or comments from the Council, repeating three times;

Councilman Deutch stated this ordinance when adopted will address any matters regarding vacation bonus's moving forward; asking if the Council is going to ask that the City Employee Handbook be updated as well.

Councilwoman Tillman advised that the City has a contract with a company that is updating the City employee handbook policy.

Councilman D. Przybylinski questioned if the City would be liable to employees that have been new hires and the employees that were once employed and re-hired by this administration giving them back their vacation bonus's they earned when working here before; commenting on this being a market tool to get experienced employees.

Councilman Dabney commented on how and why each new administration coming into office want to offer these benefits; stating this helps the City have a smooth transition with experienced and well-educated department heads moving forward; but this should come to the Council for approval for funds in recruiting these employees.

Councilwoman Deutch agreed with Councilman Dabney's comments; that if the Mayor would have come to the Council for an additional appropriation for these benefits or a pay increase this wouldn't have been an issue at this time; but the proposed ordinance will bring consistency when adopted.

Councilman P. Przybylinski agreed with his colleague's statements that were made this evening; stating that we have to start out with some guidelines; he understands this is a marketing tool but this should have been brought to the Council for transparency if nothing else.

President Mack stated there was a motion made by Councilwoman Tillman, second by Councilman Fitzpatrick; asking all in favor to signify by saying “AYE” all responded “AYE” those opposed, there was no response; the amended ordinance by substitution was adopted by the following vote 9 – 0.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the public or Council, repeating three times; there was no response; with President Mack stating there being no other comments the proposed ordinance will be brought back at the next Council meeting on January 19, 2021 on third reading.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only;
AMENDING THE RULES REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR A LONGEVITY BONUS

Introduced by: Tracie Tillman

President Mack asked if the author had any comments to add;

Councilwoman Tillman made a motion to adopt the following proposed ordinance by substitution:

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AMENDING THE RULES REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR A LONGEVITY BONUS

WHEREAS, Policy and Procedural Manual for the Civil City of Michigan City, Indiana. Originally dated: January 2004. Section: Benefit Programs, Policy: Longevity Bonus, Policy No: 325, Effective: 1-1-04, Revised: 1-1-08, contains the current rules regarding eligibility of certain City employees, the Mayor, and the Clerk for the City’s Longevity Bonus employment benefit; and

WHEREAS, the City provides a longevity bonus program for full time, non-seasonal, non-contractual employees who have been employed by the City for three or more years continuously in a full-time capacity. For the purpose of this policy, “longevity” includes the requirement of continuous employment with the Civil City of Michigan City and for which pay is issued under Federal Tax ID Number 35-60001108 (Civil City); and

WHEREAS, the Longevity Bonus is paid at the rate of \$450 for each three years of full-time service with the Civil City with a maximum of \$3,600.00. Unless otherwise indicated by union contract, the authorized Longevity Bonus will be issued in the month of December. Eligible employees, the Mayor, and the Clerk will receive their longevity pay in a lump sum payment based on the number of three year segments that they have worked continuously in a full-time capacity, an appropriation by the Common Council in the annual budget for the Longevity Bonus, and on the City’s cash flow position at the time as determined by the Controller; and

WHEREAS, should an employee who is eligible for the Longevity Bonus separate from the Civil City, he/she will receive a pro-rata share of the Longevity Bonus based on the portion of the current year worked prior to the separation; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that, due to an ambiguity in the wording of the City’s rules for qualifying for a longevity bonus in regards to bridging a returning employee’s period of absence in calculating their qualification for and size of a longevity bonus, there needs to be clarification as to when returning employees, the Mayor, and the Clerk are able to include their previous service as non-seasonal, non-contract, full time employees, Mayor, or Clerk of the City in the determination as to what amount, if any, longevity bonus they are entitled to.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA that the determination as to whether a current full-time, non-seasonal, non-contract City employee, a Mayor, or a Clerk may include their prior service with the City in determining their eligibility for a Longevity Bonus and the amount thereof shall be determined as follows:

- a. Bridging is the act of combining two separate periods of employment with the Civil City for the purpose of determining the years of service for employment benefit purposes.
- b. Separate periods of employment with the Civil City can be bridged for purposes of determining eligibility for the Longevity Bonus benefit if an employee, Mayor, or Clerk meet two criteria: 1) they have completed at least two consecutive years of full time, non-seasonal, non-contractual service with the Civil City or, for a Mayor and Clerk, a term in office immediately prior to the last separation or change from full time, non-seasonal, non-contractual work status, and 2) must have returned to a full time, non-seasonal, non-contractual position with the Civil City, or a term in office for the Mayor and Clerk, in less than one year after the date of separation or change to an ineligible work status.
- c. Temporary positions are not counted when determining if two years of service have been completed.
- d. The eligibility for a Longevity Bonus bridge benefit is subject to the approval of the Common Council.
- e. Upon approval by the Common Council, an employee, Mayor, or Clerk who meet both requirements stated above and who have satisfied the applicable waiting period for said Longevity Bonus due to the approved bridging of periods of service with the Civil City will not be required to satisfy a new waiting period for the Longevity Bonus and the amount of the Longevity Bonus will be based on the Council approved combined period.
- f. This Ordinance is to be applicable to any former employee or city official returning to the City payroll after a period of absence on or after January 1, 2021.

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage and approval of the Mayor and is to be applied beginning January 1, 2021.

SPONSORED BY: _____
Tracie Tillman, Member
Michigan City Common Council

A motion was seconded by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the amended ordinance by substitution, repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council, repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked all in favor to signify by saying "AYE" all responded "AYE" those opposed, there was no response; the amended ordinance by substitution was adopted by the following vote 9 – 0.

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

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4561

REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 4546 ENTITLED “ESTABLISHING RULES FOR ATTENDANCE AT AND THE USE OF WASHINGTON PARK AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING SAME AND FOR VIOLATING PARK DEPARTMENT RULES CONCERNING THE USE OF WASHINGTON PARK AND THE ZOO”

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, the Michigan City Common Council passed Ordinance No. 4546 entitled “*Establishing Rules for Attendance at and the Use of Washington Park and Penalties for Violating Same and for Violating Park Department Rules Concerning the Use of Washington Park and the Zoo,*” and on September 8, 2020, the Mayor signed said Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2020, the Michigan City Common Council passed Ordinance No. 4547 entitled “*Creating Section 82-68 in Article III (Park Rules) in Chapter 82 (Parks and Recreation) of the Michigan City Municipal Code to Provide a Mechanism for Enforcement for All Park Rules,*” and on September 16, 2020, the Mayor signed said Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the need now exists to repeal Ordinance No. 4546 based on the following:

- a. Provisions of Ordinance No. 4546, namely the provisions that violation of a Park rule is a violation of Michigan City Municipal Code, is now addressed in Ordinance No. 4547; and
- b. Ordinance No. 4546 was essentially enacted to deal with crowd control at Washington Park as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19), however, because the seasons are now transitioning and summer is coming to an end, large crowds are not being drawn to Washington Park so it is not necessary to incur the cost of screening access to the Park, and normal summer Park seasonal attendant operations conclude after Labor Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that Ordinance No. 4546 entitled “*Establishing Rules for Attendance at and the Use of Washington Park and Penalties for Violating Same and for Violating Park Department Rules Concerning the Use of Washington Park and the Zoo*” is now repealed.

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Common Council, approval of the Mayor, and any necessary publication.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Bryant Dabney, Member
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Dalia Zygas, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Mack asked if either of the authors had anything to add at this time;

Councilwoman Zygas stated Ordinance 4546 passed due to an emergency effort and the COVID pandemic; stating several concerns regarding this adopted ordinance; advising the Michigan City Park has an emergency response plan that will be proposed and hopefully adopted by their board; stating this is the reason to adopt the proposed ordinance and repeal Ordinance 4546 this evening; advising the Park Board is having a workshop on January 7, 2021 to discuss their plan.

Councilman Dabney commented on all his statements he had made prior to this meeting addressing reasons why he was against Ordinance 4546; and why he supported this ordinance to repeal it; asking for the Council’s support to adopt the proposed repeal this evening.

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the public, repeating three times; there was no response.

President Mack asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council;

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that we wouldn't be here this evening if Ordinance 4546 wasn't introduced and adopted; commenting again on why he brought this to the Council in the first place; advising that the Washington Park group is meeting to move forward and get a policy in place addressing issues that still need to be done; stating that he feels that Ordinance 4546 should stay in place until the Park Policy is completed and approved by their board; advising that this proposed ordinance should be voted down until a policy is in place.

President P. Przybylinski made a motion to TABLE this ordinance indefinitely, until this committee comes out with a policy that is adopted and enforced, second by Councilman Fitzpatrick.

President Mack asked for the vote; with the motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance indefinitely failed by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Fitzpatrick, and D. Przybylinski, (4) **NAYS:** Council members Mack, Deutch, Simmons, and Zygas (4). **ABSTAINED:** Councilman Dabney (1).

President Mack stated the motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance failed by a vote of 4 – 4 and 1 - abstained.

Councilman Fitzpatrick advised that he was still a supporter of Ordinance No. 4546; that it may not have been perfect but was necessary at the time it was brought to the Council and he believes it is still necessary document; that COVID isn't over with so many restrictions still in place in surrounding communities; commenting on what he feels needs to be in the policy and in place before repealing it.

Councilwoman Zygas addressed the Council advising that she did send a copy to each council member of the policy being proposed and is a plan for every single level of the color-coded chart the Health Department follows and is almost finalized.

Councilman D. Przybylinski advised that he was a Co-sponsor of Ordinance No. 4546; stating it was put together when the Park Department didn't have a responsible plan, with the City Council stepping in and addressing what needed to be done; it wasn't perfect but was a statement that needed to be done to move forward to get a policy in place and that he doesn't feel that it should be voted down this evening.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Dabney, Councilman D. Przybylinski and Councilwoman Deutch when Mr. Dabney asked Mr. D. Przybylinski "what did Ordinance No. 4546 do" and how it should be addressed this evening.

President Mack concurred with Councilwoman Deutch comments; and that he feels this ordinance did the job at the time it was adopted; but we need to move forward and let the Washington Park Committee come up with a plan for the future.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated that this ordinance is what started the conversation; advising if this wouldn't have been adopted there wouldn't be a conversation who knows what would have happened regarding a plan being proposed and adopted; making a motion to "TABLE" the proposed ordinance until the Park Department has a plan in place and is approved by their board.

Attorney Meyer advised that this a different motion; stating that if a motion to second is done; the council can take a vote.

Councilman D. Przybylinski made a motion to second;

President Mack asked for the vote; with the motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance until the Park Department has a policy implemented failed by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Fitzpatrick, P. Przybylinski and D. Przybylinski, (4) **NAYS:** Council members Dabney, Mack, Deutch, Simmons, and Zygas (5).

President Mack stated the motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance failed by a vote of 4 – 5.

Councilman Dabney made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance, second by Councilwoman Deutch.

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

NEW BUSINESS

President Mack stated that he would be working on the 2021 Council Committee Assignments; asking if there is anyone that would like to serve on a certain committee to please email him; that he will be presenting this list at the January 19, 2021 Council meeting.

President Mack stated the Council has eight (8) 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. (**not sworn in**), Mrs. Felicia Kelly - H.O.P.E. Community (Resigned) Mr. Willie Milsap - Swanson Center, Ms. LaTonya Troutman – NAACP, Pastor Dennis Carroll - Human Rights Commission, Michigan City resident appointed by the Common Council, Tracie Tillman: member of the Common Council appointed by the Common Council **note-all 8 terms expire 02/15/2021**

President Mack stated that Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council for the re-appointment of Rev. Dennis Carroll to the Michigan City Human Rights Commission (term will begin immediately and expire November 1, 2024) ; asking if there is no objection we will take the vote this evening; with the Mayor's request approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, and Dabney (9) **NAYS:** None (0).

President Mack stated that Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council for the re-appointment of Mr. Michael Wulff as a member of the Michigan City Tree Board (term will begin immediately and expire December 4, 2023); asking if there is no objection, we will take the vote this evening; with the Mayor's request approved by the following vote 9 – 0.

President Mack stated that Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council for the appointment of Mr. Tim Werner as a member of the Michigan City Tree Board replacing Connie Anderson (term will begin immediately and expire August 1, 2022); asking if there is no objection, we will take the vote this evening; with the Mayor's request approved by the following vote 9 – 0.

President Mack stated that Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council for the appointment of Mr. David Augustus as a member of the Michigan City Historic Review Board replacing Janet Smith (term will begin immediately and expire March 15, 2022); asking if there is no objection we will take the vote this evening; with the Mayor's request approved by the following vote 9 – 0.

President Mack stated The Council has four (4) appointments to the Urban Enterprise Association; reading the following Incumbents; Tracie Tillman – Council appointment (representing the Council), David Augustus – Council appointment (resident), Esther Guncheon – Council appointment (business), Keith Devereaux – Council appointment (resident) **note-all 8 terms expire 12/30/2020.**

President Mack advised that nominations would take place at the next Regular Council meeting on January 19, 2021; asking his colleagues to get out and recruit some of our cities talent and finest to serve on this committee.

President Mack advised the Council has one (1) appointment to the Veterans Commission (term will begin immediately and expire 12-31-2024) reading the following Incumbent to be Connie Anderson and that nomination would take place at the January 19, 2021 Council meeting.

Councilwoman Zygus asked if there were no objections to vote on the applications that were received for each of the boards; with Attorney Meyer stating that this wouldn't be the Council's standard procedure; but if there is no objection, we can move forward on the votes.

President Mack suggested that the Council waits until the January 19, 2021 meeting and follow the standard procedures.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the public;

Tom Kulevick, 1316 Ohio Street, addressed the Council regarding how bad the road is on Kiefer Road between Cleveland Avenue and Ohio Street; asking if it could get re-paved this year.

Rodney McCormick, 617 Union Street, stated that he has missed a few of the Council meetings due to being sick and deaths in his family; but did receive the December 1, 2021 Council meeting minutes and wanted to thank Councilmen D. Przybylinski and P. Przybylinski for voting against the eminent domain resolution; that it meant a lot to him that these two men stood up for our community.

Mr. McCormick asked for a list of streets that are being paved in 2021; questioning if the Martin Luther King Drive was one of them; advising there are several citizens that would like to see the list being proposed for 2021; to be able to have some input at future Council meetings.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the public; repeating three times; there was no response.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Councilman D. Przybylinski commented on Mr. McCormick statements this evening regarding eminent domain in the area where the NICTD garage will be built; advising that after that meeting the Redevelopment Commission Attorney contacted the owners and they are now negotiating a price; thanking Attorney Sernick for reaching out to these property owners.

Councilman D. Przybylinski thanked MCPD Mark Swistek for all his years of service; congratulating him on his retirement.

Councilman D. Przybylinski thanked Brandella Rogers from the EMA Team for her hard work and dedication to our community receiving the 2021 EMA Volunteer of the Year Award; advising the EMA volunteered 2,200 hours in our community during 2020.

Councilman D. Przybylinski congratulated Shannon Eason, Asst. Park Superintendent on receiving an award for her dedication and hard work on Saving the Dunes and the Singing Sand Trail.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that he spoke with a NIPSCO official advising him that Michigan City will be receiving LED Street lights starting in January 2021.

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked President Mack if he had any insight in regard to the Stop 11 incident that happened plowing the dunes that belongs to the city; with Mr. Mack advising the last thing he was told was that it was turned over to our attorneys.

Councilman P. Przybylinski thanked City Engineer Jeff Wright for addressing the many retired utility poles in our City that need to be removed; by contacting NIPSCO, Comcast, AT&T, etc.

Councilman P. Przybylinski also thanked his colleagues for tabling the Community Crossing Resolution and Ordinance for the additional appropriation until there is a Street/Alley Committee meeting.

Councilman Dabney thanked the public, especially Marty Corley and Dion Campbell; advising that he started a program before Christmas asking people in our community to donate a \$100 gift certificate from Van Heusen so he could give a young man that is getting ready to graduate from college or is going to their first job interview to be able to have the right attire and make a good impression; advising he received two other donation being able to give out five (5) gift certificates this year and is looking forward to doing this every year.

Councilwoman Deutch thanked Councilman P. Przybylinski for having the last workshop addressing streets and alleys that it was very informative.

Councilwoman Deutch congratulated Reese Attar from Michigan City High School for receiving the Lilly Award from the Unity Foundation for a full scholarship to Indiana University.

Councilwoman Deutch addressed the youth in our community to keep their eyes open for scholarship they can apply for as well and trade schools to enroll in for this next year.

Councilman Deutch stated that she will be posting information about the BLN who is the company in charge of properties being addressed in the double track project area and part of the negotiating process; advising the BLN Acquisition Manager's telephone number is 800-382 5206.

Councilwoman Zygas advised there is a grant from the Northern Indiana Small Business Development Center; through the Michigan City Economic Development Corporation and is called the "Restart Grant" inviting anyone interested to the webinar on January 12, 2021, with the applications being due on January 22nd and to find out more information you can go to edcmc.com and is also posted on daliazygas.com.

Councilman D. Przybylinski commented on the grant being available and that MCEDC were going to reach out to the businesses that applied for the City's "Last Chance" grant for small businesses as well.

Councilman Fitzpatrick congratulated President Mack thanking him for the comments he made about the previous year and him being President; and is looking forward to hopefully a better year; wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Simmons wished everyone a safe and Happy New Year as well.

President Mack commented on the COVID vaccine; advising when it is available, he will be getting it with hoping we can get this virus behind us.

President Mack stated there are three topics he hopes this Council will take to heart in the coming year; training & development, entrepreneur development, and our City services; communication and supporting our community is so important.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilwoman Deutch, supported by Councilman P. Przybylinski; there being no further business to transact, President Mack declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:59 p.m.)

Gale A. Neulieb