

# REGULAR MEETING – March 3, 2020

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, March 3, 2020 at the hour of 6:30 p.m., local time in the Common Council Chambers, located in the lower level of the City Hall Building, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana.

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

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

**PRESENT:** COUNCIL MEMBERS Bryant Dabney, Sean Fitzpatrick, Michael Mack, Don Przybylinski, Angie Nelson Deutch, Paul Przybylinski, Gene Simmons, and Tracie Tillman (8).

**ABSENT:** COUNCIL MEMBER None (0).

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Jim Meyer – Council Attorney, Gale Neulieb City Clerk and Dawn Debald Deputy Clerk

## **A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Fitzpatrick inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2020.

President Fitzpatrick asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes from February 18, 2020; with a motion from Councilman D. Przybylinski and second by Councilman P. Przybylinski. The minutes were approved as printed 8 -0.

### **REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES**

Councilman Dabney asked to come back to this report; that he couldn't find his report at this time.

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL or SELECT COMMITTEES**

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any other reports of city officers and departments; there was no response.

### **REPORTS OF OTHER OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

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

### **PETITION**

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any petitions this evening.

City Clerk Neulieb advised there were no petitions.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilman Dabney presented the following Finance Committee meeting minutes:

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Dabney to review claims filed since the last meeting. Committee members Tillman and P. Przybylinski were present as well as Council members Don Przybylinski, and Sean Fitzpatrick. City Controller Yvonne Hoffmaster was in attendance as well. Claims reviewed totaled \$11,102.70 from the Riverboat Fund, \$0.00 from the Boyd Development Fund, for a total docket of \$11,12.70. There was discussion about the purchasing policy that is on the agenda this evening and will explain more about that when the proposed ordinance is introduced. Councilman P. Przybylinski moved to recommend approval of the docket, and with a second by Councilwoman Tillman, the motion was approved unanimously. On a motion made by Councilman P. Przybylinski and a second by himself, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

**From the Riverboat Fund #2042:**

Blue Skye Planning - \$7,000.00 (pavement asset prioritization)  
 Dave's Garage & Auto Parts Inc. - \$175.00 (impound tow)  
 DLZ - \$2,543.77 (professional engineering services 10/12-2/19 – 11/8/2019)  
 Enterprise Rent-a-car - \$1,383.93 (car rental MCPD)

**TOTAL from River Boat Fund: \$11,102.70**

**Total from Boyd Development: \$0.00**

**TOTAL CLAIMS DOCKET - \$11,102.70**

**CLAIM DOCKETS**

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was a motion to approve the claims; Councilman Dabney made a motion to approve the claims, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

President Fitzpatrick asked; all in favor to pay the claims signify by saying "AYE", all responded "AYES"; those opposed; there was no response. Claims were approved (9-0).

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any other reports of standing committees; there was no response.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any communications.

City Clerk Neulieb read the following communications received in the Clerk's Office:

Correspondence received in the Clerk's Office on February 17, 2020 and February 24, 2020 from DLZ – Weekly Activities Report – ESG Energy Project

Correspondence received in the Clerk's Office on February 18, 2020 From Energy System Group – City of Michigan City: Energy & Infrastructure Project

Correspondence received in the Clerk's Office on February 21, 2020 From Mr. George Kazmierczak regarding his re-appointment to the Enrichment Corporation Board

Correspondence received in the Clerk's Office on February 26, 2020 from Kei Constantinov, Secretary of the Elston Grove Neighborhood Association re-appointing Laura Henderson as their representative on the Tree Board

Councilman D. Przybylinski called a point of order; addressing that since we are now moving forward and getting into the proposed resolution and ordinance portion of the meeting where council members are allowed to speak/state their opinions on these documents; so that all council members are made aware of the instant transparency marketing the council is doing now how is the five (5) minutes being timed and kept; so that when speaking and being concerned about when the time limit is up; asking President Fitzpatrick what device is being using; President Fitzpatrick advised the digital clock on the wall; stating Councilman Mack will start it at the beginning of the five (5) minutes with the clock showing the time left to speak.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

City Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed resolution in its entirety,

### **MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**

### **RESOLUTION 4775**

#### **A RESOLUTION INCREASING AND DECREASING CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET OF THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION IN THE GENERAL FUND #1001 FOR THE YEAR 2020 IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA**

**WHEREAS**, there exists certain circumstances within the budget of the Public Art Commission in the General Fund #1001 which require increasing and decreasing appropriations for certain line items in that Fund for the year 2020.

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

Section 1. Because it is deemed advisable and necessary, in order to meet the circumstances facing the budget of the Public Art Commission in the General Fund of the City, the Common Council approves the following transfer of appropriations, as listed, to-wit:

#### **PUBLIC ART COMMISSION OF GENERAL FUND #1001**

DECREASE:	A/C #1001.500.429.001	\$4,500.00
	Other Supplies	
INCREASE:	A/C #1001.500.431.050	\$4,500.00
	Professional Services	

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/ Bryant Dabney, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

President Fitzpatrick asked if the Author had anything to add to the proposed resolution.

Councilman Dabney stated this is a transfer within the Public Art Committee's budget from other supplies to professional services in the amount of \$4,500.

President Fitzpatrick stated he had reviewed the Public Art Committee's budget, advising the transfer from other supplies for \$4,500 would be depleting this line item completely; asking why there was \$4,500 budgeted for 2020.

Yvonne Hoffmaster, Michigan City Controller, advised the \$4,500 was put on the wrong line item when submitted to the council; the Public Art Committee doesn't usually have to purchase supplies, that these monies being transferred to professional services A/C 1001.500.431.050 will be used to pay artist that display their work throughout our community.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any Council comments regarding the proposed resolution:

Councilman Don Przybylinski advised that he spoke with Ms. Shannon Eason who is the Chair of the Public Art Committee stating she said this is the second year this money was put in the wrong line item.

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

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was any objection to this resolution; there was no response; asking all in favor to signify by saying "AYE" all respond "AYE" those opposed; there was no response; the resolution was adopted by the following vote 8 – 0.

The City Clerk read the following resolution by title only,

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION NO. 4776**

**REQUESTING THE MICHIGAN CITY PLAN COMMISSION AND THE  
MICHIGAN CITY PLANNING AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT TO  
WAIVE BUILDING PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan City Common Council has given support to the need to keep low-income residents of Michigan City safe and healthy in energy-efficient homes; and

**WHEREAS**, North Central Community Action Agencies, Inc. (NCCAA) is a non-profit corporation that works in partnership with low-income and disabled residents in need of ramps for and weatherization of their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, NCCAA requires an application from a potential recipient of the Ramp and/or Weatherization Program to determine eligibility for the NCCAA's services; and

**WHEREAS**, NCCAA receives funding from local foundations and private donations for the Ramp Program for purchase of building materials and receives funding for the Weatherization Program from the Department of Energy, through the Indiana Housing Community Development Authority (IHCDA), to assist low-income families with home modifications that help conserve energy and lower heating costs; and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion, there are no costs assessed to those families; and

**WHEREAS**, NCCAA works with homeowners and provides energy education in the Weatherization Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council wishes to have the City lessen the financial and time burden for NCCAA for construction of ramps for the low-income elderly and disabled of Michigan City as well as for the weatherization for the low-income residents so that they can proceed with providing these services without delay and undue costs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Michigan City Common Council that, in order to encourage and assist in the construction of ramps and weatherization improvements in Michigan City for families who could not otherwise afford these services, respectfully requests that the Michigan City Plan Commission and the Planning and

Inspection Departments waive all fees for the construction of ramps and weatherization services by North Central Community Action Agencies, Inc.

Upon the passage of this Resolution, the City Clerk will send a copy to each member of the Plan Commission, the Board of Public Works and Safety, and to the Planning and Inspection Departments for their consideration and compliance and for future production to the State Board of Accounts.

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

**INTRODUCED BY:** /s/ Angie Nelson-Deutch, Council Member

**CO-SPONSOR:** /s/ Michael Mack, Council Member

**CO-SPONSOR:** /s/ Tracie Tillman, Council Member

President Fitzpatrick asked the author if she had anything to add:

Councilwoman Deutch advised this waiver is similar to what was proposed at our February 18, 2020 Council meeting; waiving the fees for Habitat of Humanity in regard to waiving the building permits for the house they are building on Hobart Street.

Councilwoman Deutch stated that the NCCAA Executive Director Cindy Davis and board member Mr. Mereweather are present to answer any questions the council might have.

President Fitzpatrick advised that he is a board member of the NCCAA and will be abstaining from the discussion as well as the vote this evening.

Cynthia Davis, NCCAA Executive Director addressed the Council advising they have been in business for fifty-four (54) years, providing rederivation for Michigan City for the last forty (40) years, and also have the ramp program that constructs ramps for the elderly and disabled low income residence since April 2017; stating several of the projects they have completed in our community; asking for the Council's support.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to comment on the proposed resolution; there was no response.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was anyone from the council that wished to speak;

Councilwoman Deutch added that Executive Director Davis and herself will be meeting with the Inspection Department; to review the process the city has for them to follow with doing their improvements and follow City codes.

Councilwoman Tillman asked to be a Co-Sponsor.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated he will be in full support of the proposed resolution thanking them for doing a great job for the less fortunate in our community.

Councilman Mack thanked this organization for doing a great job throughout our community.

Councilman Dabney stated this is well organized nonprofit organization; making a motion to adopt the proposed resolution to waive these fees, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

President Fitzpatrick stated if there were no other comments; asked all in favor to signify by saying "AYE" all responded "AYE" those opposed; there was no response; the resolution was adopted by the follow vote 8 – 0.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading by title only,  
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE BARKER**

**CIVIC CENTER FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES TO RESTOCK THE GIFT SHOP FOR THE BARKER CIVIC CENTER**

**Introduced by:** Bryant Dabney

(DECREASE Barker Civic Center Fund # 2070 Unappropriated balance \$1,200.00. INCREASE ACCOUNT# 2070.000.429.001 \$1,200.00 Other Supplies)

President Fitzpatrick asked if the Author had anything to add regarding the proposed ordinance:

Councilman Dabney advised this money is to restock the gift shop; with the revenue of that helping with the cost of activities they are doing this year.

Sarah Berhndt, Executive Director of the Barker Mansion, addressed the Council regarding their request for the appropriation; explaining the revenue they received last year was \$1,200.00.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was anyone else from the public that wished to speak on the proposed ordinance; there was no response.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any comments from the Council (repeating three times); there was no response; advising the proposed ordinance would be held over on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the March 17, 2020 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading by title only, **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-399 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE DESIGNATING THE COMMON COUNCIL AS THE CITY AGENCY WITH THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PURCHASE ORDERS FROM THE CITY'S RIVERBOAT FUND AND BOYD DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**Introduced by:** Bryant Dabney

President Fitzpatrick asked if the Author had anything to add regarding the proposed ordinance.

Councilman Dabney stated what this proposed ordinance is going to be doing is changing the order of the process of how purchase orders are made from each department within the City; advising how it works now is once the budget is approved any department can purchase an item at any time; after they have purchased that item it then comes to the Council for approval; so what this ordinance will do is change this process that they have to come to the council prior to ordering an item.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak regarding this proposed ordinance (repeating three times); there was no response.

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

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked to be a co-sponsor to the ordinance.

Councilwoman Tillman asked to be a co-sponsor as well.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated he too would like to be added as a co-sponsor; stating this is an important step on controlling funds of the city and is glad we're are doing this; that this will help the City Council, each department as well as the Controller's Office.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any further comments from the council (repeating three times); there was no response; advising the proposed ordinance would be held over to the March 17, 2020 Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading by title only  
**AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2-57(b) TO ADD LANGUAGE TO SAID SECTION REGARDING COUNCIL SPONSHORSHIP OF AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION**

**Introduced by:** Paul Przybylinsk  
**Co-Sponsor** Don Przybylinski

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that he brought the proposed ordinance forward so there is no misdirection in the future; that there was a situation this year that an elected council member introduced legislation; with them not seated and had not taken their oath when the Clerk's Office received the proposed ordinance; stating he believes that besides a council member not an elect council person should be introducing legislation or having the City Attorney's doing any business for them until they are active council person.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on why he is asking for this to be put in writing and doesn't happen again; clarifying it.

Councilman D. Przybylinski believes that council members (elected) should not be able to introduce or start developing a proposed ordinances or resolutions until they are actually seated as a council member; stating that he realizes that Councilwoman Deutch presented two (2) proposed ordinances prior to being sworn in and this proposed ordinance is no reflection to what she was doing; advising that he is serving his third term as a council member and has never seen this happen with prior councils.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was anyone from the public that wish to speak regarding the proposed ordinance.

Rodney McCormick, 617 Union Street, thanked Councilwoman Deutch for doing what she did presenting the proposed ordinance at her first council meeting January 7, 2020; the citizens of Michigan City spoke, voted, putting these nine (9) council people in office; stating he is happy she came in and took care of business.

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

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any comments from the council;

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked City Clerk Neulieb to read the proposed ordinance in its entirety:

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL**  
**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2-57(b) TO ADD LANGUAGE TO SAID SECTION REGARDING COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP OF AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2-57(b) of the Michigan City Municipal Code currently reads as follows: "(b) No ordinance or resolution shall be introduced unless the requirements of Council Resolution No. 4365, as amended, have been fulfilled and unless a copy has been delivered via electronic mail to the e-mail address of each council member at least 96 hours prior to the meeting;" and

**WHEREAS**, the need exists to amend Section 2-57(b) to add language to clarify that no ordinance or resolution shall be sponsored by a member-elect of the Michigan City Common Council until such time as said member-elect actually assumes their respective elected office on the Michigan City Common Council under Indiana law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Michigan City Common Council that Section 2-57(b) of the Michigan City Municipal Code shall be amended to read as follows:

(b) No ordinance or resolution shall be introduced unless the following have been met:

- (1) The requirements of Council Resolution No. 4365, as amended, have been fulfilled;
- (2) A copy of the proposed ordinance or resolution has been delivered via electronic mail to the e-mail address of each council member at least 96 hours prior to the meeting; and
- (3) The Michigan City Common Council member sponsoring the proposed ordinance or resolution has actually assumed their respective elected office on the Michigan City Common Council under Indiana law.

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

**INTRODUCED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Paul Przybylinski, Member

**CO-SPONSOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

Don Przybylinski, Member

President Fitzpatrick asked if the council had comments:

Councilman P. Przybylinski wanted to inform the general public that he believes in good practice with as many years that he was on the city council; there was never a situation like this occur; stating he believes the legal staff should of advised the appropriate council member that this was not an appropriate thing to do at this time; commenting on discussions that didn't take place with the City Attorney Lapaich.

Councilman Dabney commented on what had happened, that after the election people were elected to their position; that when Councilwoman Deutch proposed these ordinances they weren't in the records until after she was sworn in and was presented at her first council meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any other further comments (repeating three times); there was no response.

Councilman D. Przybylinski 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 and D. Przybylinski (2) **NAYS:** Council members Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, and Simmons (6).

President Fitzpatrick stated the ordinances fails.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Fitzpatrick stated the Council has one (1) appointment to the Social Status of African-American Males Commission with the term that expired 02/15/2020; Incumbent Ms. Tracie Tillman.

City Clerk Neulieb stated that an application from Mr. Rodney McCormick was received in her office.

Councilwoman Deutch nominated Rodney McCormick to the Social Status of African American Males Commission, second Councilman Mack.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any objections to have the vote this evening; there was no response.

Councilman P. Przybylinski called a point of order; asking if the form is completed correctly compared to what Mr. G. Kazmierczak had turned in; that he thought that there was a question about how the applications are filled out with more information why someone wants to serve on a board or commission.

Councilman Deutch commented on the form that needs to be completed to serve on a board or commission; advising she didn't think there was anything written in the Council rules regarding how this application needs to be filled out a certain way.

Discussion ensued between President Fitzpatrick and Councilwoman Deutch.

President Fitzpatrick stated there is a motion and a second; are there any other comments; there being none Mr. McCormick was appointed to the Social Status of African American Males Commission by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, Simmons (6) **NAY:** Council Members D. Przybylinski and P. Przybylinski (2).

President Fitzpatrick congratulated Mr. McCormick.

President Fitzpatrick stated the Common Council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Tree Board – term expires March 15, 2020 (Neighborhood Association Representative) Incumbent: Ms. Laura Henderson

President Fitzpatrick asked if the Clerk's Office did receive a letter from the Neighborhood Association re-appointing Ms. Henderson.

Clerk Neulieb responded that she had received a letter from the "Neighborhood Association" re-appointing Ms. Laura Henderson as their representative.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were no objections he would have the vote this evening; there was no response; asking all in favor to signify by saying "AYE", all responded "AYE" those opposed; there was no response; the vote to approve the "Neighborhood Associations representative; Laura Henderson to the Michigan City Tree Board was approved by the following vote 8 – 0.

President Fitzpatrick stated the Council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Enrichment Corporation expiring 03-31-2020. Incumbent: George Kazmierczak.

City Clerk Neulieb stated there was an application received in the Clerk's office from Mr. George Kazmierczak.

Councilman P. Przybylinski nominated George Kazmierczak to the Enrichment Corporation, second by Councilwoman Deutch.

Councilman P. Przybylinski read the following letter received from Mr. Kazmierczak:

Having been a member of the Board of Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation the past seven years, I request that may be reappointed to this Board.

Much has been completed by the Board members to date. We have just recently completed another successful campaign with the awarding of grants for 2020/2021. We are preparing ourselves to enhance better overviews and guidelines in effort to assist and grant more funds to deserving organizations for their humanitarian projects in the area. We have made many advances and changes including our On-line application and reporting system. This was accomplished by Board members who worked and fulfilled their responsibilities with total harmony and effort to place the funds in the best areas of serving our community and its individuals.

There remains much more to do in order to maintain the progress this Board has accomplished.

It is with these thoughts, and sense of continuity, that I submit my name for reappointment to this Board for another term.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were no objections, he would like to suspend the rules and take the vote to re-appoint Mr. George Kazmierczak to the Enrichment

Corporation; asking all in favor to signify by saying "AYE" all responded "AYE", those opposed; there was no response; Mr. Kazmierczak was re-appointed to the Enrichment Corporation 8 – 0.

President Fitzpatrick congratulated Kazmierczak.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was any other unfinished business to address; there was no response.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Fitzpatrick stated Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding his appoint of Ms. Bunny Dimke as a member of the Michigan City Cemetery Board. (term beginning immediately and expires 12-31-2020).

President Fitzpatrick asked if there was no objection, we will take the vote this evening for the advice and consent to appoint Ms. Bunny Dimke as a member of the Michigan City Cemetery Board; there was no response; asking all in favor signify by saying "AYE" all responded "AYE", those opposed; there was no response, the requests from the Mayor was approved 8 – 0.

LaTonya' Troutman, member of the Michigan City Social Status of African American Males Commission, presented the 2020 Annual Report: highlighting on the following:

- Commission's Membership
- Committee Reports
- Economic Employment
- Education/Scholarship
- African Garden
- 2019 Financial Report

President Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. Troutman for her report; asking if there were any other comments:

Councilman Simmons advised he was the past liaison of the Social Status of African American Males Commission; asking that he would like to see them continue and recruit more black mentors in our community schools.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any other comments; there was no response.

Mr. Clarence Hulce, Executive Director of the Michigan City Economic Development Corporation, presented the 2019 Annual Report addressing some of the following; In 2019 there were 10 new, expansion, or relocation projects completed or in process, 165 new job projected as well as 175 jobs retained in our community, commenting on new projects and estimated investments in 2019, projected ground breakings in 2020, Community partner and business development initiatives, along with current and future challenges.

Councilman D. Przybylinski thanked Mr. Hulce for giving his informative report this evening; questioning if he had went back to his board as he previously said he would do; asking what their response was regarding the process of how they notify and choose the member from the Council each year.

Mr. Hulce stated he would let his board know; with Councilman D. Przybylinski asking him to send a letter to the Council President each year to inform all members when to contact the Economic Board letting the members know they are interested in serving the following year; asking if they could vote that into their by-laws.

Councilman Mack also thanked Mr. Hulce for his presentation; advising him that he is the Council's liaison on the Sustainability Committee and attended a presentation about "food deserts" in the Chicago area; with them addressing health issues and things of

that nature; explaining if there was access to nutritional food it would alleviate health issues within our neighborhoods and elderly citizens.

Discussion ensued between Councilman Mack and Mr. Hulce regarding the location of a few "food deserts" on the east side of our city and due to the lack of business they had to close with Mr. Hulce stating maybe the city could reach out to nonprofit organizations to volunteer and sell nutritional foods/fruits out of their buildings and make it work.

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked Mr. Hulce if the EDC have meetings where the public can attend; also asking what the amount the EDC is contracted with the city annually; Mr. Hulce advising that their meetings are closed to the public and that the EDC is contracted by the city for \$150,000.00 annually.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated he also has a problem regarding how council members weren't notified regarding the vacancy of the EDC Council's appoint to their board; and that there meeting isn't transparent.

Mr. Hulce advised that by Indiana State Statute the meetings can't be open due to confidentiality to investors, companies, etc.

Discussion ensued between Councilman P. Przybylinski and Mr. Hulce regarding his report the \$675,000 "Skill's Up" grant received and what that status was; Mr. Hulce stated that he would contact "Work One" to get the information he is looking for and will share it with him and the other council members.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on Mr. Hulce's report stating that he doesn't believe a major thing has come to Michigan City in years and that the Sullair addition was in the works before EDC even knew about it; alluding in his report that we don't have the buildings, infrastructure, along with other things stated why businesses don't locate here; advising this council needs to know what we do need; this council needs to look into what is really being done in the EDC; stating LaPorte County is in the top five (5) of the state to for unemployment; asking what are we doing wrong.

Mr. Hulce stated they are trying to figure out where the skill set is in our community; addressing several reasons why the unemployment is so high within LaPorte County.

Discussion ensued between Councilman P. Przybylinski and Mr. Hulce regarding "Keys of Hope" asking if EDC reaches out to this organization for employment opportunities; connecting with Keys of Hope to state agency with job opportunities within our community, helping them fill out applications and do resume's.

Councilwoman Deutch addressed the Council regarding the welding program which is a part of "Skill's Up" and that they are struggling to get people in these classes; advising there is monies out there to get people trained and skilled to get better paying jobs; with key factor is transportation; stating several concerns regarding this.

President Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Hulce for his presentation; questioning if there is local help for businesses through EDC to get started.

Mr. Hulce advised there are Federal Funded Programs that will help you get a business plan together, work with you through to the closing of the loan to start your business; along with our Revolving Loan Program, RDC in Valparaiso that do "504" loans for investors as well as several banks in our community that do small business loans to get started.

Mr. Hulce advised President Fitzpatrick the EDC has been in partnership with the city for close to twenty-two (22) years.

Mr. Hulce also advised President Fitzpatrick the EDC board has always just picked the Council member to serve each year (he has records that show who served the past 10 years).

President Fitzpatrick congratulated Mr. Hulce for receiving a rewarded for his accomplishments and hard work by the State of Indiana as the MCEDC Director.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any comments from the public; asking those who wanted to comment/address the Council on any matter to state their name and address for the record;

Alena Ursida, 125 Harrison Street, questioned Mr. Hulce asking how do you get your name in the booklet on page 12 **Investors** "Making All the Difference" list; stating that the Investor "SevenOk's" hasn't been in business since 2017 and was bought out by another person.

Mr. Hulce advised that this list are private sectors/companies that pay to be part of EDC; stating the amount is about 40 to 50 thousand dollars they receive and is a three (3) year campaign.

Brett Kelley, 330 Calumet Avenue and Michael Jones, 105 Fir Street addressed the Council regarding the history of Mr. Richard Hatcher born and raised in Michigan City graduating from Elston High School 1952, an Indiana University graduate and graduated in 1959 from Valparaiso Law School and was the first black Mayor in Gary, Indiana; asking if the council if they would do a resolution or proclamation.

Jacobi Spencer, 240 Pleasant Avenue, addressed the Council regarding an incident that happened to her daughter Inka Cooper at Crawford's Bar and Grill in Michigan City on February 29, 2020 and a MCPD police officer that was on duty; stating several incidents that have happened between her family and this officer in the past as well; advising her daughter would explain what happened that evening, since she was there.

Inka Cooper, 214 York Street, addressed the council regarding what took place on February 29, 2020 outside Crawford's Bar and Grill's establishment and a MCPD police officer; stating that she wasn't arrested.

President Fitzpatrick stated that he feels this would be addressed with the Michigan City Police Commission Board; that it is noted that you came to the Council regarding this incident.

Rodney McCormick 617 Union Street, stated there is no better place to bring up the incident that happened on February 29, 2020 than this council; advising that he addressed the Board Public Works meeting yesterday (March 2, 2020) regarding this same incident with Mayor Parry stating he would look into this matter.

Mr. McCormick commented on conversations he has had with Mayor Parry and many members on this council during their campaigns to create an "Independent Citizen Review Board"; with no one stepping up and creating a board.

Mr. McCormick stated that he is running in the caucus for the At-Large position replacing the seat of Mr. Stimley, commenting on a statement that was made regarding him running.

Margaret Picur 1009 Tennessee Street asked several questions regarding the street closures in regard to the double tracking project, how fast the trains will be traveling, and why weren't the citizen of Michigan City asked for their input regarding these street closures.

Kathy Stransky, 223 Barker Avenue, thanked the council for putting another step in the process of the spending of funds from our 2020 budget.

Gloria Fry, Michigan City and great-grandmother of Inka Cooper, 214 York Street stating she can't understand how someone can get hurt by another person and have no police report or charges filed against that person.

Alena Ursida, 125 Harrison Street, commented the freight trains that pass in front of her house; asking why the coal cars are not covered and can potentially be harmful to the environment as well as her grandchildren that have Asma.

LaTonya Troutman, 201 Holiday Street and homeless resident of Michigan City addressed Mr. Hulce's presentation; stating several concerns regarding EDC/Work One reaching out and communicating with local colleges and institutions; advising most information they do receive regarding job are from their professors and teachers and are Chicago based jobs with transportation being a big factor.

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

### **COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

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

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on what was posted in the National Press by one of the presidential candidate, that Fidel Castro was a great man; wanting to rebuttal that that statement; stating in the early 70's he was on a hijacked plane and was held hostage for over eighteen (18) hours; Mr. Castro was the only international community that never signed an anti-termism hijacking provision in which he promoted a lot of hijacking back then; advising his reason for saying this is that people in our daily lives really need to think about what they are saying, before saying it; Mr. McCormick commented about what a person supposedly said about him running in the caucus.

Councilwoman Tillman read the following information she received in her office from the LaPorte County Health Department; stating that their cases within the United States and wanted to share this with the public.

*On behalf of the LaPorte County Health Department Preparedness team and the Board of Health, in collaboration with the LaPorte County Commissioners, we want to assure the there is a process locally in place for COVID-19 (Corona Virus)> Any changes in our protocol will be sent down from the State Department of Health and we will act upon them. We are monitoring the status of the COVID-19 virus frequently throughout the day and attend weekly webinar meetings lead by the State Department of Health staff.*

*Steps everyone should take now are:*

1. Perform Hand Washing Hygiene using the 20 second rule of washing with soap and running luke warm water OR use an alcohol-based hand rub, before and after you eat, avoid touching yes, nose and mouth, maintain social distancing at least 3 feet between yourself and someone that is sneezing or coughing. Have hand sanitizer readily available for these instances.,
2. Contact your physician early if you or someone in the family develops a fever, cough, difficulty breathing or respiratory symptoms and tell your provider of any recent travel or contact with travelers.
3. Use Cough Etiquette when sneezing such as into the elbow when tissues are not readily available and wash hands immediately after or use alcohol-base hand rub.
4. Perform aerosol-generating procedures in your home and environments with disinfecting sprays.
5. Stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache & slight runny nose until you recover. Avoiding contact with others and visits to medical facilitates will allow these facilities to operate more effectively and help protect you and others.

For questions, concerns or updates please call LaPorte County Health Department 219 325-5563.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that after attending the double track workshop this past Wednesday, stating a Council member he would like this Council and the City's

Administration to work together on the agreements that were passed by the last administration and council regarding the proposed parking garage, the quiet zones within the city ordinance and the street closure that are proposed; we have three years to get a plan, how much it is going to cost the city, and where the monies will be coming from; The administration and council need to sit down with NICTD, look at these things and try to come up with some viable solutions in a timely manner and not wait; being prepared financially to protect our interests and assets.

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked Councilwoman Deutch since she works for NIPSCO if she could find out what the gross tonnage is and where the origin of where the steel is from for the replacement of the towers be replaced through our city.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that he agrees with Councilman D. Przybylinski about getting a plan for the financial obligation that the city has made in the agreement with NICTD regarding the double tracking project; stating several concerns he has about where the monies are going to come from to finish this project with bonds we already have.

Councilwoman Deutch agrees with both Councilmen D. Przybylinski and P. Przybylinski regarding the double tracking finances; advising she walked the entire route being proposed handing out flyers regarding the NICTD property assessment workshop scheduled on March 3, 2020, as well as looking at the proposed streets that are going to be closed; and that there needs to be a executive session or workshop to do some for casting on exactly what this means for our city financially.

Councilwoman Deutch stated as far as NIPSCO, she will get Councilman P. Przybylinski request to the project manager for some answers.

President Fitzpatrick asked if there were any further comments from the Council, there was no response.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Parry addressed Mr. Kelley's request for a proclamation or resolution for the great Mayor Richard Hatcher; stating that he will be honored to do a proclamation.

Mayor Parry commented on statements from the public that were received this evening regarding the incident that happened outside Crawford's Bar and Grill in the parking lot with a MCPD police officer and a citizen being injured;

President Fitzpatrick thanked everyone for attending this meeting; commenting and addressing the situation that took place at Crawford's on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

President Fitzpatrick stated he and Councilwoman Deutch did go to all the residents with flyers letting the citizens effected by the NICTD project know when their workshop was so they could attend; the double tracking is coming to our community that this was an agreement made in 2016 by the past administration; stating that there are situations that are going to have to be addressed and this council will be scheduling committee meetings to review and revisit these decisions and agreements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Councilwoman Deutch, supported by Councilman D. Przybylinski and there being no further business to transact, President Fitzpatrick declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:36 p.m.)