

REGULAR MEETING – April 6, 2021

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, April 6, 2021 at the hour of 6:30 p.m., Hosted by “Zoom” and streamed live on “My Michigan City” Facebook Page.

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

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 Zygas and Tracie Tillman (9).

ABSENT: None (0).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Mack inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the Regular “Zoom” Meeting of March 16, 2021 and the Executive “Zoom” meeting of March 25, 2021; there was no response.

President Mack asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council “Zoom” meeting minutes from March 16, 2021 and the Executive Session minutes from March 25, 2021; with a motion from Councilman D. Przybylinski and second by Councilman Simmons. The minutes were approved as printed 9 -0.

REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilman Paul Przybylinski reported on the Council’s Streets and Alley meeting that was held on March 30, 2021.

Councilwoman Deutch spoke as well regarding the Streets and Alley Committee meeting; advising that she would do a written report with who attended and that the only thing agreed on was to TABLE this ordinance until the Council would receive more information from our attorney to move forward.

FINANCE REPORT

Chairman Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Committee members Przybylinski and Tillman were present, Chairman Fitzpatrick made the committee aware that the controller Hoffmaster would not be available for the entire meeting.

The claims were as follows:

\$4650 from the Boyd Development Fund for a purchase order approved by the Board of Works to Dee Haddad Events LLC for operation of the farmers market for the 2021 season.

Councilman Przybylinski stated that he believed the pricing was fair for the service to be rendered. Councilman Tillman agreed and asked if the individual was the same as the previous years and the call for service was open to all or a direct appointment.

Controller Hoffmaster replied the service provider was new, there was a brief conversation about the process about selecting a service provider. A motion was made by Committee member Tillman to recommend that the council approves the claims, that motion was seconded by committee member Przybylinski. The committee voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

Committee member Przybylinski expressed his support for the ordinance establishing deadlines for the preparation and submission for the proposed budget to the council and then posed the question in regard to amending the salary ordinance for a position that was set in the 2021 budget. Assistant park superintendent Eason responded that compared to similar positions in other departments, the Park departments wages were lower. She further noted that this request was made to previous and current administrators for the past several years and was brought forth at this time by a vacant position due to a retirement after 14 years of service. Committee member Przybylinski noted that other departments with higher pay rates were also looking to hire and was unsure about the ability to cover all inequities in pay at this time and further noted that the budget was set and we should stick to what was already approved.

Controller Hoffmaster excused herself from the meeting. Chairman Fitzpatrick as well as Committee member Tillman expressed their disapproval for the lack of representation from the controller's office.

Committee member Tillman stated that any potential increases should be discussed at the 2022 budget hearings. Councilman Dabney noted we amended the budget to higher and increase the pay for lifeguards, he further noted that additions were made to the agenda that he believed were untimely. Assistant superintendent Eason stated that the requested amendment wasn't request wasn't a request for additional funds and referenced the pay rate of similar positions across departments and expressed the need for equality. Chairman Fitzpatrick inquired about the rate of pay for the park superintendent and the assistant and if they were equal to other department heads. Assistant superintendent Eason referenced the salary study. Committee member Przybylinski asked who prepared the park departments budget and Councilman Dabney expressed that the budget was ultimately the will of the mayor. Committee Member Tillman inquired about the Mayor's desire to increase the pay for these positions. Assistant Superintendent Eason stated that these requests were denied for the last 7 years by the Mayors. It was further discussed there were excess funds for seasonal positions due to Covid and that those rates were not competitive compared to some local retailers. Chairman Fitzpatrick asked if the council amended the budget and the mayor decided not to increase the pay rates would it then revert back, and the response was that it potentially would. Councilwoman Zygus commented that in her opinion it was only a transfer and would help them attract candidates. Committee Member Przybylinski moved not to recommend approval. That motion was seconded by Chairman Fitzpatrick and unanimously voted on.

Discussion began regarding the proposed ordinance to establish deadlines for the preparation and submission of drafts of the proposed annual budget. Chairman Fitzpatrick expressed the need to increase the time the council has to review the budget without being so close to the deadline for submission. Committee Member Tillman asked to cosponsor the ordinance. Committee member Przybylinski expressed his support for the support as well. Councilwoman Deutch noted a communication with Controller Hoffmaster in reference to changes in IC codes and the July 6th deadline proposed by the ordinance and that some information may not be available in a timely manner. Councilman Dabney also chimed in.

Final discussions were in regard to the Promise Scholarship and event coordinator positions. Councilman Simmons about the promise scholarship coordinators salary as well as the former event coordinator's position and if the salaries went back to the general fund. Council woman Deutch inquired about the controller's email response. Councilman Simmons referred to the email attached to these minutes. Further conversation about the Promise Scholarship position and the duties of the position based on the needs of the scholarship applicants as well as the potential overlap of service in the Mayor's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm. This includes the minutes of the Finance committee meeting.

Councilman Fitzpatrick sent the following email on April 1, 2021 to Controller Hoffmaster: Good Morning Controller Hoffmaster, the finance Committee is seeking information regarding the following

items: Promise Scholarship Coordinator Position, Special Events Coordinator, and the Mayor’s Secretary position.

Councilman Fitzpatrick read the following email sent to entire Council from Councilman Simmons on March 31, 2021:

Good evening everyone, can we ask Yvonne the movements of these line items? I know Janet in the Mayor’s office was given the Promise Scholarship Coordinator position, however, where did her salary go, as well as the Special Events Coordinator, so that at the Mayor’s discretion?

Councilman Fitzpatrick read the following response he received from Controller Hoffmaster on April 1, 2021: Councilman Fitzpatrick

The Promise Scholarship Director is funded by the Promise Scholarship Fund as outlined in Ordinance 4393. The Special Events Planner is funded in the Mayor’s budget of the General Fund. This position is currently budgeted but not filled. The Mayor’s Executive Assistant, in the past, has been funded in the Mayor’s budget of the General Fund. This position is currently budgeted but not filled.

I am not sure what you mean by overlap in services. Each position has a job description that spells out the responsibilities of the position. I am, also, not sure of what you mean by ‘what monies were returned to the General Fund’.

CLAIMS DOCKET

President Mack stated that there is a proposed purchase order from the Boyd Development Fund #2031 in the amount \$4,650.00 for Dee Haddad Events, LLC for contractual services for the Michigan City Farmers Market; with Councilman Fitzpatrick making a motion to approve the proposed purchase order, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski; President Mack asking; all in favor to approve the proposed purchase order signify by saying “AYE”, all responded “AYE”, those opposed; there was no response with a vote to approve 9 – 0.

President Mack advised that there were “0” zero claims for April 6, 2021 asking; all in favor to pay the claims as amended signify by saying “AYE”, all responded “AYE”; those opposed; there was no response. Claims were approved (9-0).

February 16, 2021 Riverboat/Boyd Claim Docket

Fund #2042 – Riverboat – Claims-	\$	00.00
EFT	\$	0.00
Fund #2031 – Boyd – Claims-	\$	0.00
TOTAL CLAIMS	\$	00.00

REPORTS OF SPECIAL or SELECT COMMITTEES

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

REPORTS OF OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS

President Mack asked if there were any reports of other City Officers or Departments; there was no response.

PETITIONS

President Mack asked if there were any petitions; Clerk Neulieb advised the following petition was received in the Clerk’s Office on March 25, 2021 **PETITION P-100-21**

WOODLAWN HOLDINGS ZERO, LLC – ROSE SERIES For Rezoning – R2B TO R3B 312 E. 8th Street, Parcel No. 46-01-29-431-019.000-022 Michigan City, Indiana

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 22, 2021 from Mayor Duane Parry regarding his VETO to Resolution No. 4805 **A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA, EXPRESSING LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF MAYOR DUANE PARRY AND REQUESTING HIS RESIGNATION**

Clerk Neulieb read the following letter received from Mayor Parry in its entirety.

Dear Members of the Common Council:

On Friday, March 19, 2021 I vetoed Michigan City Common Council Resolution Number 4805. I took this action because I disagree fully with every statement contained in the resolution in content, accuracy and intent. Also, My position is that the resolution is unnecessary, Its sole purpose being to discredit me and influence me to resign from my position as Mayor, which I will not.

Immediately after the two incidents referenced in the resolution took place, I took reconciliatory action, personally apologizing to everyone directly or indirectly affected, and began undergoing counseling and training in diversity and sensitivity. I have apologized to everybody offended by the incidents several times, stating that I am truly sorry. I have also committed to continue to receive diversity and sensitivity counseling and training indefinitely, pledging that no such acts of negative behavior by me will ever again occur.

It is because of my statement above detailing the points of disagreement I have with Resolution Number 4805, and the corrective, preventive measures I have put in place to insure no negative behavior by me in the future, that on March 19, 2021 I vetoed this resolution. Thank you.

Duane Parry
Mayor of Michigan City

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 11, 2021 from Doug Babcock regarding the BZA denial letter from their June 30, 2020 meeting.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 16, 2021 from Ms. TaTanesha George, Executive Director/EEO Officer regarding diversity training

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 16, 2021 from City Controller Hoffmaster regarding the eSuite Module purchased from Tyler; addressing direct deposit procedures

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office from Anthony Lewis on March 19, 2021 regarding the Mayor resigning.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 22, 2021 from the Fraternal Order of Police, Michigan City Dunes Lodge #75 regarding scheduling contract negotiations.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 22, 2021 from George Dobie regarding the Mayor resigning

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 22, 2021 to the Mayor from City Engineer Jeff Wright regarding the 2022 Resurface Candidate Segments

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 25, 2021 to the Mayor from Jeff Wright City Engineer regarding project updates

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on March 29, 2021 from Ms. Joan Chumley regarding the Mayor resigning

ORDINANCES

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,
ESTABLISHING DEADLINES FOR THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF DRAFTS OF THE PROPOSED ANNUAL CITY BUDGETS AND TAX LEVIES TO THE COMMON COUNCIL

Introduced by: Sean Fitzpatrick
Co-Sponsored: Paul Przybylinski
Angie Nelson Deutch
Tracie Tillman

President Mack asked if any of the Authors had anything to add this evening.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated several reasons why he brought this proposed ordinance to the Council' also advising that it was due to the Controller's Office when he served on the Finance Committee the last few years wouldn't receive the proposed budget until the last minute; not leaving enough time to review and discuss prior questions and concerns at the hearings with each department; stating several reasons why he feels the Council and Finance Committee should receive the proposed budget by the end of July each year; that the Finance Committee is rushed through the budget process with so many departments to meet with and questions unanswered and not being able to make the proper adjustments; stating he doesn't feel the deadlines being proposed are unreasonable.

President Mack asked if the public had any comments at this time; there was no response.

Councilman Dabney addressed the Council regarding receiving the 2022 budget any earlier; this isn't an attempt of the administration or Controller to deceive the Council but what the process is that needs to be followed regarding the DLGF; advising that by asking to get the budget earlier the Council would be flying blind not knowing what the true figures are going to be.

President Mack questioned if the process we have been doing is happening in every other city; that if it is done on this date, it's late, with not letting the Council enough time to review and advise in a timely manner and being rushed so much to meet the State Board of Accounts deadlines.

Councilwoman Deutch addressed the Council stating there are things that can be changed, that she also manages budgets; advising that there is a base line that you can work off of; you prioritize you add what you would like to have in your budget and also add what you don't; adjusting each budget when the final numbers come out. But we should all be in favor in having conversations sooner to address each department head regarding their wants and needs for 2022.

Councilwoman Deutch asked if Council Chair Fitzpatrick could schedule the finance committee meetings a little later in the evening for the members that have to work until 5:00.

Councilman D. Przybylinski agrees with the proposed ordinance, stating that the Council should be able to get it sooner than what we have in the past; with it always being a rush to meet the deadline and agrees with Councilwoman Deutch that every department knows what their needs are and what their wants would be going into the budget. The administration sends a notice to each department prior to the Council receiving the proposed budget letting them know what they want them to do as far as raises, wants, cuts, what to not add, add, delete a percentage, how much health insurance will be for the following year FICA, etc. and have to be completed on a certain date.

Councilman D. Przybylinski commented on the email Controller Hoffmaster sent out regarding what is being proposed in this ordinance and reasons why it wouldn't be feasible; that the Council needs to find out what Ms. Hoffmaster is advising about getting figures from the state until the middle of August and is needed to complete the annual budget.

Councilwoman Tillman asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor to the proposed ordinance.

Councilwoman Tillman stated the City's Annual Budget is no different than the LaPorte County's budget; with being under the same time frame, with them being able to contact the Auditors office if they have any questions or concerns; advising if the department heads do not have their budgets prepared or ready, the Controller has the authority to present their budget off of prior projections; what is being proposed in this ordinance is due able.

Councilman P. Przybylinski agreed with Council members Fitzpatrick, Deutch, Mack and Tillman's comments made this evening; stating that we need to move forward starting sooner in having conversations about the 2022 annual budget, that he feels there is reluctancy/push back, that other cities do this, our county has a process that works; advising that last years budget was unorganized with them not being able to ask certain questions.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the Council; there was no response; stating the proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the April 20, 2021 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,
AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MICHIGAN CITY, LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA, FOR PROPERTY CURRENTLY OWNED BY WOODLAWN HOLDING ZERO, L.L.C. – ROSE SERIES, FROM R2B TO R3B

Introduced by: Bryant Dabney
Angie Nelson Deutch
Don Przybylinski

President Mack asked if there was anything the Author's wanted to add.

Councilman Dabney advised that this is just a rezone changing it from R2B to R3B which means multi units stating this is the old library on 8th that is being proposed to make the building into apartments; with it being a good project and that it did come out of the Planning Commission with a favorable recommendation to move forward.

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

Anthony Novak, Attorney representing the petitioner/owner of Woodlawn Holding Zero, L.L.C. agreeing with the comments made by Councilman Dabney advising reasons they are asking to rezone from R2B to R3B; asking for the Council's support.

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

Councilman Fitzpatrick questioned if there was any historical value of this piece of property; with Attorney Novak advising that this was brought up at the Plan Commission meeting stating that this property is not the National's register and that the petitioners have gone in front of the Historic Review committee addressing what is required of them to preserve what is needed on the outside structure.

Councilman D. Przybylinski thanked Attorney Novak for the information he brought to the Council regarding the property and the reasons for the rezoning it at this time; stating he feels this will be a beautiful addition to Elston Grove and the downtown area.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the Council, there was no response, stating the proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at our April 20, 2021 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,
CREATING SEC. 2-411 IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO CREATE AN ARP CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND TO RECEIPT FUNDING AWARDED TO THE CITY THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARP) OF 2021

Introduced by: Michael Mack
Angie Nelson Deutch

President Mack asked if the Author's had anything to add at this time.

Councilwoman Deutch stated this proposed ordinance is to create the account for the funds we are receiving and will be discussing over the next month.

President Mack agreed with Councilwoman Deutch' comments; that this a fund that will house the money; asking everyone to look up the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and review so this Council can move forward on how these monies can be spent.

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

President Mack asked if there were any Council comments at this time.

Councilwoman Tillman questioned how these monies will be appropriated and will there be an overseer within the Controller's Office that will contain these monies and how they are spent.

President Mack stated from everything he has read and reviewed the Federal Government has serious guidelines and rules for how these funds are spent; with these funds being audited.

Discussion ensued between President Mack and Council members Tillman, Fitzpatrick, P. Przybylinski Deutch regarding an ordinance that will be being proposed to the Council along with how long the City must spend these monies.

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor.

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked to be added as a Co-Sponsor as well.

Councilman D. Przybylinski thanked the President of the United States for the 16+ million dollars he gave to our City.

Councilwoman Deutch advised that once we get through the planning stage, there will be a resolution that the Council will bring forth with an outline showing the amounts that will be budgeted from the money received at the first Council meeting in May.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments or questions from the council, there was no response, stating that the proposed ordinance will be on second reading at the April 20, 2021 Council meeting.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO 4549 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “2021 SALARY ORDINANCE” TO INCREASE THE HOURLY RATE OF PAY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS IN THE PARK DEPARTMENT

Introduced by; Dalia Zygas
Michael Mack

President Mack asked if the Author's had anything to add.

Councilwoman Zygas addressed the Council advising them the reasons for the proposed raises to the payroll clerk and the administrative assistant in the Park Department; wanting these positions to be compliant to other City Departments and will not cost the City any money due to the raises will be coming out of the 2021 Park's seasonal budget line.

President Mack agreed with Councilwoman Zygas comments that minimum wage should be \$15.00 which would bring the pay scale for these two positions up to a wage offered for the same job they are doing in other departments within the City.

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

Phil Latchford member of the Michigan City Park Board thanked the sponsors for bringing this proposed ordinance to the Council; advising that this pay raise would bring these two (2) positions up to a wage that other city department positions are getting paid and will help recruit the best candidates we can get stating that there is no additional funding to do this, that it will be coming out of the 2021 seasonal wages.

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

Councilman Dabney asked to be added as a co-sponsor.

Councilman Fitzpatrick advised that the proposed ordinance was discussed at length at the Finance Committee meeting last Friday stating the City can't afford to raise everyone up to an equitable level; that the budget was already set for this year with these positions being denied of any raise by the previous mayor as well as Mayor Parry for these positions. The Council is presented annually a budget proposed by this administration and are allowed to make necessary adjustment as need be.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated that he feels the 2022 proposed budget given to our administration in the next few month is the time to address raises for positions that are needed to be reevaluated in their department; asking who is doing payroll at this time with the job being vacant.

Councilman Fitzpatrick advised that the Finance Committee unanimously voted not to recommend this proposed ordinance for the Park Departments pay increases be approved.

Councilman D. Przybylinski addressed the Council stating several reasons he would not be supporting this ordinance; commenting on reasons we need to give pay raises to the seasonal employees in the park, and not take money from the seasonal line item; that monies were already taken from this line item to give the life guards their raise and that raises should be brought up during budget time not during the year.

Councilman D. Przybylinski requested from the Controller Office to report to each council member what the balance is in the seasonal employees' budget in the entire Park Departments budget; that the person that had this job worked for the Park Department for over seven years and only received a raise that every other employee received annually; but now that she retired they want to do a pay raise for a new employee coming in.

Shannon Eason, Asst. Park Superintendent stated that the employee was Michelle Glidden and worked for the Park Department for fourteen (14 years) and was an excellent employee and will be missed; advising that the entire office staff is working together to do what is needed to be done until they fill this vacancy.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on the proposed pay raise and the money coming out of the season employee budget line; stating that the raise for the lifeguards and Park Maintenance position also came out of this line item as well as monies

Ms. Eason addressed Councilman P. Przybylinski advising him that seasonal wages range between \$8.00 and \$10.40 an hour and that an annual pay raise was proposed by the Park administration, approved by their Park Board and then was given to the Mayor and Controller to make the final proposed budget which was given to the Council to review and adopt.

Councilman Dabney stated that it will be an interesting budget; with us cutting the secretary positions on board/commission secretaries; and now we're telling them to come back and ask for a pay raise during the budget; hoping the Finance committee remembers telling this department to come and ask for pay raises during the budget.

Councilman Fitzpatrick wanted the Council to understand that the Park administration Ms. Eason and Mr. Shinn proposes any pay raises they are wanting in their annual budget, which is then given to the Mayor and Controller to review and decide; with Mayor Parry during the 2021 budget did not propose these raises when it was given to the Council and wanted to clarify this to the Council and public

President Mack stated that he sees Michigan City's future being bright commenting on several reasons why he would be supporting these raises; with hopes that in the near future minimum wage will be \$15.00.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the Council; there was no response, stating the proposed ordinance will be on second reading at our April 20, 2021 Council meeting.

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

Introduced by: Paul Przybylinski
Don Przybylinski
Sean Fitzpatrick

President Mack asked if there were any comments from any of the authors.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that he had conversations with a few council members regarding the language in the proposed ordinance; making a motion to

TABLE this until the regular Council meeting on May 4th, second by Councilwoman Deutch.

The ordinance was TABLED until the May 4, 2021 regular Council meeting by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons and Zygas (9). **NAYS:** Council members none (0).

President Mack stated the proposed ordinance is TABLED on second reading until the regular Council meeting on May 4, 2021.

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only,
CREATING SECTION 2-2 TO REQUIRE THAT ALL MICHIGAN CITY – ELECTED OFFICIALS UTILIZE ELECTRONIC DIRECT DEPOSIT

Introduced by: Bryant Dabney
Dalia Zygas

NOTE: At the March 2, 2021 Council meeting this ordinance was TABLED on second reading until the City Controller reported back in writing to the City Council – which was received on March 16, 2021

President Mack asked if the author's had anything to add at this time.

Councilwoman Zygas asked to remove herself as a sponsor to be able to receive more information regarding this matter.

Councilman Dabney asked to remove the proposed ordinance due to the information received from Controller Hoffmaster that the City doesn't need 100% participation of employees.

Councilman D. Przybylinski called "Point of Order" explaining that both the sponsors need to remove their sponsorship of the proposed ordinance and then President Mack will ask if there is any other council member that would like to sponsor it; if there is no one that responds the proposed ordinance dies.

Attorney Meyer advised what Councilman D. Przybylinski stated is the correct procedure to take for this ordinance to die not just be TABLED indefinitely.

Councilman Dabney asked to remove himself as a sponsor to this ordinance.

President Mack asked if there was any other council member that wished to sponsor this ordinance; there was no response; stating the ordinance then dies.

NEW BUSINESS

FYI: President Mack stated Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding his re-appointment of Mr. Daniel Messina as a member of the Michigan City Port Authority Board (term will begin immediately and expire March 1, 2025).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NOMINATIONS: President Mack stated the Council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Scholarship Exception Committee term expiring 05-01-2021. **Incumbent**

– Mr. Ryan Labis; advising that nominations will take place at the April 6, 2021 Council meeting.

Clerk Neulieb advised that there were no applications received to date.

NOMINATIONS: President Mack stated the Council has one (1) appointment to the Michigan City Sustainability Commission term expiring 05-01-2021 **Incumbent:** Andrea Jahnz-Davis

Clerk Neulieb advised the Clerk's Office did receive an application from Andrea Jahnz-Davis.

President Mack opened nominations to the Michigan City Sustainability Commission; repeating three times "are there any nominations at this time"

Councilwoman Zygas nominated Ms. Jahnz-Davis, second by Councilman D. Przybylinski.

President Mack asked, "are there any other nominations at this time", there was no response and nominations were closed.

Ms. Jahnz-Davis addressed the Council stating several reasons she would like to serve another term to the Sustainability Commission: asking for the Council's support.

President Mack stated there was a motion and a second asking; all in favor for Ms. Jahnz-Davis to be re-appointed to the Sustainability Commission signify by saying "AYE", all responded "AYE", those opposed; there was no response. Ms. Jahnz-Davis was appointed to the Sustainability Commission by a vote of 9 – 0.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tommy Kulavak, 1316 Ohio Street, addressed the council regarding the repaving of Cleveland Ave., the airport shuttle that is no long in Michigan City, and the Michigan City Farmers Market.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Councilman D. Przybylinski addressed the Council regarding the Veto letter received from Mayor Parry and the verbiage/language he used; disagreeing fully with the resolution this council adopted and that it seems that he is not admitting that he did anything wrong and is degrading to all the Council members as well as the City Clerk.

Councilman D. Przybylinski commented on IC 36.4-5-3 "Powers of the Mayor" is supposed to supply a statement of the finances and condition to the city's legislative body at least once a year; advising that he has not received a State of the City Address" from this Mayor last year or to date; asking the Mayor to respond back to the City Council within the next few days when we can expect a "State of the City Address" along with a financial standpoint.

Councilman D. Przybylinski also commented on the "Green Clean" organization thanking them for all their hard work and how many citizens of Michigan City have gotten groups together and are out cleaning up areas throughout our community, great job; also reminding everyone about "Earth Day" on April 20th.

Councilwoman Zygas advised the Tree Board will be meeting this week stating that they are planning their annual tree give away again this year and will be bringing more

details; stating that the City doesn't have a City Forester at this time and that green space is very important to our community; hoping that we can fill this position.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated the Youth Commission is in need of new members; due to most members going to college, the service; asking the Council to reach out so that we can get this commission going again.

Councilman Fitzpatrick commented on the 16.7 million dollars the City is receiving from the federal government; stating that he has no confidence in our administration to be able to propose a plan for this money for the good of our entire community; wishing that we could contain this money until the next administration comes in.

Councilman Fitzpatrick asked Mayor Parry to resign for the good of our city, stating several reasons why he should.

Councilwoman Deutch commented about the American Rescue Money the City is receiving from the Federal Government; that she feels the Council should own what happens with this money, take credit for the money and how it is distributed to our community; stating she understands Councilman Fitzpatrick comments but we need to not worry about Mayor Parry and worry about what is good for our City.

Councilwoman Deutch commented on correspondence that was received from Robin Surber regarding the Mayor's actions and him resigning; but was received too late to get on the agenda this evening.

Councilwoman Deutch commented on several scholarships that are being offered to our students in our community and that they are posted on her webpage for the information to review and apply for.

Councilman Simmons commented on the Mayor's letter stating that he felt it was also very disrespectful to this Council; questioning why he is running around town apologizing and taking training since when he doesn't truly believe he did anything wrong; he is playing deny - deny - deny; we need a leader that cares about his community and be trusted and believe in.

Councilman Simmons congratulated all the men and women on the Michigan City Police Department that just recently received promotions due to several people retiring, great job!

Councilman P. Przybylinski questioned if the Park Department has their plan together regarding Covid-19 and rules to follow in Washington Park; stating that he had a few people contact him about the main parking lot being crowded over the weekend due to the warm weather.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on the repaving of streets and the update sent to Mayor Parry and copied to the Council that Cleveland Avenue was submitted by the will of the Streets and Alleys Committee; that there was no vote taken at this meeting only discussion; asking who gave the City Engineer the authority to move forward.

Councilman P. Przybylinski addressed the Council regarding the correspondence received from Controller Hoffmaster regarding electronic deposit of employee paychecks, commenting on the use and training of the city's software.

Councilman P. Przybylinski requested to schedule an Executive Session with the Council and the administration's legal team regarding the status of the Blocksom property with the City of Michigan City with this property being valuable property along the creek line.

Councilman P. Przybylinski agreed with his colleagues regarding their comments about Mayor Parry; stating that the Mayor signed the adopted resolution left and two (2) days later VETOED it.

Councilwoman Tillman commented on how the Mayor signed the adopted resolution and two days later returned and VETOED it, thanking Councilman P. Przybylinski for elaborating on what occurred.

Councilwoman Tillman also commented on Robin Surber's correspondence regarding what training the Mayor was proposing; advising that on March 25, 2021 she attended a diversity training class that was put on by Purdue Northwest with the Mayor being in attendance; when the time came during the presentation for questions and answers or any concerns anyone may have in their work place that you could have shared and discussed; Mayor Parry didn't participate.

President Mack commented on the great job the "Green Clean" organization is doing getting everyone involved in our community, reminding everyone to get out and get their vaccination, and addressed the American Rescue Plan with the City receiving 6.7 million dollars agreeing with Councilwoman Deutch comments that this council needs to propose an ordinance with their strong desires of what needs to be done with these monies in our communities; advising that there will be at least two (2) joint workshops with the public to receive their input; that there are a lot needs and wants in our community, that we need stay positive listen and make a plan.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by President Mack, supported by Councilman D. Przybylinski; there being no further business to transact, President Mack declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 9:43 p.m.)

Gale A. Neulieb