

REGULAR MEETING – May 18, 2021

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, May 18, 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, and Dalia Zygas (8).

ABSENT: Council member Tracie Tillman (1).

A QUORUM WAS NOTED PRESENT

ALSO, PRESENT: Jim Meyer – Council Attorney and Dawn Debald Deputy Clerk.

President Mack advised that starting this evening that any item being voted on has to be done by roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Mack inquired whether there were any corrections, deletions, or additions to the minutes of the Regular “Zoom” Meeting of May 4, 2021; there was no response.

President Mack asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council “Zoom” meeting minutes from May 18, 2021; with a motion from Councilman Dabney and second by Councilman D. Przybylinski. The minutes were approved were approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, and Simmons (8). **NAYS:** None (0).

REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES

President Mack asked if there were any reports of Standing Committees.

Councilman D. Przybylinski reported on the Executive Labor Relations Committee meeting held on May 11, 2021.

FINANCE REPORT

President Mack advised that the May 13, 2021 Finance Committee meeting was canceled due to not having any claims from the Riverboat/Boyd Development Funds

CLAIMS DOCKET

President Mack advised that there were “0” zero claims for May 18, 2021 reading the following;

May 4, 2021 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

CORRESPONDENCE

President Mack asked the Clerk if there was any correspondence this evening.

Deputy Clerk Debald read the following correspondence that was received since May 4, 2021

Correspondence was received from Katz.Korin.Cunnigham. Attorney at Law Office regarding a Notice of Tort Claim from Captain Kyle A. Kazmierzak

Correspondence was received on May 4, 2021 from Eleanore Hartman regarding her concerns on short term rentals in her neighborhood.

Correspondence was received from the MCPD reporting “Noise Calls” from 2020 to date throughout Michigan City

Correspondence was received from Controller Hoffmaster regarding a vehicle rented by the MCPD from Enterprise Rental, receiving damage to this vehicle exceeding \$1,500 (Ordinance 4538)

Correspondence was received from City Attorney Lapaich regarding new law-electronic meetings while under Governor’s Emergency Executive Order (Sec. 7 IC5-14-1.5-3.7)

ORDINANCE

The Deputy 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 FOR THE COMMUNITY CROSSING LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES MATCHING GRANT 2021- 2 PROJECT AND FOR MISCELLANEOUS PAVING

Introduced by: Angie Nelson Deutch
Dalia Zygas

(DECREASE Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund #2003 Unappropriated balance \$590,000.00 INCREASE ACCOUNT#2003 000 443.030 - \$590,000.00 Capital Outlay – Streets)

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

Councilwoman Deutch stated that she spoke with City Engineer Wright advising this is the next Community Crossing grant to be filed and that he has a list of streets that is being proposed; addressing the roads that were scored at a one (1) or two (2) first; attaching a list to this ordinance as Exhibit "A".

Councilwoman Deutch requested that City Engineer Wright be present at our next meeting on June 1, 2021 to answer any questions the Council may have.

President Mack asked if the public had any questions or comments; there was no response.

President Mack asked if the Council had any comments or questions.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that wants to see a list of roads that are being proposed before submitting this second grant; questioning if the City Engineer was given a timeline to present this list to the Council.

President Mack asked if anyone thought the proposed ordinance should be sent to committee for their review and recommendation.

Councilwoman Deutch advised that she is on that committee; stating that she feels confident in our City Engineer and that we need to see a strong and short list of streets to attach to this ordinance.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that he feels we should have a committee meeting to let this Council know what Mr. Wright is going to be proposing and what his plan is for each street.

President Mack advised that we will be sending this ordinance to the Streets and Alley Committee for their review and recommendation at the June 1, 2021 Council meeting.

Councilwoman Deutch stated that if we are having a committee meeting, she would like to see a list received from City Engineer Wright and bring it back to the Council for their vote.

President Mack asked if there were any other comments from the Council, there was no response; stating that the proposed ordinance will be held over on second reading at the June 1, 2021 meeting.

Deputy Clerk Debald read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE
RIVERBOAT FUND FOR LOCAL MATCH OF THE COMMUNITY CROSSINGS
MATCHING GRANT FOR THE CLEVELAND AVENUE PROJECT**

**Introduced by: Angie Nelson Deutch
Dalia Zygas**

(DECREASE Riverboat Fund 2042 Unappropriated balance \$350,000.00 INCREASE ACCOUNT#2042 114.443.030 - \$350,000.00 Capital Outlay – Streets)

President Mack asked if either of the authors had anything to add.

Councilwoman Deutch stated the proposed ordinance is an appropriation from the Riverboat fund for \$350,000 for Cleveland Avenue and the matching funds for the first Community Crossing Grant; advising at the Redevelopment Commission on May 10th there was an approval for an additional appropriation for \$350,000 toward the match and that she feels the Riverboat monies is a good investment for community improvements.

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

President Mack asked if the Council had any comments or questions.

Discussion ensued between Councilwoman Deutch and Councilmen D. Przybylinski And P. Przybylinski regarding Redevelopment giving \$350,000 and the Council taking \$350,000 out of the Riverboat Fund when the monies are at the lowest it has ever been.

Councilman P. Przybylinski agreed with Councilman D. Przybylinski's comments regarding the monies should be coming from the Redevelopment Commission and not the Riverboat Fund; stating that he believes that the Redevelopment Commission has the monies and should be paying for roads that are in the TIF districts.

Discussion ensued between Councilwoman Deutch and Councilman P. Przybylinski regarding if the TIF district added any additional monies to the project.

President Mack asked if there were any other Council comments, there was no response; stating that the proposed ordinance will be held over to second reading at the June 1, 2021 Council meeting.

Deputy Clerk Debald read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only, **AUTHORIZING ORDINANCE NO 4398 TO BE CODIFIED AS SEC.98-33 OF CHAPTER 98 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE & APPROVING REVISED BOUNDARY MAP**

Introduced by: Sean Fitzpatrick
Paul A. Przybylinski

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

Councilman Fitzpatrick advised that this is an update of the code; explaining there were dated maps that needed to be updated.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated the map was not filed and codified so we need to go thru the process.

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

President Mack asked if there were any other Council comments, there was no response; stating that the proposed ordinance will be held over to second reading at the June 1, 2021 Council meeting.

Deputy Clerk Debald read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only, **APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE MICHIGAN CITY POLICE MERIT COMMISSION IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES**

Introduced by: Gene Simmons

Councilman Simmons stated that Police Merit Commissioner Scott Matzke was available to answer any questions anyone may have.

Commissioner Matzke stated that there are four outstanding claims that need to be paid; advising that Lela Simmons is the Chief Financial Officer and she handles all of the budgetary matters.

Council Attorney Meyers addressed the Council stating tonight is the formal public hearing.

President Mack stated there will be a formal public hearing this evening, (repeating three times) asking “Is there anyone from the public that wishes to comment at this time”; there was no response with the formal public hearing being closed.

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

Discussion ensued between Councilman D. Przybylinski and Mr. Matzke regarding the bill that was submitted in 2020 for promotional testing that was never paid and the Company wanting to sue the City to get their funds. Mr. Matzke stated that mid 2020 one (1) Commissioner was removed by the Mayor and two (2) Commissioners resigned their positions; advising there was no Police Commission at that time; explaining there were no outstanding bills at that time; further stating the Council stripped the Police Commission from their entire budget.

Discussion continued between Councilman P. Przybylinski and Controller Hoffmaster regarding the billing process. Controller Hoffmaster stated they received four (4) invoices in February 2021 from the Police Commission for 2020 invoices; advising the four invoices were paid; and in April 2021 they received more invoices that were dated 2020 and 2021; explaining during the budget process last fall, the Council voted to remove the funding from the Police Merit Commission’s budget; stating the additional appropriation is for the Police Commission to pay any invoices they have for 2021; and the Police Department is currently short twelve (12) officers.

Councilman D. Przybylinski thanked Controller Hoffmaster for her explanation.

Councilman Simmons made a motion to have the proposed ordinance read on third reading this evening, second by P. Przybylinski.

The motion to move to 3rd reading tonight was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Zygus, P. Przybylinski, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski and Simmons (8). **NAYS:** None (0).

Deputy Clerk Debald read the following proposed ordinance on 3rd reading by title only,

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4583

APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE MICHIGAN CITY POLICE MERIT COMMISSION IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated to the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that it is necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the 2021 Annual Budget for contractual services for the Michigan City Police Merit Commission in the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City Controller has determined that sufficient unappropriated funds are available in the General Fund #1001 to be appropriated for that purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City, La Porte County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the City the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the fund named and for the purpose specified above, subject to the laws governing the same:

	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>
DECREASE General Fund 1001 Unappropriated balance	\$30,000.00	
INCREASE ACCOUNT#1001 204.439.090 Other Services and Charges – Other Contractual Services		\$30,000.00
TOTAL FOR FUND	\$30,000.00	

This Ordinance to be effective upon passage by the Council, approval by the Mayor, any necessary publication, and any necessary approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

INTRODUCED BY: /s/ Gene Simmons, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Mack asked if the author had anything to add this evening; there was no response.

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

President Mack asked if anyone from the Council wished to speak on the proposed ordinance; there was no response.

Councilman P. Przybylinski made the motion to adopt the proposed ordinance; second by Councilman D. Prybylinski.

President Mack stated there is a motion and a second with the ordinance being adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members P. Przybylinski, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons and Zygus (8). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on 2nd reading by title only, **CREATING SEC. 2-325 IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH 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 by: Paul Przybylinski
Angie Nelson Deutch
Tracie Tillman

President Mack asked if there were any comments from the authors this evening; there was no response.

President Mack asked three (3) times if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak on the proposed ordinance; there was no response.

President Mack asked if there was anyone from the Council that wished to speak on the proposed ordinance;

Councilman Dabney asked if the ordinance gets passed and the deadlines are not met what is the penalty?

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated he is in support of the proposed ordinance because it will give the Council more time to look at the rough draft of the proposed budget; advising this will make the process more efficient for everyone.

Councilwoman Deutch read section 2-64 in Municode as follows:

Sec. 2-64. - Pre-adoption budget procedures.

- a. The mayor shall amend any department budget requests to conform to his wishes and shall then submit the amended requests to the finance committee of the common council no later than five weeks prior to the deadline for final budget passage. The finance committee shall report to the common council with recommendations.
- b. The controller shall furnish a copy of the following to each council member no later than 30 days prior to the deadline for final budget passage:
 - (1) A report of the final status of each budget account for the previous calendar year.
 - (2) A report of the status of each current budget account as of June 30.
 - (3) Any other reasonable information that the finance chairman has requested in writing prior to August 1 of the current year.
- (c) If special circumstances arise, the deadlines mentioned in this section may be extended with the written consent of a majority of the council.

Councilwoman Deutch continued to explain that there are rules in place that haven't been followed, but they do exist; stating she agrees with Councilwoman Tillman that she would like to see worksheets from each department.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that himself and Councilman Dabney have both been on the Finance Committee and the ordinance Councilwoman Deutch referred to had never been presented to him; explaining it would be a good idea to "TABLE" the proposed ordinance until the Council can look at the ordinance Councilwoman Deutch read.

Councilman Przybylinski made a motion to "TABLE" the proposed ordinance until the June 15, 2021 Council meeting: second by Councilwoman Deutch.

President Mack stated there is a motion and a second with the ordinance being "TABLED" until the Council meeting on June 15, 2021 by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygus and P. Przybylinski (8). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Deputy Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on 3rd reading by title only,

MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 4584

CREATING SEC. 2-326 IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO REQUIRE COUNCIL PRE-APPROVAL FOR ALL GRANTS HAVING A LOCAL MATCH & REQUIRING THE PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTATION AND DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRANT TO THE COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Common Council is periodically asked by the City Administration to approve funding for a local match for a grant application; and

WHEREAS, in order to make an appropriate decision regarding whether applying for a grant is in the best interests of the City of Michigan City and its citizens, the Common Council and the public need to receive detailed information about the grant in a timely manner.

WHEREAS, existing forms Notice of Application for a Grant (Exhibit A) and Grant Setup (Exhibit B) will be required by all departments, boards or commissions submitting grant applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Michigan City that Sec. 2-326 is created in Chapter 2 of the Michigan City Municipal Code and shall read as follows:

Sec. 2-326. Pre-approval of Grant Applications Requiring a Local Match.

- a. Council approval is required before any grant application having a local match requirement, other than a grant for which the match is to be paid or funded by the Sanitary District and Water Department, is submitted by any City Department, Board or Commission. Exhibits A and B are required with grant submissions. As a precondition to giving its approval for a grant application requiring such a local match, the Council needs to be provided all of the following information at least 3 weeks before a Council meeting wherein a vote is to be taken on whether to approve applying for the grant is to be taken:
 1. Name of grantor and grant title.
 2. Why it is beneficial to the city to apply for the grant.
 3. The purpose of the grant and the proposed use of grant funds.
 4. The person who will be responsible for managing the grant for the City.
 5. All relevant time frames and schedule, including any deadlines for the submitting the application and closing out the grant.
 6. The amount of any required or proposed City monetary match or voluntary contribution and the proposed source for the matching funds and contribution.
 7. The description of the types and sources of any in-kind match or contribution.
 8. Whether the Controller wishes to have a new, separate fund created for the grant.
- b. The proponent of applying for the grant shall be available to attend a Council Finance Committee meeting or workshop to provide information and answer questions about the grant.
- c. If, due to circumstances beyond the control of the proponent, it is not reasonably possible to meet the deadline stated above in a, the proponent may seek the permission of the Council President for a tardy submission and, in those unusual circumstances, the Council President may call a special meeting of the Council.

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

Introduced by: /s/ Angie Nelson Deutch, Member
Michigan City Common Council

Co-Sponsor: /s/ Paul Przybylinski, Member
Michigan City Common Council

President Mack asked if the authors had anything to add at this time.

Councilwoman Deutch stated that this is response to grants that have come before the Council; specifically the Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) earlier this year and other grants coming from Boards and Commissions; the proposed ordinance states that any grants having a local match are required to have Council pre-approval with documentation and detailed information.

Councilman P. Przybylinski agrees with everything that Councilwoman Deutch stated; explaining the detailed information that will be received when the grant is pre-approved will bring clarity to the process of what is going on.

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

Faye Moore asked if this includes grants that are received by Board and Commissions; example the Women's Commission received a grant for celebrating the Naomi Anderson project from Indiana Humanities?

Councilwoman Deutch stated it is only if the Board and Commission is asking for a matching grant from the Council.

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

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

Councilman Dabney made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance; second by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

President Mack stated there is a motion and a second with the ordinance being adopted by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski and Dabney (8). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on 3rd 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 asked Attorney Meyer for some insight on TIF districts and the use of TIF monies and restrictions on how the monies are used.

Attorney Meyer stated that the Redevelopment Commission within a TIF district and for the benefit of the district can only spend funds on capital projects; not maintenance and repairs; advising the amount of funds is controlled by the number of miles of streets in the City; not where they are located and who is maintaining them.

Councilman Dabney explained what could possibly happen if the proposed ordinance is passed in regard to the mileage and how the calculation works with INDOT; stating no matter what the passer rating is on any street in the City, if it is a TIF district the City couldn't use state funds to repair, they would have to ask the Redevelopment Commission.

Attorney Meyer stated Councilman Dabney is incorrect about the monies the state gives to the City; once again stating that no MVH funds shall be expended to pay for any capital repairs or construction; explaining there is a difference between capital and non-capital maintenance; this is a policy of the City.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated the Riverboat funds are there to help when funds fall short; advising the City needs a nest egg so when these types of projects come up the monies are there to fund them; explaining there are additional funds for TIF districts from the Redevelopment Commission; and we can still fund other road within the City without using 100 % of the MVH funds.

Councilwoman Deutch stated that the MVH funds shall no be expended to pay for any repair, reconstruction or construction of any street located within the boundaries located within the TIF district without approval from the Council; advising she is not in support of the proposed ordinance.

President Mack stated he does not support the proposed ordinance because it puts paving roads in the TIF districts a higher priority over other things of importance, such as a Community Center, Youth programs and field houses; stating we should follow the Paser ratings system and follow their guidelines and all streets within our City will get paved.

Councilwoman Zygas commented that she agrees with President Mack; the proposed ordinance is separating the streets within the City; stating we need to use the Paser rating system and repair the worst streets; advising she is against the proposed ordinance.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated he spoke to Councilwoman Deutch and thought the Redevelopment Commission proposal was going to put additional monies into the south end TIF paving and the City could withdraw some MVH funds to pave roads in other neighborhoods; asking who came up with the Cleveland Avenue project; it was discussed and now all of a sudden the project is happening and we are using Riverboat monies. I have talked to Mr. Wright and he stated that we are 20 years behind because of the negligence of the previous administrations on this paving. So, what I propose tonight is if the other sponsors are alright with it, I would like to TABLE this till the next meeting so that Mr. Wright can attend that meeting to explain where we are at with some of these issues with paving in the city, Paser Ratings, doing something in the neighborhoods. I would like a report of all the paving that has been done by the different TIF areas and document some of these accusations, I think that Mr. Meyers gave creditable information and that we should do something far for all the neighborhoods. I am asking to TABLE this until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman P. Przybylinski; second by D. Przybylinski.

President Mack stated there is a motion and a second by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members: Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Dabney and Fitzpatrick, (8). **NAYS** None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

President Mack stated that Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding his appointment of Mr. Bruce Manner as a member of the Michigan City Port Authority, (term will begin immediately and expire March 15, 2025).

President Mack asked if there was no objection that he would like to take the vote this evening.

Councilman D. Przybylinski, shared some background information on Mr. Manner and stated he is in favor of this appointment.

Councilwoman Deutch and Councilman Simmons stated they agree with Councilman D. Przybylinski and are also in favor of appointing Mr. Manor to the Port Authority.

President Mack stated he is also in favor and in agreement with the other Council members and asked if the Council to make a Motion.

Councilman P. Przybylinski made a Motion to appoint Mr. Manner to the Michigan City Port Authority; second by Councilwoman Deutch.

President Mack stated there is a motion and a second by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, and Mack (8). **NAYS** None (0).

President Mack stated that Mayor Parry is requesting the advice and consent of the members of the Michigan City Common Council regarding his appointment of Mr. James Mellowitz as a member of the Michigan City Tree Board. (term begins immediately and will expire July 1, 2024)

President Mack asked if there are any objections to take the vote this evening; there was no response.

President asked if there was a Motion for Mr. Mellowitz.

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked if Mr. Mellowitz is on the "Zoom" meeting tonight because he would like to know Mr. Mellowitz's qualifications with dealing with trees and his background.

Discussion ensued between President Mack and Kaleb Goodwin I.T. Webmaster, if Mr. James Mellowitz is on the "Zoom" meeting. Mr. Goodwin stated no, he is not.

President Mack asked if there were any objections on taking the vote: D. Przybylinski stated that he objects until he has more information on Mr. Mellowitz.

President Mack stated the Council will not vote on this matter and hold it over until further information is given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Mack stated The Council has one (1) appointment to the Youth Leadership Commission representing "Marquette High School" (term expires June 1, 2021)
Incumbent: Travon Moore

President Mack asked Deputy Clerk Dawn Debald if the Clerk's Office received a letter from Marquette High School

Deputy Clerk Debald stated we did not receive a letter from Marquette High School

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street addressed the Council regarding fireworks and the ordinance that pertains to them.

Faye Moore, 515 Grace Street addressed the Council asking when City Hall will be opening; commenting on Hubert Morgan.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

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

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that he wanted to applaud our Michigan City Transit Director Robin Tillman for being praised by local and federal officials after the FTA reviewed her operation reports and records. Director Tillman should be used as an example with other auditing that will take place across the United States. The audit affects our bus services, so again I want to applaud Director Tillman for the fantastic job you did, and Michigan City is very proud. Next, I would like to discuss the CSX Railroad Crossings we know that Ohio Street, Tilden Ave, and Woodland Ave railroad crossings are in bad shape. I did talk with Mayor Parry after bringing it up at the BOW meeting, that is how we got signs on Ohio Street and Tilden Ave for the railroad crossing. I talked with the Mayor about CSX making repairs and funding on who would pay for these Railroad Crossings to be repaired. The Mayor feels that the City should pay for part of the repair costs to fix the Railroads and I told the Mayor I disagree with this because these crossings belong to the CSX and not the City. CSX is worth \$2.76 billion and total assets \$38 billion and total equity is \$11.8 billion dollars. Also, Mr. Bill Green who coordinated parades and worked for the Street Department and was committed to Michigan City passed away and I wanted to send my condolences.

Councilman Simmons wanted to know if the Promise Scholarship has been given out this year.

Councilwoman Deutch stated that the deadline is coming up for the Promise Scholarship on June 5, 2021 for the application and reapplication

Councilman Dabney stated the deadline for the Promise Scholarship is June 5, 2021

Councilman Mack asked if Councilman Simmons had anything else to add.

Councilman Simmons also wants to Congratulate Director Tillman on a good job with her audit, it was excellent

Councilman Fitzpatrick sends his condolences to the family of Coolspring Township Trustee Jackie Atwater who recently passed; Please remember that Covid isn't all the way over and we are still in the middle of a pandemic, there are numerous reports of people that have had it, got vaccinated, and are catching it again so please stay safe and be safe around each other and I am excited to see the last minute State of the City that was put out by Mayor Parry, I still have no confidence in his ability to lead this City.

Councilwoman Zygus stated that at the next meeting she plans to take the Short Term Rental Ordinance off the TABLE and make the following changes that there will be no sticker or identifiers on the front door or on the property and there will also be no application fee, this is to keep the neighbors safe and to notify the owners when something is going on at their property and if the public has comments please get in touch with us so we can address you concerns.

Councilwoman Deutch stated that on the American Recovery Money, I know we had some people present this to us and Vibrant Communities, a lot of the communication was from the Michigan City citizens and I spoke with Maggie Sparks from the Unity Foundation to talk about the work that was done already; I know that Faye Moore also provided information and we do have a wealth of knowledge, but I think there is another opportunity to go through a process that is already established with just Michigan City residents, we received correspondence from the Mayor's office and Controllers office in reference to a "wish" list of things that the City needs that came from several departments, but a process needs to be in place to manage the finances of these projects.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated that he wanted to give his condolences to the family of Jackie Atwater on her passing also wanted to ask everyone to look at their tax bills to make sure everything on it is correct and if not you have until June 15, 2021 to file an appeal; I feel that we need to have open meetings, if they can open the senior center then we should be open as well, so Council needs to look into to this. D. Przybylinski and I went to inspect York Street and it was pathetic, the bricks are already sinking on that portion of the street and something needs to be done. I called Jeff Wright and I am waiting on a call back. The rezoning project around St. Anthony Hospital the Planning Department did not send out letters to anyone that a meeting is taking place and I am very disappointed on how this is being handled with theses 80 to 100 properties in that area, which leads me to believe that there is an alternative plan that no one wants to talk about, I feel there should be an open meeting at the Senior Center regarding this matter so that the neighborhood can be informed as to what is going on with their property rights being taken from them because that is what the City did. Hopefully with the help of Mr. Moore we will do our best to inform all those people in the neighborhood. I agree with Councilwoman Deutch that we need to have some discussions on where the money is supposed to go.

D. Przybylinski stated he got an email at 4pm about the State of the City, like the rest of the Council, which was sent by the Mayor. I thought the Mayor would be addressing this email on "Zoom" Infront of the Public and the Council, but instead the Mayor sent out this email and stated that the information will be on the City page and our Facebook page for us all to read which is not a professional way to handle situations, so that the

Council and Public can ask questions at the time it is being presented. Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that he wanted to address Councilwoman Deutch comments about the money from the Federal Government, I am not sure how President Mack will want to handle this or what the Council will want to do help as I have received calls from the Public asking for money and I have to inform them that I cannot help that we have to have a meeting with the Council to see what we can do and whenever the Council is ready to have a meeting I am ready to sit down and start some type of discussion about these matters.

Councilman P. Przybylinski stated he wanted to give a message about the South Shore Project and being \$225 billion or 25% over budget and that I will not support any local tax increase and I hope a special legislation is not passed that they can tax us at a County level to come up with money, but I do think there is an opportunity to negotiate with the South Shore as a unit to keep Pine Street open.

President Mack wanted to address a few things after speaking with City Controller Yvonne with dealing with the comments of what is the process or expectations of the Council because I thought there would be more coordination between Council and the Executive Branch and from my understanding after talking with City Controller Yvonne, within a week or two the Controller's office has a form for the community that will be on our web site and I have agreed to meet for an executive session to mainly come to a conclusion on the outside consultant, I have no issue with an outside consultant, but I don't want an outside consultant refereeing to absolve us from making difficult decisions; we had a letter that came from Congressman Morvan about the American Rescue Plan which came out on May 10, 2021 and it explicitly says there are funding availabilities to curb community violence; with that we just had a Community Violence Group at Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church, so my point is that an outside company telling us the exact uses of a Community Violence Program in Michigan City that doesn't exist there is no other communities where these community violence programs are going to bring in the pro where they got theirs solved, its going to be new people trying new things with new ways of doing things the correct way and someone with no expertise on Michigan City does not really know what those correct ways are, but people from our community do know how things are because they live here and want better for our Community and Youth. I think the Community Violence Meeting went great showing the compassion of our Community that want to help, it is just not funded. There are ways to get funding to get the community the help we need to write grants to get the funding needed to help with a program to stop the violence and to train the community on how to get this training and tools to do their job.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Councilman D. Przybylinski, supported by Councilman D. Przybylinski and there being no further business to transact, President Mack declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:29 p.m.)

President Mack asked for a Roll Call: **AYES** D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, and Councilwoman Deutch (8). **NAYS:** NONE (0).

Gale A. Neulieb

