

# REGULAR MEETING – August 3, 2021

The Common Council of the City of Michigan City, Indiana, met in Regular session on Tuesday evening, August 3, 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.

President Mack advised the time frame about speaking on each item being discussed.

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:** Attorney Meyer 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 Council “Zoom/ Hybrid” Meeting of, July 20, 2021; there was no response.

President Mack asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council “Zoom/Hybrid” meeting minutes of June 20, 2021 with a motion made by Councilman D. Przybylinski, second by Councilman Dabney and was approved by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman and Dabney (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

## **REPORTS of STANDING COMMITTEES**

President Mack asked if there were any reports of Standing Committees, there was no response.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

President Mack asked if there were there was a finance committee meeting held.

Councilman Fitzpatrick read the following Finance Committee meeting minutes held on June 29, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fitzpatrick at 5:30 p.m. Committee members Tillman, Przybylinski and Chairman Fitzpatrick were present.

There was one claim for a total of \$28,968.00 for the purchase of a police vehicle. There was discussion about the reasoning for using riverboat funds, Controller Hoffmaster indicated that the vehicle was purchased with riverboat funds and there was an insurance reimbursement to cover these funds. A motion was made to recommend that the Council approve this item by Committee member Tillman, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski and unanimously voted on by the committee.

### **CLAIMS DOCKET**

President Mack read the following claims for the record.

#### **June 20, 2021 Riverboat/Boyd Claim Docket**

<b>Fund #2042 – Riverboat – Claims</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>28,968.00</b>
<b>EFT</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Fund #2031 – Boyd – Claims-</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>0.00</b>

President Mack asked for a motion to approve the Claims in the amount of \$28,968.00. With Councilman Fitzpatrick making a motion to approve, second by Councilman Dabney with the claims being approved by the following vote **AYES:** Council members Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney and Fitzpatrick (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

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

President Mack asked if there were any reports of Special or Select Committees.

Michael Kuss, Michigan City General Manager; read the following statement regarding a complaint regarding misconduct by two Sanitary District employees that was read outloud at the last Council meeting on July 20, 2021 and these complaints will be addressed to Sanitation Personnel, the investigation findings and outcome are generally not subject to public disclosure, according to the Indiana public access records act; stating that none the less, he assured the City Council and the residents of Michigan City, that the Sanitary District takes these pending allegations seriously and is actively being investigated; With any investigation we are working together receiving all relevant facts and the outcome will be based on the application of these relevant facts and also, in accordance with the Sanitary District employee handbook.

Mr. Kuss urged any complaints from any person that may have evidence pertinent to this investigation to please provide it to the Sanitary District, so the outcome can be achieved.

Mr. Kuss addressed Councilwoman Deutch's concern advising that the City Personnel Director wasn't a part of this investigation; that it was being taken care of internally by the managers at the district; stating that the Districts Operating Manager is who is leading the investigation.

Andrea Smith, Personnel Director addressed the Council advising that Mr. Kuss will also will be working with the City Human Rights Director, TaTanesha Clark George.

Lois Sosinski, Coolspring Township Trustee addressed the Council advising about how the rental assistance program is working; explaining the process of each application form and the information that is required and how they decide who actually will receive these monies for assistance to their rent, Nipsco, etc. Discussion ensued between Coolspring Township Trustee Lois Sosinski and Council members Deutch, P. Przybylinski, D. Przybylinski, Tillman, and Dabney.

**REPORTS OF OTHER CITY OFFICERS and DEPARTMENTS**

President Mack asked if there were any reports of other City Officers or Departments.

Yvonne Hoffmaster, City Controller addressed the council advising them that coming up on the agenda is a resolution recommending that the council agree to an employee health wellness Center; and that she asked Mr. Craig Menne from General Insurance to do a power point that will give the Council all the information regarding the clinic and will answer any questions the Council may have.

Mr. Menne, General Insurance did a power point regarding the proposed health and wellness clinic that the Council will be voting this evening so the City will be able to move forward.

Discussion ensued between, Mr. Menne, Controller Hoffmaster, Attorney Meyer, Andrea Smith City Personnel Director and Council members Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Sean, and P. Przybylinski.

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

**PETITIONS**

President Mack asked if there were any petitions.

The Clerk advised that there are no petitions this evening.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

President Mack asked if there were any Communications.

Clerk Neulieb read the following correspondence received.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 16, 2021 from Eichhorn & Eichhorn, LLP regarding a notice of tort claim

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 20, 2021 from Rodney McCormick regarding incidents with employees at the Sanitary District

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 20, 2021 from Corporate Counsel, Amber Lapaich-Stalbrink regarding the closing on the transfer of the Barker Mansion

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 21, 2021 from Keith Devereaux regarding his resignation from the Urban Enterprise Association

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 21, 2021 from Yvonne Hoffmaster, City Controller regarding the unappropriated balance in the General Fund

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 22, 2021 from Kaleb Goodwin, I.T. Webmaster regarding the City ward map that is now available on the Michigan City website

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 22, 2021 from Yvonne Hoffmaster, City Controller regarding a replacement vehicle for M.C.P.D.

Correspondence was received in the Clerk's Office on July 26, 2021 from Councilman Sean Fitzpatrick regarding Resolution No. 4805 – Lack of Confidence in the Leadership of Mayor Parry and requesting his resignation

**RESOLUTION**

The Clerk read the following resolution by title only,

**MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL****RESOLUTION NO. 4811****RECOMMENDING THAT MICHIGAN CITY ENTER INTO AN  
EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH  
LA PORTE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES LLC (LPOH)  
FOR ACCESS TO A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Michigan City currently provides the opportunity for its employees, their spouses and dependents to participate in the City's health insurance program for which the City provides much of the funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council finds that it is in the best interest of the City and its employees, their spouses and dependents to take appropriate steps to maintain and improve their good health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council finds that providing free access to primary health care is a very good way to help its employees, spouses and dependents to monitor, maintain and improve their health; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of meeting the health care needs of its employees, spouses and dependents requires the expenditure by the City of in excess of \$6 Million per year; and

**WHEREAS**, a substantial part of the annual cost to the City of its health benefits program is the lack of affordable access to primary health care services and that regular, free access to a primary health care clinic in Michigan City would not only be a substantial benefit to participants in the City's health care benefits program but also to the City due to healthier employees being more productive and incurring less health care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, a substantial part of the annual cost to the City of its health benefits program is the result of the high cost of certain medications needed by a small number of participants in the health insurance program and their participation in the Federal 340B program through LPOH's collaboration with Health Linc, LLC, a federally qualified health center; and

**WHEREAS**, representatives of the City and the LPOH have negotiated an Agreement for LPOH to provide free access to primary health care services to elected officials and their spouses, City employees, spouses and dependents, at a clinic in Michigan City and for access to substantially reduced costs for certain high-priced medications through the federal Section 340B program as a result of LPOH's collaboration with HealthLinc, LLC for that purpose, and

**WHEREAS**, the Council finds that it is in the best interest of the City and its employees and elected officials for the City to enter into an Agreement with LPOH for a clinic in Michigan City where all persons eligible to participate in the City's health care benefits program can have access to free primary health care and to the lower cost to the City of certain expensive medications through the Federal 340B program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL** that for all of the reasons stated in the above "WHEREAS" clauses, it recommends that the City of Michigan City through the Board of Public Works and Safety enter into an agreement with La Porte Occupational Health Services LLC for the use of a primary health care clinic located in the City to provide primary health care services to the City's employees, their spouses and dependents, and to City elected officials and their spouses, at no cost to the users,

and for access to certain lower cost medications through the federal 340B program to be implemented through Health Linc, LLC.

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/ Michael Mack, President  
Michigan City Common Council  
/s/ Dalia Zygas, Member  
Michigan City Common Council  
/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member  
Michigan City Common Council  
/s/ Don Przybylinski, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

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

President Mack stated that we just received a presentation on the wellness clinic and that he feels this a great opportunity being given to all City employees as well as to this council with several companies and governments in surrounding areas are going to these clinics for employees to streamline and help save money.

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

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

Councilman Dabney questioned where the savings comes into the employees as well as for the City about the 340B drug program.

Mr. Menne advised the 340B drug program essentially are requirements under the Federal Law of the drug companies, that it says the Federally qualified health centers will receive a greatly reduced prescription in many cases or it could be at no cost to the individual.

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

President Mack asked City Clerk Neulieb to take the vote: **AYES:** Council members Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney and Fitzpatrick (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed resolution by title only.

Councilwoman Zygas read the following proposed resolution in its entirety.

#### MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL

#### RESOLUTION NO. **4812**

REQUESTING AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE EARTH JUSTICE CLEANING UP COAL ASH FOR GOOD BE INCLUDED AND IMPLEMENTED IN THE CLOSURE PLAN FOR THE COAL ASH WASTE PITS AT THE MICHIGAN CITY GENERATING STATION IN OR TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING, AND REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Common Council continues to support the recommendations set forth in its Resolution No. 4781; and

WHEREAS, the Earth Justice organization recently released its July 2021 report, *Cleaning Up Coal Ash For Good*, which contains its findings and recommendations, based upon rigorous study and analysis, regarding using the clean closure methodology for cleaning up coal ash waste pits at the NIPSCO generating station in Michigan City; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the clean closure methodology recommended by Earth Justice (excavate and remove coal ash) is preferable to the NIPSCO cap-in-place methodology in that the clean closure methodology maximizes public safety, environmental wellbeing, protection of Lake Michigan, and redevelopment opportunities so that the clean closure is not only protective of human health and environment benefits far outweigh its increased cost for closure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MICHIGAN CITY COMMON COUNCIL, in order to maximize the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of Michigan City citizens and visitors and Lake Michigan and the environment, that.

1. In addition to the recommendations set forth in Resolution No. 4781, the Council requests that:
  - a. NIPSCO revise their proposed closure plan to include the full removal of all 2 million cubic yards of historic fill containing coal ash along the lakefront at their Michigan City Generating Station, in line with the clean closure recommendations presented in the Earth Justice July 2021 *Cleaning Up Coal Ash For Good* report; and
  - b. NIPSCO issue a formal response to this request to the Michigan City Common Council before NIPSCO's anticipated closure date of their onsite coal ash waste pits in 2022, including whether it will implement the clean closure methodology of excavating and removal of all coal ash from the site and of the recommendations contained in Council Resolution No. 4781

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

**INTRODUCED BY:** /s/Dalia Zygus, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

**CO-SPONSOR:** /s/ Angie Nelson Deutch, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

/s/ Bryant Dabney, Member  
Michigan City Common Council

President Mack asked if any of the Authors had anything to add this evening; with Councilwoman Zygus reading the proposed resolution in its entirety.

Councilwoman Deutch asked to be a Co-sponsor to the resolution; advising that she hadn't seen the amendments she proposed sent out from the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Neulieb advised that she thought she had seen where Deputy Debald did send the amendment out last week while she was out of the office.

Councilman Dabney also asked to be added as a co-sponsor to the proposed ordinance.

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

Joe Sherman 325 Maplewood Drive and President of Shoreland Hills homeowners Association stating this matter is vitally important to all residents in our area and that would hope this resolution would have had a bit more teeth in it and realizes that it is an introduction and that there will be more documents coming as this moves forward.

Ernie Hollihan, 302 Gladys Street, stated several concerns regarding NIPSCO closing the generating station and had heard that NIPSCO was going to be moving this facility to Wheatfield, Indiana.

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 D. Przybylinski commented on Councilwoman Zygas, Councilman Dabney and President Mack meeting with NIPSCO yesterday; asking President Mack if he would share some of NIPSCO's comments made from their meeting regarding the closing of the gen station.

Councilwoman Deutch advised that she submitted an amendment to the Clerk's Office but it was not forwarded to any of the Council; stating that she would not be proposing the amendment so that the resolution being proposed can be adopted; explaining what her amendments were going to be.

Councilwoman Deutch also stated that it is very important that the Council has a say about what happens with this property; that she spoke with the County Assessor and that our administration and Council needs to look at the financial impact its going to have on our community and our local school system.

Councilman D. Przybylinski stated that in Resolution No. 4781 it already states that a committee has to be formed; with Councilwoman Deutch advising that she was just making sure that we identify that this committee needs to be put together.

Councilman P. Przybylinski questioned that he didn't see that a committee needs to be formed in the proposed resolution; stating that he feels that this committee should be expanded with people involved adding the Isaac Walton League and other sporting organization in our community as well as surrounding communities; questioning if this needs to be sent to the EPA or IDEM before they start removing the coal ash.

Councilman Dabney explained that what we're trying to do is eventually protect the drinking water in our city and retain the wall to Lake Michigan and make sure they don't pick up just some of the coal ash but ALL of the coal ash.

Councilwoman Zygas stated Resolution No. 4781 does state that the Mayor will create this committee; advising that she feels it would be a good idea to form this committee sooner than later.

Present Mack stated that he has attended two (2) meetings in last few weeks commenting on the group called "judge transition" advising how they educated him on several issues regarding the removal of the coal ash.

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

President Mack asked City Clerk Neulieb to take the vote: **AYES:** Council members D. Przybylinski, Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, and Deutch (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

President Mack stated the resolution is approved and will be forwarded to the Mayor for his signature.

## **ORDINANCE**

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,  
**APPROVING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE BUDGET OF THE LOCAL INCOME TAX (FORMERLY KNOWN AS CREDIT) FUND FOR BAKER TILLY CONTRACT FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ARPA PLAN**

**Introduced by:** Bryant Dabney

(DECREASE Local Income Tax (LIT) Fund 2224 Unappropriated balance \$100,000.00 INCREASE ACCOUNT #2224 000.431.050 \$100,000.00 Other Services and Charges – Professional Services)

President Mack asked if the author had anything to add.

Councilman Dabney advised the hundred thousand dollars being appropriate is for professional services from Baker Tilly to manage what we're going to do with doing the AARP program monies and process the documents regarding same.

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

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked instead of taking these monies out of the CEDIT Fund if this \$100,000 could be taken out of the American Rescue Plan Fund.

City Controller Hoffmaster stated that yes, this monies could be taken out of the ARP fund but it isn't put in place as of today so the City can't spend the funds yet; advising if the council allowed this to be added to ARP fund we could put the monies back to the CEDIT fund when it is appropriated.

Councilman D. Przybylinski asked to be added as a co-sponsor please.

Controller Hoffmaster addressed Councilman Fitzpatrick's question advising him that Baker Tilly has had a long relationship with our City and works with the Redevelopment Commission with their finances.

Attorney Meyer advised Councilman D. Przybylinski that professional services don't have to go out for three proposals or quotes.

Councilman P. Przybylinski asked if it would be possible to be able to see the contract that is being proposed to Baker Tilly for the Council's review before the next Council meeting of August 17, 2021.

Controller Hoffmaster advised Councilwoman Tillman that the administration and Attorney Lapaich input on bringing this additional appropriation forward to get assistance with this plan.

Controller Hoffmaster stated that there isn't a committee that has been formed regarding the spending of the ARP monies and the administration is not asking to spend monies from that fund at this time.

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 until the August 17, 2021 Council meeting.

Clerk Neulieb read the following proposed ordinance on first reading by title only,  
**AMENDING SECTION 38-40 AND SECTION 38-41 OF THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP TO ALL STUDENTS WHO ATTEND MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS & CREATING SECTION 38-42 IN THE MICHIGAN CITY MUNICIPAL CODE TO CREATE TWO TIERS OF FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

**Introduced by:** Dalia Zygas  
**Co-Sponsored by:** Bryant Dabney

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

Councilwoman Zygas stated that it appears that there is quite a bit more research to be done on this proposed ordinance and several questions to be answered; requesting to withdraw her sponsorship at this time.

Councilman Dabney also asked that his sponsorship be removed as well; agreeing that there are several things that need to be looked at and that they do plan on bringing this back to the Council at a later date with amendments

President Mack asked if there were anyone else from the Council that would like to pick up the sponsorship to this proposed ordinance; Councilman Fitzpatrick stated that he would like to sponsor this ordinance, making a motion to TABLE this ordinance until the September 7, 2021 Council meeting, second by Councilwoman Tillman.

The proposed ordinance was TABLED on first reading until the September 7, 2021 Council meeting by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Simmons, Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, and D. Przybylinski (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

The Clerk read the following proposed ordinance on second reading by title only, **AMENDING SECTION 38-40 AND SECTION 38-41 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROVIDE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP TO ALL MICHIGAN CITY RESIDENTS.**

**Introduced by:** /s/ Paul A. Przybylinski  
Don Przybylinski  
Gene Simmons  
Tracie Tillman  
Angie Nelson Deutch

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

Councilman P. Przybylinski made a motion to TABLE the proposed ordinance on second reading until the September 7, 2021 Council meeting to be able to have an additional workshop to discuss and review, second by Councilman D. Przybylinski.

The proposed ordinance was TABLED until the September 7, 2021 Council meeting by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members Zygas, P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski and Simmons (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Mack advised that the Council has one appointment to the Urban Enterprise Association due to the resignation of Mr. Keith Devereaux, expiring 12/31/2024; and that nominations will take place at the August 17, 2021 Council meeting.

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 Clay B. Putnam as a member of the Michigan City Tree Board (term will begin immediately and expire on July 1, 2021)

President Mack stated that if there was no objection, he would like to take the vote on the Mayor's request, there was no response.

Councilwoman Deutch made a motion to approve the Mayors request, second by Councilman P. Przybylinski.

Mr. Putnam was appointed to the Michigan City Tree Board by the following vote: **AYES:** Council members P. Przybylinski, Tillman, Dabney, Fitzpatrick, Mack, Deutch, D. Przybylinski, Simmons and Zygas (9). **NAYS:** None (0).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Mack stated that the Youth Leadership Commission has one appointment representing "Marquette High School" (term expired 06-01-2021) Incumbent: Mr. Trayvon Moore.

Ms. Neulieb stated that the Clerk's office didn't receive any correspondence from Marquette High School regarding their appointment to the Youth Leadership Commission.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Tommy Kulavik, 1316 Ohio Street, commented on the back to school rally on August 14, 2021 at Gil Field with them handing out school supplies to students in the City; advising the school system is putting new bleachers in at Ames Field a new roof at Joy Elementary School and that the County is conducting a property tax sale on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Nancy Moldenhauer, 107 Key Lane, thanked the Council for passing the resolution for a complete 100% coal ash clean up, with the Sustainability Commission being totally behind them; advising that there is a new program called soul smart that is being launched in Michigan City this summer and is offering free training for the installation of solar panels with the participants not only being offered free training but will also be certified to install solar panels after completing this program.

Rev. David Ashley, 714 Tremont Street and a member of the northwestern animations conference, advised that he recently stepped down after this years conference and they had all gathered to collaborate with other board members to bring in fresh blood to work and fight against diversity, which is very important. Mr. Ashley stated that he wants to say for the record this evening that we're not just for black people but represent all people in our conference; with his biggest regret during his tenure as being president is the unity and trying to fight corruption we collaborated with Mr. McCormick and he brought all the ministers in to fight for the corruption in our city and all we did was end up getting rid of our former mayor, the former Chief of the MCPD, the former Judge and also the former prosecutor; stating that at the conference we no longer will be working with Mr. McCormick that it whoever Mr. McCormick influences, he controls and we are saddened by what is going on in our city; stating several concerns regarding this person and his actions.

Rodney McCormick 617 Union Street, commented on the ministry's organization advising that they won't be an organization within in the near future; addressed the Council regarding the crime going on and shootings that are happening in our community with this administration or the MCPD not letting people living in the city know what is happening on daily bases, this council doesn't even advised about situations that are happening; how can we get this under control if no one knows what's happening " let's not talk about it", the city doesn't want address all the slum landlords that we have in our community either but they want to control the people that own airbnb's; also commenting on what is happening within our City workers that isn't being addressed; asking the City Council to please step up and address these issues.

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

President Mack asked if there were any Council comments.

Councilman D. Przybylinski addressed the situation that he talked about at the last meeting regarding the vagrants at Ames Field/Pytinia Park with them sitting at a park bench drinking, sleeping and urinating; stating that he contacted Chief Campbell and

the situation has been taken care of, thanking the police department for cleaning this up.

Councilman D. Przybylinski wanted to thank the Vector Control Department for a great job they are doing throughout our city, keeping everything cut, trimmed and look good.

Councilman D. Przybylinski advised that Mayor Parry was present asking him if he enlighten the Council regarding the situation that happened at Boulevard Gardens, that apparently there were at least three people who passed away from overdoses of heroin or cocaine with fentanyl laced; stating that he had not heard anything about it until someone in his ward called regarding what happened; stating that his point is this information should be given to each Council member letting them know what is going on in our community that this is a health and safety issue where we should know as soon as possible the details; questioning the Mayor why the Council isn't informed.

Mayor Parry stated unfortunately the ball was dropped that our Police Chief Dion Campbell was on vacation and that he was informed about the deaths from someone else when he contacted Assistant Chief Cooney asking why it wasn't sent out, he didn't have answer, but did say it would be sent out within an hour and that he stated there was no fentanyl involved in the death of these three individuals; and that he didn't do a press release and didn't plan on doing press releases in regards to this kind of issues that we don't want to be known as the murder or crime capital that we are addressing this and our police department is also addressing these issues; we don't broadcast Michigan city has a ton of problems, because we are not, we're moving forward we're addressing the problems that arise, but we keep our problems in house, where they will get fixed.

Councilman D. Przybylinski questioned that Chief Cooney sent an email regarding this matter to the Mayor and his administration staff, you would think the city council would be notified as well.

Mayor Parry advised that he didn't tell Chief Cooney not to advise the Council that the protocol in the past was to advise the Council of everything, that he didn't tell the Chief not to send the council but assumed it would be done; that he is not leaving the Council out of the loop intentionally.

Councilman P. Przybylinski thanked his brother Councilman D. Przybylinski for taking the lead on the situation in the second ward regarding the vagrants at Ames Field.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on the moratorium regarding evictions and that it is over with; that the bill wasn't passed in Washington D.C. and will not be voted on for another month; questioning why the City hasn't sent a fund up for "rental assistance" in the ARP Fund so we can allocate to County Trustees and help the citizens in our community and that this council might want to assistance for water and NIPSCO.

Councilman P. Przybylinski advised that he asked for the amount of "noise" ordinance violations have been given out in the past few year and didn't receive the information; he called the MCPD and he was told they don't have anyone qualified to operate a noise machine and don't own one either.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on the shooting that happened in his neighborhood where a gentleman was shot in the neck when opening the door; stating that he called Asst. Chief Cooney and never received call back; that council members serving this community should receive a report or correspondence on any incident involving the police department regarding the health and safety in their wards.

Councilwoman Tillman stated she concurs with Councilman D. Przybylinski but where is the transparency, it's okay to have tourist and visitors come into our city and not know what surrounding neighborhoods that they are going through where these things are occurring; explaining an incident that happened on the night of the fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

questioning why the Council members no longer receives this information like in the past.

Councilwoman Tillman requested that as of today August 3, 2021 that all Council members receive this information; asking if you don't want to send this information to all Council members that when these incidents occur send it to the council member that the incident occurs in.

Councilman Fitzpatrick invited everyone to attend the Salvation Army dinner/auction on August 12, 2021 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm that we want to help the Salvation Army so they can keep helping everyone in our community.

Councilman Fitzpatrick commented on Councilman D. Przybylinski regarding the vagrant people at Ames Field; stating that he stopped there and spoke with a few of the men; not realizing the situation they live in; meeting a young who came to Michigan City a few years ago that had health issues and has been living on the streets, so he walked him to Key's of Hope got him signed up in hopes to help him get a job and possibly be able to get back to his home town in Griffith in the near future.

Councilman Fitzpatrick also commented on what we just heard in regards with the deaths that occurred due to overdoses along with violent occurrences happening in our own community which is a public health and safety issue; stating he couldn't believe what he was hearing from our administrator of the city saying we're not going to air our dirty laundry, as he is airing our dirty laundry in a public meeting. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how do you fix a problem if you don't admit you have a problem.

Councilman Fitzpatrick stated on August 3, 2021 he still has zero confidence in any way in Duane Parry's ability in running our City.

Councilwoman Deutch stated some dates for the Promise Scholarship workshop asking the committee to look and see if August 16<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> would be a good day to schedule it.

Councilwoman Deutch addressed the Council hoping that at some point the City would consider getting a grant writer; that when talk about opioids and gun violence in our community there are so many funding (grant) opportunities that the city is missing out on, and one being local the Health Care Foundation; stating that there were several awards given to LaPorte City for trail walkways from grants; advising that through these state from house bills that were recently passed that our city would be eligible but we don't have the capacity to handle the day to day routine let alone write the grants with the city missing tons of dollars hoping that the City will put a grant writer in the 2022 budget.

Councilwoman Deutch commented on the response she was getting regarding the survey she put out to small businesses; scheduling a meeting at Macdonia Church to talk about the ARP funds on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., along with two meetings set at the library one for nonprofits and one for small business.

Councilwoman Deutch commented on the issues we have in our community regarding opium and other drugs along with the violence and shootings (sending prayers to the families impacted by drugs; it isn't easy stating that her family dealt with situation in her family when growing up, that a lot of the problems are mental health and this council needs help provide assistance to people, that years ago the city did provide assistance.

Councilman Simmons reiterated that there has to be transparency within our city, crime should be reported; being an x-law enforcement officer he is just amazed that we shouldn't be hiding crime it should be reported with all the council members being apprized whenever there are issues and that not long ago that information was being sent to us and now all of sudden it isn't; that he has complained about it.

Councilman Simmons stated we need to address the issues that needs to be addressed because the public has the right to know and to sit here and discuss this at an open

meeting and say we are not supporting crime is wrong Mayor; that if we don't know about an issue how are you going to fix the problem "shame on us"

Councilman D. Przybylinski stating that he couldn't agree more with the comments that Councilman Simmons just made about what Mr. Parry said here tonight; that in the past administrations the council was always informed about what was happening within the city; but the present administration doesn't seem it is important; stating several reasons why it is so important for a council person to know what is happening in their ward and is unfair to the citizens in our city.

Councilman P. Przybylinski commented on the shooting that happened 450 feet from his house and not hearing a thing from our administration.

President Mack stated that neighborhoods aren't bad just some people that live there are; that the article he read when breaking down crime that we've been talking about crime and shootings in the United States is way bigger than just Michigan City; stating that the vast of people in all communities don't shoot people Michigan City doesn't have a reputation for crime and violence, that are so many people that come to our city and love it here because we are great city and he will continue to believe and have faith in our ability to address our problems and encourage people to be positive.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Council President Mack, second by Councilwoman Deutch and there being no further business to transact, President Mack declared the meeting **ADJOURNED** (approximately 8:38 p.m.)

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Gale A. Neulieb