Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
April 14, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: President Rick Bella called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by President Rick Bella.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE: A brief invocation was given, along with a moment of silence, by Pastor Robert Szoke of Impact Christian Church.

ROLL CALL of COUNCIL: – Present at the meeting were Councilors Rhonda Neal, Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, and Rick Bella. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Councilor Keesha Hardaway was absent.

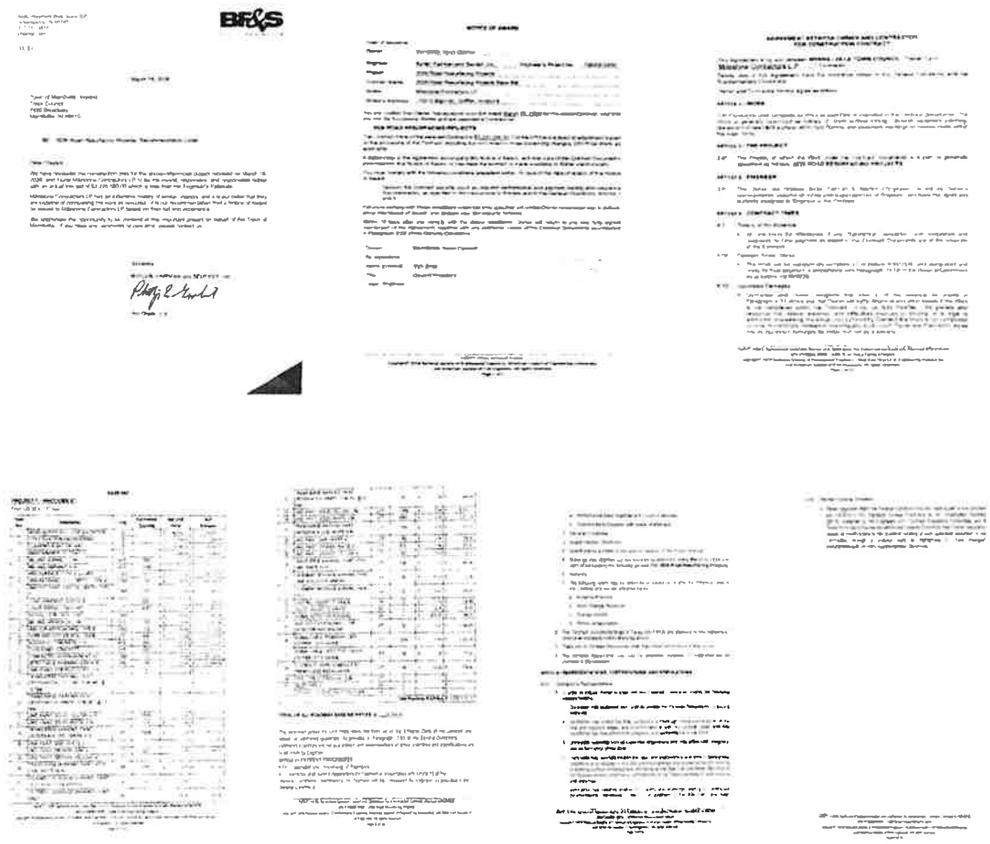
Town Attorney Svetanoff was present to provide legal advice.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS*: NONE*

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Several public comments were made. A copy of the video from the Town Council Meeting held on April 14, 2026, has been uploaded to the Town's website at:
https://www.merrillville.in.gov/government/town_council/town_council_meetings.php.

MOTIONS ON THE TABLE: *NONE*

CONSENT AGENDA:
- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for April 14, 2026.
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2026.
- Approval of bid award to Milestone



- Letter from Merrillville School Corp requesting free use of the D&BWCC for resource fair.

TOWN of MERRILLVILLE
Office of Town Administration

Memorandum

Date Tuesday April 14, 2026

Hon. Rick Biella, President and the Merrillville Town Council
Merrillville Parks And Recreation Authority (MMC Sec. 13.5-1)
7920 Broadway Ave
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Re: **Request of a Waiver of Charges for use of Facilities for The Merrillville Community School Corporation for the Parent Resource Fair.**

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Town Council

Hello. I hope this arrives to find you all doing well. I ask your consideration and favor to approve the following

Request of a Waiver of Charges for use of Facilities for The Merrillville Community School Corporation for the Parent Resource Fair.

Pursuant to a request by letter from the Merrillville Community School Corporation, I am writing to seek the waiver of charges for the use by Merrillville Community Schools for its annual Parent Resource Fair in rooms Event Center Rooms 1,2, & 3 at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center on May 14, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and such time as may be needed to set up. The school corporation seeks this waiver as a courtesy between public entities. I recommend approval notwithstanding MMC sec. 13.5-15(D) & (M).

This matter be placed before the Town Council in its role as the Park Authority and that a waiver be granted for this use. This is in consultation with the Dean & Barbara White Community Center and Parks Committee, which supports the recommendation.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Michael W. Griffin, M.P.A. MMC/CPFA/ACPFIM/CMO
Town Manager

CC Jerry McCartney, Parks & Recreation Superintendent

- Letter from The Neal Group for free use of the D&BWCC and field for their Annual Give Back Free Football camp.

TOWN of MERRILLVILLE
Office of Town Administration

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Hon. Rick Bella, President and the Merrillville Town Council
Merrillville Parks and Recreation Authority (MMC Sec. 15-5-1)
7821 Broadway Ave
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Re: Request of a Waiver of Charges for use of Facilities for NEAL GROUP for the ANNUAL FREE COMMUNITY GIVE BACK FOOTBALL CAMP.

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Town Council:

Hello. I hope this arrives to find you all doing well. I ask your consideration and favor to approve the following:

I am writing to seek the waiver of charges for the use as described in the subject line at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center, Weiss Field on Sunday, July 5, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., notwithstanding MMC Sec. 15-5-1561(D)(2) and (N).

This is an annual, volunteer effort by a family that gives back to Merrillville. Further no fees are charged for young people to participate. This represents a community good. The cost of use is estimated to be forgone is on file and I recommend for the forgoing reasons your favor and approval of the waiver.

This matter is placed before the Town Council in its role as the Park Authority pending the appointments to the park and recreation board. I ask that a waiver be granted for this use.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Michael W. Griffin, M.P.A., IAMC/MMC/CPFA/AC/PFIM/CMO
Town Manager

Attachment: Weiss Turf Field Rental Permit 2026

CC: Jerry McCartney, Parks & Recreation Superintendent

7820 Broadway Avenue, Merrillville, IN 46410

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve the consent agenda.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The consent agenda was approved.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

a) Receipt and Acknowledgement of Redevelopment Commission Report to the Legislative Body, pursuant to IC 36-7-14-13. The Redevelopment Commission approved the agreement and authorized its filing with the Town Council at the Redevelopment Commission Meeting of March 24, 2026.

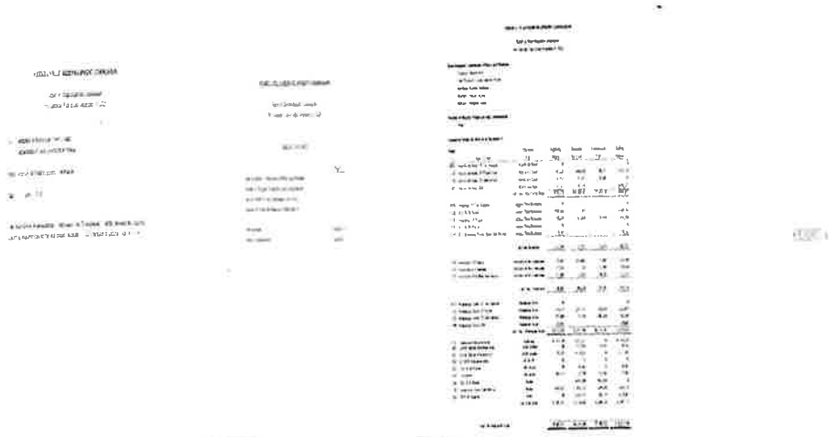
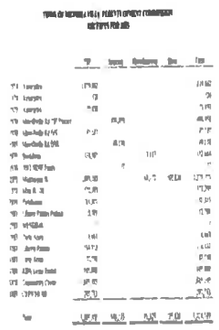
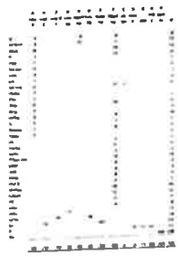


EXHIBIT 3





Councilor Pettit explained the Report.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the Redevelopment Commission Report.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Redevelopment Commission Report was approved.

BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS:

1) **Applicant**: Samantha Davis
   Owner: CRP Indiana LLC
   Request: Variance of Use Approval
   Purpose: To Allow a Dance Studio
   Location: 6132 Broadway
   Zoning: M-2 Limited Industrial Corridor Overlay Zoning District

Planning and Building Director Sheila Shine explained the Variance of Use Approval. The Board of Zoning Appeal vote was four in favor and one absent.

In response to a question by Councilor Pettit regarding the Dance Studio being in Crossroads Plaza, Director Shine affirmed that the Dance Studio is in Crossroads Road Plaza.

In response to a second question by Councilor Pettit regarding the Dance Studio being a permitted use in a C3, Director Shine responded that the answer is no because it is a special exception.

Councilor Pettit informed the council that an ordinance has been introduced to the Plan Commission to take the zone from an M2 to a C3. The ordinance will be taken up for action next Tuesday.

The Petitioner, Samantha Davis, explained the nature of the business.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve the Board of Zoning Appeals' (BZA) Action for the Variance of Use Approval.

Upon a roll call vote, there were six affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The BZA action was approved for the Variance of Use Approval.

2) **Petitioner**: Minica Blackemore-Tatum
   Owner: John Matthewson
   Request: Special Exception Approval
   Purpose: To Allow a Wine & Cigar Bar
   Location: 7886 Broadway
   Zoning: C-2 Community Commercial Zoning District

Planning and Building Director Sheila Shine explained the Special Exception Approval.

The Petitioner, Minica Blackemore-Tatum, explained the nature of the business.

In response to a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding food being served, the Petitioner, Ms. Blackemore-Tatum, responded that the business would have rotating licensed food vendors.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve the Special Exception Approval.

Upon a roll call vote, there were six affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The Special Exception Approval was approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

***BUDGET & FINANCE*—NEAL**— Vice President Neal reported that the next budget and finance meeting will be on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The meetings are scheduled on the third Monday of every month for the 2026 calendar year.

STREET DEPARTMENT & PARK MAINTENANCE - UZELAC– Councilor Uzelac reported that she has received several calls regarding the speed bumps and their installation locations. If locations need to be changed, the Ward representative can call the Street Department. The Street Department will contact the contractor. In Councilor Uzelac's conversations with Director Steve King of the Street Department, Director King revealed to her that the Town can purchase permanent speed tables. These will not be removed in the winter and reinstalled in the summer by the contractor.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS—PETTIT—Councilor Pettit had nothing to report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway was absent.

In response to a question by President Bella regarding a committee report, Councilor Pettit responded no report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac reported that she was in receipt of the Stormwater Management Report and had reviewed it. For the Hendrick Street Drainage Project, she will defer to Director Matthew Lake of Stormwater Management under Department Reports.

Councilor Uzelac also reported that she has received several calls from Taney Place regarding the ditch.

Director Matthew Lake added that Taney Place Ditch is a separate area in the conveyance. The maintenance on that ditch is once a year. There were some catch basins that were blocked, and we will clear them out.

PUBLIC SAFETY—HARDAWAY—Councilor Hardway was absent.

In response to a question from President Bella regarding a committee report, Vice-President Neal responded no report.

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice-President Neal had no updates from the committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) will be held on Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m. This is the regular scheduled meeting held every 4th Tuesday of the month.

UTILITY LIAISON –CHANDLER-FELTON – Councilor Chandler-Felton had nothing to report.

PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that he would defer to Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Jerry McCartney's report under Departments' Reports

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON– Councilor Haynes-Edwards had nothing to report.

SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS – HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards had nothing to report.

SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that the next meeting is on Wednesday, April 22nd. If any residents are interested, you can still join the committee. Residents can contact her at

shedwards@merrillville.in.gov. We are looking for residents to lead this celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway was absent.

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – NEAL - Vice President Neal reported that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th. The Household Hazardous Waste 2026 schedule from LCSWM has been uploaded to the Town website and on the mymerrillville app, along with information regarding the Town's participation in bottle top collections by Chas Riley, Media Officer.

The next Household Hazardous Waste collection is on April 11th at 508 Fisher Street in Munster, Indiana, from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. There will also be paper shredding available for up to four grocery bags per household.

One cubic yard per household of compost is available to residents for free, and you must bring your own container. Residents can contact Troy Taylor at (219) 337-8341 for an appointment. You will have to show a driver's license to prove residency.

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway was absent.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway was absent.

In response to a question from President Bella about a report, Vice President Neal said a meeting is coming up in May.

Councilor Pettit added that there will be a rededication of the 57th Avenue Fire Station on April 15th at noon. He also reported that there will be a groundbreaking for the Southside Fire Station on Colorado Street in May by Core Construction.

CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE - JANUARY – Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reporting on the following for March 31, 2026

- **Cash Balances - $75.481,887.56** (Obligated and Unobligated Funds) Town Court, Fire Department, General Fund, Police Department, RDA, Stormwater, etc.

- **Payees – 228** Payees were paid in March a total of $1,007,531.21 (Employees, Elected Officials, and Pensioners)

- **Food and Beverage Tax** – We received another **$127,921.24** check**,** which brings the balance to **$2,449,646.11.**

- **Debt Summary- $49,926,000.00** (There is a discrepancy because the terminology is different between bonds, leases, and band, which are not all classified as debt. The Gateway System is showing a total of $36,905,000.00 for the Town and TIF. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January stated he would reconcile the difference and report the results at the next council meeting.

  Councilor Pettit added that $33,000,000.00 is the amount of the bond being paid by the allocation areas and explained the total amount in the Gateway System.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

Superintendent Jerry McCartney – Parks and Recreation
Jerry McCartney, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, reported that the Parks' Master Plan has been accepted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Dean and Barbara White Community Center (D&BWCC) hosted the Midwest Volleyball Championships on Saturday, April 11th, and Sunday, April 12th. The event resulted in some record sales in concession on these two days. The Autism Awareness Walk event will be held at the D&BWCC this Sunday, April 19th, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

All parks and recreation activities can be found at: https://merrillvilleparks.recdesk.com, the Facebook Page, and the mymerrillville app.

Director Matthew Lake – Stormwater Management
Director Matthew reported on the following:

- **97th Grand Boulevard Drainage Improvement Project** – Bids are going out right now for this project.
- **John Deere Tractor** - The department has taken delivery of the new tractor with a tiger mower attachment.
- **Drainage Projects** – The Stormwater Management Department is working on several other drainage projects and pond maintenance throughout the Town of Merrillville.
- **Hydraulic Lift** – The department has taken delivery and installed the new lift.
- **Annual Report** – MS400 report was deemed complete and accurate by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDM).
- **Annual Audit** – The annual audit for IDM has been scheduled for October.

Director Lake also reported other activity occurring in the Stormwater Management Department.

Police Chief Nuses– Police Department
Chief Nuses reported the following statistics for March 2026:

- **Calls for Service** – 2.310, which resulted in 3,941 officers' responses.

- **Extra Patrol Assignments** – 135
- **Traffic Stops** – 368 traffic stops, which resulted in approximately 447 tickets.
- **OWI Arrest** – 5
- **Adult Arrest** – 108
- **Juvenile Arrest** – 1

Chief Nuses also reported that the Crime and Justice Summit was a good program, and the Merrillville Police Department is hoping to implement a similar program in early summer of this fall.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Sheila Shine had nothing to report.

Director King - Street Department
Director Steve King was absent.

Town Manager Griffin – Town Administration
Town Manager Griffin reported on the following:

- **Monthly Reports** – Town Manager Griffin reported that the Town Manager's report has been given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January.

GENERAL ORDERS

A. **Ordinances: (Discussion and Roll Call Vote):**

Zoning: (Motion to adopt or reject; confer IC 36-5-2-10(d): ***NONE***

First Reading: **Ordinance (Discussion and Roll Call Vote):** ***NONE***

Second Reading: (Discussion, Public Comments Only If Required & Roll Call Vote): ***NONE***

Resolutions (Discussion and Voice Vote):

Resolution 26-13 (Discussion & Voice Vote)
A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville Authorizing A Transfer to the Park Non-Reverting Capital and Operation Funds.

TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA
RESOLUTION NO. 26-13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER TO THE PARK NON-REVERTING CAPITAL AND OPERATING FUNDS

WHEREAS, The Town of Merrillville by proper legislative action has established a Park Non-Reverting Operating Fund, pursuant to IC 36-10 et seq.;

WHEREAS, The Town of Merrillville by proper legislative action has established a Park Non-Reverting Capital Fund, pursuant to IC 36-10-3 et seq., under Ordinance 26-12;

WHEREAS, The Town of Merrillville, by proper legislative action did establish a Merrillville Food and Beverage Tax and a Food and Beverage Tax Receipts Fund all pursuant to IC 6-9-54.5 et seq.;

WHEREAS, IC 6-9-54.5-9 provides that among the uses for the revenue received is for parks and recreation purposes;

WHEREAS, The Town Manager and Fiscal Advisor have advised that the Town Council favor the fiscal management outlined in this resolution, which recommendation the Town Council now desires to enact; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

Section 1. That the amount of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($450,000) be transferred from the cash balance on deposit to the Food and Beverage Tax Receipts Fund (2512) and be deposited in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ($200,000) to the credit of the Parks Non-Reverting Capital Fund (4403) and Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($250,000) to the credit of the Parks Non-Reverting Operating Fund (2211);

Section 2. That, pursuant to the foregoing, the Clerk-Treasurer be authorized and is hereby requested to transfer the amount identified herein;

Section 3. That the Clerk-Treasurer as the disbursing and fiscal officer of the Municipality, is hereby instructed, and authorized to take such steps as necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED this ____ day of April, 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

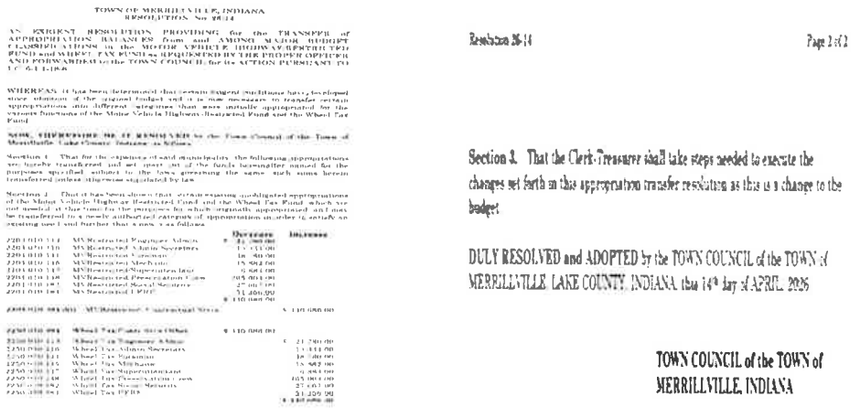
TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Vice President to approve Resolution 26-13.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The resolution was approved.

<u>Resolution 26-14 (Discussion & Voice Vote)</u>

An Exigent Resolution Providing For The Transfer Of Appropriation Balances From And Among Major Budget Classifications In The Motor Vehicle Highway-Restricted Fund And Wheel Tax Fund As Requested By The Proper Officer And Forwarded To The Council For Its Action Pursuant To I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.



TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA
RESOLUTION No. 26-14

AN EXIGENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING for the TRANSFER of APPROPRIATION BALANCES from and AMONG MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATIONS in the MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY-RESTRICTED FUND and WHEEL TAX FUNDS as REQUESTED BY THE PROPER OFFICER AND FORWARDED to the TOWN COUNCIL for its ACTION PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-18-6

WHEREAS, it has been determined that certain exigent circumstances have developed since adoption of the original budget and it is now necessary to transfer certain appropriations and/or appropriation balances that were initially appropriated for the separate purposes of the Motor Vehicle Highway-Restricted Fund and the Wheel Tax Fund

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following appropriations are hereby transferred and set apart out of the funds hereinafter named for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same, such sums herein transferred unless otherwise stipulated by law.

Section 2. That it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the Motor Vehicle Highway-Restricted Fund and the Wheel Tax Fund which are not needed at this time for the purposes for which originally appropriated, and may be transferred to a newly authorized category of appropriation in order to satisfy an existing use Fund further that a need exists as follows:

		Decrease	Increase
2201-010-111	MVH-Restricted Engineer Admin	$ 21,700.00	
2201-010-116	MVH-Restricted Admin Secretary	11,411.00	
2201-010-131	MVH-Restricted Foreman	16,480.00	
2201-010-135	MVH-Restricted Mechanic	15,982.00	
2201-010-137	MVH-Restricted Supervision Inst	5,884.00	
2201-010-139	MVH-Restricted Prescription Plan	105,861.00	
2201-010-197	MVH-Restricted Social Security	27,063.00	
2201-010-861	MVH-Restricted PERF	31,229.00	
		$ 110,000.00	
2201-010-991	MVH-Restricted - Contractual Servic		$ 110,000.00
2250-010-991	Wheel Tax Funds-Not to Other	$ 110,000.00	
2250-010-111	Wheel Tax Engineer Admin		$ 21,700.00
2250-010-116	Wheel Tax Admin Secretary		11,411.00
2250-010-131	Wheel Tax Foreman		16,480.00
2250-010-135	Wheel Tax Mechanic		15,982.00
2250-010-137	Wheel Tax Supervision Inst		5,884.00
2250-010-139	Wheel Tax Prescription Plan		105,861.00
2250-010-197	Wheel Tax Social Security		27,063.00
2250-010-861	Wheel Tax PERF		31,229.00
			$ 110,000.00

Resolution 26-14 Page 2 of 2

Section 3. That the Clerk-Treasurer shall take steps needed to execute the changes set forth on this appropriation transfer resolution as this is a change to the budget.

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED by the TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA this 14th day of APRIL, 2026

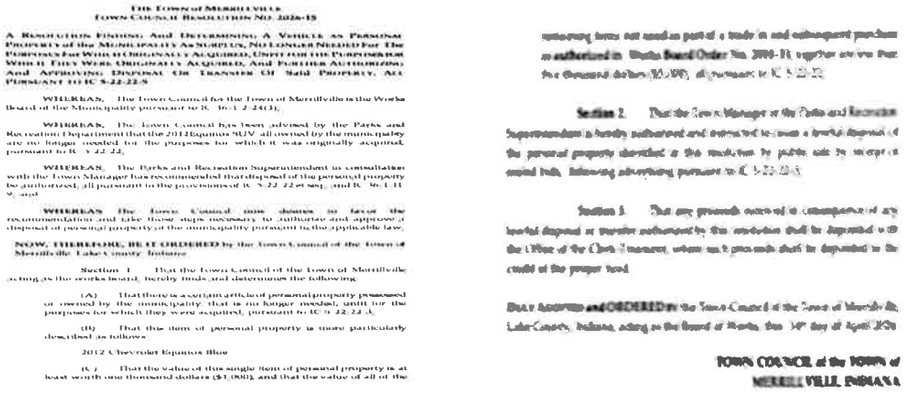
TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Resolution 26-14.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The resolution was approved.

Resolution 26-15 (Discussion & Voice Vote)

A Resolution Finding And Determining A Vehicle as Personal Property of the Municipality As Surplus, No Longer Needed For The Purpose For Which Originally Acquired, Unfit for the Purposes for Which They Were Originally Acquired, And Further Authorizing And Approving Disposal Or Transfer Of Said Property, All Pursuant to I.C. 5-22-22-5.



THE TOWN of MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2026-15

A RESOLUTION FINDING AND DETERMINING A VEHICLE as PERSONAL PROPERTY of the MUNICIPALITY As SURPLUS, NO LONGER NEEDED For The PURPOSES For WHICH ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED, UNFIT for the PURPOSES for WHICH THEY WERE ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED, And FURTHER AUTHORIZING And APPROVING DISPOSAL Or TRANSFER Of SAID PROPERTY, All PURSUANT to IC 5-22-22-5

WHEREAS, The Town Council for the Town of Merrillville is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to IC 36-1-2-24(1);

WHEREAS, The Town Council has been advised by the Parks and Recreation Department that the 2012 Equinox SUV all owned by the municipality are no longer needed for the purposes for which it was originally acquired, pursuant to IC 5-22-22;

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Superintendent in consultation with the Town Manager has recommended that disposal of the personal property be authorized, all pursuant to the provisions of IC 5-22-22 et seq., and IC 36-1-11-3; and

WHEREAS the Town Council now desires to favor the recommendation and take those steps necessary to authorize and approve a disposal of personal property of the municipality pursuant to the applicable law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana:

Section 1. That the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, acting as the works board, hereby finds and determines the following:

(A) That there is a certain article of personal property possessed or owned by the municipality that is no longer needed, unfit for the purposes for which they were acquired, pursuant to IC 5-22-22-5;

(B) That the item of personal property is more particularly described as follows:

2012 Chevrolet Equinox Blue

(C) That the value of this single item of personal property is at least worth one thousand dollars ($1,000), and that the value of all of the

...remaining items not needed as part of a trade in and subsequent purchase as authorized in Works Board Order No. 2026-11, together are not over five thousand dollars ($5,000), all pursuant to IC 5-22-22;

Section 2. That the Town Manager or the Parks and Recreation Superintendent is hereby authorized and instructed to cause a lawful disposal of the personal property described in the resolution by public sale to the highest bidder, following advertising pursuant to IC 5-22-22-5;

Section 3. That any proceeds received in consequence of any lawful disposal or transfer authorized by this resolution shall be deposited with the Office of the Clerk Treasurer, where such proceeds shall be deposited to the credit of the proper fund.

DULY ADOPTED and ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Board of Works, this 14th day of April 2026.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

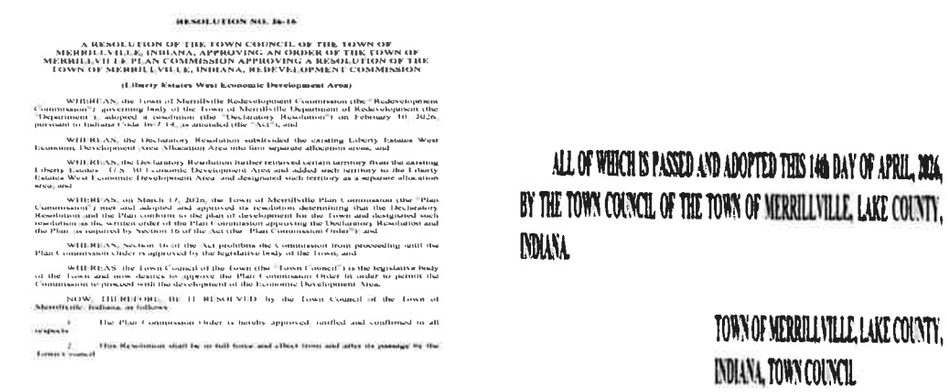
It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Resolution 26-15.

Town Manager Griffin explained Resolution 26-15.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The resolution was approved.

Resolution 26-16 (Discussion & Voice Vote)

A Resolution Of The Town Council of Merrillville, Indiana, Approving An Order Of The Town Of Merrillville Plan Commission Approving A Resolution Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Redevelopment Commission.



RESOLUTION NO. 26-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, APPROVING AN ORDER OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE PLAN COMMISSION APPROVING A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

(Liberty Estates West Economic Development Area)

WHEREAS, the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission (the "Redevelopment Commission") governing body of the Town of Merrillville Department of Redevelopment (the "Department"), adopted a resolution (the "Declaratory Resolution") on February 10, 2026, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-14, as amended (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Declaratory Resolution subdivided the existing Liberty Estates West Economic Development Area Allocation Area into four separate allocation areas; and

WHEREAS, the Declaratory Resolution further removed certain territory from the existing Liberty Estates – U.S. 30 Economic Development Area and added such territory to the Liberty Estates West Economic Development Area and designated such territory as a separate allocation area; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2026, the Town of Merrillville Plan Commission (the "Plan Commission") met and adopted and approved its resolution determining that the Declaratory Resolution and the Plan conform to the plan of development for the Town and designated such resolution as the written order of the Plan Commission approving the Declaratory Resolution and the Plan, as required by Section 16 of the Act (the "Plan Commission Order"); and

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Act prohibits the Commission from proceeding until the Plan Commission Order is approved by the legislative body of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town (the "Town Council") is the legislative body of the Town and now desires to approve the Plan Commission Order in order to permit the Commission to proceed with the development of the Economic Development Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, as follows:

1. The Plan Commission Order is hereby approved, ratified and confirmed in all respects.

2. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Town Council.

ALL OF WHICH IS PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, TOWN COUNCIL

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Pettit to approve Resolution 26-16.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The resolution was approved.

Resolution 26-17 (Discussion & Voice Vote)
A Resolution Of The Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Transferring Monies Of The 2026 Budget Within The General Fund.

RESOLUTION # 26-17
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, TRANSFERRING MONIES OF THE 2026 BUDGET WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND

WHEREAS, in the appropriation of funds for the year 2026, there is a need to transfer certain monies within the General Fund, therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, that the following transfer of funds be approved:

		Decrease	Increase
1101008118	General/Bailiff	$ 1,000.00	
1101008394	General/Contractual		$1,000.00
	Total:	$ 1,000.00	$1,000.00

DULY ADOPTED AND RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this_____ day of _____, 2026.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Vice-President Neal to approve Resolution 26-17.

Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The resolution was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: ***NONE***

NEW BUSINESS: ***NONE***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Town Council Meeting April 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- RDC Meeting April 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
- Data Center Educational Public Meeting June 11th at the DBWCC at 5:00 p.m.
- Council Workshop/Executive Session April 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Plan Commission April 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:
Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President, Rick Bella, announced the meeting had adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis