Town Council of Merrillville
7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410
Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
May 26, 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-Flowers, Margaret Uzelac, Keesha Hardaway, Shawn Pettit, and Rick Bella. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Attorney Ricardo Hall was present to provide legal advice.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:

- **Awards of Excellence - Director Matthew Lake of Stormwater Management and the Town of Merrillville**

  After a brief synopsis on the Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG), Reggie Korthals, Executive Director of MS4 Partnership, presented Director Lake with the 2026 Recognition of Excellence Award for the MS4 Stormwater Program and the Town of Merrillville with the 2026 Executive Director's Award of Excellence.

- **Statement From President Rick Bella**

  President Bella read into the record the following statement:

"Merrillville finds itself in a unique and fortunate position regarding the discussion of future data center developments. With our neighboring community, the City of Hobart already having approved a large data center campus that is now under construction, local officials in Merrillville have an opportunity that many communities do not have — the ability to closely observe a real-world project unfolding right next door.

Waiting, studying, and learning from a neighboring community's experiences may ultimately provide Merrillville leaders with the valuable information necessary to make a more informed and educated decision for our residents and our future.

Rather than rushing into decisions, Merrillville can take the prudent approach by monitoring how the Hobart project develops over the next year or longer. This observation period will allow our community to evaluate whether the project is built and operated in the manner that was presented and promised to Hobart officials and residents.

It also gives us time to better understand potential impacts involving infrastructure, traffic, utilities, noise, economic development, tax revenue, and compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods.

I will now entertain a motion to place a one-year moratorium on any Data Center Project approvals in the Town of Merrillville from June 1st, 2026, through May 31st, 2027."

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice President Neal to approve a One-Year Moratorium on Data Centers in the Town of Merrillville from June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027.

Councilor Pettit explained why he supports this one-year moratorium on data centers.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The One-Year Moratorium on Data Centers in the Town of Merrillville from June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027, was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Several public comments were made regarding the Data Centers, Finances of Town Court, New Fire Station on Colorado Street, and Lamar's Easements. We have uploaded a copy of the video from the Town Council Meeting held on May 26, 2026, 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 May 26, 2026.
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2026.
- Intent to purchase Easement re Lamar Lease #249-11760-01
- Intent to purchase Easement re Lamar Lease #249-01645.01

Councilor Pettit stated that he would abstain from the consent agenda vote due to a conflict of interest. He is the Real Estate Manager for Lamar Advertising. Councilor Pettit also explained the easements regarding Lamar Advertising.

Town Manager Griffin added to the explanation that the recommendation is not to make any easements. Based on his conversations with Town Attorney Svetanoff and Attorney Hall, we recommend pursuing a license agreement that would have the terms of the proposed lease, but would not identify itself as a property right like an easement.

In response to a question from President Bella regarding legal review of the documents, Councilor Pettit confirmed that the documents were reviewed by legal, and changes were made by Town Manager Griffin and Attorney Svetanoff that were acceptable to TLC properties at the corporate office of Lamar.

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January voiced his concern regarding the two easements being listed under the consent agenda instead of as standalone items to be voted on by the council.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve only the first two items listed (Account Payable Register Voucher for May 26, 2026, and the Minutes from May 12, 2026) under the Consent Agenda.

Upon a voice vote with 6 affirmatives and 1 abstention, the motion passed. The Consent Agenda was approved with the first two items listed (Account Payable Register Voucher for May 26, 2026, and the Minutes from May 12, 2026) under the Consent Agenda.

In response to a question from Councilor Uzelac regarding a motion to remove both easements (items 3 and 4) from the consent agenda, Attorney Hall responded that this is a substantive change, not a procedural one, that should be voted on by the council.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to table Consent Agenda items 3 (easement #249-11760-01 and 4 (easement #249-01645-01).

Upon a voice vote with 6 affirmatives and 1 abstention, the motion passed. The Consent Agenda items 3 (easement #249-11760-01 and 4 (easement #249-01645-01) were tabled.

SPECIAL ORDERS: ***NONE***

BZA & LARGE GATHERING ACTIONS: ***NONE***

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

***BUDGET & FINANCE*—NEAL**— Vice President Neal had nothing to report.

STREET DEPARTMENT & PARK MAINTENANCE - UZELAC– Councilor Uzelac reported that the Street Department is still cleaning up streets, picking up branches, and performing roadside maintenance all over the Town of Merrillville. The Street Department is also planting different plants on Broadway. The projects for Whitcomb Street in Ward 4 will start on Monday.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE- HARDAWAY- Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC – Councilor Uzelac reported that she has a question for Director Matthew Lake regarding Kaiser Ditch. In response to a question from Councilor Uzelac to Director Lake about the project's completion, Director Lake stated that the Lake County Surveyor has begun the work. Director Lake will contact Bill Emerson for a status update regarding the project.

PUBLIC SAFETY—HARDAWAY—Councilor Hardway had nothing to report.

ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL- Vice President Neal reported that a meeting was held with Robertson Engineering to discuss changes to the Parks' and Gateway signs. We have to change some of the sizes of the Parks' signs. A ribbon-cutting ceremony date will be announced soon.

In response to a question from President Bella to Director Steve King regarding the flowers and plants in the greenhouse, Director King responded that the plants are growing tremendously. We ended up with over a thousand plants.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT – Councilor Pettit reported that the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) was held right before this meeting at 6:00 pm. We approved a resolution to transfer some funds for the Mississippi and 69th Avenue roundabout, for which we receive federal funding.

Councilor Pettit also informed the council that an RDC Workshop will be held on June 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. to have Mr. Bob Swintz come up and review with us our bonds and allocation area funding. This will be like a six-month review. Public Safety (Fire and Police) is an eligible

activity for the allocation area funding. We need to look at that eligibility and produce a plan between me, Town Manager Griffin, and Financial Advisor Hudson.

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 Jerry McCartney's details for the department under the department reports.

Councilor Pettit stated to the council and audience that the Town has received a proposal from the Dean and Barbara White Foundation for the Community Center. A community meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Event Center at D&BWCC. Bill Hannah from the White Foundation and Jay Buckmaster from the Crossroads YMCA will be attending the meeting as speakers to inform the community about what will happen if they purchase the Dean and Barbara White Community Center (D&BWCC) in Merrillville, Indiana. The White Foundation has offered us $23,000,000.00 to buy the building, which will manage the financial debt that is associated with D&BWCC.

Councilor Pettit went into further explanation regarding the Parks' Master Plan that includes a 20 Acre Park at Liberty Estates West, and an additional building for Parks and Recreation.

President Bella added that there will be a video recording of the meeting, and it will be posted on the Town's website and the mymerrillville app.

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 kick-off will be July 4th instead of Juneteenth. We are looking to do a big production at Hidden Lake Park. We are looking for residents and Town Council members to lead this celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. More details will be forthcoming.

DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – NEAL - Vice President Neal reported that the next Lake County Solid Waste Management District Hazardous Waste (LCSWMD)

Collection is on Saturday May 30th at the Gary Hudson Campbell, located on 455 Massachusetts Street, Gary, Indiana, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Paper shredding will be available for up to four grocery brown paper bags at every hazardous collection site this year. This information is available on the Town's website, the mymerrillville app, and LCSWMD's website, lcswmd.com

Vice President Neal also reported that a meeting was held, one of the items that was discussed was the use of environmentally friendly bags instead of the plastic ones, given out at most stores and restaurants. Environmentally friendly bags were given out at the meeting and will be available to the public for free at certain locations, such as Strack &Van Til. LCSWMD will have tables set up at these locations for the free bag giveaway.

THE SHARED ETHICS ENTITY-HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY – Councilor Hardaway and Vice President Neal had nothing to report.

Councilor Pettit reminded the council of the groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, May 27th, at noon for the new fire station located on 9131 Colorado.

CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE - JANUARY – Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reporting on the following:

- **Cash Balances Decreased** – The cash balances decreased by $3.195,143.73, which underscores that we must pay attention and know what we are voting for at these meetings.

SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:

Superintendent Jerry McCartney – Parks and Recreation

Superintendent Jerry McCartney reminded the council and audience about the Parks Committee meeting on Thursday at 6:00 pm. Open gym summer hours at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center (D&BWCC) will change on June 15th. The details will be presented at the next Town Council Meeting. For now, it will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In response to a question from President Bella regarding repairs at the D&BWCC, Superintendent McCartney responded that the department expects to receive a check for the down payment on the Landscaping soon. The mowers have been received, and the volleyball court will be fixed on May 30th and 31st.

Director Matthew Lake – Stormwater Management

Director Matthew Lake reported on the following:

- 97th Grand Avenue – We are scheduling a pre-construction for this project. This is a two-stage ditch project as well as a safety project. DLZ found that M and J Underground was the successful low bidder at the amount of $300,000.00 under our engineer's estimate.

- Fee Study – We are finalizing our fee study with Cinder Development.
- Master Plan – We are finalizing our Master Plan with Christopher Engineering.
- Ridge Project – We are waiting for a second pump to be installed and assessed.
- MSA Meeting – Director Lake attended the meeting where regulations updates were discussed.

Director Lake reported several other updates to the council.

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

- **Calls for Service** – 2.292, which resulted in 4,015 officers' responses.
- **Traffic Stops** – 304 traffic stops, which resulted in approximately 316 citations.
- **OWI Arrest** – 12
- **Adult Arrest** – 125, and this number is increasing due to the warmer weather.
- **Juvenile Arrest** – 6
- **Extra Patrol Assignments** – 27

Chief Nuses also reported that Code Enforcement has been out in full force regarding the mowing of lawns. We have three Code Enforcement Officers and ask for your patience. Code Enforcement has encountered residents who refuse to mow their lawns. The addresses of these residents have been turned over to our contractor to start mowing these lawns at the residents' expense.

Director Shine – Building and Planning
Director Sheila Shine reported that 453 permits have been issued in the Town of Merrillville as of the end of April 2026. Director Shine also encouraged residents to read the contract when hiring a contractor before signing the contract. The Building and Planning Department will fight for you in a dispute, but you have to do your part.

Director King - Street Department
Director Steve King added that the Street Department has started Summer Hours from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The North Barn for yard waste will be open from 6:15 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Director King also explained what the North Barn is and its location. The North Barn is located on 5750 Tyler Street. We stored equipment and yard waste for residents at this location. You must prove residency by showing us your Indiana driver's license to drop off yard waste and have Indiana plates on your car.

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

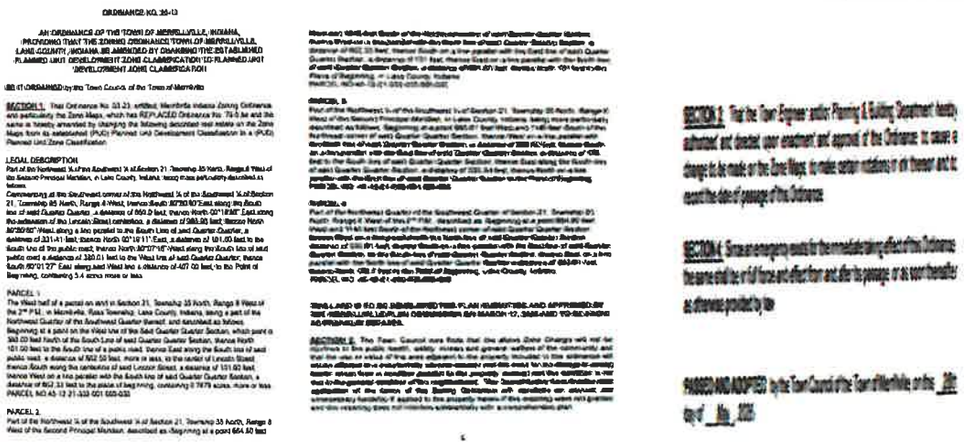
- **Monthly Reports** – Town Manager Griffin reported that the Department Heads' reports compiled by Town Administrative and Building Manager Linda Rosas have been given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January

GENERAL ORDERS

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

Zoning: (Motion to adopt or reject; confer IC 36-5-2-10(d):

Ordinance 26-13 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
An Ordinance Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, Providing That The Zoning Ordinance Of The Town Of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, Be Amended By Changing The Established Planned Unit Development Zone Classification To Planned Unit Development Zone Classification.



Director Sheila Shine explained Ordinance 26-13.

Mr. Franklin gave the council an update on the project.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Ordinance 26-13 on the final reading.

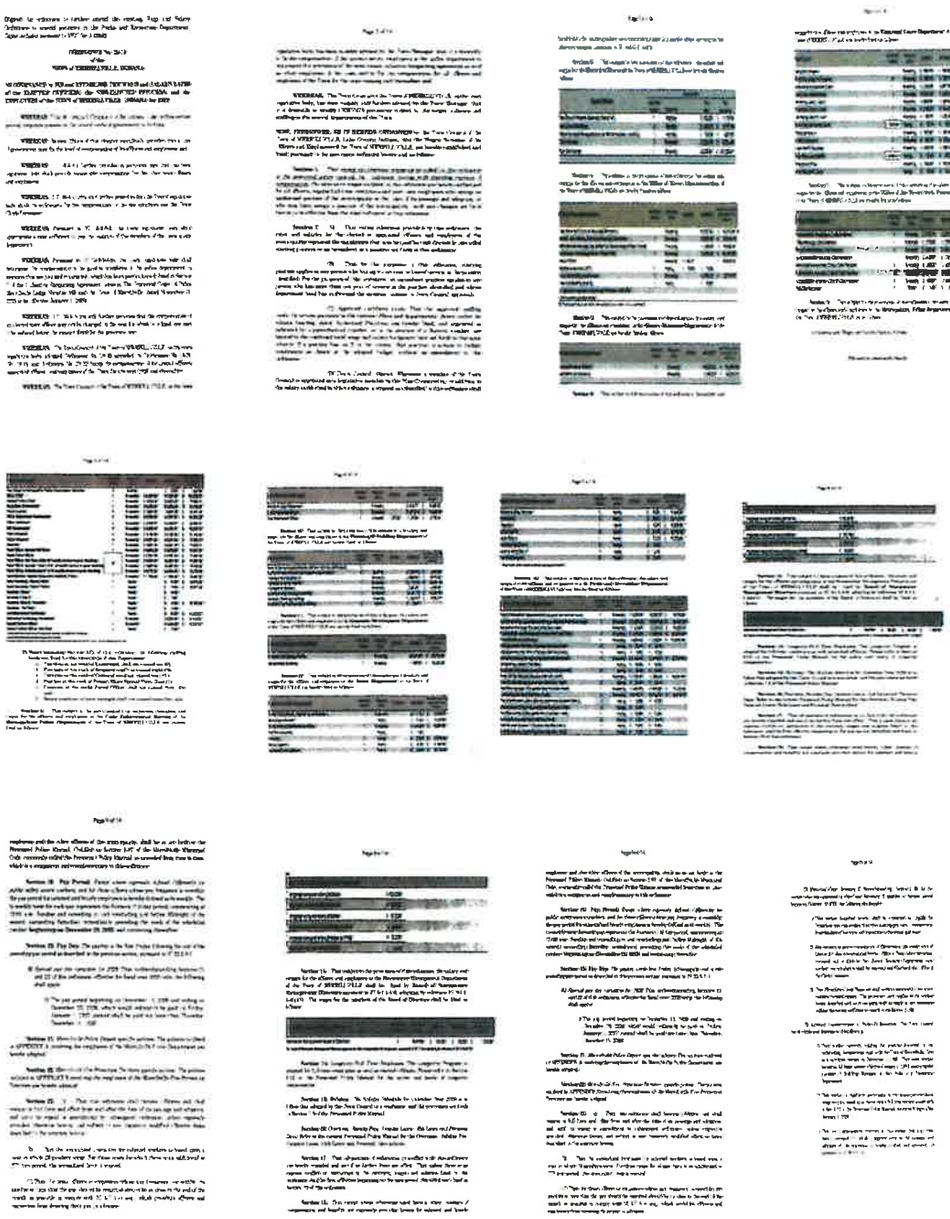
Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on the final reading.

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

Second Reading: (Discussion, Public Comments Only If Required & Roll Call Vote):

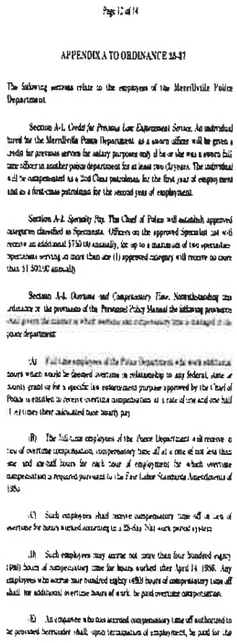
Ordinance 26-10 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)
An Ordinance to further amend the existing Wage and Salary Ordinance to amend the position in the Parks and Recreation Department. Digest included pursuant to MCC sec.2-69(d). An

Ordinance To Fix And Establish The Wage And Salary Rates Of The Elected Officers, The Non-Elected, And The Employees Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana, For 202



DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this ____Day of _____ 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of MERRILLVILLE, Lake County, Indiana

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA



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APPENDIX A TO ORDINANCE 25-37

The following sections relate to the employees of the Merrillville Police Department.

Section A-1. *Credit for Previous Law Enforcement Service.* An individual hired for the Merrillville Police Department as a sworn officer will be given a credit for previous service for salary purposes only if he or she was a sworn full time officer in another police department for at least two (2) years. The individual will be compensated as a 2nd Class patrolman for the first year of employment and as a first-class patrolman for the second year of employment.

Section A-2. *Specialty Pay.* The Chief of Police will establish approved categories classified as Specialists. Officers on the approved Specialist list will receive an additional $750.00 annually, for up to a maximum of two specialties. Specialists serving in more than one (1) approved category will receive no more than $1,500.00 annually.

Section A-3. *Overtime and Compensatory Time.* Notwithstanding any provisions in the provisions of the Personnel Policy Manual the following provisions shall govern the manner in which overtime and compensatory time is managed in the police department:

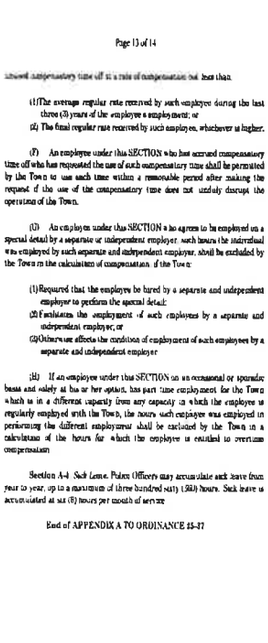
(A) For all the employees of the Police Department who work additional hours which would be deemed overtime in relationship to any federal, state or county grant or for a specific law enforcement purpose approved by the Chief of Police is entitled to receive overtime compensation at a rate of one and one half (1 ½) times their calculated base hourly pay.

(B) The full-time employees of the Police Department will receive a time of overtime compensation, compensatory time off at a rate of one and one half (1 ½) hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1985.

(C) Such employees shall receive compensatory time off at a rate of overtime for hours worked according to a 28-day 171 work period system.

(D) Such employees may accrue not more than four hundred eighty (480) hours of compensatory time for hours worked after April 14, 1986. Any employees who accrue four hundred eighty (480) hours of compensatory time off shall for additional overtime hours of work be paid overtime compensation.

(E) An employee who has accrued compensatory time off authorized to be provided hereunder shall, upon termination of employment, be paid for the



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unused compensatory time off at a rate of compensation not less than:

(1) The average regular rate received by such employee during the last three (3) years of the employee's employment; or

(2) The final regular rate received by such employee, whichever is higher.

(F) An employee under this SECTION who has accrued compensatory time off who has requested the use of such compensatory time shall be permitted by the Town to use such time within a reasonable period after making the request if the use of the compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operations of the Town.

(G) An employee under this SECTION who agrees to be employed on a special detail by a separate or independent employer such hours the individual was employed by such separate and independent employer, shall be excluded by the Town in the calculation of compensation if the Town:

(1) Required that the employee be hired by a separate and independent employer to perform the special detail;

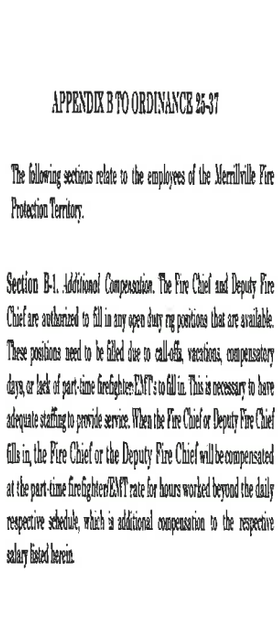
(2) Facilitates the employment of such employees by a separate and independent employer; or

(3) Otherwise affects the condition of employment of such employees by a separate and independent employer.

(H) If an employee under this SECTION on an occasional or sporadic basis and solely at his or her option, has part-time employment for the Town which is in a different capacity from any capacity in which the employee is regularly employed with the Town, the hours such employee was employed in performing the different employment shall be excluded by the Town in a calculations of the hours for which the employee is entitled to overtime compensation.

Section A-4. *Sick Leave.* Police Officers may accumulate sick leave from year to year, up to a maximum of three hundred sixty (360) hours. Sick leave is accumulated at six (6) hours per month of service.

End of APPENDIX A TO ORDINANCE 25-37



APPENDIX B TO ORDINANCE 25-37

The following sections relate to the employees of the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory.

Section B-1. *Additional Compensation.* The Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief are authorized to fill in any open duty rig positions that are available. These positions need to be filled due to call-offs, vacations, compensatory days, or lack of part-time firefighter/EMT's to fill in. This is necessary to have adequate staffing to provide service. When the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief fills in, the Fire Chief or the Deputy Fire Chief will be compensated at the part-time firefighter/EMT rate for hours worked beyond the daily respective schedule, which is additional compensation to the respective salary listed herein.

End of APPENDIX B TO ORDINANCE 25-37

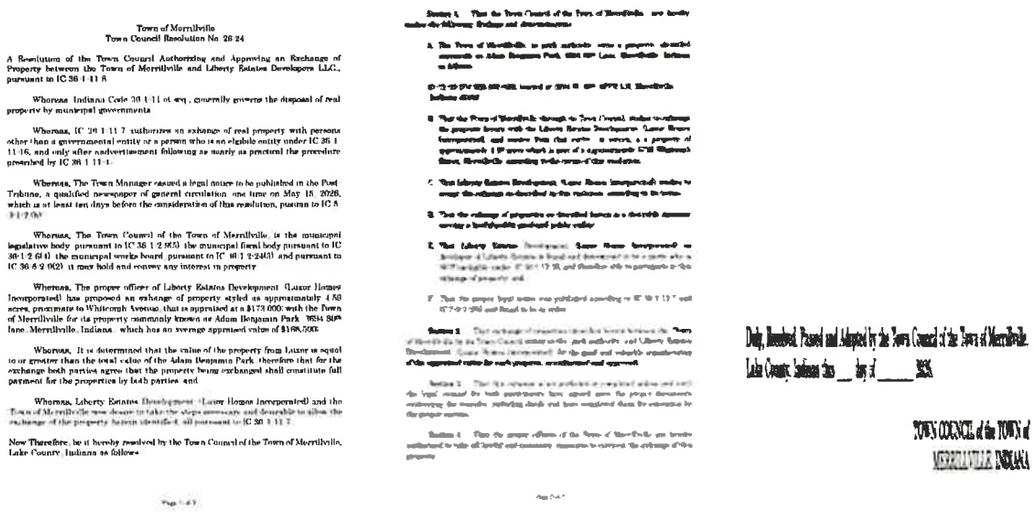
It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Vice President Neal to approve Ordinance 26-10 on second and final reading.

Upon a roll call vote, there were seven affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Neal, Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, Hardaway, and Bella voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was approved on the second and final reading.

Resolutions (Discussion and Voice Vote):

Resolution 26-24 (Discussion & Voice Vote)

A Resolution of the Town Council Authorizing and Approving an Exchange of Property between the Town of Merrillville and Liberty Estates Developers LLC., pursuant to IC 36-1-11-8.



Town of Merrillville
Town Council Resolution No. 26-24

A Resolution of the Town Council Authorizing and Approving an Exchange of Property between the Town of Merrillville and Liberty Estates Developers LLC., pursuant to IC 36-1-11-8

Whereas, Indiana Code 36-1-11 et seq., generally governs the disposal of real property by municipal governments

Whereas, IC 36-1-11-7 authorizes an exhange of real property with persons other than a governmental entity or a person who is an eligible entity under IC 36-1-11-16, and only after advertisement following as nearly as practical the procedure prescribed by IC 36-1-11-4;

Whereas, The Town Manager caused a legal notice to be published in the Post Tribune, a qualified newspaper of general circulation one time on May 15, 2026, which is at least ten days before the consideration of this resolution, pursuant to IC 5-3-1-2(b);

Whereas, The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, is the municipal legislative body pursuant to IC 36-1-2-9(5) the municipal fiscal body pursuant to IC 36-1-2-6(4) the municipal works board pursuant to IC 36-1-2-24(3) and pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9(2) it may hold and convey any interest in property

Whereas, The proper officer of Liberty Estates Development (Luxor Homes Incorporated) has proposed an exhange of property styled as approximately 4.59 acres, proximate to Whitcomb Avenue, that is appraised at a $173,000; with the Town of Merrillville for its property commonly known as Adam Benjamin Park 9834 80th lane, Merrillville, Indiana which has an average appraised value of $169,000;

Whereas, It is determined that the value of the property from Luxor is equal to or greater than the total value of the Adam Benjamin Park therefore that for the exchange both parties agree that the property being exchanged shall constitute full payment for the properties by both parties and

Whereas, Liberty Estates Development (Luxor Homes Incorporated) and the Town of Merrillville now desire to take the steps necessary and desirable to allow the exchange of the property herein identified, all pursuant to IC 36-1-11-7.

Now Therefore, be it hereby resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

Duly, Passed and Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana this __ day of _____, 2026.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

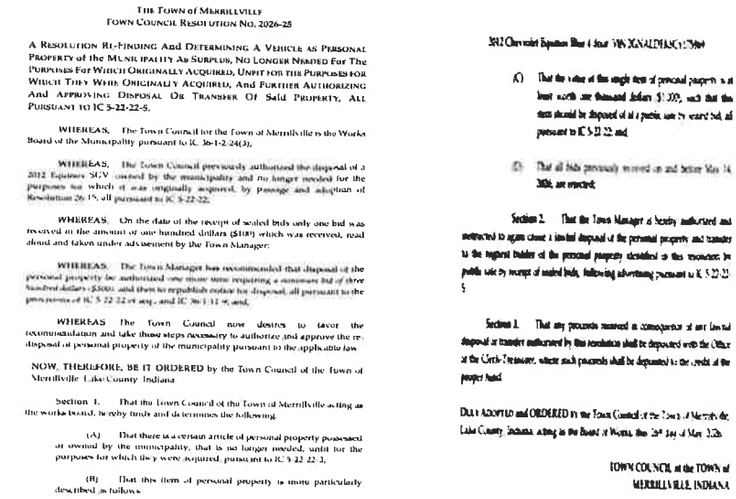
It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Vice President Neal to approve Resolution 26-24.

Town Manager Griffin explained the resolution.

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

Attorney Hall stated for the record that the Indiana Code should be **36-1-11-7,** not what is listed on the agenda, which is **36-1-11-.8**.

<u>Resolution 26-25 (Discussion & Voice Vote)</u>
A Resolution Re-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.



THE TOWN of MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 2026-25

A RESOLUTION RE-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(3);

WHEREAS, The Town Council previously authorized the disposal of a 2012 Equinox SUV owned by the municipality and no longer needed for the purposes for which it was originally acquired, by passage and adoption of Resolution 26-15, all pursuant to IC 5-22-22;

WHEREAS, On the date of the receipt of sealed bids only one bid was received in the amount of one hundred dollars ($100) which was received, read aloud and taken under advisement by the Town Manager;

WHEREAS, The Town Manager has recommended that disposal of the personal property be authorized one more time requiring a minimum bid of three hundred dollars ($300) and then to republish notice for disposal, all pursuant to the provisions of IC 5-22-22-et seq., and IC 36-1-11-9; and,

WHEREAS The Town Council now desires to favor the recommendation and take those steps necessary to authorize and approve the re-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 this item of personal property is more particularly described as follows

2012 Chevrolet Equinox Blue 4 door VIN 2GNALPEK1C1[illegible]

(C) That the value of this single item of personal property is at least worth one thousand dollars $1,000, such that this item should be disposed of at a public sale by sealed bid, all pursuant to IC 5-22-22; and

(D) That all bids previously received on and before May 14, 2026, are rejected;

Section 2. That the Town Manager is hereby authorized and instructed to again cause a limited disposal of the personal property and transfer to the highest bidder of the personal property identified in this resolution by public sale by receipt of sealed bids, following advertising pursuant to IC 5-22-22-5

Section 3. That any proceeds received as consequence of any lawful disposal or transfer authorized by this resolution shall be deposited with the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, wherein 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 26th day of May 2026.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

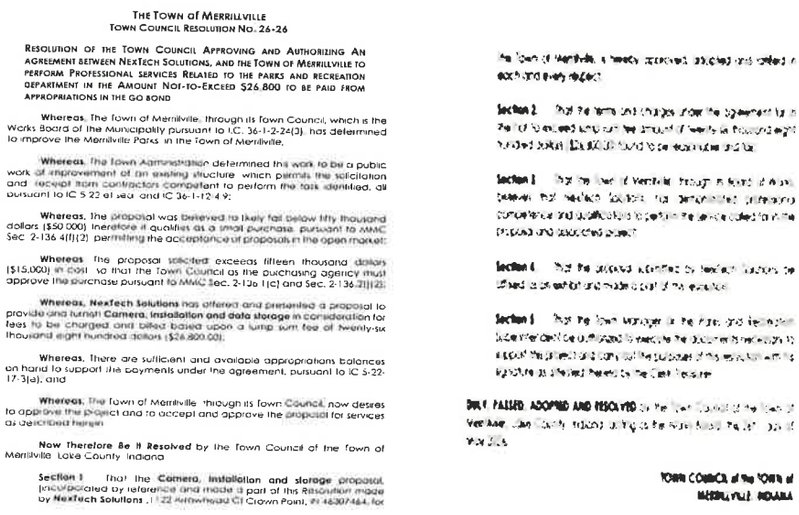
Town Manager Griffin explained Resolution 26-25.

It was moved by Councilor Pettit and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Resolution 26-25.

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

Resolution 26-26 (Discussion & Voice Vote)

Resolution Of The Town Council Approving And Authorizing An Agreement Between Nextech Solutions, And The Town Of Merrillville To Perform Professional Services Related To The Parks And Recreation Department In The Amount Not-To-Exceed $26,800.00 To Be Paid From Appropriations In The Go Bond.



THE TOWN of MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 26-26

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEXTECH SOLUTIONS, AND THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE TO PERFORM PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED $26,800 TO BE PAID FROM APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GO BOND

Whereas, The town of Merrillville, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to I.C. 36-1-2-24(3), has determined to improve the Merrillville Parks in the Town of Merrillville,

Whereas, The town Administration determined this work to be a public work of improvement of an existing structure which permits the solicitation and receipt from contractors competent to perform the task identified, all pursuant to IC 5-22 et seq. and IC 36-1-12-4 9;

Whereas, The proposal was believed to likely fall below fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) therefore it qualifies as a small purchase, pursuant to MMC Sec. 2-136 4(f)(2) permitting the acceptance of proposals in the open market;

Whereas The proposal solicited exceeds fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) in cost so that the Town Council as the purchasing agency must approve the purchase pursuant to MMC Sec. 2-136 1(c) and Sec. 2-136.2(f)(2);

Whereas, NexTech Solutions has offered and presented a proposal to provide and furnish **Camera, installation and data storage** in consideration for fees to be charged and billed based upon a lump sum fee of twenty-six thousand eight hundred dollars ($26,800.00);

Whereas, There are sufficient and available appropriations balances on hand to support the payments under the agreement, pursuant to IC 5-22-17-3(a); and

Whereas, The town of Merrillville through its Town Council, now desires to approve the project and to accept and approve the proposal for services as described herein

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville Lake County Indiana

Section 1 That the **Camera, installation and storage** proposal, incorporated by reference and made a part of this Resolution made by **NexTech Solutions**, 1122 Amherstead Ct Crown Point, IN 46307-464, for

[illegible]

Section 2 That the terms and charges of the agreement by and between the Town of Merrillville and [illegible]

Section 3 That the Town of Merrillville through its Board of Works, by and through [illegible]

Section 4 That the proposal submitted by [illegible] be attached to and made a part of this resolution

Section 5 That the Town Manager of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, is hereby authorized to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution and the purchase of the [illegible] pursuant to applicable statutes and ordinances of the Town of Merrillville

DULY PASSED, ADOPTED AND RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville Lake County Indiana, acting as the Board of Works, this 26th day of May 2026.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Resolution 26-26.

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:

- Parks & Recreation and the DBWCC Committee/Public meeting to discuss the Crossroads YMCA proposal to operate in the Dean and Barbara White Community Center, Thursday, May 28th at 6:00 pm at the Event Center inside the DBWCC
- Town Council Meeting June 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- Northwest Indiana Forum Date Center Educational Workshop June 11, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at DBWCC Event Center.

ADJOURNMENT:
Having completed all items on the agenda, the Town Council President, Rick Bella, announced the meeting had adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Rick Bella, Town Council President

Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis