



**Town Council of Merrillville**  
**7820 Broadway Ave - Merrillville, IN 46410**  
**Town Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of**  
**July 28, 2026, 6:35 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Clerk-Treasurer Eric January called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was led by Clerk-Treasurer Eric January.

**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 Shauna Haynes-Edwards, Leona Chandler-Felton, Margaret Uzelac, Shawn Pettit, and Keesha Hardaway. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Councilor Rick Bella was absent at roll call.  
Councilor Rhonda Neal was absent at roll call.

Attorney Ricardo Hall was present to provide legal advice.

**It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to nominate a President Pro Tempore.**

**It was moved by Councilor Chandler-Flowers and seconded by Councilor Hardaway to nominate Councilor Pettit for President Pro Tempore.**

**Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. Councilor Pettit was nominated as President Pro Tempore for the July 28<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting.**

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

In response to a question from President Pro Tempore Pettit regarding Petitions, Communications, Acknowledgements, and Remonstrations, Town Manager Griffin responded that there were none filed with administration.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Several public comments were made regarding the Gateway sign on 93<sup>rd</sup>, Foxmoor subdivision playground, and streetlights. The video of the Town Council Meeting held on July 28, 2026, can be viewed here:

<https://www.merrillville.in.gov/our-government/meeting-calendar-minutes-and-video>

**MOTIONS ON THE TABLE: *NONE***

President Pro Tempore Pettit clarified that there was a resolution regarding ICE Detention Centers to resend two weeks ago. A letter was sent to the Attorney General. In response to a question from President Pro Tempore Pettit regarding a response from the Attorney General, Town Manager Griffin response no response has been received.

President Pro Tempore Pettit informed the council that Matt Kurucz from Crow Holding received a certified letter at his Chicago office from the Indiana Attorney General's Office. President Bella asked President Pro Tempore Pettit to contact Mr. Kurucz regarding the letter. He also informed the council that Building Four located on Silos at Sanders Farm is still empty.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for July 28, 2026.
- Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2026.
- Approval of Workshop Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2026.
- Ratification of two emergency service contracts with Joe's Tree Service

**It was moved by Councilor Haynes-Edwards and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the Consent Agenda.**

In response to a question from President Pro Tempore Pettit regarding Joe's Tree Service being in order, Town Manager Griffin confirmed everything is in order. Town Manager Griffin explained Joe's Tree Service and the emergency declaration.

**Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Consent Agenda was approved.**

**SPECIAL ORDERS:**

- a) A Public Hearing of Matters which require Notice Upload to Gateway: Re: Ordinance 26-21 - Additional Appropriation:
  - i. Verification by Attorney Ricardo Hall of the validity of proof of Gateway's additional appropriation notice:

3

**Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Large Gathering Permit was approved.**

- 2) **Applicant:** Sam Roknich  
**Owner:** St. Sava Serb Fest 2026  
**Request:** Approval for Large Gathering Permit  
**Purpose:** Church Fundraiser  
**Location:** 9191 Mississippi St.  
**Date:** July 31 – August 2, 2026  
**Times:** Fri 12 pm- 12 am, Sat 12 pm -12 am, and Sun 12 pm-6 pm

Planning and Building Director Sheila Shine explained the Large Gathering Permit.

In response to a question from President Pro Tempore Pettit regarding the off-duty officers for this event. and wages, Chief Nuses responded that the officers' wages will be paid by the event host.

**It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve the Large Gathering Permit.**

**Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Large Gathering Permit was approved.**

- 3) **Applicant:** Fr. Ireneusz (Irek) BEM S.D.S.  
**Owner:** Salvatorian Fathers & Fr. Ireeusz (IREK) BEM S.D.S.  
**Request:** Approval for Large Gathering Permit  
**Purpose:** Polonia Pilgrimage  
**Location:** 5755 Pennsylvania Street  
**Date:** August 9, 2026  
**Times:** Sun 10 am –6 pm

Planning and Building Director Sheila Shine explained the Large Gathering Permit.

**It was moved by Councilor Hardaway and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve the Large Gathering Permit.**

**Upon a voice vote, the motion passed. The Large Gathering Permit was approved.**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE—NEAL—** Vice President Neal was absent.

Financial Advisor Hudson informed the council that the regular standing budget and finance committee will be held on the third Monday in August. The discussion at the meeting will center around department heads' requests and expected revenue for next year. A meeting via Teams call was held with Park's Superintendent McCartney to finalize information gathering.

**STREET DEPARTMENT & PARK MAINTENANCE - UZELAC**— Councilor Uzelac reported that she contacted Town Manager Griffin regarding burned-out streetlights, especially on Whitcomb Street by the church, which have been resolved.

Councilor Uzelac received several telephone calls regarding the start of paving on Whitcomb Street. Town Manager Griffing responded that he just received a status report from Robinson Engineering; upon his review of the report, he will get back to the council.

Councilor Uzelac also reported on vandalism at Southbrook Park. She is in discussion with Superintendent Jerry McCartney regarding security cameras.

Superintendent McCartney added that the department is repairing some of the playground equipment.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS—PETTIT**—Councilor Pettit reported that there are several ordinances on the agenda for second reading. We still have others that need to be reviewed; one already went through first reading, but is coming back to the Council Affairs Committee for a second look. A meeting will be scheduled after Town Manager Griffin returns from his vacation.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS- UZELAC** – Councilor Uzelac had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY—HARDAWAY**—Councilor Hardaway reported that a meeting will be scheduled with Police Chief Nuses, Fire Chief Yerga, Superintendent of Parks Jerry McCartney, and Ray Cross.

**ELECTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, & TOWN BEAUTIFICATION - NEAL**- Vice President Neal was absent.

In response to a question from President Pro Tempore Pettit regarding a report, Councilor Haynes-Edwards responded that the committee is getting ready to meet with Robinson Engineering and the Street Department regarding the rest of the gateway and parks' signs, and an update will be given at the next Town Council Meeting.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-PETTIT** – Councilor Pettit reported that a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) regular meeting was held before the Town Council Meeting; in addition to approving the consent agenda, a contract for the Kathlin Street Sidewalk Project was approved for approximately \$1,300,000.00. The town is responsible for \$270,000.00, which is coming out of the Broadway TIF allocation area. The Construction Inspection contract has been approved and will be moving forward.

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

***PARKS AND DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER - PETTIT*** – Councilor Pettit reported that the committee workshop for July 30<sup>th</sup> has to be rescheduled due to the Town’s Job Fair. A meeting will be held in August.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

***ABANDONED-BLIGHTED PROPERTIES - HAYNES-EDWARDS & CHANDLER-FELTON*** – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that the committee is in the process of getting an updated list of all of the abandoned and blighted properties. Once that list is received, the committee will meet with Director Shine of Building and Planning and Police Chief Nuses. Code Enforcement is doing their rounds checking on complaints regarding grass, abandoned vehicles, and other issues around the Town of Merrillville.

President Pro Tempore Pettit added there are little yard signs in front of the CVS building on US 30, and he would like them removed throughout the Town of Merrillville.

***SPECIAL TOWN PROJECTS – HAYNES-EDWARDS*** – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that she would defer to Superintendent Jerry McCartney’s department report.

Councilor Haynes-Edwards informed the council that Impact Church, located on 7071 Broadway, will be having a back-to-school event on August 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be food, games, and school supplies. This event is free.

***SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - HAYNES-EDWARDS*** – Councilor Haynes-Edwards reported that the activities that were cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled; the activities will include a mural painting and time capsule.

#### **DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION REPORTS:**

***NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION-HARDAWAY*** – Councilor Hardaway reported that a meeting was held on Thursday, July 16, 2026, and she will report on it at the next council meeting.

***LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – NEAL*** - Vice President Neal was absent.

In response to a question from President Pro Tempore Pettit regarding a report, Town Manager Griffin responded that there is nothing to report.

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

***FIRE TERRITORY BOARD - NEAL & HARDAWAY*** – Councilor Hardaway had nothing to report.

President Pro Tempore Pettit added that there are many black pipes lying along the side of Colorado Street, and that we need to obtain the easement from Polycon for Burrough Blitz to start installing the water line before winter.

**CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE - JANUARY** – Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported on the following

- Food and Beverage as of June 2026 – \$2,358,601.04
- Town's June Balance - \$82, 892,217.18

Clerk-Treasurer Eric January reported that at the start of his term on January 1, 2024, the Town of Merrillville had approximately \$25,000,000.00 in the bank. As of July, we have increased that amount by 300% to \$77,793,610.40. This increase came from debt. The Town's total debt is \$82,889,938.01. Clerk-Treasurer Eric January explained the Town's debt and bonds. He also discussed the artwork valued at \$135,000.00 and the land owned by the Town.

**SSCVA – DEANN PATENA - No Report**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/ TOWN MANAGER:**

**Superintendent Jerry McCartney – Parks and Recreation**

Superintendent Jerry McCartney reported the following updates regarding the D&BWCC:

- **Parks and Recreation Flyer** – the August flyer of activities, programs, and events is available; there are copies in the back, and the flyer will be posted online at the Town's website and the mymerrillville app.
- **Job Fair** – The job fair is Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, and the center will be closed to the public.
- **Parks Maintenance Manager Position** – The position is posted on the website under Human Resources and the mymerrillville app. If you are interested and meet the qualifications, please don't hesitate to apply.
- **Erie Lackawanna Bike Trail** – Cameras are being installed in the tunnel. This is the final phase of this project.

Superintendent McCartney updated the council on other activities regarding the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Director Matthew Lake – Stormwater Management**

Director Matthew Lake was absent.

**Police Chief Nuses– Police Department**

Chief Nuses reported that the Merrillville Police Department has been working diligently in response to all the current activities in the Town of Merrillville. He also reminded the council and audience about National Night Out. This event will be held in the parking lot of Town Hall on August 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

**Director Shine – Planning and Building**

Director Shine reported that the department has been busy with storm recovery and warned residents to be careful to check that contractors are licensed and get permits to work on their property in Merrillville. She also reiterated do not give people money to do a job on your property without proper paperwork. If you lose that money, you will have to file a police report. The department can help out a little to try to track them down, but make sure you do all of your research before you hire these contractors or individuals.

Director Shine also informed the council that some of the homes that were destroyed, her office has received rebuild permits on four of the homes.

**Town Manager Griffin – Town Administration**

Town Manager Griffin reported on the following:

- **Monthly Reports** – Town Manager Griffin reported that his report regarding the disaster and recovery has been given to the council members and Clerk-Treasurer Eric January
- **Recovery Committee** – Town Manager Griffin informed the council that he is participating in a long-term recovery committee. It's part of the Department of Homeland Security post-response team.

**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):***

**Ordinance 26-21 (Discussion & Roll Call Vote)**

An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Current Budget for the Redevelopment General Fund (2216), the Corporation General Fund (1101), and the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development(4402) pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, I.C. 36-5-3-5 et seq.

Digest: An ordinance to create and appropriate undesignated, unencumbered cash on deposit to the Redevelopment General Fund, Corporate General Fund and Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund for costs as yet unspecified by the department.

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
APPROPRIATION ENACTMENT  
ORDINANCE NO. 26-21

An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Monies in Excess of the Current Budget for the Redevelopment General Fund (2216), the Corporation General Fund (1101) and the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund (4402) pursuant to I.C. 6-1-15, I.C. 36-2-3-4, et seq.

WHEREAS Following a public hearing advertised pursuant to I.C. 3-1-1, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the current budget for the Redevelopment General Fund, the Corporation General Fund and the Municipal Cumulative Capital Fund; and

WHEREAS The Town Council of the Town of Merrillville is informed by the Town Manager, that the following additional appropriations are necessary for the listed purpose: (1) expenses associated with the lawful purchase of property by the Redevelopment Commission; (2) establishment of planned appropriations which were temporarily used from the Corporation General Fund in the initial stages of the process to purchase said property; and (3) expenses related to Disaster Recovery; and

WHEREAS It has been determined that such additional appropriations as may be approved by this ordinance will not increase the levies set under I.C. 6-1-1-17 et alia, all pursuant to I.C. 36-2-3-5.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED 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 additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the REDEVELOPMENT GENERAL FUND and for the purposes herein specified, as identified by the accounts herein, subject to the laws governing the same:

| REDEVELOPMENT GENERAL FUND/REDEVELOPMENT |                     |                     |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Increase the following                   | Proposed            | Approved            |
| 2216 012 312 RDC Gen/Legal Notices       | \$ 39,300.00        | \$ 39,300.00        |
| <b>TOTAL for REDEVELOPMENT FUND</b>      | <b>\$ 39,300.00</b> | <b>\$ 39,300.00</b> |

(Remainder of page(s) attached to Ordinance.)

Ordinance 26-

Page 2

Section 2. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the CORPORATION GENERAL FUND and for the purposes herein specified, as identified by the accounts herein, subject to the laws governing the same:

| CORPORATION GENERAL FUND/DEPARTMENT 7    |                     |                          |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Increase the following                   | Proposed            | Approved                 |
| 1101 007 311 General/Affinity Fees       | \$ 24,000.00        | \$ 24,000.00 (increased) |
| 1101 007 400 General/Town Administration | 6,300.00            | 6,300.00 (increased)     |
| <b>TOTAL for GENERAL FUND/DEPT 7</b>     | <b>\$ 29,300.00</b> | <b>\$ 29,300.00</b>      |

Section 3. That for the expenses of said municipality the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the CORPORATION GENERAL FUND, and for the purposes herein specified, as identified by the accounts herein, subject to the laws governing the same:

| CORPORATION GENERAL FUND/DEPARTMENT 3 (DISASTER RECOVERY) |                     |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Increase the following                                    | Proposed            | Approved                 |
| 1101 008 107 General/Disasters                            | \$ 10,000.00        | \$ 10,000.00 (increased) |
| 1101 008 221 General/Disasters                            | 10,000.00           | 10,000.00 (increased)    |
| 1101 008 222 General/Disasters                            | 6,000.00            | 6,000.00 (increased)     |
| 1101 008 243 General/Other Supplies                       | 0.00                | 0.00 (increased)         |
| 1101 009 301 General/Repairs to Equipment                 | 0.00                | 0.00 (increased)         |
| <b>TOTAL for GENERAL FUND (DIS)</b>                       | <b>\$ 16,000.00</b> | <b>\$ 16,000.00</b>      |

Section 4. That for the expenses of said municipality the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the MUNICIPAL CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND and for the purposes herein specified, as identified by the accounts herein, subject to the laws governing the same:

| MUNICIPAL CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND    |                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Increase the following                           | Proposed             | Approved                  |
| 4402 010 101 CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND | \$ 100,000.00        | \$ 100,000.00 (increased) |
| 4402 010 101 CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND | 100,000.00           | 100,000.00 (increased)    |
| <b>TOTAL for MCD FUND</b>                        | <b>\$ 100,000.00</b> | <b>\$ 100,000.00</b>      |

Section 5. That the Clerk Treasurer is hereby authorized and instructed to inform the Indiana Department of Land Government Finance of this action and that the same monies be made available for expenditure subject to an order of the Commissioner, pursuant to IC 6-1-1-18.

Section 6. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-2-3-4, I.C. 36-2-3-5, I.C. 36-2-3-2, this ordinance shall be deemed properly filed and introduced before the Town Council at a regular or special meeting properly called and convened pursuant to I.C. 3-1-1-1 et seq.

Introduced and Filed on the \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2026.

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

Town Manager Griffin explained the ordinance.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to approve Ordinance 26-21 on the first reading.

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

Town Manager Griffin requested that the rules be suspended and that Ordinance 26-21 be read on second reading.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edwards to suspend the rules and read Ordinance 26-21 on the second and final reading.

Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. Councilors Haynes-Edwards, Chandler-Felton, Uzelac, Pettit, and Hardaway voted in the affirmative. There were no negatives. The motion passed. The rules were suspended to read Ordinance 26-21 on second and final reading.

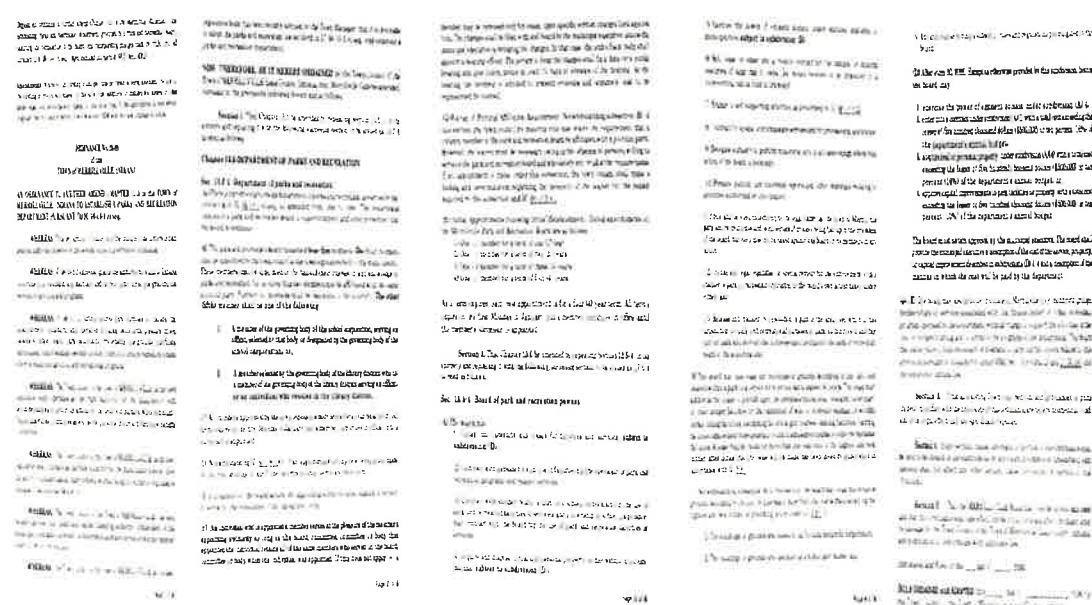
It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Hardaway to approve Ordinance 26-21 on the second and final reading.

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

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

**Ordinance 26-06 (Discussion, Public Comments if Required & Roll Call Vote)**

An Ordinance to further Amend Chapter 13.5 Of The Town Of Merrillville, Indiana To Establish A Parks And Recreation Department Pursuant To IC 36-10-3 et seq.



Town Manager Griffin explained the ordinance.

**It was moved by Councilor Haynes-Edwards and seconded by Councilor Uzelac to approve Ordinance 26-06 on the second and final reading.**

There were no public comments.

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

**Ordinance 26-11 (Discussion, Public Comments if Required & Roll Call Vote)**

An Ordinance to Amend Sec. 2-18 of the Merrillville Municipal Code Relating to the Promotion of Town Interest, and Sec. 2-136 to Update the Purchasing Agencies of the Town.

Digest: An ordinance to amend Sec. 2-18 of the Merrillville Municipal Code to clarify the language regarding use of public funds for promotions and to update language to the public purchasing code. Digest included pursuant to ICC Sec. 2-40(f)

Amendments: Whenever an existing municipal code provision is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions or changes will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type. If the amendment is new where language had not existed before, it will be styled NEW with the new language to follow.

ORDINANCE No. 26-11  
of the  
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

An Ordinance to Amend Sec. 2-18 of the Merrillville Municipal Code Relating to Promotion of Town Interests and Sec. 2-136 to Update the Purchasing Agency of the Town.

WHEREAS, IC 36-1-3-4(b) states, upon the Town of Merrillville of the powers granted to it by statute and all other powers necessary or desirable to the conduct of its affairs, even though not granted by statute.

WHEREAS, The Town of Merrillville has previously adopted the Merrillville Municipal Code, regarding its ordinances of a general application or subject matter, relating to regulations for the sale and display of signs.

WHEREAS, The Town Manager has advised that there are existing provisions regarding promotion of town interests and identifying the purchasing agencies of the municipality require clarification as to what departments or funds can be expended for this function.

WHEREAS, After due consideration, the Town Council of said Town does believe that the recommendations of the Town Manager, as reviewed and recommended by the Council Action Committee, will be advantageous to said Town and will ensure the public health, safety, welfare and morals of the citizens thereof in the best interest of said Town.

WHEREAS, It now appears to be in the best interest of the Town of Merrillville to amend Sec. 2-18 and Sec. 2-136 of the Merrillville Municipal Code.

Now, THEREFORE, It is HEREBY ORDAINED BY the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That the Merrillville Municipal Code be amended by deleting Section 2-18, which shall be repealed in its entirety and be replaced by a successor section to be styled Section 2-18, which shall read as follows:

Sec. 2-18. Use of public funds for the Promotion of the Best Interests of the Municipality.

Sec. 2-18. Use of town promotion fund.

The town council is authorized to budget and appropriate funds from the Corporation the general fund, the Redevelopment General Fund, and such other operating funds of the town as may be identified by the Town Council to pay the expenses of or to reimburse town officials as the case may be for expenses incurred in promoting the best interest of the town. Such expenses may include but not necessarily be limited to rental of meeting places, meals, decorations, memorabilia, awards, expenses incurred in interviewing job applicants, expenses incurred in promoting industrial, commercial and residential development, expenses incurred in developing relations with other units of government, civic leadership and any other expenses of a civic or governmental nature deemed by the town council by its approval of a clearly identified appropriation to be in the interest of the town.

Section 2. That the Merrillville Municipal Code be amended by deleting Section 2-136, which shall be repealed in its entirety and be replaced by a successor section to be styled Section 2-136, which shall read as follows:

Sec. 2-136. Purchasing agencies.

(a) The town council, as the works board of the municipality, shall serve as purchasing agency for the municipality and its executive departments except for those executive departments which are expressly subject to the purchasing authority of a relevant governing board of jurisdiction. The departments subject to the jurisdiction of the town council include any department that is not otherwise subject to another board of jurisdiction and the following:

- (1) Streets and engineering department
- (2) Metropolitan police department
- (3) Human resource department
- (4) Planning and building department
- (5) Parks and recreation department, subject to subsection (d) below
- (6) Office of the town manager-Town Administration
- (7) Office of the Clerk-Treasurer
- (8) Office of Municipal court
- (9) Fire Protection Territory

(b) The storm water management board of directors shall serve as purchasing agency for the storm water management department and its special taxing district.

(c) The redevelopment commission shall serve as purchasing agency for the redevelopment department, its special taxing district as well as the economic development department.

(d) The park and recreation board shall serve as the purchasing agency for the parks and recreation department.

Section 3. That the Merrillville Municipal Code be amended by deleting Section 2-136.1 (f), which shall be repealed in its entirety and be replaced by a successor section to be styled Section 2-136.1 (f), which shall read as follows:

Sec. 2-136.1 Establishment of rules and policies

(f) No purchase described in this chapter can be made without an approved appropriation, sufficient resources or budgetary authority, and no expenditure of public funds can be for a personal or a political purpose.

Section 4. That all existing Ordinances, or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby deemed null and void and of no legal effect and are specifically repealed.

Section 5. That if any section, clause, provision, or portion of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision, or portion of this Ordinance.

Section 6. That any expenditures made from a lawful appropriation of the municipality that may have been expended by a

Ordinance to Amend PROMOTION OF TOWN BUSINESS & PURCHASE PURCHASING CODE  
Page 1 of 4

Ordinance to Amend PROMOTION OF TOWN BUSINESS & PURCHASE PURCHASING CODE  
Page 2 of 4

Ordinance to Amend PROMOTION OF TOWN BUSINESS & PURCHASE PURCHASING CODE  
Page 3 of 4

governing body, from a fund other than the corporation general fund, prior to the passage and adoption of this ordinance, that would otherwise be lawful by this amendment, are hereby deemed ratified and approved all pursuant to IC 36-1-4-1-6.

Section 7. That this Ordinance shall take effect, and be in full force and effect, from and after its passage and adoption as evidenced by the signature of the Town Council President and attested thereto by the Clerk-Treasurer, all pursuant to IC 36-5-2-10 and IC 36-5-2-10.2.

Introduced on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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

Town Manager Griffin explained the ordinance.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Chandler-Felton to approve Ordinance 26-11 on the second and final reading.

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

Ordinance 26-18 (Discussion, Public Comments if Required & Roll Call Vote)



**Resolution 26-40 (Discussion & Voice Vote)**

An Exigent Resolution Providing For The Transfer Of Appropriation Balances From And Among Major Budget Classifications In The Parks Department In The PNR Fund As Requested By The Proper Officer And Forwarded To The Town Council For Its Action To I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.

**RESOLUTION No. 26-40  
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA**

**AN EXIGENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING for the TRANSFER of APPROPRIATION BALANCES from and AMONG MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATIONS in the PARKS DEPARTMENT in the PNR FUND 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 conditions have developed since adoption of the original budget and it is now necessary to transfer certain appropriations into different categories than were initially appropriated for the various functions of the Parks Department in the PNR Fund; and

**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.

**Section 2.** That it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the Parks Department of the PNR Fund, which are not needed at this time for the purposes for which originally appropriated, and may be transferred to another category of appropriation in order to satisfy an existing need:

|                                        |    |                 |
|----------------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| <b>Decrease:</b>                       |    |                 |
| <u>2211014131/Rec-Supervisor (F-T)</u> | \$ | <u>5,000.00</u> |
| <b>Total Decrease:</b>                 | \$ | <b>5,000.00</b> |
| <b>Increase:</b>                       |    |                 |
| <u>2211010390/Clothing</u>             | \$ | <u>5,000.00</u> |
| <b>Total Increase:</b>                 | \$ | <b>5,000.00</b> |

**Section 3.** That it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the Parks Department of the PNR FUND, which are not needed at this time for the purposes for which originally appropriated, and may be transferred to another category of appropriation in order to satisfy an existing need:

|                                   |    |                 |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| <b>Decrease:</b>                  |    |                 |
| <u>2211012396/Sub-Contractors</u> | \$ | <u>3,750.00</u> |
| <b>Total Decrease:</b>            | \$ | <b>3,750.00</b> |
| <b>Increase:</b>                  |    |                 |
| <u>2211011396/Sub-Contractors</u> | \$ | <u>3,750.00</u> |
| <b>Total Increase:</b>            | \$ | <b>3,750.00</b> |

**DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED** by the TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of MERRILLVILLE, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.

**TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of  
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA**

Town Manager Griffin explained the resolution.

It was moved by Councilor Hardaway and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edward to table Resolution 26-40.

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

**Resolution 26-42 (Discussion & Voice Vote):**

Finding, Determining and Further Extending an Emergency Proclamation of the Municipal Executive as well as of the Town Council from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> and to permit funding by the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29 and 36-9-15.58-( c ).

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL/WORKS BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-42  
DECLARATION OF THE MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODY

FINDING, DETERMINING AND FURTHER EXTENDING AND EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION OF THE MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE AS WELL AS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FROM JULY 28 TO 31 AND TO PERMIT FUNDING BY THE MUNICIPAL CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, PURSUANT TO IC 10-14-3-29 AND IC 36-9-15-5-8(c).

Whereas, From time-to-time circumstances exist such that an exigency occurs that could not reasonably be foreseen and that threatens the public health, welfare, or safety and requires immediate action; and

Whereas, The Town of Merrillville, through its Town Council President, as the principal executive officer did previously to issue a finding and determination that an emergency exists sufficient to support the declaration of a *Local Disaster Emergency*, dated June 12, 2026, all pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29, *as regards the Tornado related weather incident of June 11, 2026*;

Whereas, IC 10-14-3-29 limits the period of an emergency proclamation of the Executive to seven days, unless extended by action of the Legislative Body, which was taken at a special meeting of June 18 at which the emergency was extended until July 22;

Whereas, The Legislative Body desires to further extend the emergency period for the limited purpose of addressing the damaged trees and branches located in easements and public ways, that require further trimming to mitigate the risk of harm and;

Whereas, There were certain costs incurred in connection with the response to the correcting damages which were incurred in consequence of the emergency and weather incident of June 11, 2026, as well as the costs of response and recovery, the Town desires to use resources on deposit to the credit of the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, pursuant to IC 36-9-15-5-8(c) to support some of the costs associated with the disaster costs;

Now Therefore he It hereby Proclaimed and declared, by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

Section 1. That the Executive Emergency Proclamation issued by the Town Council President pursuant to IC 10-14-3-29, in which he determined

and proclaimed that there existed a local disaster emergency in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, to be continued for a period not to exceed seven (7) days from the date of its entry, is hereby further affirmed, approved and extended beyond the seven-day limitation as follows, in the following seven day increments:

June 19, 2026, to June 25, 2026;  
June 26, 2026, to July 2, 2026;  
July 3, 2026, to July 8, 2026;  
July 9, 2026 to July 15, 2026;  
July 16, 2026 to July 22, 2026,  
July 23, 2026 to July 29, 2026; and,  
July 30 to July 31.

Section 2. That having affirmed and extended the Town Council President's original Emergency Proclamation, finding that the public health, welfare, or safety is in immediate danger such that it requires the expenditure of money in the Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, and such other funds as may be required, provided such expenditures shall be for purposes to protect the public health, welfare, or safety in this emergency situation that demands immediate action, it is hereby authorized and approved for the expenditure of resources from the fund for costs associated with the June 11, 2026 incident, all pursuant and IC 36-9-15-5-8(c).

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED pursuant to and under the authority of IC 10-14-3-29. Entered this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026 by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

TOWN COUNCIL acting as the  
WORKS BOARD of the TOWN of  
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA

Town Manager Griffin explained the resolution.

It was moved by Councilor Uzelac and seconded by Councilor Haynes-Edward to approve Resolution 26-42.

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

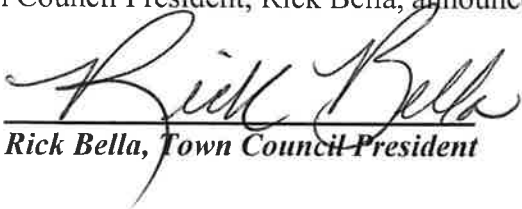
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Town Council President announced the following:

- Job Fair July 30<sup>th</sup> at D&BWCC starting at 11:30 a.m.
- National Night Out August 4<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall Parking Lot at 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Plan Commission Meeting August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- Town Council Meeting August 11, 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 7:32 p.m.

  
Rick Bella, Town Council President

---

*Eric O. January, Clerk-Treasurer*

**Respectfully Submitted By Angela Lewis**