

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MISHAWAKA COMMON COUNCIL

April 14, 2025

Be it remembered that the Common Council of the City of Mishawaka, Indiana met in the Council Chambers of the New Mishawaka City Hall and via telephone on Monday April 14, 2025, at 6:00PM. The meeting was called to order by Council President Gregg Hixenbaugh. All were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending virtually do so by WebEx. Public that attends can participate by WebEx or observe meetings by YouTube or Facebook live. The Council meetings are also streamed live on Michiana Access on Comcast/AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

City Clerk Debbie Ladyga-Block called the roll.

Present: Mrs. Hazen (P), Mrs. Voelker (P), Mr. Carroll (P), Mr. Banicki (P), Mr. Emmons (P), Ms. Hahn (P), Mr. Mammolenti (P), Mr. Violi (P), Mr. Hixenbaugh (P)
P: Present E: Electronically Participating A: Absent

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 24, 2025, were approved as received from the Clerk's Office.

Clerk Block read a letter from the Board of Zoning Appeals and the City Plan Commission regarding their recommendations from their April 8, 2025, meetings.

Clerk Block read the following proposed ordinances by title and assigned committee.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA
ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBLE BIDDING PRACTICES AND SUBMISSION
REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS
(Assigned to Public Improvements Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE
CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED,
COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1966" OF THE CITY OF
MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.**

**Rezone from -1 Light Industrial & R-2 Two Family Residential to C-4 Automobile
Oriented Commercial 1032 E. Jefferson (NW corner) & 1023 E. Jefferson (SW corner)
(Assigned to Land Use Planning Committee)**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1966” OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.

Rezone from R-1 Light Industrial to R-1 Single Family Residential for an Existing House – 1113 Ann St.

(Assigned to Land Use Planning Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, AUTHORIZING, AND ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES FROM MISHAWAKA UTILITIES TO PROVIDE FRESH WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC UP TO FOUR MILES OUTSIDE OF MISHAWAKA CITY LIMITS

**Amending Mishawaka Utilities Water and Sewer Service Boundaries
(Amendment Requested and Second Reading Requested)**

The chair entertained a motion to amend the proposed ordinance by deleting the original Exhibit A attached map in its entirety and instead substituting an amended Exhibit A map. The motion was moved by Mr. Banicki and with a second from Mr. Violi, a voice vote would be held. Prior to the vote, Mr. Lentsch gave a summary regarding the nature of the proposed amendment.

Matthew Lentsch, Executive Director of Development and Governmental Affairs, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08**. Mr. Lentsch stated the amended map ended at the Elkhart County line and the proposed one that they had sent to the Council originally had the map continuing beyond the Elkhart County line, which was the main difference. Mr. Lentsch stated they had also identified Granger Water and also the St. Joe County Water and Sewer District per IURC guidelines.

The voice vote on the motion was held and passed unanimously, thus the proposed ordinance was amended and became **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**.

The chair entertained a motion at the request of the Administration to waive their Regular Council rules and hold first and second reading on **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA** that evening. Mr. Banicki moved the motion and with a second from Mr. Emmons, a voice vote would be held. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked Mr. Lentsch to once again summarize the reason for the request to hold first and second reading that evening.

Mr. Lentsch first thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak that evening. Mr. Lentsch stated as they knew it was a rare occurrence when he came before them asking for both a first and second reading of an ordinance in one meeting. Mr. Lentsch stated they were always

respectful of the Council's process, their time, and their duty to deliberate thoroughly but tonight this was different and this was not a routine request. Mr. Lentsch stated this was what he believed was a strategic necessity. Mr. Lentsch stated the ordinance before them affirmed Mishawaka Utilities' authority to furnish water and sewer within their historic and planned service area up to four miles beyond their city limits. Mr. Lentsch stated while it modernized the language from the 2014 ordinance to align with current state law, it did far more than that. Mr. Lentsch stated this would position Mishawaka to protect one of the most significant economic opportunities their city had ever seen, the Microsoft data center. Mr. Lentsch stated Granger Water and St. Joe County Regional District had signaled their clear intent to serve the same territory despite their decades of planning, investment, and existing service. Mr. Lentsch stated just that past week, the county made clear of their intention to file a competing claim with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Mr. Lentsch stated under Indiana Code H-1.5-6, the IURC followed 'first in time' review standards, which meant whichever utility filed its ordinance first had the upper hand not just for Microsoft but for future utility service in the entire Northeast Corridor. Mr. Lentsch stated Mishawaka Utilities had already invested millions of dollars in expanding their water and sewer system to serve the area. Mr. Lentsch stated they had built out capacity, they had worked in partnership up to that point with the county, they had served the City of Mishawaka, parts of Osceola, the annexed part of Granger, and the surrounding area reliably and professionally for decades. Mr. Lentsch stated all of that work was now at risk unless they acted now. Mr. Lentsch stated if they waited another two weeks, it could be too late and once a petition was filed and accepted by the IURC, it was not easy if even possible to unwind. Mr. Lentsch stated the ordinance was more than about territory, it was about protecting their infrastructure, their credibility, and their ability to serve their own community on their terms and not somebody else's. Mr. Lentsch stated it was about being proactive and not reactive and it was about sending a clear message that Mishawaka would fight to protect what they built and what they believed in. Mr. Lentsch stated a vote to approve first and second reading that evening was a vote in the best interest of Mishawaka, a vote for their economic future, a vote to protect taxpayer and ratepayer investments, and it was a vote to ensure Mishawaka decided who served their growing region. Mr. Lentsch stated he knew this was a big ask and he did not take it lightly, but this was one of the moments where they must move decisively together in the best interest of the Mishawaka citizens they served. Mr. Lentsch thanked the Council for their leadership, their consideration, and their commitment to their assured future. Mr. Lentsch urged the Council to vote yes that evening on both readings. Mr. Lentsch concluded his statement by asking the Council to stand together for Mishawaka and lead the Mishawaka way.

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated for the record for those in attendance and watching online that this was a matter that under both Indiana Law and their Council Rules required unanimous consent on the part of the Council if they were going to waive the standard procedure and hold first and second reading that evening, so unlike the voice vote that the Council took on the amendment, Mr. Hixenbaugh asked Clerk Block to poll the Council on the request to waive their Regular Council Rules and hold first and second reading on the proposed ordinance that evening.

Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 9).

Yes: Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The motion passed unanimously thus the first and second reading would be held.

Matthew Lentsch, Executive Director of Development and Governmental Affairs, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mr. Lentsch thanked the Council for their support that evening in moving the critical ordinance forward with a first and second reading. Mr. Lentsch stated he knew it was not their typical process, but he appreciated their understanding of just how vital the action was for Mishawaka's future. Mr. Lentsch stated that they were on the verge of putting themselves on solid legal and regulatory ground aligned with the most current version of the Indiana Code and the rules of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Mr. Lentsch stated with their approval, the ordinance in front of them would give Mishawaka Utilities a firm, defensible foundation to officially claim that the water and sewer territory they had long planned to serve had the best investment. Mr. Lentsch stated the action strengthened their ability to protect the interests of their community, their ratepayers, and their long-term growth particularly in light of their ongoing and very real competition for service territory in the northeast portion of the county. Mr. Lentsch stated passage of the ordinance that evening assured them that they could move immediately to petition the IURC which would assert Mishawaka's rights and would place them in the strongest possible position to serve new development, including the transformative Microsoft data center project. Mr. Lentsch stated it was about fairness, honor, and decades of smart and strategic investments they had made in expanding infrastructure to support their city's future and also ensuring Mishawaka maintained local control over how and where they grew. Mr. Lentsch thanked the Council again for their leadership and partnership and their action that evening would ensure Mishawaka continued to lead with purpose, foresight, and unity. Mr. Lentsch concluded by stating let's move forward together The Mishawaka Way.

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated before he opened the floor for questions from Mr. Lentsch, it was his understanding that legal counsel for the city who was involved in drafting the proposed ordinance was participating online and opened up the floor for comments from the outside counsel.

Nikki Shoultz, Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mrs. Shoultz stated she had been working with Mr. Lentsch and others with the city through the issue over the last week or two. Mrs. Shoultz stated she was ready to answer any questions or provide an overview aside from Mr. Lentsch's excellent summary.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Mrs. Shoultz for the work she had done on the ordinance and stated as the ordinance itself reflected, this was not the first time the City of Mishawaka had taken steps to exercise the authority that state law provided them to expand their service area beyond their city boundaries and asked if that was correct. Mrs. Shoultz stated that was correct and that was from a 2014 ordinance. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated his understanding was that in large part the proposed

ordinance in question cleared up some legal infirmities with regard to the original ordinance that was passed and asked if that was correct. Mrs. Shoultz stated that was right and when the 2014 ordinance was passed, what should have happened was the city should have gone to the IURC and gotten the ordinance approved and that was the way that ordinance would then become legally enforceable and because that did not happen, they needed to move to take that action so that what was originally intended in 2014 had the effect of law that was enforceable. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked, regarding Section 1 of the proposed ordinance, would the regulated territory grow simultaneously as their city boundaries grew and would Indiana Law require further amendment of the ordinance to reflect any additional territory added to the city. Mrs. Shoultz stated if the Mishawaka boundaries changed, they would need to come in and further amend the ordinance with the map because what was controlling there was when they read through the ordinance, it defined the regulated territory further as what was depicted in the attached map. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked with regard to both Section 2 and Section 3 of the ordinance, as well as some other provisions, what impact would the ordinance if approved have on any current customers receiving utility services from another entity if they had received that service after February 2014 and prior to the adoption of this ordinance. Mrs. Shoultz stated if that were the case, they would want to find that out and if that were indeed the case, that would be a bit of a grey area, because the way the ordinance was characterized was that anyone who was within their regulated territory after 2014 would be within Mishawaka's territory, so her advice would be that it be handled on a case by case basis. Mrs. Shoultz stated she would advise, because of the practicalities involved, that the city allowed those customers to have continuity of service and continue to receive service from their current providers. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked in her opinion would their utilities administration have the discretion to be able to handle those issues on a case-by-case basis without further amendment of the ordinance that was in front of the Council that evening. Mrs. Shoultz stated she believed so and thought that made sense that the administration be given that discretion. Mrs. Shoultz stated she was not sure how much of a problem that would be, but she thought they could handle that on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated with regard to the effect of the ordinance and the expansion of their regulated territory beyond the borders of the city, assuming there would be residential properties that would be within the regulated territory that was anticipated by the ordinance if in fact that was the case, he believed it was common knowledge that in St. Joe County there had been a history of septic systems failing. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked if in fact that occurred with regard to those residential properties, would the ordinance in its effect preclude landowners from placing their septic system or would the converse be that Mishawaka Utilities would be required to provide utility service to those landowners if their septic system failed. Mrs. Shoultz stated there was a statute where if a residential customer was within 300 feet of an existing sewer system, they could be compelled to connect and there could be a fact pattern when he asked her if they would be precluded from replacing their septic and she thought they would have to read that on a case-by-case basis and align that with the statute. Mrs. Shoultz stated she did not have the statute in front of her, but she believed it said they could be compelled to connect but she thought it was discretionary. Mrs. Shoultz stated she thought if the utility decided that the customer needed to connect, then the utility's request had to be honored. Mrs. Shoultz stated if Mishawaka was required to provide service, if it was a request by a customer and they were within the city's regulated territory then

yes Mishawaka would be required to provide service. Mrs. Shoultz stated there were extension rules where it did not mean that they would do it for free, but they would have to do it and on the other hand, it did not mean that Mishawaka had an affirmative duty to go out and survey all of the people that were currently on septic and compel them to connect. Mrs. Schultz stated this ordinance would not automatically force upon Mishawaka a duty to take on and connect customers on day one. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked if in her opinion the ordinance provided and authorized the Administration to exercise any discretion necessary to effectuate the points she made in response to his question. Mrs. Schultz stated yes. Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Mrs. Schultz for her patience with him in working through the questions and for her participation that evening.

Dan Schaetzle, President of the St. Joseph County Council, spoke in opposition of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mr. Schaetzle stated in May of 2024, Mr. Blum came to them and asked them to rezone the 915 acres of St. Joe Farms. Mr. Schaetzle stated many of the councilmembers had many questions and one of the questions they asked their Redevelopment Commission folks was if Mishawaka had plans to annex the property if they worked with Mishawaka for water and sewer. Mr. Schaetzle stated the answer was they did not believe so and in their meeting on May 14th, Ken Prince was present and one of the questions he asked Mr. Prince was if they planned on annexing St. Joe Farms once Microsoft moved in if they provided water and sewer. Mr. Schaetzle stated he asked two of his fellow council members who were there and a member of the Redevelopment Commission that was present at that meeting if they remembered it the same way he did, and they said they did. Mr. Schaetzle stated the answer he remembered that Mr. Prince gave was no, not at that time. Mr. Schaetzle stated he had the June 13th notes from a meeting between the Redevelopment Commission, their commissioners, Mr. Prince, Mayor Wood, and some other individuals and the first sentence was 'city is requesting the property be annexed.' Mr. Schaetzle stated that was pretty fast and if he would have known that was their plan, he would have voted against rezoning the property. Mr. Schaetzle stated one other member of the Council who he voted with on other rezonings in his district looked to him and asked what he thought about the rezoning and obviously, he told that councilman to vote in favor of it because based on the information he had at the time, it would be great for the County and Granger and would provide them with the money needed over the course of the next several years. Mr. Schaetzle stated that gentleman would have voted no as well. Mr. Schaetzle stated the rezoning would not have passed then at that point and Microsoft would not have bought it. Mr. Schaetzle stated he was deeply disappointed and felt misled and he thought the other members of the Council felt misled as well. Mr. Schaetzle stated this was not the way they should be working with each other.

Carl Baxmeyer, President of St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners, spoke in opposition of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mr. Baxmeyer stated they did have the meeting on June 13th that Mr. Schaetzle previously referred to with Mayor Wood, Ken Prince, Bill Schalliol, and himself. Mr. Baxmeyer stated Mayor Wood and Mr. Prince did talk about the potential of wanting to annex that area and they received a whole list of things to discuss as they worked towards getting a development agreement with them. Mr. Baxmeyer stated one of the key things at the time having come on the heels of Amazon on the other side of the county was

their huge need for water and sewer and they were under the impression at that time that that was going to be a necessity. Mr. Baxmeyer stated as time went on and as they worked with Microsoft towards a development agreement, they were informed that they did not need the same level of utility services as Amazon and their process was a different system and the company in working towards the development agreement asked the county if there were alternatives. Mr. Baxmeyer stated a couple of weeks ago he received a phone call from Mayor Wood indicating it was his understanding that this was a done deal, and he objected to that, because in his mind it was not a done deal and they were still working with regional sewer and water and were still looking to put together a final document on the project. Mr. Baxmeyer stated what changed for the county was when they learned that they did not need extensive water and sewer and he said that to the Mayor and he was just doing his job protecting the city and said they would have to remonstrate against it and he understood that the city wanted to capture that tax base, but looking at it from the company's point of view, they did not need city water and sewer. Mr. Baxmeyer stated they could use the alternative of using St. Joe Farms water system and they could tie into the Granger sewer that went up to Ottawa Township and then over to Elkhart. Mr. Baxmeyer stated it would not make sense for them to sign a development agreement that would require them to pay an estimated \$80 million more to pay for the city utilities. Mr. Baxmeyer stated Mayor Wood and Ken Prince were quite clear at the beginning that they were not going to ask the taxpayers to front the bill and it had to be from the company. Mr. Baxmeyer asked rhetorically why the company would pay for something that they did not need and their system did not need. Mr. Baxmeyer stated that was how they got to the point they were at that evening, and this should have been brought to the city sooner and they also had not signed an agreement. Mr. Baxmeyer stated the company had alternatives and wished the Council had not voted to have the first and second reading that evening so that they could better express and provide information to the Council about the matter. Mr. Baxmeyer stated he knew it was their decision ultimately and he respected that, and they would just have to move forward through the process and hoped that they would delay the decision, but it would end up going to the IURC in the future. Mr. Baxmeyer thanked the Council for giving him the time to express their point of view and the decision rightfully rested with the Council. Mr. Hixenbaugh commented for the record that he was not present at the meetings President Schaetzle referred to although he had no reason to doubt the accuracy of what he described in terms of statements made. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he would be giving Mr. Prince the opportunity later on to come before the Council to say his piece since he was directly mentioned by name. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he did have the opportunity to sit in on one meeting with himself, Bill Schalliol, Mayor Wood, and Ken Prince and this was the topic of discussion and whether or not that was the June 13th meeting that was previously mentioned, he left that meeting with the same impression that Mayor Wood articulated to Mr. Baxmeyer on their phone call, which was that St. Joseph County was fully in support of any actions Mishawaka took that would be consistent with the ordinance and he remembered saying to Mayor Wood and Ken Prince after the meeting that he liked his friends in St. Joe County and it was always good to see them and work with them, but he was surprised how supportive they were of the idea of Mishawaka extending utilities and taking a look at annexation. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he remembered a specific conversation about particularly some property that would comply with the law that would allow annexation to be possible. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated

this was not an annexation ordinance and he agreed with Mr. Baxmeyer on that but since the issues were raised, he wanted to set the record straight that having been another set of eyes and ears in meeting with him, Mr. Schalliol, Mayor Wood, and Mr. Prince, his recollection was the same as his honor's with regard to the subject that was discussed that day. Mr. Baxmeyer stated Mr. Hixenbaugh did correctly identify that he was also present at that meeting, and they walked out of that meeting thinking that they were going to require city services in order for their operation and Microsoft subsequently informed them that they did not need that. Mr. Baxmeyer stated they were all put in a situation where the game changed and now, they had to react to that. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he appreciated his point.

Bryan Tanner, St. Joseph County Council District H, spoke in opposition of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mr. Tanner stated he would not be speaking in opposition even though it was under the opposition portion of the public hearing and was not asking them to directly vote against this measure. Mr. Tanner stated he reached out to a couple members of the Council that day after learning about the matter and shared some concerns he felt were worth sharing with the broader audience and those concerns may have fallen within the opposition realm. Mr. Tanner stated he was one of the votes at the May 2024 public hearing of the County Council for rezoning the property at the Microsoft Data Center. Mr. Tanner stated his vote at the very least was influenced by a large portion of it in favor of rezoning because of the emphatic support that Mishawaka had to extend utilities to that site and the representation of Mr. Prince at that meeting, speaking on behalf of the city to that end for two primary reasons. Mr. Tanner stated to Mr. Baxmeyer's point, they did believe at the time that it was going to be a requirement in order for that facility to be constructed that that level of service was going to be required. Mr. Tanner stated contradictory to Mr. Baxmeyer though, he saw the benefit in Mishawaka Utilities being extended to that particular site with the reason being one of the biggest concerns that was shared with them from residents from particularly the Granger area was that any water usage could be disruptive to their existing wells. Mr. Tanner stated any source that was pulled from the same aquifer that they utilized could have a detrimental impact on their residences, businesses, etc. that were on a well-based system. Mr. Tanner stated Mishawaka Utilities, as they knew, having worked and served on the Council and having worked with different members of the utility over the years, pulled from a deeper clay-capped separated aquifer that would have zero impact on any of the residences in that area. Mr. Tanner stated he wanted to be clear that he still saw the value, even if it was more expensive and took a little longer and his vote in the past year was influenced in support of this because Mishawaka Utilities was going to be extended to that particular project site and thanked the city's willingness to be a partner in that. Mr. Tanner stated he was frustrated that news was shared within the last couple of weeks that that was no longer the desire and that felt like the rug was pulled out from underneath the city pretty late in the game nearly a year later. Mr. Tanner stated he had unique experience and 18 years ago, he worked at an engineering consultant firm in the Indianapolis market before his family moved to Mishawaka 13 years ago and in that practice, they were consulting with what is now the city of Fishers on a forced annexation dictated largely by the Indiana State Department of Health of the Gist Reservoir area. Mr. Tanner stated much like Granger, it was an unincorporated area of Hamilton County, much like Granger it had sandy soils, and much like what small pockets of

Granger were experiencing thus far, they had sandy soils where their septic systems were failing. Mr. Tanner stated their neighborhoods were a little older and they were seeing 18 years ago the kind of failure on a scale that he did not think it was too far of a stretch to say that the Granger community would see in the not-too-distant future. Mr. Tanner stated he did not like to operate out of fear, and he was sure the Council did not either, but he believed that was a reality that would very quickly catch up with him based on his professional experience. Mr. Tanner stated they heard earlier from the attorney that there were certain grey areas or conditions in which the utility as a separate body may be required to extend utilities or residents may be required to connect to utilities and they may not have that independence of just replacing their septic systems which on those lot sizes in most cases they could not move it somewhere else as there was a well on the other side of their house and they could not realistically or practically dig up truckloads of dirt and replace it, because that dirt would then have to go somewhere else while it was contaminated. Mr. Tanner stated he believed what may come down the line was what happened with Fishers 18 years ago and it was not just a forced extension of utilities and in that case when the state got involved, they may require forced annexation just like it happened in that community 18 years ago. Mr. Tanner stated when talking with members of the community in both Granger and Mishawaka and when talking with Mr. Prince himself over the years in public statements and in private conversations, it did not mathematically make sense for Mishawaka on a mass scale annex large portions of the residential Granger area, because it was not just the utilities when that annexation happened if it was forced, it would bring all of the infrastructure up to the city's engineering standards and the math generally, unless somebody was shown different, did not work out for that to be a benefit for the Mishawaka community to do so. Mr. Tanner stated the Council would not be making an isolated decision that evening about that one facility or property where a very large economic property was happening and he was in favor of that, but they were talking about a 4-mile radius east of anything that was on the Logan collector within a 4-mile boundary. Mr. Tanner asked rhetorically if there was no intention on extending services, could they stomach the cost of forcibly extending services and making the other infrastructure improvements. Mr. Tanner stated it was a concern of his as a resident and as someone who voted for the particular project, and it was about what was the short-term gain versus the long-term cost. Mr. Tanner stated he thought rather than asking the Council to vote against it or asking them to act in any particular way that evening, he thought it precluded them to take a little more time. Mr. Tanner stated there were other things to fear in the process and he warranted that in their consideration and deliberation that evening, but he hoped there would be an opportunity for a melding of the minds and a reasonable outcome to result from this and he would completely support them in whatever they decided.

Mark Catanzarite, St. Joseph County Council District G, spoke in opposition to **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mr. Catanzarite stated he appreciated the opportunity to speak that evening and as a member of the St. Joseph County Council and having represented Mishawaka for over 20 years in the northeast side of town, he felt that he had a reason to speak in opposition to the vote to extend the utilities of Mishawaka beyond the 4-mile radius as was proposed. Mr. Catanzarite stated earlier Mr. Lentsch made the comments that this was not routine and this was a strategic necessity for the City of Mishawaka and it very unfortunate

because the County and Mishawaka should be walking in tandem together to try and keep and maintain Microsoft coming into their community for the very purpose that they tried to approach things on a regional concept, much like they had done with the sports and athletic center over on Douglas Road and other joint projects they worked together with Mishawaka on. Mr. Catanzarite stated he knew Mr. Lentsch mentioned that Mishawaka had invested millions in sewer and water which were at risk, but they in the County had also invested millions which may be at risk for them if the full four-mile extension of the utility border went into the areas where they already had infrastructure built. Mr. Catanzarite stated under Section 1; he hoped that four-mile boundary could be dialed down like Mr. Tanner said before him to just the Microsoft site and also in Section 2; as their legal counsel had said that it was a grey area and would have to be handled on a case-by-case basis, that was just not a good enough answer for him at that point. Mr. Catanzarite was not necessarily asking for a no vote on this on a primitive basis, but he was hoping to ask for a no vote that evening for a temporary pause so they in the County could work with them like they had in the past so they could continue to work and try to strike a deal with both Mishawaka and the County. Mr. Catanzarite stated he had been informed by County leadership that the potential to jeopardize the project could be a case that would be made to Microsoft because there was not a need for that type of capacity with the utilities versus what they were going to be serviced by with the Granger water district and he hoped that would not be the case. Mr. Catanzarite asked his colleagues that evening if they could give the County some consideration to at least take a small pause, let them get their heads together, and work on the project moving forward so they could make sure it would be a win for Mishawaka, St. Joseph County, and the entire region. Mr. Catanzarite appreciated their time that evening.

Mr. Carroll stated a lot of this was being framed as being specific to Microsoft and he understood the background and where this was coming from and why that was intertwined and they could not pull it out, but it seemed to him it had more to do with a paperwork issue from 14 years ago. Mr. Carroll stated he was curious about who was there and had this been filed properly, they would not even be having the conversation. Mr. Carroll asked if this had simply been a technicality from 14 years ago and if this had not occurred if they would be in the same position they found themselves in and had the same conversation. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated since legal counsel had to jump off of the call for another commitment, Mr. Hixenbaugh asked Mr. Lentsch to try to answer Mr. Carroll's question.

Mr. Lentsch stated if the ordinance back then that was passed would have been filed with the IURC, there would not have been the need to be before the Council that evening. Mr. Lentsch stated there were some technical things that had been adjusted and some language that was adjusted, but the full need to get in front of them that evening would not have existed as he understood it. Mr. Carroll stated that it was his concern that this was being framed as the Council deciding the fate of Microsoft and it seemed to him that this was a discussion had 14 years ago, and paperwork was misfiled, so it seemed like it was a tough position the Council was being put in about issues that this really was not about. Mr. Carroll thanked Mr. Lentsch for that clarification.

Mr. Mammolenti asked Mr. Lentsch if he could remind them what the other entity was that would provide the service if they did not. Mr. Lentsch stated they had been told that the possibly that Granger Water served 30 people as well as the St. Joe County water and sewer district that served about 30 people which frankly went up to Edwardsburg and take a turn and go down to Elkhart but those were the only two, he was aware of. Mr. Lentsch stated from their perspective, neither of them had the history or the capacity. Mr. Mammolenti asked since they had to go through a formal process, and he knew it was a race to file, when would be the next opportunity for those folks to file or petition. Mr. Lentsch stated it would be as soon as they were ready, which would be immediately after, his hope was this would be approved, and they could move as quickly as their bodies would approve it. Mr. Lentsch stated it was not a window that was open and shut and it went according to how quickly those entities could work together and then file a petition. Mr. Mammolenti asked in his opinion since they filed in 2014 and it was just a filing error, would that give them any favor in the matter whether they filed first or second. Mr. Lentsch stated no, it would not provide them any favor, but it would be a point and a detail that they could bring up. Mr. Lentsch stated it would be something they would present and something that Mrs. Shultz would present on their behalf, but they would not meet the standard of first in time, so if they were not the first to submit the petition, they would not be the first in time even though this was passed back in 2014, because the paperwork was not filed with the IURC at the time. Mr. Lentsch stated there were two standards that they looked at being first in time and best to serve and he felt that they were unquestionably best to serve, but they wanted to be able to ensure that they were first in time and wanted to give Mishawaka every advantage to fully do what they intended to do and that was to service that corridor. Mr. Mammolenti stated he understood that and agreed with him in terms of best of service and asked with the folks that spoke in opposition that evening, it felt that the best of service would be a hindrance to Microsoft to continue to develop and that they preferred to have the smaller entities serve that facility and asked if he was correct in stating that. Mr. Lentsch stated from the conversations he had been a part of, the County and Mishawaka worked well together and he believed that one of the reasons Microsoft came to the table was because they had the capacity and when the data centers came to them, they wanted to know if the community had the capacity to provide water, sewer, and electricity and Mishawaka was that guarantee. Mr. Lentsch stated they worked with them, and they felt like the rug was pulled out from underneath them. Mr. Lentsch stated without question there was some capacity for the two entities, but they had no track record and no history, and he believed they lacked capacity. Mr. Lentsch stated they would be more than happy to have that argument before the IURC.

Mrs. Hazen stated the amount of \$80 million was thrown out which was what the city would require Microsoft to come up with to connect or do whatever and asked what they would do if Microsoft turned that down and if they then had the option to go to who they wanted to supply them and how did it work.

Mr. Lentsch stated he would defer to Ken Prince on the number, but if they indeed went forward with this, which he strongly recommended they did, they had the capacity and were the best to serve and he thought they needed to be first in time in order to make sure they were able to move

forward. Mr. Lentsch stated they had spent millions of dollars already expanding their capacity so that they could serve, and they were ready, they were 2 miles away and from his vantage point, they were the best to serve, they had the capacity, and they had made the investment. Mr. Lentsch stated they obviously wanted to make sure that they, Mishawaka, continued to be the player that had those conversations. Mrs. Hazen stated Mishawaka started the Juday Creek Wellfield plans ten years ago and asked if they spent extra money because of Microsoft when they did the wellfield or was it something they had planned all along because they planned on extending. Mr. Lentsch stated he would defer that line of questioning to Ken Prince.

Mr. Carroll asked if the first in time was voted on 14 years ago. Mr. Lentsch stated yes, it was. Mr. Carroll then asked if they would be first in time by 14 years had the paperwork been filed properly. Mr. Lentsch stated yes, they would have.

Ken Prince, Director of Planning and Community Development, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mr. Prince stated the ordinance was in 2014, so it was actually 11 years ago that it was voted on, for the record. Mr. Prince stated regarding the annexation, he remembered speaking at the hearing, and he recommended playing the tape at that hearing, but what he should have said at that time would be that the property was not contiguous to the city. Mr. Prince stated their policy was that when they provided sewer and water was that they annexed the property and that was likely what he would have said at that time, so the fact that they did not have contiguity meant that they did not at that time have the ability to annex it. Mr. Prince stated regarding a lack of desire; he did not believe that he would have ever said that. Mr. Prince stated the other issue Mr. Schaetzle brought up which was concerning to him was that somehow it was trouble to be annexed by the City of Mishawaka. Mr. Prince stated he did not understand that when every single property owner in the city paid county property taxes, so he did not understand the jurisdictional issue of the property and if anything, it being annexed into the city had benefits to the County because they were no longer providing services and the city was providing services, so if you wanted to get the most bang for your buck, you would want that property to be in the city and not in the County. Mr. Prince stated for the record regarding that comment, he did not understand where President Schaetzle was coming from regarding those statements. Mr. Prince stated the issue Commissioner Baxmeyer brought up was also equally concerning to him, because he thought they entered into this as a partnership, and he thought Councilman Tanner brought up that same scenario that this was intended to be a partnership, and he had made comments at that hearing and they stood by what they said when they presented things. Mr. Prince stated he thought what they had indicated at the time particularly to Mr. Schalliol was that they were looking at this as a partnership and that they understood that with the property being in the County, that the approval process would need to be worked out through the County, but that they would be involved in the city in providing utilities and ultimately trying to figure out how to annex the property and that was the general nature of the discussion and they talked about the good that could be done regarding the increment that would be generated that could go towards paying for road improvements and other utility improvements among other things. Mr. Prince stated what was completely disappointing about the process was that there was an active attempt in their mind right now,

given the fact that they had very little discussion with what had been presented to them, to specifically exclude from the process. Mr. Prince stated on Friday March 18th, St. Joseph County Economic Director Bill Schalliol met with him following numerous requests for an update regarding Microsoft and at one point, Mr. Schalliol gave him direction that he and the County Engineer were looking at the road improvements because of the construction problems that they were having with Amazon and they had learned from that and wanted to apply those lessons to this and they at Mishawaka took that at face value, but absolutely nothing regarding water and sewer until two weeks prior to that evening. Mr. Prince stated Mr. Schalliol communicated that the County made the decision to serve the site with public sewer and water and mind you, this was an area within Mishawaka's service territory that was not theirs essentially in a different manner. Mr. Prince stated specifically with the County regional sewer district when he asked who made the decision, Mr. Schalliol replied that it was the County Commissioners and the St. Joseph regional sewer district. Mr. Prince stated the sewer district was formed by an entity basically to address the failing subsystems in downtown Granger, so they served much more than 30 homes that Mr. Lentsch represented, and they served downtown Granger, and it was extended to serve the subdivision that Mr. Matthews created, the Granger Water LLC. Mr. Prince stated this was all based on a single conversation that he had with Mr. Schalliol, and they were literally in the dark currently, so anything he said that was speculation was because they had been provided with no details from the County regarding what their proposal was. Mr. Prince stated if they could imagine going through this process, making millions of dollars in development and conducting the plans, they had not been communicated with virtually at all from the County. Mr. Prince stated his understanding from Mr. Schalliol was that the sewer district intended to buy Granger Water LLC, which was a private water company serving that small subdivision, which was currently less than 40 homes and designed and approved in 2022 to serve up to 140 homes. Mr. Prince stated this was a private utility that was given significant tax incentives by the County and had approval and compliance issues since its inception. Mr. Prince stated they had trouble operating it, they did not have a lot of people, and they had not provided the information downstate that had been requested of them. Mr. Prince stated Mr. Matthews was the CEO of the Granger Water LLC and in 2024, it was his understanding was Mr. Matthews also served as a member of the St. Joseph County sewer district which was also then buying the utility that he created. Mr. Prince stated he was mentioning that not because he thought there was anything illegal happening, but that was all the more reason that the items should be brought publicly and discussed. Mr. Prince stated Mr. Matthews had been great in terms of the relationships they had with his developments in the city, but if you were on a board and you were going to buy a utility that you had created, there should be public discussion regarding that. Mr. Prince stated Mr. Schalliol identified that the reason for the city acquisition was also to address ongoing water quality issues in Granger on private wells. Mr. Prince stated to date, other than Mr. Schalliol's visit, the city had not been contacted and informed the County was even considering this direction and when asked, Mr. Schalliol indicated the County had performed a study performed by a professional engineering consulting firm prior to their visit. Mr. Prince stated when he asked for a copy, he indicated the study had not been finalized. Mr. Prince stated again, information was requested, and the information was not available. Mr. Prince from their perspective, what that evening was about was the investment made by the city in the utilities and protecting that

investment. Mr. Prince stated regarding anything else when they talked about discussions with Microsoft and pushing it down the road, they wanted to be at the table and they were not precluding any further conversations with the County and were not precluding any further conversations with Microsoft and they would love to see Microsoft locate here but at the same time, they had an obligation to protect those that had invested Mishawaka Utilities. Mr. Prince stated to their knowledge there had been no public meetings, and these had been done essentially in darkness rather than being publicly discussed and debated. Mr. Prince stated to date, Mishawaka had been treated as an outsider and a competitor rather than a partner which was what they envisioned in the first place. Mr. Prince stated every one of their ratepayers paid county taxes and lived and played in St. Joseph County. Mr. Prince stated county officials had taken those actions to date, and he thought they needed to really identify or clarify if they cared about the 60,000 residents served by Mishawaka Utilities, roughly 22% of the St. Joseph County population and this included areas outside of the city limits. Mr. Prince stated they had roughly 2,000 service connections outside the city limits currently that were not annexed and, in many cases, would never be annexed to the city. Mr. Prince stated another thing he felt the need to identify was that with his conversation with Mr. Schalliol, they wanted to build capacity to provide water service to Granger and he found it hard to take essentially that they were addressing water quality issues in the County and again, Mishawaka had nothing to review but this was based on past history, when looking at the past history, it felt disingenuous. Mr. Prince stated for example, the Juday Creek subdivision was located in unincorporated St. Joseph County and the Juday Creek subdivision would eventually be surrounded by the city, but they would have no ability to annex the property, because they would have to rip up all of the streets and provide sewer, water, and sidewalks and financially it was not feasible. Mr. Prince stated he used that as an example, because numerous homeowners in that subdivision were provided with private water filtration systems from the County, because of the salt contamination from the County highway to garage located immediately north of the subdivision. Mr. Prince stated that since the creation of the wellfield, there had been no interest expressed by the County to provide water to that subdivision despite the known problem caused by the County and this was likely due to the extreme cost of ripping up the streets and retrofitting that existing subdivision. Mr. Prince stated if the premise of this was to create your own water utility to provide that capacity in the county, those same conditions applied to most of Granger where those water quality issues were scattered over a very large geographic area. Mr. Prince stated thus, any thought for retrofitting public water needed to include a financial model that identified the cost per resident including the construction costs for the retrofit and they believed the County did not have any intent of mandating connections. Mr. Prince asked rhetorically at the very least, shouldn't the property owners know if the County was going to mandate water connections and stated again, they had no information up to that point. Mr. Prince stated another good example was the Crescent Hill subdivision located in an unincorporated county on the south side of Mishawaka. Mr. Prince stated their understanding was that the county was sued as a result of failing septic systems and was required to provide the subdivision Mishawaka sanitary sewer service. Mr. Prince stated as part of the extension, the residents were provided with service at the expense of over \$1 million but were not required to connect if their septic system was not failing. Mr. Prince stated there was a financial disconnect in the model that needed to be discussed. Mr. Prince

stated another example was the extension of water service on Brick Road and the County reached out to the city to install a public water line looping Gumwood, Brick, and Fir Road. Mr. Prince stated the intent was to provide hydrants where the township fire department could fill tanker trucks. Mr. Prince stated they specifically asked if the line should be sized to serve residential connections, which the county was paying for, and they were told no. Mr. Prince stated if the County were to move forward, the likely outcome would be a Microsoft Water Utility since Microsoft would be charged with paying all the related infrastructure and would pay 90% or more of the ongoing operating expenses moving forward. Mr. Prince stated essentially, if you put all of your eggs in that and Microsoft decided to retool for a year, you would be stuck holding that 90%. Mr. Prince stated in terms of Mishawaka Utilities Water Division, they had approximately 18,000 services serving roughly 60,000 people. Mr. Prince stated one of the key factors that they had in sizing the wellfield was their ability to serve the farmland along Capital Avenue. Mr. Prince stated in 2023, Mishawaka and the County jointly prepared and adopted the Capital Avenue land use plan and this planning area that included the proposed Microsoft site, Mishawaka Utilities was identified as both the public water and sewer provider for the entire Capital Avenue Planning Area. Mr. Prince stated as they knew, in 2014, Mishawaka and South Bend both established their extraterritorial jurisdictions by ordinance and that specifically included the Capital Avenue corridor. Mr. Prince stated in 2024, Mishawaka completed over \$40 million worth of investments, including the new Juday Creek wellfield and the upgrade process took more than a decade to design and implement. Mr. Prince stated the Juday Creek wellfield was created not only to serve existing customers but was sized to meet future public water growth needs for decades to come. Mr. Prince stated the Juday Creek Plant had already been approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and in its current configuration, the new plant could produce 8.2 million gallons of water per day and was expandable up to 12.5 million gallons a day by just adding two more wells. Mr. Prince stated the now 8.2 million gallons a day were built specifically to serve their known expansion areas including the Capital Avenue corridor and the additional capacity of 12.5 million gallons was investigated because of the city's desire to serve Granger if there was ever determined to be a need by the County. Mr. Prince stated they had essentially 5 million gallons a day sitting there to serve Granger residents if the County were desiring of connecting to that water system. Mr. Prince stated the plan for Capital Avenue was to serve St. Joseph Farms and the Microsoft site from the south and because of the necessary downstream improvements, the removal of St. Joseph Farms property from the service area also made future economic development in that corridor more difficult. Mr. Prince stated it was pretty easy to say they were going to take one piece off and move it over to another place, but what that did then would mean the water would have to go further to the south and did not have anyone to pay for that connection. Mr. Prince stated thus, it made the utility connections to that corridor more expensive and Capital Avenue more difficult to develop with what was being proposed. Mr. Prince stated Granger Water reached out to the city after significant expense had been incurred on developing a private water utility for the subdivision. Mr. Prince stated the IURC, even in the review that was done said at some point the Granger utility infrastructure should be abandoned and connected to Mishawaka. Mr. Prince stated so as part of the review, that was one of the reviewers' comments regarding the establishment of their utility and that it should be connected to Mishawaka. Mr. Prince stated

part of the city's rationale for not objecting to the small subdivision was they knew the County had a need for more flow to go to the downtown Granger lift station, which currently pumped to Edwardsburg, Michigan and then to Elkhart for treatment. Mr. Prince stated another fact he thought was important to consider and bring out publicly was that Mishawaka was held to a higher standard relative to their sewer discharges to the St. Joseph River than Elkhart and it was more environmentally friendly for that sewage to come to Mishawaka than it was to be directed to Edwardsburg and then back to Elkhart. Mr. Prince stated they knew all of this was going to change and it was all a matter of question at that time, because they were not provided with information. Mr. Prince stated Granger Water Utility had a flat rate of \$75, which was more than twice what Mishawaka charged. Mr. Prince stated it was also noted in the review from the IURC of the Granger Water Utility that the cost benefit analysis performed by the developer did not incorporate all the factors considered in a lifestyle cost analysis. Mr. Prince stated it was noted specifically that it did not recognize the significant operation and maintenance costs associated with operating a plant, maintaining a plant, interacting with customers, and the capital cost to expand the plant. Mr. Prince stated they had no full-time staff, and they had no trucks or equipment with everything being contracted out. Mr. Prince stated they currently had built a 747 that had available seating for all of this, and they were the equivalent of a Cessna. Mr. Prince stated to serve Microsoft, they had to build another plane to serve the site, and, in their mind, that did not make sense, and they felt like it was an obligation to their 60,000 customers that they had a seat at the table and that the items were discussed. Mr. Prince stated he was happy to answer any questions.

Mrs. Voelker stated that she voted in favor of the expanded territory 11 years ago and her vote would remain the same, but she wanted to tell him how much she appreciated him refreshing their minds about the Capital Avenue planning agreement they had with the County and that the water territory they voted on 11 years ago was based upon an understanding that it would eventually supply water to the Capital area development. Mrs. Voelker thanked Mr. Prince for pointing that out.

Mr. Carroll asked if the process for annexation really nothing had to do with what they were talking about and discussions about who annexed what could be held at a later date and the Administration could talk to County officials and if he was correct in saying that. Mr. Prince stated that that was absolutely correct and again, they did not currently have contiguity, and they did not have the ability to annex that property, even though they wanted to and any property they provided water and sewer to, they wanted to be annexed into the city.

Mrs. Hazen asked how much extra they put into planning for Microsoft. Mr. Prince stated they were not planning for Microsoft specifically, but they were planning for the area of Capital Avenue. Mr. Prince stated the area of Capital Avenue was part of their service territory where Juday Creek was intended to serve, and it currently had a capacity of 8.2 million gallons of water a day. Mr. Prince stated his understanding from Mr. Majewski was that they were at 2 million gallons per day at peak flow, so they had a little over 6 million gallons of capacity to serve the Capital Avenue corridor in the growth area on that northern part of the city. Mrs. Hazen stated

she believed with the way that they were talking that evening that they were pretty much counting on the Microsoft expansion and they put in extra money for it. Mr. Prince stated they planned basically that if they knew Microsoft was going to be there, they would not have built the same size facility. Mrs. Hazen stated it had only been a year since they knew Microsoft back in May. Mr. Prince stated that that was his point and in terms of then having discussions and excluding the city from conversations after they expended \$40 million and that represented over \$5 million that they lost directly by not providing service and that was just from what they had already expended and not the ongoing operation and maintenance costs associated with that service area. Mrs. Hazen asked if they extended into the service area, Microsoft would have to go with them and if they would not have the option to go with someone else. Mr. Prince stated it was currently their service territory and the frustration he had was that they had no discussion regarding any of this and they had no idea what context was presented to Microsoft. Mr. Prince stated if you had the rights to an area and somebody took it and tried to sell it, that was what they were essentially talking about that evening. Mr. Prince stated they built the capacity, they did the planning, they made the investment, and now that was being proposed to be taken away from them. Mr. Prince stated at a minimum that it required conversations to take place and the action that evening would allow those conversations to occur and keep Mishawaka in a position of strength. Mr. Prince stated he had no idea what the outcome of those conversations would be, because they had not been provided with details.

Mr. Mammolenti thanked Mr. Prince for his well-prepared presentation and asked whether it was Microsoft or not and if Granger or some other water utility got the territory, they were out and their investment they had put in would be for not. Mr. Prince stated yes and if the IURC were to decide that this was a Granger Water service territory, they essentially overbuilt their wellfield and would not have any means to change it. Mr. Mammolenti asked if this was not a Microsoft thing. Mr. Prince stated this was a utility thing. Mr. Banicki asked if Mishawaka Utilities was a nonprofit. Mr. Prince stated that was correct. Mr. Banicki asked about the stakeholders in the Granger Water district and if it made sense that they were paying for what they spent. Mr. Prince stated he had only one conversation with Mr. Schalliol and his understanding was the sewer and water district which would also be considered non for profit, would be acquiring the Granger private utility and his understanding was that it would be under the sewer district. Mr. Banicki stated it was not like they were going to get fat by doing this and asked if that was correct. Mr. Prince stated they would not.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked Mr. Prince for his remarks and stated based upon what he had learned leading up to that evening and he heard that evening, he was going to harken back to Councilman Tanner's remarks and from his perspective, he raised some valid considerations they needed to consider, and he addressed them somewhat in his remarks. Mr. Hixenbaugh asked, to hone in on the point, in his capacity as the President of the Mishawaka Utility Board, if he believed the passage of the ordinance would subject Mishawaka Utilities to any unreasonable risk of having to assume customers that they did not anticipate at that time. Mr. Prince stated none, zero.

Dave Majewski, Mishawaka Utilities Water Division Manager, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA**. Mr. Majewski stated Mishawaka Utilities had been in the water treatment business for over 100 years, and they had done exceptional work. Mr. Majewski

stated the big thing on the table that evening was protecting their territory and that was what this was all about. Mr. Majewski stated otherwise, essentially any water system could come in and set up a water utility and all of a sudden, they had numerous water utilities in their territory providing water and that could not only hurt Mishawaka's growth, but also the development of their system. Mr. Majewski stated they spent millions of dollars in improving their system and there was no existing entity in the proposed territory of St. Joseph County that had the knowledge or technical ability to run a water treatment and distribution system properly. Mr. Majewski stated Granger Water, and the St. Joseph County District were trying to claim the district that Mishawaka had served and spent millions of dollars in investment on. Mr. Majewski stated if not protected, a substandard utility could wreak havoc to their territory which would cause irrevocable damage to Mishawaka's future growth and health of their water utility. Mr. Majewski stated Granger Water was ordered to engage a third-party engineer by the OUCC to develop a life cycle cost for their plant operations within a year of plant startup, which would include connecting to Mishawaka's system and show that the rates of the utility were just and reasonable and to date, that had not been done. Mr. Majewski stated Granger Water was trying to escape a failing utility and hand it over to the County. Mr. Majewski stated he questioned the due diligence of the County and whether Elkhart could even accept the wastewater from Granger Water or the sanitary district. Mr. Majewski stated they would also have to expand, and they could not provide first protection to Microsoft. Mr. Majewski stated Microsoft also came in and sampled Mishawaka water and seemed very interested in how their water utility was run. Mr. Majewski stated he found it troubling to believe that any average water system could serve Microsoft. Mr. Majewski stated he appreciated the Council's support that evening and it was about protecting the water system territory for Mishawaka Utilities.

Mrs. Hazen stated she would be supporting the ordinance that evening and the reason was because of the 2014 ordinance. Mrs. Hazen stated she was disappointed it was not filed correctly, but things did happen and everybody made mistakes. Mrs. Hazen stated she did not like first and second reading as it put a lot of pressure on the Council, and they had to decide in only a couple of days which she thought they should have been given more time. Mrs. Hazen stated she was disappointed in the Administration for that, but she understood. Mrs. Hazen stated she was hopeful the County and the Administration could get back together and start discussing this and do it in a reasonable manner.

Mr. Carroll echoed Mr. Hazen's comments, and he understood where the County officials were coming from, and he would probably be saying the same things if he was in their position. Mr. Carroll stated this was not about annexation and this was more about righting something that happened in 2014 than anything, so just as the County officials came supporting their role in the County, he hoped they could respect them supporting their roles on the City Council and for that reason, he would be voting in favor of the ordinance.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked all of the speakers that evening, particularly their friends from St. Joseph County. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he did not find anything they said to be offensive, and he knew them all professionally and some of them personally and he found them all to be people who acted in good faith, and he appreciated the passion that they brought to the podium. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he, like Mrs. Hazen, was also frustrated with the timing of all of this and if they could turn back the hands of time, it would have been ideal for someone to have done their

job and taken the action that state law required to have taken the ordinance passed by the Council and have filed it with the regulatory body in Indianapolis. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated that did not happen and none of them could turn back the hands of time, so as frustrated as he was by the timing of this and the suspension of their council rules to hold first and second reading, particularly on a night like that unless it was unavoidable and, in that instance, he found it to be unavoidable. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated it was because of the first in time standard that was imbedded in state law and the approval of the ordinance preserved their ability to have that seat at the table as Mr. Prince referenced earlier and his hope was that this was a beginning of a conversation between themselves, their friends in St. Joseph County, and any private entity that wanted to develop in close proximity to the City of Mishawaka and in the regulated territory that was going to be reaffirmed as part of the ordinance. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated the timing was critical in this case and he agreed that they could not defer taking action that evening. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he also found it important to underscore the fact that this was not an action that they would be taking that was unique to Mishawaka or an action being taken out of spite or frustration with anybody in the County or otherwise and this was an action every municipality in Indiana was invited to take under Indiana law and in fact, in 2014, Mishawaka and the Mishawaka Common Council and the Administration took the act that was in front of them that evening. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated what they were doing was reaffirming the action taken in 2014 and he was confident that if they all wanted to take the time, they could find any number of the ordinances enacted by multiple communities across the state of Indiana, so he thought they all needed to be clear that this was not something Mishawaka was trying to do that was unprecedented or outside of the scope of the law and this was exactly what the Indian General Assembly invited them to do as a municipality. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated what would happen in the future was speculative and they did not know who would make any decision but if they did not pass this ordinance, they would lose the ability to have a seat at the table and lose the ability to preserve their right to provide their utilities to areas outside of the city, which was clearly in the best interest of the people in Mishawaka who had been paying rates into their utilities for many, many years so that they could continue to get a return on their investment that allowed them to build out their utilities. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated the fact was that passing this kept their seat at the table and allowed for further conversations to take place on several different levels and to the extent that there was any legal dispute over this, he was not intimidated at all in having the IURC weigh in on this as that was their job to serve as the referee to try and resolve these type of disputes. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he had great confidence in the IURC's ability to be able to exercise their discretion in an appropriate manner and resolve any disputes that may come before them in the future. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated once every four years when he had been fortunate enough to be elected, he took an oath of office that obligated him to serve in the best interest of Mishawaka and one fact he was very convinced of was that the passage of the ordinance was in the best interest of Mishawaka in 2014 and would continue to be that, so he would be supporting the passage of the ordinance that evening.

Question called for at 7:45PM for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08AA Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 9).**

Yes: Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The proposed ordinance passed 9-0, thus it became **ORDINANCE NO. 5926AA.**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09

AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY RESTRICTED FUND OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA TO THE LOCAL ROAD AND BRIDGE MATCHING GRANT FUND OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

(Assigned to Budget & Finance Committee)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1966 OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

Rezone from C-1 General Commercial to R-3 Multi Family Residential to allow 7 Multifamily Residential buildings with 20 dwelling units - 2400 and 2406 Schumacher Drive

(Assigned to Land Use Planning Committee)

Clerk Block read the following resolutions by title and opened the public hearing.

RESOLUTION R2025-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA APPROVING A PETITION OF THE MISHAWAKA BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 526 W. MCKINLEY AVENUE Use Variance to allow for an Assembly Hall/Event Center/Banquet Hall in C-2 Shopping Center Commercial District

Abdul Rahman Farhan, owner of the shopping center at 526 W. McKinley Avenue, spoke in favor of **RESOLUTION R2025-06**. Mr. Farhan stated this was for the simple fact that the shopping center had been neglected for a long time, and they just took over in November and wanted to get it back into good condition. Mr. Farhan stated they had been working on it for the last four or five months and were trying to get some tenants into their shopping center.

Mr. Violi asked if that was the building that was closest to the Burger King across the street. Mr. Farhan stated yes, that was the one.

Mrs. Hazen asked if he was going to turn the facility into an event center and if he was going to be the one to run it. Mr. Farhan stated he would not be running it and it would be a tenant wanting to run it. Mrs. Hazen asked if the tenant had been working with the city. Mr. Farhan stated yes, they had been working diligently with the city, and they got all of their permits and approvals and were working step-by-step with the city to get everything done inside by code. Mrs. Hazen asked if they were going to have a liquor license or not. Mr. Farhan stated as far as he knew, they would not because this would be for an assembly for a birthday party or a quinceanera for four to five hours and they would be bringing their own food, and this would be a facility where people could rent for a couple of hours. Mrs. Hazen asked what the capacity would be for the facility. Mr. Farhan stated he did not know it by heart, but they were talking about a maximum of 200 people. Mrs. Hazen asked if the tenant had ever done an event center before or if this was their first experience. Mr. Farhan stated their background was in the daycare business and she seemed like she knew what she was doing and as he had been doing business for the last 30 years, he could tell when someone had a plan, and she certainly had a plan and hopefully she would succeed.

Mrs. Voelker congratulated Mr. Farhan on purchasing that property as it had been neglected for a very long time. Mrs. Voelker asked if he was working on the parking lot. Mr. Farhan stated he was just working there that day and now that spring was coming around, they were fixing all of the islands in the parking lot and would be repainting all of it and fixing all of the holes. Mrs. Voelker thanked him for making that investment and stated his investment was a big part of making McKinley look much nicer. Mrs. Voelker asked if he did not have a liquor license for the building, would the tenant be allowed to rent to people who could bring alcohol into the building. Mr. Farhan stated if the city allowed it he would not have a problem with it but if not, that was fine with him too, because that would be the city's call.

Mr. Hixenbaugh stated it would not be up to the city whether or not alcohol could be served there, and it was a function of state law and someone beyond everyone on the Council.

Question called for at 7:54PM for **RESOLUTION R2025-06 Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 9).**

Yes: Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The resolution passed 9-0.

RESOLUTION R2025-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA APPROVING A PETITION OF THE MISHAWAKA BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2019 AND 2001 LINCOLNWAY WEST

Use Variance to allow for outside storage for landscaping material

Pedro Rosio, Business Owner at 2001 and 2019 Lincolnway West, spoke in favor of **RESOLUTION R2025-07**. Mr. Rosio stated all he was trying to do was to store outside materials to make it easier on himself and his workers and they were trying to store mulch, gravel, and soil.

Ms. Hahn thanked Mr. Rosio for attending the meeting that evening and asked if he would have a roof or anything to cover up the mulch and other things being stored outside. Mr. Rosio stated no, he was just asking for permission to get one of the boxes where he could put a plastic or tarp roofing over the materials in the winter.

Mr. Emmons stated he was disappointed that Mr. Rosio started bringing in landscaping materials before he had the variance and he also never contacted Mr. Emmons, the councilman of that area. Mr. Rosio apologized and did not think he was going to have to get a permit for the storage boxes. Mr. Emmons stated he was concerned that that was the gateway into the city and if he just had some landscaping material all around on the property, it would not be very inviting for people coming and going throughout their city. Mr. Emmons stated he had no idea how Mr. Rosio would store his landscaping material whether it was just timber, stone, or mulch and asked what he planned on doing. Mr. Rosio stated it was just for use by his customers. Mr. Emmons stated he would have trouble voting in favor of this if he was not going to give him answers about what he was going to do and how he was planning on doing it. Mr. Rosio stated what they had done was create some concrete boxes to keep mulch in place so that it would not be spread throughout the property. Mr. Emmons stated he had none of that now and that mulch was just coming in and he had no containers basically for it to be stored in at that point in time. Mr. Rosio stated he did not know what to say.

Mrs. Voelker stated she agreed with Mr. Emmons in that they wanted to improve how Mishawaka appeared and she thanked him for being a business in Mishawaka, but judging by what she saw on the photographs it looked very unorganized and her concern was how he would keep the property organized so it was not an unsightly mess for him to work in and for people coming into the city and at what point would something like that become a Code Enforcement problem. Mr. Rosio stated he created concrete boxes that were 48 by 32 in the area, and he was looking to put up a privacy fence to make the area look better and he wanted to block the view from the road as well as bringing in more green areas and more lawn space to make his business look better. Mrs. Voelker stated they may have wanted to table the matter for a couple of weeks to get a better idea of what his plan was so that they could understand it more. Mr. Rosio stated he had hired an architect already to help him out because he also owned 2023 Lincolnway West and he wanted to build a building there too. Mrs. Voelker made a motion to postpone further hearing on **RESOLUTION R2025-07** until their regularly scheduled meeting of April 28th of 2025.

Mr. Carroll asked if they could put specific restrictions in their conversations in the coming weeks or if it was just a yes or no change to the zoning. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated that was within their discretion but to be clear, there were already two conditions that were recommended as part of the approval with the first being that no storage shall occur between the north property line and the front facade of the primary building and then that no known hazardous material shall be stored on the site. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated his hope was that between that evening and the meeting in two weeks, they could refine some of the statements Mr. Rosio made that evening. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated as he read the conditions that would still allow the mulch and other materials to be visible from the street and his strong suspicion was that that was going to be a concern of one or more of his colleagues. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated his suggestion of putting a

fence in place or something to make it less visible to the public would make his chances of success much greater as that was a gateway to the city. Mr. Hixenbaugh stated he and Mr. Emmons needed to have some conversation before the next regularly scheduled meeting, and he strongly encouraged Mr. Rosio to contact Mr. Emmons and try to come up with more detail of what his vision was and they would reconsider the matter on April 28th.

Mr. Banicki moved the motion, and Mr. Emmons seconded the motion, thus a voice vote was held. The motion passed unanimously, and the matter was postponed.

RESOLUTION R2025-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA ADDING PARCELS TO THE CITY'S PROPERTY ACQUISITION LIST ASSOCIATED WITH A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COMMON COUNCIL RESOLUTION R2014-07 WHICH APPROVED AN ORDER OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA PLAN COMMISSION APPROVING A CERTAIN DECLARATORY RESOLUTION, AN AMENDMENT TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NORTHWEST AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CONSOLIDATION OF THE SOUTHSIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA, AND THE NORTHWEST IMPROVEMENT PROJECT INTO ONE CONSOLIDATED AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CONSOLIDATED AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - 1216 SOUTH UNION STREET

Ken Prince, Director of Planning and Community Development, spoke in favor of **RESOLUTION R2025-08**. Mr. Prince stated this was required for the property to be added to the acquisition list and the property itself was only one property. Mr. Prince stated this was a bank-owned property, so likely a foreclosure and they were working with the realtor currently and it had been a challenging process working through the bank owned property as the process simply worked differently. Mr. Prince stated this was part of the future Union Street widening and money had been reprogrammed from McKinley to Bremen Highway to allow for the expansion from 7th Street as you moved south to Union to create a five-lane section in that area that would address some of the bottlenecks that occurred there. Mr. Prince stated this would be outside of the five-year window, so they felt it was appropriate to acquire at that time before someone bought it and made an investment in it and they were not at a point where they were ready to do a wholesale acquisition or condemnation through the section. Mr. Prince stated he was happy to answer any questions.

Question called for at 8:06PM for **RESOLUTION R2025-08 Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 9).**

Yes: Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The resolution passed 9-0.

RESOLUTION R2025-09

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MISHAWAKA COMMON COUNCIL AFFIRMING
SUPPORT FOR STRONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE CRITICAL ROLE OF
PROPERTY TAXES AND FUNDING IN CORE SERVICES**

Matthew Lentsch, Executive Director of Development and Governmental Affairs, spoke in favor of **RESOLUTION R2025-09**. Mr. Lentsch gave a prepared statement to the Council.

Mr. President, Members of the Council — Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight in support of the resolution we've submitted regarding Senate Bill 1. I'm here not just as a public servant, but as someone who deeply believes in the strength of local government—and in our collective duty to safeguard the services that make Mishawaka such an incredible place to live, work, and raise a family. Senate Bill 1, as currently drafted, includes language that could significantly erode our ability to fund those core services. While I understand the desire to deliver tax relief to Hoosiers, we all support—the approach currently under consideration falls short of including any responsible or comprehensive plan for replacing that lost revenue at the local level. And that's the heart of the issue. Property taxes are not just a line item on a bill, they are the financial backbone of public safety, clean water, fire protection, snow removal, street repairs, and parks. Over half of Mishawaka's general fund property tax revenue goes directly to police and fire alone. Cuts of this magnitude don't just stretch us—they force impossible choices. What this resolution does is send a clear, thoughtful, and constructive message to the Indiana General Assembly: we support tax relief, but not at the expense of our ability to protect our people and serve our community. We are advocating for responsible, collaborative policymaking that strengthens—not weakens—the cities and towns that carry out 85% of all government services in Indiana. This isn't just about Mishawaka. It's about every city, town, and rural community across the state that depends on property taxes to keep the lights on, the streets plowed, and the neighborhoods safe. By passing this resolution, the Mishawaka Common Council will once again lead with principle and unity, sending a powerful signal to the Statehouse that we believe in strong local government and in keeping promises to the people we serve. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration—and thank you for standing with us in support of local leadership, responsible governance, and the continued strength of the Princess City. Let's protect what works. Let's vote yes on this resolution. Thank you.

Question called for at 8:09PM for **RESOLUTION R2025-09 Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 9)**.

Yes: Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The resolution passed 9-0.

Clerk Block read the following proposed ordinances by title and opened the public hearing.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1966” OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.

Rezone from C-1 General Commercial to R-1 Single Family – 505 Carlton St.

Mr. Mammolenti reported the Land Use Planning Committee recommended this proposed ordinance should be adopted. Upon a second by Mr. Banicki, the motion carried.

Derek Swizz, Representing Savant LLC the owner of the property, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03**. Mr. Swizz thanked the Council for their consideration and was present to answer any further questions they had in regard to the property.

Mr. Emmons stated he was happy that they were changing the property to R-1 as that was in his district and he had walked past there for many years when he was a child, and it was sentimental for him. Mr. Emmons stated he appreciated them taking over and bringing it back to being a residential home.

Question called for at 8:13PM for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03 Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 9).**

Yes: Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The proposed ordinance passed 9-0, thus it became **ORDINANCE NO. 5927.**

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1966” OF THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.

Rezone from R-2 Two Family Residential to I-1 Light Industrial – 400 Block of E. 10th St.

Mr. Mammolenti reported the Land Use Planning Committee recommended this proposed ordinance should be adopted. Upon a second by Mr. Banicki, the motion carried.

Ken Prince, Director of Planning and Community Development, spoke in favor of **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04**. Mr. Prince stated this was the property immediately adjacent to the Central Services facility and they were just following up with the zoning as it was currently zoned R-2 and the proposed zoning that evening would change to I-1 which would allow them to build the storage building as intended. Mr. Prince stated as part of the hearing process, the Plan Commission sent out notice and there was no remonstrance at the meeting, and he was happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Hixenbaugh thanked the Administration for partnering with their friends from the Mishawaka Public Library on this and he thought it was a win-win for both entities, and he appreciated the work from everyone involved.

Question called for at 8:16PM for **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04 Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 9).**

Yes: Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Voelker, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Banicki, Mr. Emmons, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Mammolenti, Mr. Violi, Mr. Hixenbaugh. The proposed ordinance passed 9-0, thus it became **ORDINANCE NO. 5928.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Emmons made a reminder that the 1st District Monthly Meeting would be held at St. Bavo's on April 17th at 7PM with Phil Blasko, the Superintendent of the Parks Department as the guest speaker. Mr. Emmons stated all were welcome and as usual, doughnuts would be served from West End Bakery.

Mr. Mammolenti announced on Wednesday April 16th at 7PM, the Twin Branch Neighborhood Watch meeting would be holding their regular meeting at Fire Station #4 with Phil Blasko as their guest speaker. Mr. Mammolenti stated all were welcome.

The Common Council took a 10-minute recess prior to Mayor Dave Wood's State of the City Address.

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Wood thanked everyone for joining him to talk about their favorite subject, their beloved Princess City. Mayor Wood stated this marked the 124th State of the City in Mishawaka's history and his 15th. Mayor Wood stated he would do his best to stick to the facts, not frustrate the staff with a bunch of unrealistic promises, and he might even let them in on a secret or two along the way. Mayor Wood thanked his team who made it all possible. Mayor Wood stated their hard work reflected the Mishawaka Way - focused, collaborative, and driven to serve. Mayor Wood stated they had created a sleek, easy to read, magazine style booklet, perfect for residents and businesses alike. Mayor Wood stated the State of their City was strong, safe, financially stable, and growing and that had been true for decades and it was still true today and that was the Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated they were guided by the same values that built the city - vision, sacrifice, hard work, progress, and resilience and because of their shared commitment, Mishawaka was thriving with new energy, bold growth, and a future full of opportunity. Mayor Wood stated that year after year, they saw more energy and excitement pulsing through the Princess City. Mayor Wood stated they were growing faster, offering new amenities and opportunities on par with bigger cities. Mayor Wood stated yet, they were still protecting the hometown charm and their family values that set Mishawaka apart and it was a delicate balance of ambition and heart that made Mishawaka different. Mayor Wood stated they strived to maintain each and every day that Mishawaka Way and that was his theme for the State of the City. Mayor Wood stated it was more than just a slogan as it was how they did business, how they led, and how they served the people who called Mishawaka home. Mayor Wood stated it

started with putting the community first and listening to their residents and responding to what really mattered to them. Mayor Wood stated they stayed focused on what improved lives right here, right now and it was purposeful planning, looking ahead, investing wisely, and building for the long term. Mayor Wood stated their growth was not just fast, it was thoughtful. Mayor Wood stated it was how they preserved what made Mishawaka special while preparing for the future and it was collaborative. Mayor Wood stated when leaders worked together, they got things done and around there, they worked together a lot and he appreciated that. Mayor Wood stated it was about not being afraid to try new things, but they stayed grounded in who they were - innovative with respect for tradition. Mayor Wood stated that was the balance they strived to strike, and it was about being accessible and transparent. Mayor Wood stated you could still talk to your mayor at the gas station, the grocery store, or at City Hall anytime or you could sit on the front porch with him at a community event. Mayor Wood stated at the end of the day, they led with heart, humility, and a deep love for Mishawaka, and it was not just public service, it was the Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated that Mishawaka was strong because of the Mishawaka people and honored some lives of a couple of remarkable Mishawakans who they lost over the past year - Mary Lou Wood, Father Barry England, Ross Portolese, and Quinto Squadroni. Mayor Wood stated Mary Lou was like Mishawaka's mom with her warmth, faith, and servant's heart touched generations. Mayor Wood stated her saying was "it's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice" and they were words we all should live by. Mayor Wood stated Ross and Quinto were like Mishawaka's dads as patriots, public servants, visionaries, and steady hands who helped shape the city they knew and loved. Mayor Wood stated Father Barry England was like the city's father and certainly like one to him. Mayor Wood stated he swore him in, blessed his office, blessed City Hall, and most of their facilities and memorials and he loved his adopted hometown. Mayor Wood stated these great Mishawakans were larger than life and they embodied the best of who they were. Mayor Wood stated their legacies were woven into the fabric of Mishawaka and it was up to them to carry their spirit and example forward. Mayor Wood stated the best way to keep Mishawaka strong and shape Mishawaka's future was to invest in their future leaders and that was what his Mayor's Youth Advisory Council was all about, and it remained his most important initiative. Mayor Wood stated since its start 15 years ago, 200 students had participated in the Youth Council, learning how local government worked, providing community service, and contributing to real city projects. Mayor Wood stated 33 exceptional students from schools all across the Princess City were helping lead the way that year. Mayor Wood stated they were recognized in the Governor's Office just last week and this was what servant leadership looked like, the Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated Mishawaka's future was in great hands and their energy, empathy, and service-first mindset were exactly what gave him hope. Mayor Wood stated he was proud of each and every one of them and loved them like his own. Mayor Wood stated this would not happen without servant leaders leading the program and he thanked his wife Jaimi, his office coworkers Cindy, Debbie, and his intern Lizzette for their vision, their heart, and their help in guiding the young and amazing youth councilmembers. Mayor Wood stated every two years; his staff gives the Youth Council a major project with recent successes including Heroes Park, the design of the City Hall Community Room, and the Mish Pocket Park. Mayor Wood stated in 2024, the MYAC proudly launched Project Shoe City, a creative effort to reimagine and honor the legacy of Ball Band, the company that once made Mishawaka the shoe capital of the world. Mayor Wood stated that through this project, their youth were helping bridge the past with a bold and community focused art project. Mayor Wood stated their vision was to place 4 by 6 fiberglass shoe sculptures in high profile

locations around the city that could be sponsored and decorated by organizations and businesses. Mayor Wood stated the sculptures would be backed up by a website accessible through a QR code on each and every shoe that would explain the history, the project, and map out each shoe along the shoe trail. Mayor Wood stated to watch for at least 15 shoes to hit the pavement in the fall of 2025. Mayor Wood stated the kids surpassed their goal of raising \$35,000 in private donations and raise \$88,134 plus a \$35,000 match from Patronicity for a grand total of \$123,134. Mayor Wood stated the project cultivated a lot of community excitement and to him, the project bridged much more than just history and art, it bridged generations around a subject that everyone could get excited about. Mayor Wood stated Mishawaka was safe and that there was no accident and it was the result of the professionalism and the dedication of the Mishawaka Police Department. Mayor Wood stated 2024 marked a milestone year with the retirement of their longest serving Chief, Ken Witkowski, after 19 long years in that position and his outstanding service. Mayor Wood stated that under his leadership, MPD transformed into the modern, well-trained force that they relied on today. Mayor Wood stated he also prepared his successor, Chief Alex Arendt, to lead with the same integrity and strength. Mayor Wood stated their department reflected the characters of its leaders and they were blessed to have two of the best anywhere. Mayor Wood stated last year in partnership with the City Council and the Fraternal Order of Police, they implemented an innovative 12-hour shift schedule. Mayor Wood stated the goals of it were to put more officers on the street, respond faster, and manage resources wisely and it had worked very well. Mayor Wood stated they were close to full capacity staff and were offering some of the highest pay in the state to attract and retain top talent. Mayor Wood stated in Mishawaka, public safety was and always would be their top priority. Mayor Wood stated he was proud to share that once again, crime had dropped in 2024 continuing a strong trend dropping 13 out of his 15 years as Mayor and the past 5 years in a row. Mayor Wood stated this did not happen by chance and was a result of outstanding police work, strong leadership, and a community that looked out for one another. Mayor Wood stated they would keep adapting, investing in their officers, and partnering with residents to face whatever challenges came their way because Mishawaka public safety was not only just a goal, but a commitment. Mayor Wood stated after nearly 3 years without a single homicide, they experienced 3 in recent months with each case being tragic, but it was important to note all were targeted with no random acts and none could have been prevented by patrols or proactive police work. Mayor Wood stated every case had been solved and the perpetrators were identified, apprehended, and were no longer a threat to the community. Mayor Wood stated one was ruled a justifiable homicide involving transit individuals and one was a domestic tragedy. Mayor Wood stated the first occurred on January 15th when a 17-year-old boy was killed in a shooting while inside a home near Mishawaka High School and hours after the incident, the first juvenile suspect, a 14-year-old was detained. Mayor Wood stated two days later, detectives from the Mishawaka Police Major Crimes Unit were able to develop information leading to the arrest of a second suspect, also a 17-year-old. Mayor Wood stated uniform patrol officers responded promptly, securing the scene and witnesses. Mayor Wood stated they quickly ascertained the initial information from County dispatch of an infant victim was inaccurate and quickly identified a teenage victim. Mayor Wood stated crime scene investigators and detectives worked together to locate suspects and evidence at multiple locations. Mayor Wood stated the coordinated efforts of all officers led to criminal charges from multiple suspects and the St. Joseph County Prosecutor reached out to commend MPD personally for their great work in this case and noted the diligence and dedication to achieving case resolution in a timely and efficient manner. Mayor Wood stated in the past year,

they completed their largest fire station project in city history, the new station #2 at 25,000 square feet. Mayor Wood stated with five apparatus bays, the modern facility opened on time and on budget October 15th. Mayor Wood stated it included a survive alive house to teach kids fire safety, a public community room for meetings, and enhanced safety features to protect their firefighters at their work home and even a baby box thanks to a generous donation from a Mishawaka family. Mayor Wood stated the new station replaced their 60-year-old facility on North Main and they were actively exploring smart ways repurpose the old station. Mayor Wood stated last year, they reached a strong long-term contract with the Mishawaka firefighters and saw a small decline in run volume. Mayor Wood stated in Mishawaka, they believed excellence started with their people and their philosophy was to hire the best and plan for the worst. Mayor Wood stated at 3:08AM on March 12th, MFD Medic 1 was transporting a patient to the hospital when paramedic firefighter Max Olinger saw a fire on the roof of the Mile Phase II and he quickly reported the fire to County dispatch and crews led by Battalion Chief Jeff Hums quickly arrived on the scene and noticed heavy fire and it was obvious there was a major situation going on. Mayor Wood stated over the next 14 hours, world class response occurred with 8 chiefs in command of more than 100 firefighters over 2 shifts and deployment of 22 units in apparatus, five aerial trucks, and a thermal imaging drone. Mayor Wood stated MPD officers also secured the scene from traffic, the Mishawaka Street Department refueled trucks on scene as they fought fires and also blocked streets with barriers. Mayor Wood stated the Mishawaka Water Department also made sure that adequate pressure was supplied to firefighters who pumped over 10,000 gallons a minute on the fire without losing pressure to surrounding businesses or neighborhoods. Mayor Wood stated the Mishawaka Electric Department secured power to the building and the Mishawaka Parks Department opened the Ironworks Building for firefighter use. Mayor Wood stated he was proud of the Mishawaka Fire Department for their outstanding work, which prevented a much worse situation. Mayor Wood also thanked the South Bend Fire Department, Clay Fire Territory, Penn Township Fire Department, and many local businesses and restaurants and reached out, came down to the scene, and provided food and refreshments to their firefighters on scene. Mayor Wood stated it was truly a team and community effort. Mayor Wood stated though the cause of the fire had not been officially announced, it was not suspicious in nature. Mayor Wood stated in Mishawaka, they prided themselves on excellence and when tested, they rose to the occasion. Mayor Wood stated they were put to the test on March 31st when the worst storm since the Palm Sunday tornadoes of 1965 hit the Princess City. Mayor Wood stated in just minutes, hurricane-force winds and possible tornadoes knocked out power to over 15,000 customers, brought down hundreds of trees, damaged homes – including one that caught fire – and overwhelmed County emergency dispatch with thousands of calls. Mayor Wood stated their crews from Central Services, Electric, Police, and Fire responded immediately. Mayor Wood stated that streets and alleys were cleared within hours, and by nightfall, most power was restored. Mayor Wood stated still, we recognized the scale of the damage and did something we've never done before—we requested mutual aid. Mayor Wood stated seven crews from Hoosier Edison and Bancroft Electric joined our four MU electric crews working 16-hour shifts. Mayor Wood stated together, they replaced over 30 utility poles and rebuilt entire sections of infrastructure. Mayor Wood stated all power was restored in just four days – ahead of regional recovery timelines. Mayor Wood personally thanked their lineman and mutual aid partners at Hoosier Ed and Bancroft, especially Kevin Wasmer, who led their emergency operations with calm, clarity, and command. Mayor Wood stated these men and women did not just restore power, but they reminded them of what made their team truly exceptional. Mayor Wood stated

Mishawaka was financially stable and that was because they did not just manage their finances, but they lead with discipline, transparency, and long-term vision. Mayor Wood stated under the steady leadership of Controller Rebecca Maguire and her team, they continued to prioritize fiscal conservatism while maintaining strong reserves and responsible growth. Mayor Wood stated their financial success was a team effort built on collaboration between elected officials, department managers, and community stakeholders all working together to serve their residents wisely and sustainably. Mayor Wood stated it was a distinguished honor to serve as president of AIM in 2025. Mayor Wood stated the prestigious, 125-year-old organization, represented the interests of Mishawaka and 350 other cities and towns across Indiana. Mayor Wood stated of all years to serve in role, he had to serve the year, the most volatile memory was at the Statehouse with a new governor and over a thousand bills filed, it felt as if local government was in the cross hairs and with it, their ability to fund the critical services that he detailed earlier. Mayor Wood stated he never thought he would be a lobbyist, but that was precisely what he had spent a lot of time doing the past couple months. Mayor Wood stated they had lobbied to preserve local funding for their vital public safety services, road funding, infrastructure funding, and to protect their utilities and defend their right to grow responsibly. Mayor Wood stated they were near the end of the legislative session and as he had been told, the mayor's best day of the year was when the general assembly packed up and went home. Mayor Wood stated there had been a lot of meetings and like any good negotiation, no one was leaving completely happy, and he was proud to say that in working with their Governor and legislators, their voice was heard loud and clear. Mayor Wood stated while they had some negative budget impact, it was not as near as bad as what was proposed or what could have been. Mayor Wood stated Mishawaka was clean and that was a must. Mayor Wood stated Code Enforcement was at the heart of their efforts to keep Mishawaka clean and their new Code Enforcement Director, Ken Witkowski, was off to a strong start – focused on resolving long-standing, persistent cases and strengthening accountability. Mayor Wood stated they were about to take on a major initiative in reviewing and updating decades-old codes, policies, and procedures. Mayor Wood stated a newly formed committee, including members of the Common Council, would help guide the important work. Mayor Wood stated they were committed to clean, safe, stable, and vibrant neighborhoods and that was The Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated few services impacted Mishawaka's neighborhoods cleanliness more than their "No Trash Left Behind" curbside waste and recycling program. Mayor Wood stated through their new partnership with Waste Management, they helped keep their neighborhoods clean and their environment healthy. Mayor Wood stated in 2025, they rolled out a five-and-a-half-year contract after going through the bidding process, the first major change in nearly two decades. Mayor Wood stated the transition brought more than a few growing pains, but they were working through those growing pains and that was the Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated Mishawaka was growing with purpose and momentum. Mayor Wood stated from US 20 Bypass, through their vibrant downtown to Toll Road Exit 83, and their now new athletic and entertainment campus anchored by the Mishawaka Fieldhouse, investment was happening throughout the Princess City. Mayor Wood stated in 2024, they saw \$148.8 million in construction permits, well above their 10-year average. Mayor Wood stated that was a strong vote of confidence in Mishawaka's future. Mayor Wood stated as Mishawaka grew, so must their infrastructure and they were staying ahead with smart planning and strong partnerships. Mayor Wood stated in the summer, there would be updates to Ballard/Vistula, Vistula/Oakley/Lincolnway. Twelfth Street, Union/Bremen Highway, and a Summer Street Repaving Program to improve and enhance the many streets and roads throughout the City of

Mishawaka. Mayor Wood stated for a more comprehensive report and list of all of the upcoming projects, you could visit their engineers annual report at Mishawaka.gov. Mayor Wood stated they knew it had been tough getting around downtown near Cedar Street lately but that was about to change. Mayor Wood stated in partnership with St. Joseph County and funded by the federal government, they had been widening and restoring the Cedar Street Bridge, completing the final connection in their 3.5-mile Riverwalk loop from Logan to Cedar Street. Mayor Wood stated despite a few construction delays, they were now on track to finish ahead of schedule and the revised completion date had been adjusted to the 4th of July. Mayor Wood stated they were seeing strong residential housing growth and since 2023, they had approved nearly 700 new housing units including Mill Phase 2, Springs luxury apartments, and new single-family homes. Mayor Wood stated more was on the way, including 246 units at Grandview, 234 senior, affordable units at Stone Leaf Reserve, more than 100 units at the revitalized 100 Center, 50-75 new workforce homes in a new neighborhood in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and hundreds of single-family home sites ready to build. Mayor Wood stated in 2027, they would have added 1,300 new homes which was a 5% increase since the 2020 Census. Mayor Wood stated this was smart, community-focused growth that strengthened their neighborhoods and secured their future. Mayor Wood stated up north, Grandview was one of the most transformative developments in their city's history. Mayor Wood stated with a \$175 million investment, Phase II would break ground in the spring, bringing 246 apartments, 66 town homes, and a boutique hotel to SR 23 and Gumwood. Mayor Wood stated Grandview was more than new buildings though, it was about quality of life, walkability, green space, and community connected and it was designed to bring people together and strengthen their local economy with significantly higher long-term assessed value. Mayor Wood stated who would have thought that the Field of Highland subdivision developed by Habitat for Humanity back in 2018 with Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Work Project would now be nearly complete with over 70 homes built. Mayor Wood stated they wanted to keep that momentum going so in 2024, they proudly partnered with Habitat for Humanity to secure property for the next subdivision by contributing \$2 million in ARPA funds to create a new neighborhood at the former Oak Grove Mobile Home Park. Mayor Wood stated Habitat also secured \$4.1 million in READI II funds and was also moving their new permanent home office right here to Mishawaka. Mayor Wood stated the partnership with Habitat had been transformational for the Princess City and would result in significant redevelopment in an area where it was much needed while treating current residents with compassion and dignity. Mayor Wood stated he looked forward to putting on the tool belt and swinging the hammer on property. Mayor Wood stated speaking of President Carter, he would never forget his friendship, example, and service to Mishawaka. Mayor Wood stated he built and opened many doors for them and him personally and he intended to walk through them. Mayor Wood concluded his comments regarding President Carter stating Rest in Peace, boss. Mayor Wood stated after years of decline and delay, the 100 Center and historic Kamm-Schellinger Brewery were finally getting the fresh start they deserved. Mayor Wood stated the city cleared the way for a great new partnership and project by demolishing the blighted Kamm Island Apartment. Mayor Wood stated the main brewery was now under local ownership, and plans were in motion to restore it into a vibrant mix of shops, restaurants, and residences. Mayor Wood stated in late 2024, they secured \$5.7 million in READI II funds to help bring the vision to life, including 104 residential units, 20 short-term rentals, 75,000 square feet of commercial space, and a 85 student daycare. Mayor Wood stated the city had been investing in utility upgrades, Riverwalk connections, and a new event stage on Kamm Island to support the

transformation. Mayor Wood stated it had been a long time coming but the momentum was real, and the future was bright at one of their city's most historic sites. Mayor Wood stated they were excited to announce a new Brownstone project was coming to downtown—a bold, smart investment in diverse, high-quality housing in one of their city's most walkable and vibrant areas near the corner of Main and Mishawaka Avenue. Mayor Wood stated blending timeless rowhouse charm with modern convenience, the owner-occupied homes were designed for professionals, families, and empty-nesters alike—offering easy access to the Riverwalk, parks, and downtown. Mayor Wood stated more than housing, the project reflected their values of smart growth, neighborhood revitalization, and convenient inner-city living. Mayor Wood stated after six years of planning the Mishawaka Fieldhouse opened last October—and it was already a game-changer. Mayor Wood stated 1.4 million were expected to walk through the doors that year, and with them, exposure to all that was good in the Princess City. Mayor Wood stated it was already putting Mishawaka on the map as a premier youth sports destination, while fueling growth for their hotels, restaurants, and small businesses. Mayor Wood stated the phone was ringing off the hook, not just because the parking lots were jam packed! Mayor Wood stated to expect some exciting economic development announcements in the area in the not-too-distant future. Mayor Wood stated this was more than a facility, it was a old investment in their economy and regional future. Mayor Wood stated in 2023, they reimagined the former City Hall block, partnering with local nonprofits to turn underused space into a vibrant community hub. Mayor Wood stated The Women's Care Center opened in 2024, bringing new life and lifesaving, important service to the former city hall campus. Mayor Wood stated United Way's 1Roof Center was transforming the old City Hall building into an \$8 million hub for essential services—opening that year. Mayor Wood stated Mishawaka Building Trades students will soon begin building a new home on site, blending education with neighborhood investment. Mayor Wood stated together, the projects were restoring purpose, supporting people, and strengthening community on the former City Hall site. Mayor Wood stated redevelopment was underway at one of Downtown's most prominent corners, where a 25,000-square-foot outpatient healthcare facility was taking shape. Mayor Wood stated it would bring quality healthcare, new jobs, and fresh momentum; the project was set to be completed in early 2026—and was poised to spark even more revitalization in the heart of their city. The city had partnered with Beacon to add more public parking to their ever-growing downtown. Mayor Wood stated a lot of growth was happening downtown and they did not want to leave any block out of meeting its full potential. Mayor Wood stated their Comprehensive Plan survey made it clear: revitalizing downtown was a top priority for Mishawaka residents. Mayor Wood stated they didn't wait—they acted. Mayor Wood stated the goal was to reduce blight, preserve character, and attract vibrant local businesses like coffee shops, restaurants, retail, event spaces, and even upper floor living spaces that gave people a reason to gather and stay. Mayor Wood stated in late 2024, they launched the Downtown Grant and Forgivable Loan Program to breathe life into aging buildings and underused spaces in their Historic Downtown and West End. Mayor Wood stated this was funded with \$500,000 in repaid COVID-era Economic Development funds with the program offers matching grants up to \$50,000 for projects like façade and storefront improvements, murals and decorative lighting, hardscape and exterior enhancements, and even grease traps and fire suppression. Mayor Wood stated the program had been very well received and they had already approved of their first grant and many more were in the process. Mayor Wood stated it was the most robust program in the state and was rooted in community input, already delivering results, and was a shining example of listening, acting, and investing where it mattered most –

The Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated late last year, the city officially took possession of the former Dodge manufacturing facility — a site rich in history and community pride. Mayor Wood stated they had secured the property and were now preparing for the next chapter: environmental cleanup, asbestos removal, and full redevelopment. Mayor Wood stated a Phase II environmental study was underway - and they just got some exciting news, it would be completely funded through a \$200,000 grant from IFA. Mayor Wood stated demolition was expected to be bid in late 2025 and begin in 2026 and they were planning carefully and saving up for it, knowing it would take \$13 million to do it right. Mayor Wood stated their long-term vision included extending 7th Street at Union to 6th Street at Laurel, creating expansion space for MFD Station 1 and Central Services facilities, and transforming the bulk of the site into affordable, workforce housing. Mayor Wood stated before demolition, they would be hosting a community walk-through — a chance for former workers and residents to say goodbye and honor the piece of our legacy. Mayor Wood gave a heartfelt thanks to their Central Services Department for cleaning and securing the site with their ingenuity and dedication, a true reflection of The Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated The Veterans Walk at Battell Park was now complete, with the eternal flame lit — a powerful and lasting tribute to Mishawaka's fallen heroes. Mayor Wood stated the memorial ensured their sacrifice was never forgotten. Mayor Wood stated in 2024, they also restored the historic WWI Memorial Band-Shell, replacing the copper roof with a stunning new one, repairing stonework, and adding energy-efficient lighting to preserve the landmark for future generations. Mayor Wood stated they had also begun the thoughtful restoration of their beloved Battell Park Rock Garden, stabilizing its structure, sealing the pools, and removing invasive trees that threatened the integrity of the stonework. Mayor Wood stated in 2025, they would be completing the work with ornamental lighting, security upgrades, and botanical planting beds that reflected the garden's original vision and historic charm. Mayor Wood stated they planned to rededicate the iconic space on Memorial Day 2025, just in time for their great hometown tradition, the Mishawaka Memorial Day Parade. Mayor Wood stated in Mishawaka; they celebrated not just their people — but the places that brought them together. Mayor Wood stated neighborhood parks were at the heart of that, and he had made it a personal mission to reinvest in every one of them. Mayor Wood stated at the top of the list was Rose Park—and its transformation was well underway. Mayor Wood stated Phase I was complete with new restroom, playground and splashpad. Mayor Wood stated Phases II and III were fully funded and under construction now and set to finish later that year. Mayor Wood stated when done, Rose Park would reflect their city's spirit—blending tradition and fun with bocce ball, Belgian bowling, wiffle ball, a dog walk, and a new pump track designed and built by Mishawaka citizens and departments. Mayor Wood stated when completed, they intended to host new types of Mishawaka culturally significant events and to celebrate Mishawaka's unique immigrant population and history. Mayor Wood stated in the heart of one of their most historic neighborhoods, Normain Park was about to be completely imagined and would bring new life, energy, and purpose to a beloved community space. Mayor Wood stated work had already begun with demolition of the city's worst restroom and future plans included a playground for kids of all abilities, new shelter, and walking trails, updated ball diamonds, basketball courts, a splash pad, and a new restroom. Mayor Wood stated at the center of it all: a "Miracle Diamond" — a fully accessible turf baseball field designed for individuals with disabilities, would ensure everyone could play and belong. Mayor Wood stated the project was not fully funded but thanks to incredibly support from private donors, they had raised over \$1 million to make the project a reality and they would be breaking ground on Phase One in 2025. Mayor Wood stated this was

not just a park upgrade – it was a celebration of generosity, dignity, access, and community spirit – The Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated the city had begun reimagining one of their most beloved green spaces – George Wilson Park. Mayor Wood stated the park was unique thanks to its topography courtesy of the last advance of glaciers during the Great Ice Age, known for its sledding hill and disc golf. Mayor Wood stated the passive park served generations of Mishawakans but as recreation evolved, so must they. Mayor Wood stated they were working with Visit South Bend/Mishawaka to transform George Wilson into a year-round destination – complete with expanded amenities and public access. Mayor Wood stated plans included a skiing, snowboarding, and tubing hill with a lift – usable even in the summer. Mayor Wood stated he would be making his State of the City Address many more times during the year on his State of the City Traveling Roadshow Circuit, kicking off next month at Councilman Emmons’ District Meeting. Mayor Wood promised more updates, more stories, and probably a few more bad dad jokes. Mayor Wood stated if that was not enough, all were welcome to come pull up a chair and join him at Front Porch Fridays during the summer. Mayor Wood stated it was a chance to sit down, sip on some lemonade, and talk about anything and everything Mishawaka with no agenda, just good conversation and community connection – The Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated he hoped they got the sense of what they likely already knew which that Mishawaka was different, it was special, and it was the best hometown in America. Mayor Wood stated that evening’s presentation was just a snapshot of the work their local government was doing every day and for the full story, he encouraged everyone to read the 2025 State of the City Report, now available at mishawaka.in.gov. Mayor Wood stated he was proud to say that the State of Their City was strong and getting stronger, because they stayed focused on what mattered most: safety, financial stability, infrastructure, economic opportunity, and quality of life. Mayor Wood stated they were investing in public safety, neighborhoods, parks, and jobs. Mayor Wood stated they remained one of the safest cities in the region and their economic momentum was real. Mayor Wood thanked their residents for the incredible honor of getting to serve them and stated it was a privilege he would never take for granted. Mayor Wood thanked all of their city employees and department heads as they were the best in the business, and it was his pleasure to get to work with them. Mayor Wood thanked the Common Council and Clerk Block for their collaboration and steady leadership. Mayor Wood stated that when mayors and councils worked together, things got done and Mishawaka moved forward. Mayor Wood thanked his wife Jaimi for allowing him to pursue his life’s most important work and he could not and would not do it without her. Mayor Wood stated she had allowed him to take up his longtime dream of sailing as a hobby and it was a great escape and stress reliever which had come in handy over the past year. Mayor Wood stated these were fascinating times and there was a lot happening at all levels of government that had a direct influence on The Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood stated they intended to defend and protect their interests vigorously and rough seas were all around that had a lot of impact on their ability to provide critical services in the Princess City – it was all an ill wind that blew no good. Mayor Wood stated but here in Mishawaka, they had a ship, captain, and crew in place to weather any storm and he could not be more confident in their future. Mayor Wood stated he saw fair winds and following seas ahead. Mayor Wood stated as they approached their city’s bicentennial, they would continue honoring their past while building a future full of hope and promise in the best hometown in America – The Mishawaka Way. Mayor Wood concluded stating may the Princess always look over your shoulder, and may God continue to bless you, our residents, our staff, and the great City of Mishawaka.

ADJOURNMENT 9:17PM

Deborah S. Block /s/
Deborah S. Block, IAMC, MMC, City Clerk

Gregg A. Hixenbaugh /s/
Gregg A. Hixenbaugh, President

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Mishawaka Common Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at www.youtube.com/@cityofmishawaka635 for as long as this media is supported.