



## **Agenda for the Goshen Common Council**

**6:00 p.m., MAY 18, 2026 Regular Meeting**

**Council Chamber, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, IN**

*For a live stream of the meeting, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81652777559>*

**Call to Order by Mayor Gina Leichty**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Linda Gerber** (At-Large)    **Phil Lederach** (District 5)    **Doug Nisley** (District 2)  
**Megan Peel** (District 4)    **Donald Riegsecker** (District 1)    **Matt Schrock** (District 3)  
**Council President Brett Weddell** (At-Large) **Youth Adviser Abril Reyes** (Non-voting)

**Approval of Council Minutes:** March 13 and March 23, 2026 meetings

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

- 1) Project update:** Quiet Zone along the Norfolk Southern Marion Branch (Engineering Department)
- 2) Monthly report:** City Financial & Budget Update (Clerk-Treasurer Richard Aguirre)
- 3) Council appointments:** Goshen Downtown Economic Improvement District Board
- 4) ORDINANCE 5256,** Building Code Fees
- 5) ORDINANCE 5258,** Electrical and Mechanical Contractors Licensing and Registration
- 6) ORDINANCE 5259,** Rental Registration and Inspection Fees



7) **ORDINANCE 5261**, Amend False Alarm Penalty

8) **ORDINANCE 5262**, Additional Appropriation (Unsafe building fund, \$140,024.05)

**Privilege of the Floor**

**Elected Official Reports**

**Adjournment**



## **GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MARCH 13, 2026 Information Session**

*Convened in the Council Chamber, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana*

**(NOTE: Because this was an information/work session, there were no votes and no public testimony)**

**Call to Order:** At 1:30 p.m., Mayor Gina Leichty called the special information session to order.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Leichty led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mayor Leichty asked Clerk-Treasurer Richard R. Aguirre to conduct the roll call. The results:**

**Present:** Linda Gerber (At-Large) Phil Lederach (District 5) (via Zoom) Doug Nisley (District 2)

Donald Riegsecker (District 1) Matt Schrock (District 3)

**Absent:** Megan Peel (District 4); Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)

**City of Goshen Department heads and staff members in attendance:**

Deputy Mayor **Mark Brinson** City Attorney **Bodie Stegelmann** Clerk-Treasurer **Richard R. Aguirre**

Director of Administrative Affairs **Michael Wanbaugh** Director of Innovation & Technology **Mattie Lehman**

Police Chief **José Miller** Fire Chief **Anthony Powell**

Assistant Fire Chief of Administration **Phil Schrock** Airport Director **Randy Sharkey**

Building Commissioner **Myron Grise** Fleet Manager **Carl Gaines**

Public Works Director **Dustin Sailor** Superintendent of Parks & Recreation **Tanya Heyde**

Dept. of Environmental Resilience Director **Aaron Sawatsky Kingsley** Street Commissioner **David Gibbs**

Supt. of the Water and Sewer Department **Marv Shepherd**

Supt. Of the City Wastewater Treatment Plant **Jim Kerezman**

**New Goshen Police Chief Andy Stephenson**

**Also present:** About five members of the audience

**Welcoming remarks:**

**Mayor Leichty** welcomed everyone to the special information session of the City Council and the gathering of City Department Heads. She said there were a number of exciting items on the agenda.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:**

**Mayor Leichty** presented the agenda as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer. **Councilor Nisley** moved to approve the agenda as presented. **Councilor Riegsecker** seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0 on a voice vote.**

**Introductory remarks:**

**Mayor Leichty** said the first official action would be a report on the City Mobile Integrated Health program of the police and fire departments. She said this program addresses some of the most challenging needs facing the community – those related to homelessness, addiction, food insecurity, and other issues that consume a disproportionate amount of time and energy from both departments. For the past year, **EMS Supervisor Andrew Priem** has led the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH). The Mayor said Priem would provide an overview of what's happened in the past year and where the City hopes to take the program into the future.



**Mayor Leichty** reminded attendees that because this was a special information session, members of the City Council and all Department Heads would be able to ask questions, but there would be no questions or comments from the audience. However, she encouraged audience members to participate afterward by passing on questions or comments to the Mayor or team members.

### **1) Update on Mobile Integrated Health Program**

**EMS Supervisor Andrew Priem provided a comprehensive overview and update on the Mobile Integrated Health Program. Priem** distributed a one-page summary of his presentation, titled “Goshen Fire Department Mobile Integrated Health.” The document included statistics, a description of the MIH model, a list of community partners, outcomes, and plans. **(EXHIBIT #1). Priem then made the following points:**

#### ***What is Mobile Integrated Health?***

- It's basically the 911 emergency notification and response system used in a smarter way.
- The traditional 911 system addresses the immediate situation – a problem exists and police, fire or Emergency Medical Services fixes it.
- The traditional fix is taking a person to a hospital or a jail or not doing so.
- However, MIH is allowing the City to take those 911 resources and use them in a different way.
- “Many of the calls that we're seeing today are driven by mental health challenges, substance use, housing instability, lack of resources, lack of community, and no social support needs. MIH allows responders to address the root causes behind these repeated emergency calls while keeping our emergency services available for true emergencies.”

#### ***Why it matters***

- “Across the country, a small number of individuals are accounting for a disproportionately large number of 911 calls, ER visits, and ambulance transport. So, a small number of people are eating up a lot of the resources that exist.
- “Mental health is being identified as a major driver of emergency service overuse and misuse. So, not identifying mental health is a big thing.
- “Our mobile integrated health team has decided to focus on that mental health and try to be proactive in our approach. And this is starting to catch on across the country.”
- Members of Goshen’s team recently spoke at national conference called “First There, First Care,” because people across the country understand that mental health is an issue, but 911 hasn't been able to address that in a way that’s effective.
- “So, they're hoping to copy what we're doing, or at least get an idea of what we're doing here in Goshen and then implement it on a larger scale.”

#### ***Focus areas and the scope of the problem***

- The Fire Department ran about 6,000 ambulance calls last year.



- Based on a “primary impression” of the City’s paramedics of what the 6,000 calls involved, about one in six of those calls met the criteria of Mobile Integrated Health, whether it was a mental health problem, social services issue, or addiction services or substance abuse.
- So, one in six was “a really big number but that’s only from the Fire Department.”
- After data from the Police Department is analyzed, the number of Mobile Integrated Health unit calls is expected to be much larger.
- “I think it shows that there’s a huge problem and that we can become proactive in helping this. And then money matters, right? Cost savings. We’re seeing about a 30% cost savings when incidents are handled by Mobile Integrated Health rather than traditional 911.
- “That’s because ambulances cost a lot more than a Mobile Integrated Health vehicle does. And that’s just a cost savings to the city. That cost savings is even greater once we get it to the emergency room, which costs a ton of money for those individuals who misuse it and then their insurance pays or they don’t have insurance, so no payments.
- To drive home the cost example, Goshen Health staff shared data on their “super utilizers,” the people who frequent their emergency room the most.
- Priem reviewed the data and found 12 individuals who had Goshen city addresses – people the City would respond to as 911 calls that now are taken to Goshen Health.
- “Those 12 individuals accounted for 46 ER visits and 26 ambulance transports in only 30 days. So, these are the super utilizers.
- “And so, once we get that data from the hospital, we’re able to be proactive and intervene before they end up in the emergency room or before they end up at the ambulance.
- “So, these are just numbers to show you how a small number of situations can create a significant strain on emergency services. And that also shows us why proactive solutions are needed.”

#### ***Mobile Integrated Health model – and how it was developed***

- The program started in Goshen with a behavioral health response police officer.
- After law enforcement got involved, staff saw there was a need for social services and mental health care. So, they hired somebody to come in and to start engaging those individuals.
- About a year ago, Andrew Priem was added to the team just to bring a paramedic perspective, a fire department perspective, to address chronic disease and assess other health needs.
- “This partnership allowed behavioral health calls to be addressed from both a public safety and a medical perspective. It was really awesome.”
- A Police Department presence is no longer available, so right now the team is Priem and another paramedic who is serving while off duty. “So, in his overtime, he is coming in and doing a lot of the follow-up services and he’s adding about 20 hours a week to his work week.”

#### ***Mobile Integrated Health operations and staffing***

- “This process or the paradigm that we’re using now has allowed the program to expand follow-up and outreach work” although this is only possible with a person working overtime.



- “So, the goal is to fix that by adding more people to the team.
- The ideal staffing model would be a Mobile Integrated Health Coordinator/Paramedic, which is Priem’s role, a second Mobile integrated Health Paramedic and two MIH police officers and a facility therapy physician.
- “The paramedics are there to provide medical expertise, crisis stabilization, and healthcare navigation. That’s our wheelhouse. That’s what paramedics do.
- “Police officers provide safety, legal authority when necessary, and coordination with law enforcement resources.
- “So, basically with the model, we’re allowing paramedics and firemen to do what we’re comfortable with. And then the police officers doing what they’re comfortable with – staying in our lanes and doing what’s comfortable but being really collaborative and working closely.”
- The goal is to identify needs based on data and patterns and see where the greatest need in the community is and then try to be proactive in the approach.
- One of our outreach initiatives is reducing fetal and infant mortality within Elkhart County in collaboration with other partners.
- Another major component of integrated health is Crisis Intervention Training, which is known as CIT.
- Crisis Intervention Training began with law enforcement as a way to engage people in a different way “when they were having behavioral health crises or mental impairment issues that were causing them to act in ways that aren’t normal in society.
- “So, it’s basically just training first responders that behavioral health problems exist and there might be better ways to address these people so things don’t escalate.
- “There’s a big focus on de-escalation – meeting people where they are and providing different levels of care or opportunities for care to these people.”
- The Goshen Fire Department has now sent 10 paramedics to CIT training ... Now we have 10 of them that are out there doing good things with the community.”
- The City now has a burgundy Dodge Durango, “chase vehicle” that is staffed 24-7, 365 days a year with a paramedic who has CIT training.
- With CIT training, “they understand how the process works and they can get the ball rolling after hours.”

### ***Three examples of the Mobile Integrated Health approach helping people***

**The first case started off as a welfare check. An officer was dispatched to check on someone’s relative or neighbor. The officer found an elderly couple in their house who were malnourished and frail.**

- The officer called MIH. Paramedics found food that had been expired for many months and only one gallon of milk in the refrigerator – the only thing that was there.
- The couple had enough money to keep a roof over their head but they didn’t have any food money, so they had been starving for a year.
- Paramedics transported one of the individuals to the hospital, where the person unfortunately passed away due to malnourishment.
- The other individual received emergency food and was signed up for Meals on Wheels.



- The person had a car, but it needed a battery. It was provided.
- The individual also was connected to a grief counselor.
- Eventually, various community partners worked together “and now this individual is driving around Goshen fed and a lot healthier.”
- “It is a sad story and I wish we would have known about it earlier where we could have intervened and maybe helped both of them. But once we found out we were able to help the second person.”

**The second example involves mental health – a young man diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder. He had a history of methamphetamine use, addiction, and had been clean for two years. After his meth use, he had a schizoaffective diagnosis with command hallucinations – auditory hallucinations that tell you to do things as well as anxiety. The man had been struggling with homelessness and had been living in a shelter trying to do outpatient therapy and was not doing well in the shelter.**

- The man couldn't follow the rules and therefore he couldn't follow up with the outpatient services to improve his mental health.
- The man was homeless because he wasn't allowed to go to his parents' house.
- His mother was trying to help him out and had maxed out all their credit cards on motel rooms trying to get him healed.
- They reached out to the Mobile Integrated Health team.
- The man was admitted temporarily to the First Light Mission shelter.
- After sustained effort, the man eventually was accepted as an inpatient at a treatment facility.
- “I talked to the mother and him and he's doing great. It was just somebody who took the time and effort to just help him a little bit more. He was able to break through that barrier and is doing really well.”

**The third example is an individual who had been chronically homeless and has been transported many times over the past 10 years. He was a “super utilizers,” a person who frequents the hospital emergency room.**

- Priem started building trust with the man by visiting with him during lunch at The Window, the downtown Goshen ministry that provides food, clothing, hygiene, and meals to poor people.
- What seemed to be the man's biggest issue was he didn't have any sense of community.
- So, the man was introduced to the Cora Dale House, a Goshen support community for people with mental illness. The man has now built trust and a community there “and loves it so far.”
- Priem then helped the man qualify for and eventually move into an apartment at Oaklawn, which provides mental health support and housing,
- “So, for the first time in over a decade, he has a roof over his head and he has a sense of community at Cora Dale House. I just talked to him before I came in here because I wanted a happy update. He said he is feeling stable enough that he's going to start searching for a job.
- “So just an excellent, excellent example of how people can heal and do better and reintegrate into society if we just give them a chance. And we're spoiled within this community to have so many good people doing great work that if we can just connect them together, we can change people's lives”.



### ***Key partners with the Mobile Integrated Health program***

- Oaklawn Mental Health in Goshen has set up a crisis center which can take people when they're having a crisis rather than going to the hospital, which saves Police, Fire and hospital resources.
- Instead of people in crisis going directly to the hospital and tying up emergency room for situations that don't require an emergency room, they now can go to the crisis center on Oaklawn's campus, 24-7.
- "We can make sure medically, as paramedics, that they're okay to be there. And then they can go in there and they can stay. After a mental health evaluation, they can receiving housing."
- The Window provides meals and brings people together. It also offers Meals on Wheels and a food pantry.
- Cora Dale House provides mental health support and a safe place to be.
- First Light Mission provides short-term housing and help during crises.

### ***Other resources that help the Mobile Integrated Health program***

- For their work, the MIH relies on software called JULOTA which stands for Just Love On Them Always.
- JULOTA integrates with other software that different facilities use and facilitates communication.
- With this software, MIH members can access data from the hospital, review services patients are receiving and review other information.
- Oaklawn liked JULOTA so much, it is using some grant funding for data management.
- As the data keeps growing, "I think our impact on the community is going to grow as well."
- Youth behavioral health is an emerging focus area, so MIH wants to get engaged with the schools and try to be proactive with youth mental health.
- Rather than focus on enforcement, this initiative will focus on connecting students and family with community partners that can provide support and early intervention.
- MIH also has a therapy dog named Maple who responds to the needs of those facing mental or housing concerns.
- Maple graduated from her training on March 18 and is now spending more time with Priem.

### ***The future of Goshen's Mobile Integrated Health program***

- One future initiative is the use of Suboxone, a medication used to treat opioid addiction.
- Goshen's police officers and paramedics and some lay people know that Narcan can be used to treat an opioid overdose. While effective, patients must be transported to the hospital and feel very bad afterward.
- However, Suboxone is a mixture of an opiate and Narcan together and it doesn't allow a person to overdose and it doesn't allow withdrawal symptoms.
- "So, it just keeps patients at a therapeutic level and when administered pre-hospital, there's a six-fold increase in retention.
- "So, with addiction services, the number is about seven times where a person overdoses or enter rehab before it actually sticks. With Suboxone pre-hospital, there's a six-fold increase in retention."
- Another future initiative is Project Lifesaver, a national project that can locate individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or autism – people who wander away from home.



- Project Lifesaver is basically a radio bracelet that emits an inaudible signal that can be picked up by a receiver operated by public safety officers searching for persons who have wandered away.
- This project was suggested during a meeting Priem had with a group of mothers of kids with autism and “it’s something we’re pushing to try to avoid tragedy within our community.”

**Bottom line and summary**

- “MIH helps take the same individuals who are calling 911 repeatedly and connecting them with the help that they actually need. This improves lives, reduces strain on emergency services, and ensures police, fire and EMS resources remain available for true emergencies.
- “So, we’re not only helping the community, but we’re also helping our responders be more available when they are needed.”

**RESPONSES, QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:**

**In response to the presentation, Mayor Leichty said:**

“Every time I meet with Mobile Integrated Health, I usually have to have some extra Kleenex available because the phenomenal work that they are doing in our community is truly transforming lives and aiding the departments in which they serve.

“I also want to say a huge thank you to Chief Powell and Chief Miller because as a new Mayor, I came in and I started hearing about this innovative program that was happening where police and fire could work collaboratively and that is not common. It’s unusual for those two departments to work together.

“But as I kept hearing, there were a lot of crossover cases. So, when I would meet with Chief Miller, I’d hear about certain individuals who are heavy users of our services in the community. And I talked to Chief Powell, and I’d hear the same story about the same individual, but we weren’t working together cohesively as a City team.

“So, I presented this idea to them thinking I would meet with resistance, and I did not meet with resistance at all. I was like, ‘When do we start? Let’s give it a try.’ And out of that, we’ve been able to develop a program that’s truly making a huge impact.

“And Andrew (Priem) is a bit modest, but he’s being asked to speak all over the United States at this point about the success of our program and we want to continue to make this investment. We see the return in that investment already, not only financially, but in the terms of the lives that we are saving.”

**Mayor Leichty invited comments from Fire Chief Powell and Police Chief Miller.**

**Chief Powell** said, “I think Andrew (Priem) is also being very modest in what he’s actually doing right now. He is literally a team of one right now. We just brought Matt Whitford into the picture so that he could help with some of these cases, but Andrew, up to this point, has been doing this pretty much on his own since December. He’s made all these connections, put the JULOTA program together, and continues to push it forward. I thank you very much.”

**Chief Miller** said, “I would echo what you all said as well. Andrew has done a fantastic job at this program, and the toughest thing for us is to give him the support because he’s just wanting to go further and further with this. It is definitely affecting our community in a positive way. We see the difference, at least on the law enforcement side, and it’s a system that works. So, if we can get the resources to this team, Goshen will definitely stand up. Thank you.”



### **Mayor Leichty invited questions and comments from Councilors**

**Councilor Lederach** said, "It's a great program and is getting all the recognition that it does deserve ... Can we put numbers on it and say, this is how much it's actually saving, so when it comes time to crunch numbers, we can say, 'No, we can't cut this program?'"

**Mayor Leichty** responded, "That's a great question, and it's one that we have been doing data collection on ... so, when we do the budget presentations starting this summer, we will have that data in place. So, Andrew's already collecting that data, and we're collecting data on the police side as well to be able to demonstrate that."

**Chief Powell** added, "One of the things with the data collection that we won't be able to see is for one individual, how many times would they call had we not intervened? So, would they have called 12 times? Would they have called 20 times? We don't know that, and we never will know that. So, that's where we're going to have a little bit of a gap in that data to know those facts."

**Mayor Leichty** praised all involved who helped the elderly people who were starving in their home.

**Councilor Gerber** asked if there have been a decrease in emergency calls from the 12 "super users" mentioned during the presentation.

**Priem** said he knows that one of those people MIH helped has not made any other emergency calls. "So, I know those numbers are going down and I can't wait to get the data and pull it together and then put numbers to this because it's hard to measure snow that hasn't fallen. But at least we can say that in 2025, this individual called 17 times and in 2026, after interaction with mobile integrated healthcare, he hasn't called yet."

**Councilor Gerber** said, "And that really speaks to the importance of maintaining those partners because I'm sure with individuals like that, they require that more holistic support ongoing."

**Priem** said, "A hundred percent. The barriers to care that exists for people are things I never thought about or even imagined could have been a barrier until I started working in this field.

"Like the one that sticks out to me is a cell phone, right? All of us have cell phones and we take it for granted, but it's hard to get a ride if you don't have a car and you don't have a cell phone. How do you get a ride or schedule a doctor's appointment or have follow-up from a doctor if you can't access your email? So, there's a lot of these barriers that we're identifying and getting to be proactive and getting people cell phones or getting people cars that are running, which greatly improves their lives.

**Councilor Riegsecker** and **Councilor Nisley** asked **Andrew Priem** to please call them if they run across anyone who needs food. They said they would help. **Councilor Nisley** added, "Don't let anybody go without food or water or anything like that. If you don't get a hold of Don, I'd be more than happy to help with that part of it. If there's some way that Don and I can pitch into that part of it, I'm sure we'd both be happy to do that. So, let us know."

**Priem** said, "Thank you so much. There are amazing resources in our community."

**Mayor Leichty** said, "We're very fortunate, but sometimes, you know, it's the boots on the ground, it's literally the first responders, it's public safety who's out there identifying those critical needs."

### **Mayor Leichty invited questions from City Department heads as well as comments or affirmations.**



**Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Department Marv Shepherd** said some of his employees visit home and sometimes see things that are concerning. He asked, "At what point are we overstepping in reaching out to you?" **Priem** said, "I love that you brought that up. I will give you a referral link; it basically is just me and then I'm able to filter through them. So, in pre-hospital, 911 care paramedics, we like to 'overhaul' things. We'd rather err on the side of caution, right?"

"Like we might not know it's a heart attack or a stroke, but we're going to kind of say, 'Hey hospital, you've got a heart attack or a stroke coming' and we want to overhaul rather than underhaul. I think the same thing applies to this. Like if there's something that makes you uneasy or it doesn't feel right, let me know.

"I would rather reach out to somebody who didn't need it and not know about somebody who really does need it. So, I'll make sure you have that. Share it with your individuals and yeah, let me know because we're trying to do as much good as possible."

**Mayor Leichty** said, "Great question from the utilities. And you guys, I bet, see lots of those kinds of cases."

**Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre** asked Priem to mention a few of the other cities in Indiana with MIH programs.

**Priem** said, "I would say the biggest or more established Mobile Integrated Health teams, there's one in Noblesville that would have been one of the first ones. They're very focused on chronic disease management, fall reduction, and all that stuff. Terre Haute has a pretty good program ... and they're doing some really, really good things."

However, Priem said few cities are following Goshen's comprehensive approach. He added, "a lot of Mobile Integrated Health is focused on just a certain set of things, but they might not be the things that the community needs and what we're doing here is specifically tailored to the City of Goshen."

**Mayor Leichty** said, "When we were developing this program, one of the things that we did is a lot of research on different things, but one of the things that I committed to the teams is I said, 'There are good models out there, but what works for Goshen?' And so, this truly is a uniquely Goshen model.

"Not many other models are as integrated between police and fire, for one thing. And so, and like Andrew said, we identified the priority needs that would really help provide relief to our EMS and police teams to not only care for the community, but to make sure that we're providing support to our own teams by developing this special division.

"So, it's a Goshen model. But other people, as I talked to other leaders across the state, they're very interested in what we're doing and want to learn more about it. I think it's a replicable model ... and we'd love to see it grow because we see its effectiveness here."

**There were no other questions or comments and Mayor Leichty thanked Andrew Priem at 2:17 p.m.**

## **2) Introduction of new City of Goshen Police Chief Andy Stephenson**

**To help Chief Stephenson, Mayor Leichty asked Councilors and Department Heads to introduce themselves, describe their jobs and talk about how long they have worked for the City.**

**Mayor Leichty then said that in December, Goshen Chief José Miller submitted his letter of resignation to the Mayor.**



**Mayor Leichthy** said, “I have so enjoyed working with him, and Chief has served in this (police) role for more than three decades – dedicated service to our entire community.

“As I mentioned earlier, his openness to being willing to try new things and to support his team in this steadfast way was so important to me personally coming in as a new Mayor. I felt like he provided such exceptional guidance and support, and he would always smile at me. Also, whenever we were at a Board of Works meeting, I knew that if I was scanning the crowd, there would be at least one friendly face in that crowd, and that was Chief Miller.

“Over the years, he’s served as a patrol officer, SWAT commander, detective, motorcycle officer, drug unit officer, assistant chief, and he has been our chief since 2018.

“His leadership has been nothing but steady, thoughtful, and grounded in genuine care for this whole community and for all of you as collaborators here at the city. And even in the way that he announced his retirement, Chief gave this City more than seven months of time to prepare for his departure, a generous and stabilizing act that reflects his character and his commitment to all of us.”

**Mayor Leichthy** concluded, “So Chief, first and foremost, I just want to say how thankful we are for your integrity, your steadiness, and your service that you’ve brought to this role, and your leadership has shaped the culture of this department in lasting ways and our city for generations to come. So, thank you.”

**Mayor Leichthy** said leadership transitions are difficult because they increase the workload of a team, bring internal and external scrutiny and create a sense of uncertainty. However, through this process, the Mayor said the Police leadership team “has demonstrated absolute professionalism, collaboration, and a deep commitment to the well-being that the department and the community serves. And their steadiness is what has allowed this transition to move forward with care and integrity, and I’m deeply grateful for the role they’ve played in supporting the department through this challenging moment.”

**Mayor Leichthy** said selecting a police chief is one of the most significant responsibilities entrusted to a Mayor. Because of that, the Mayor said, she used “a very careful and thorough process, extensive interviews, conversations with department personnel, engagement with community stakeholders, rigorous reference and background checks, and I also spent a significant amount of time, when I re-added it up; I had to actually go back, at least 43 hours listening to officers in one-on-one interviews across the department about their experiences and their hopes for the future of the organization.

“We saw exceptional candidates step forward from within the department – candidates who demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and knowledge about our community and reflect the strength that you see, a strength that is built every day by the officers and staff that serve the city. And we can feel proud of the department that we have, and we hear from all of you and throughout the community how proud people are and how much they trust the Goshen Police Department.”

**Mayor Leichthy** said the strength of those candidates made this decision a challenging one. “But after careful consideration of the department’s strengths, the challenges that we’re facing, the opportunities ahead, one candidate stood out with a combination of experience and leadership that positions him very well to guide the department into the next chapter. And the foundation that he will build on is one of great pride and strength in our city.”

**Mayor Leichthy then introduced Goshen’s 23rd Chief of Police – Andy Stevenson.**



**Mayor Leichthy** said, “Andy brings more than 30 years of law enforcement experience spanning patrol, investigations, training, emergency management, and executive leadership across both Indiana and North Carolina, where he currently resides. He began his career working with the Indiana University Policing Department, where over the course of 22 years, he rose through the ranks from cadet to captain, overseeing patrol, investigations, training, and community outreach and engagement.

“He later served as the chief of police at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, leading a department of approximately 70 sworn officers and overseeing police operations, emergency management, and public safety programs. And today, based on the success of those programs, his responsibilities have expanded to span the entire University of North Carolina system, now supporting professional development and training for more than 560 sworn officers across the state.”

The **Mayor** continued, “So, one of the qualities that distinguished Andy during this process is his leadership in building systems that support officers from the very beginning through the extent of their careers.

“During his tenure as chief, he's helped establish a regional police academy and leadership development program that strengthened recruitment, training, and officer development across multiple agencies. Departments across the country, and particularly here in northern Indiana, are facing very real challenges in recruitment and retention. And Andy didn't just talk about those challenges; he helped design solutions that strengthened departments and support officers. And that experience is incredibly valuable for Goshen and our public safety partners across northern Indiana.

“Now Andy has come to visit us for just about two and a half days, and in his first 24 hours, he has already immersed himself fully in this transition process. Yesterday he met for more than five or six hours with department administrators, and today he spent his whole morning with the entire department for more than three hours, answering questions, sharing his philosophy, and engaging directly with the realities and the dynamics that naturally accompany leadership transitions.

“He approached those conversations today with humility, respect, openness, and qualities that build trust and strengthen departments over time. Because of the strong leadership that we already have in place, we begin this transition from a position of stability and confidence.

**Mayor Leichthy** concluded, “Andy's background in recruitment, training, and officer development adds another dimension to the strengths we already have – one that will create new opportunities for our officers and deepen collaboration across the entire region. Most importantly, Andy shares a belief that is crucial to Goshen. Public safety is built through relationships, trust, and a strong, supportive team of officers who care deeply about the community they serve.”

As for the logistics of the transition, **Mayor Leichthy** said **Chief Stephenson** officially will begin work with the department on May 1. She continued, “It will start as a chief in training capacity during the transition period, and that will allow him to work very closely with Chief Miller, learn the department's operations, and begin building relationships across the organization and the community.”

On June 12, following Chief Miller's retirement, Stephenson will assume full responsibility as Goshen's next chief of police.

The **Mayor Leichthy** said, “This approach allows us to honor the leadership that has brought the department to this moment, while also ensuring a thoughtful and stable transition into the future.”



**Mayor Leichty then invited comments from incoming Police Chief Andy Stephenson.**

**Chief Stephenson** said, "For those of you who don't maybe realize, reaching retirement in our profession is a big deal. So, (Chief Miller) has done some great, great work here, and he's been an exceptional representative of the Goshen community, and we've done some of the same things in law enforcement and probably didn't appreciate the six hours that I was in his office all day yesterday.

"I hate to be asking, but we're not so different, and I'm excited to come in early before he retires and be able to work with him and learn from him. I appreciate that very much.

"Again, I'm Andy Stevenson. I'm not new to Goshen, really. I do have family all around this area. I've spent some time in Goshen in the past, and I appreciate you all allowing me to be here today. Obviously, I'm honored to be selected as Goshen's next police chief, and I really look forward to a return to Indiana.

**Chief Stephenson** continued, "Policing is very different in different states, and Indiana policing is different ... I spent the first 22 years of my career here in Indiana, and I'm very, very happy to be coming back. My wife's family is in Michigan, so I've been very close to the Indiana life here.

"It's an opportunity for us to come back home and be closer to family and be involved in a wonderful community, Goshen. I'm really looking forward to that. My start date is May 1st.

"As Mayor Leichty said, hopefully we'll have a smooth transition. She and I have been able to work together for a little while and get to know the internal workings of the police department and other offices. I appreciate that very much.

"I am a huge collaborator. I like to partner on initiatives and do things together. I'm sure all of us will work very closely together in the future. I'm a dreamer. I like to be innovative and come up with new things. I love the MIH initiative. I wish I had thought of that years ago. That is fantastic.

**Chief Stephenson** concluded, "Being employed back in the community, I'm looking forward to being here. I'm looking forward to getting settled here in Goshen and getting to know the community and working with residents and all of you, just doing what we can do to protect our community and keep our community safe. It's a great thing to do. Thank you all very much."

**Mayor Leichty invited comments or questions from Councilors. There were none.**

**Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre** commented on the selection process. He said, "This is not as well-known and I think it would be good for it to be known." Aguirre said a few months ago, he saw large numbers of Goshen Police Officers visiting with the Mayor in her office after regular work hours. They were meeting to discuss the Police Department.

**Aguirre** said, "They all seemed to have this spirit of being grateful to have that opportunity. But it's also to the Mayor's great credit that she wanted to hear from the officers, to hear how they were doing, to hear what their questions were about the future of the department and the qualities they wanted in the next police chief."

**Aguirre** also said, "I was also very pleased and grateful that the Mayor asked me to serve on a group that interviewed all eight candidates for Police Chief. It was a very good process. There were excellent questions. And it was an excellent opportunity for us to learn about the candidates and their visions for the department and to also hear the reflections on what was going on with the department now and what it needed."

**Aguirre** said he was grateful that the Mayor had the willingness to hear from all of the candidates so openly and in depth and to also hear the opinions of the members of the interview committee. He added, "It was a very open process. So, thanks again, Mayor, for that opportunity."



**Councilor Schrock** said, “I just wanted to say a second what you said about Chief Miller. I really enjoyed working with Jose myself ... And we're going to probably miss you. I know we're going to miss you. And I do want to welcome Chief Stevenson. And like I said earlier, welcome to Goshen.”

**There were no further comments.**

**Adjournment:**

**Mayor Leichty adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.**

**EXHIBIT #1:** *During the information session, EMS Supervisor Andrew Priem distributed a one-page summary of his presentation, titled “Goshen Fire Department Mobile Integrated Health.” The document included statistics, a description of the MIH model, a list of community partners, outcomes, and plans.*

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gina Leichty, Mayor of Goshen**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer**



## GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

### Minutes of the MARCH 23, 2026 Regular Meeting

*Convened in the Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana*

Assisted by Mayor Gina Leichty, Katie Reiff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Katie is a student at Model Elementary School.

Mayor Leichty asked Clerk-Treasurer Richard R. Aguirre to conduct the roll call. The results:

**Present:** Linda Gerber (At-Large) Phil Lederach (District 5) Doug Nisley (District 2)  
Megan Peel (District 4) Donald Riegsecker (District 1) Matt Schrock (District 3)  
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)

**Absent:** Youth Adviser Abril Reyes (non-voting)

#### Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Leichty asked the Council's wishes regarding the minutes of the Dec. 15, 2025 Regular Meeting as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer (EXHIBIT #1). Councilor Nisley moved to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Schrock seconded the motion. **Motion passed 6-0-1 (Councilor Riegsecker abstained) on a voice vote.**

#### Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Mayor Leichty presented the agenda as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilor Peel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Lederach seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7-0.**

#### 1) Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2026 Annual Action Plan and review of Program Year 2025

At 6:02 p.m., Mayor Leichty opened a public hearing on the City's draft Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2026 Annual Action Plan. No one asked to testify, so the Mayor closed the hearing.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Goshen's CDBG Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2026 was prepared and became available for public review and comment beginning March 16, 2026. Besides today's public hearing and one on Jan. 16, a hard copy was available for review upon request at the Planning Office located at the City Annex Building, 204 E. Jefferson Street. The Plan also was available on the City website at <http://www.goshen.in.gov/cdbg>.

**The following priorities were among those identified for community and neighborhood development in the City of Goshen in the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan:**

#### 1) Housing Opportunities

- Improve owner-occupied housing through rehab
- Increase quality of rental housing
- Increase transitional housing options
- Reduce housing cost burden through higher wage job opportunities and job training
- Provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless
- Support affordable housing creation and preservation



- Provide emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families
- Expand housing options and assistance
- Maintain and facilitate use of Housing Choice voucher program

## **2) Access to Services**

- Increase access to affordable healthcare
- Increase services for mentally ill
- Support programs for youth
- Increase access to affordable childcare and early childhood education
- Support services for elderly and the disabled
- Support public transportation
- Provide emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families
- Provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless
- Support counseling/advocacy for underserved populations
- Increase access to substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Support life skill development
- Support nutrition programs and food assistance

## **3) Neighborhood Revitalization**

- Improve owner-occupied housing through rehab
- Remove blighted residential properties
- Address issue of vacant/foreclosed houses
- Increase quality of rental housing
- Support public infrastructure projects
- Repair/replace existing sidewalks
- Support neighborhood parks

### Proposed 2026 Annual Action Plan

For program year 2026, the City of Goshen expects to receive an estimated allocation of \$272,525 in CDBG funds. This allocation will be combined with estimated miscellaneous income of \$2,725, estimated program income of \$65,165, and estimated prior year resources of \$21,475 for an estimated total budget of \$361,890.

Since the Federal appropriation was not enacted at the time the 2026 draft annual plan was developed, the budget is estimated and will be finalized following the receipt of the actual formula allocation. The final amount of Program Income will be based on the total calculated at the time the plan is submitted to HUD, and the final Program Income total as proposed will be incorporated into the budget without further public notice.

The final 2026 budgets of all proposed activities, if necessary, will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match actual allocation amounts, subject to the required caps and maximum funding requests, with no public hearing or further public notice as was specified in the draft plan.

### **The proposed use of estimated CDBG funds for program year 2026 is as follows:**

1. Public Service Grants - provision of services to low- and moderate-income households and persons City-wide est. \$49,225
2. Owner-occupied Rehabilitation of homes occupied by low- and moderate-income households through loans, grants and deferred payment loans City-wide est. \$47,909



- 3. Homeownership Assistance & Housing Counseling – down payment assistance along with housing counseling to low- and moderate-income single family homebuyers est. \$51,750
  - 4. Energy Conservation Multi-Unit Housing Rehabilitation – a multi-unit project to create and preserve affordable housing est. \$148,006
  - 5. Planning, general administration, environmental reviews, and audit est. \$65,000
- Estimated Total = \$361,890

Comments on the plan may be submitted to Goshen City Planning, 204 E. Jefferson Street, Suite 4, Goshen, IN, 46528; (574) 533-9370, theresacummings@goshencity.com no later than April 14, 2026. A summary of comments and responses will be submitted to HUD.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – City of Goshen Summary of Program Year 2025**

**PY 2025 Budget- Traditional**

CDBG Funds	\$274,722
Program Income	\$38,625
Prior Year Resources	\$29,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$343,147</b>

**PY 2025 Activities & Expenditures as of 3/10/2026**

Activity Category	Amount Allocated	Expended To-Date	Percentage
Administration & Planning	\$62,000	\$48,450.37	78%
Public Services	\$49,225	\$47,810.75	97.1%
**Single-Unit Housing Rehab	\$68,000	\$0	0%
**Energy Cons. Multi-Unit Housing	\$112,172	\$0	0%
Homeownership Asst. with Housing Counseling	\$51,750	\$0	0%
2025 Totals	\$343,147	\$96,261.12	28%

*\*\*Single-Unit Housing Rehab and Multi-Unit Housing Rehab projects are underway.*

**PRESENTATION OF CDBG PROGRAM YEAR 2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN:**

**Theresa Cummings, the City’s Community Development Specialist,** gave a presentation on the CDBG Program Year 2026 Annual Action Plan. She said the plan priorities are under the subheadings of Housing Opportunities, which was identified as the City's greatest need, followed by access to services and neighborhood revitalization.

**Cummings** said the proposed uses for the funds for program year 2026 include public service grants, owner-occupied rehabilitation, solar improvements to 19 affordable multi-housing units, homeownership assistance with housing counseling, as well as administration and planning. She said the proposed use of funds have to meet three prerequisites required by HUD, which are be an eligible activity, meet a national objective, and be listed in the consolidated plan. And all applications met these requirements.

**Cummings** said this year's proposed total budget is estimated at \$361,890. This includes the estimated entitlement allocation, also estimates for miscellaneous and program income, and prior year resources. Since the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has not yet released or published the City’s allocation amount, staff had to do an average of the last 10 years.



However, the federal government recommended that the City proceed with the normal timeline so as not to have a delay as well as publish the City's estimated budgets to plan how it will be spent.

**Cummings** said the final amount of program income won't be determined until the plan is submitted and the City's allocation is released about April 4. "We will adjust our budget up or down on an even percentage across the board, but we have to keep it subject to required caps and maximum funding requests, but there will not be an additional public hearing and further public notice."

**Cummings** said that at the City's first public hearing on the annual plan on Jan. 16, there were no comments received in opposition to the proposed budget, and activities were planned based on the communicated and forcing community needs.

**Cummings** said included in the Council packet was a summary of the current CDBG program year activities expenditures. So far to date, she said the City has spent about 28% of the 2025 budget, and it has benefited over 1,000 low- and moderate-income residents of the city so far. And there are still a few multiple housing projects that are in process that will be completed, and the funds will be expended by the end of this year.

**Cummings** said the City's 30-day public comment period for this plan started on March 16 and will end on April 14. She said that the plan can be viewed in her office or online on the CDBG's website. So far, no public comments have been received, but Cummings said they are welcome.

**Councilors didn't have any questions or comments for Cummings.**

**No Council action was required.**

2) Ordinance 5253, Amend Title 4, Article 4, Parking, Chapter 1 & 2 of the Goshen City Code (*to update certain sections of the City's parking regulations to include prohibiting parking in a fire lane and revising the procedures for issuing citations*) Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5253, Amend Title 4, Article 4, Parking, Chapter 1 & 2 of the Goshen City Code. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5253 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Nisley made a motion to approve Ordinance 5253 on First Reading.**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In a March 23, 2026 memorandum to the Common Council, Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler wrote that Ordinance 5253 would update certain sections of the City's parking regulations contained in Title 4, Article 4, Chapters 1 and 2 of the Goshen City Code. The proposed ordinance includes the following changes:

1. Prohibit parking in a fire lane
2. Revising the procedures for issuing citations to reflect the current practice of using the Ordinance Violations Bureau
3. Moving several violations currently contained in the City's Zoning Ordinance concerning the parking of unlicensed vehicles and certain types of vehicles to the parking code

**Shuler** wrote that a copy of the proposed Ordinance with track changes, as well as a clean copy, were provided for the Council's review and consideration.



**SUMMARY OF MARCH 23, 2026 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 5253:**

**Mayor Leichty invited a staff presentation on Ordinance 5253.**

**Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler** said Ordinance 5253 would update certain sections of the City's parking regulations that are currently contained in Title IV, Article 4, Chapters 1 and 2 of the Goshen City Code.

**Shuler** said proposed ordinance would add a prohibition of parking in a fire lane, revise the procedures for issuing citations to reflect the current practice of using the Ordinance Violations Bureau and moving several violations that are currently contained in the City's zoning ordinance concerning the parking of unlicensed vehicles and certain types of vehicles to the parking code.

**Mayor Leichty invited questions from Councilors.**

**Councilor Peel** asked if a problem with people parking in fire lanes prompted this change. **Shuler** said that was an issue as well as a need to adopt this provision in order to prohibit parking in fire lanes and handicapped parking spots and the need to update the ordinance.

**Councilor Gerber** asked a question about the deletion of all the references to taxis. She wondered if the word "Taxi" also should be deleted from the section title. Shuler responded, "That would probably make sense."

**Councilor Gerber than made a motion to delete the word "Taxi" in the section header 4.4.1.10, on page seven, of draft Ordinance 5253. Councilor Riegsecker seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.**

There were no further questions or comments.

At 6:10 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited questions from members of the audience. There were none.

Mayor Leichty invited further questions from Councilors. There were none.

Councilors indicated they were ready to vote.

**On a voice vote, Councilors passed Ordinance 5253, Amend Title 4, Article 4, Parking, Chapter 1 & 2 of the Goshen City Code, on First Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes," at 6:11 p.m.**

Councilors gave unanimous consent to proceed with Second Reading of Ordinance 5253.

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5253, *Amend Title 4, Article 4, Parking, Chapter 1 & 2 of the Goshen City Code*, on Second Reading. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5263 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Nisley made a motion to approve Ordinance 5253 on Second Reading.**

Mayor Leichty invited questions or comments from Councilors or the audience. There were none.

**On a voice vote, Councilors passed Ordinance 5253, Amend Title 4, Article 4, Parking, Chapter 1 & 2 of the Goshen City Code, on Second Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes," at 6:12 p.m.**



3) Ordinance 5254, Amending Ordinance Violations Bureau (to update certain sections of the City's Ordinance Violations Bureau Ordinance and increase fines)  
Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5254, Amending Ordinance Violations Bureau. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5254 by title only, which was done. **Weddell/Nisley made a motion to approve Ordinance 5254 on First Reading.**

**BACKGROUND:**

In a March 23, 2026 memorandum to the Common Council, Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler wrote that Ordinance 5254 would update certain sections of the City's Ordinance Violations Bureau Ordinance and increase fines. The proposed ordinance includes the following changes:

1. Adds parking in a fire lane and public nuisance to the list of ordinance violations to be enforced
2. Moves the parking of unlicensed vehicles and parking RV, Camper, and Boats from the zoning ordinance lists to the parking code lists
3. Increases fines for Tiers 2, 3, and 4 by \$25 across the board; Tier 1 fines remain the same

Shuler wrote that copy of the proposed Ordinance with track changes, as well as a clean copy, were provided for the Council's review and consideration.

**SUMMARY OF MARCH 23, 2026 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 5254:**

Mayor Leichty invited a staff presentation about Ordinance 5254.

Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler said Ordinance 5254 would update certain sections in the City's Ordinance Violations Bureau – changes that are directly related to Ordinance 5253.

Ordinance 5253, which was just approved, will add parking in a fire lane and move the references to the violations for parking of unlicensed vehicles and the certain vehicles from the zoning ordinance section in the Ordinance Violations Bureau ordinance to the parking code list. It would also add a public nuisance to the list of ordinance violations to be enforced through the Ordinance Violations Bureau.

Shuler said the public nuisance ordinance was updated and adopted by the Council last fall, which is adding that in for enforcement. He said the other change would be to increase the fines for violations in tiers 2, 3, and 4 by \$25 across the board for a first, second, and third violation.

Mayor Leichty invited questions or comments from the Council.

At 6:13 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited questions from members of the audience. There were none.

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed Ordinance 5254, Amending Ordinance Violations Bureau, on First Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting "yes," at 6:13 p.m.**

Councilors gave unanimous consent to proceed with Second Reading of Ordinance 5254.

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5254, Amending Ordinance Violations Bureau, on Second Reading. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5254 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Peel made a motion to approve Ordinance 5254 on Second Reading.**



Mayor Leichty invited questions or comments from Councilors or the audience. There were none.

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed Ordinance 5254, Amending Ordinance Violations Bureau, on Second Reading by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting “yes,” at 6:14 p.m.**

**4) Ordinance 5255, Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area** (*in the City of Goshen’s downtown, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, afternoons and evenings*)

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Ordinance 5255, *Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Ordinance 5255 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Peel made a motion to approve Ordinance 5255 on First Reading.**

**BACKGROUND:**

**Ordinance 5255 would establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in downtown Goshen. If approved by the Common Council, Ordinance 5255 would:**

- Authorize the establishment of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area
- And establish that Common Council believes it is in the best interests of the City to create a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in the City’s downtown, as authorized by Indiana Code § 7.1-3-31-1 *et seq.*, which Area is shown on a provided Map identified as Exhibit A to the proposed ordinance.

**If Ordinance 5255 was approved by the Council, the following would be ordained:**

**1. Definitions.**

1.1. All definitions in Ind. Code § 7.1-3-31-1 *et seq.* will apply to this Ordinance.

**2. Downtown DORA.**

2.1. The Common Council hereby adopts the Map of the City of Goshen Downtown Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area attached hereto to as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

2.2. That the following area is designated as the Goshen Downtown Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (“Downtown DORA”):

Beginning at the southwest corner of North 5th Street and East Clinton Street (122 E. Clinton Street); then West along East Clinton Street to the northwest corner of North Main Street and West Clinton Street (201 N. Main Street); then South along North Main Street and South Main Street to the northwest corner of South Main Street and West Washington Street (135 S. Main Street); then West along West Washington Street to the northeast corner of West Washington Street and South 2nd Street (120 S. 2nd Street); then North along South 2nd Street to the southeast corner of South 2nd Street and West Lincoln Avenue (212 W. Lincoln Avenue); then West along West Lincoln Avenue to the pedestrian path along the east bank of the Elkhart River (west of 412 W. Lincoln Avenue, at the northern intersection of parcels 20-11-09-329-007.000-015 and 20-11-09-329-018.000-015); then South and Southeast along the pedestrian path along the east bank of the Elkhart River to Powerhouse Park at 324 W. Washington Street; then Southerly along the western tree line of vacant park property and the western boundary of parcels 20-11-09-411-003.000-015, 20-11-09-411-001.000-015, 20-11-09-451-003.000-015,



ALSO: 20-11-09-455-001.000-015 to the southwest corner of parcel 20-11-09-455-001.000-015; then East along the south line of parcel 20-11-09-455-001.000-015 to the southeast corner of said parcel and the Millrace Canal Trail; then Northerly along the Millrace Canal Trail to the southwest corner of the Bridge extending west of West Madison Street over the Elkhart River; then East across said Bridge and on West Madison Street to the southwest corner of West Madison Street and South 3rd Street (401 S. 3rd Street); then North across West Madison Street to the southwest corner of 321 S. 3rd Street; then northwesterly on South 3rd Street along the western border of 321 S. 3rd Street and parcels 20-11-09-452-016.000-015 and 20-11-09-452-015.000-015 across Madison Street to the northeast corner of parcel 20-11-09-453-008.000-015; then South and East along the north line of West Madison Street and East Madison Street to the northwest corner of the East Madison Street and South 5th Street (113 E. Madison Street); thence North along the west line of South 5th Street and North 5th Street to the southwest corner of North 5th Street and East Clinton Street (122 E. Clinton Street), to the point of beginning.  
*Except all residential property is excluded.*

### **3. Designated Permittees and Temporary Vendors.**

3.1. The following retailer permittees have expressed interest in participating and in submitting an application to the City to participate in the Area as a Designated Permittee, as that term is defined by I.C. § 7.1-3-31-2, and the City finds that each of them is an appropriate Designated Permittee and requests the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) to issue a "refreshment area designation":

- 3.1.1. The Topsy Biscuit – 103 N. 5th Street
- 3.1.2. Venturi – 123 E. Lincoln Avenue
- 3.1.3. Common Spirits – 111 E. Lincoln Avenue
- 3.1.4. Nova's – 109 E. Lincoln Avenue
- 3.1.5. The Table at 108 – 108 N. Main Street
- 3.1.6. Cortado – 132 S. Main Street
- 3.1.7. Midnight Social – 114 W. Jefferson Street
- 3.1.8. The Fold – 219 S. Main Street
- 3.1.9. Goshen Theater – 216 S. Main Street
- 3.1.10. The Elephant Bar – 227 S. Main Street
- 3.1.11. Goshen Brewing Company – 315 W. Washington Street
- 3.1.12. Temporary Event Vendor

3.2 The Common Council hereby authorizes the Board of Public Works and Safety to administer the approval of any and all requests for designated permittee status within the Downtown DORA, subject to the requirements of Indiana law. This delegation of authority to the Board of Public Works and Safety shall include the approval of a request by a designated permittee to expand operations into an area with the Downtown DORA that is outside of a designated patio area and the approval of a request by a vendor, as that term is defined by I.C. § 7.1-3-31-5, holding a temporary vendor designation to participate in an event or festival held within the Downtown DORA. However, in no event shall the Board of Public Works and Safety approve a request by a temporary vendor to establish a permanent presence in the Downtown DORA until and unless the temporary vendor is able to meet the statutory requirements for consideration as a designated permittee.



#### **4. DORA Signage.**

4.1 The City shall post a minimum of one (1) sign at each public entry point to the Downtown DORA. All signs will clearly identify the boundaries of the Downtown DORA and notify the public that open containers of alcoholic beverages must remain with the Downtown DORA. The Common Council further recognizes that additional signage designating the Downtown DORA may be warranted and necessary. Therefore, the Council hereby grants the Board of Public Works and Safety full authority to increase the number, change the placement, or modify the type of signage as it deems necessary or appropriate for the proper operation of the Downtown DORA.

#### **5. Hours of Operation.**

5.1. The City of Goshen Downtown Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area will be in operation during the following hours:

5.1.1. Thursdays, between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

5.1.2. Fridays, between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

5.1.3. Saturdays, between 12:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

5.1.4. Special events as approved by the City of Goshen Board of Public Works and Safety.

5.2 The Mayor of the City of Goshen, acting in conjunction with the Chief of Police, is authorized to further restrict days and hours of operation and/or to suspend the operation of the Downtown DORA on a temporary basis and as is necessary in order to preserve the public health and safety of the community, subject to the subsequent approval of the Common Council.

#### **6. DORA Regulations.**

6.1. Within the boundaries of the Downtown DORA established herein, a person may exit the licensed premises of a designated permittee or vendor with not more than two (2) open containers of an alcoholic beverage at a time and consume the alcoholic beverage within the Downtown DORA. The open container shall be non-breakable plastic bottles, plastic cups, or paper cups. The contents of an open container may not exceed the following:

6.1.1. Beer or flavored malt beverage of not more than sixteen (16) ounces.

6.1.2. Wine, hard cider, or hard seltzer of not more than twelve (12) ounces.

6.1.3. A mixed drink or not more than ten (10) ounces containing not more than two (2) ounces of liquor.

6.2. The container in which the alcoholic beverage is placed when exiting the premises of a designated permittee or vendor shall have affixed an official DORA logo sticker that shall be approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety. The City shall work to provide stickers to all designated permittees and vendors within the Downtown DORA and change the color of the approved sticker at appointed times each year.

6.3. A person may consume an alcoholic beverage purchased from a designated permittee or vendor anywhere within the refreshment area boundaries, subject to the right of any retailer permittee or business within the refreshment area to refuse to allow individuals to enter the licensed premises or business with an alcoholic beverage. A person may not enter any business or building with an alcoholic beverage unless the business expressly permits entry.

6.4. If a designated permittee in the Downtown DORA includes outdoor dining:

6.4.1. The designated permittee may serve alcoholic beverages in open containers during hours of operation and in the areas authorized by the retailer's permit.

6.4.2. Glass containers may be allowed in the outdoor dining areas but may not be removed from those areas in the Downtown DORA.

6.4.3. No fencing or other enclosure of the outdoor dining area is required.

6.5. The City of Goshen maintains full authority and control over the sidewalks and common areas within the Downtown DORA and no one may prohibit or limit open containers in accordance with I.C. § 7.1-3-31 within the Downtown DORA in those spaces except for the City of Goshen Police Department.



6.6. Nothing in this Ordinance prohibits a business, landlord, or other establishment within the Downtown DORA from prohibiting open containers of alcoholic beverages to enter their premises or from prohibiting alcoholic beverages purchased from another establishment to enter their premises.

6.7. A person may not consume an alcoholic beverage within a DORA that was purchased outside of the DORA.

6.8. Each Designated Permittee and Vendor shall post signage at each public entry and public exit to their licensed premises that informs the public of the following:

6.8.1. Any open alcoholic beverage container purchased within the Downtown DORA must remain with the Downtown DORA.

6.8.2. Possessing an open container of alcoholic beverages in a motor vehicle may constitute a Class C infraction under I.C. § 9-30-15.

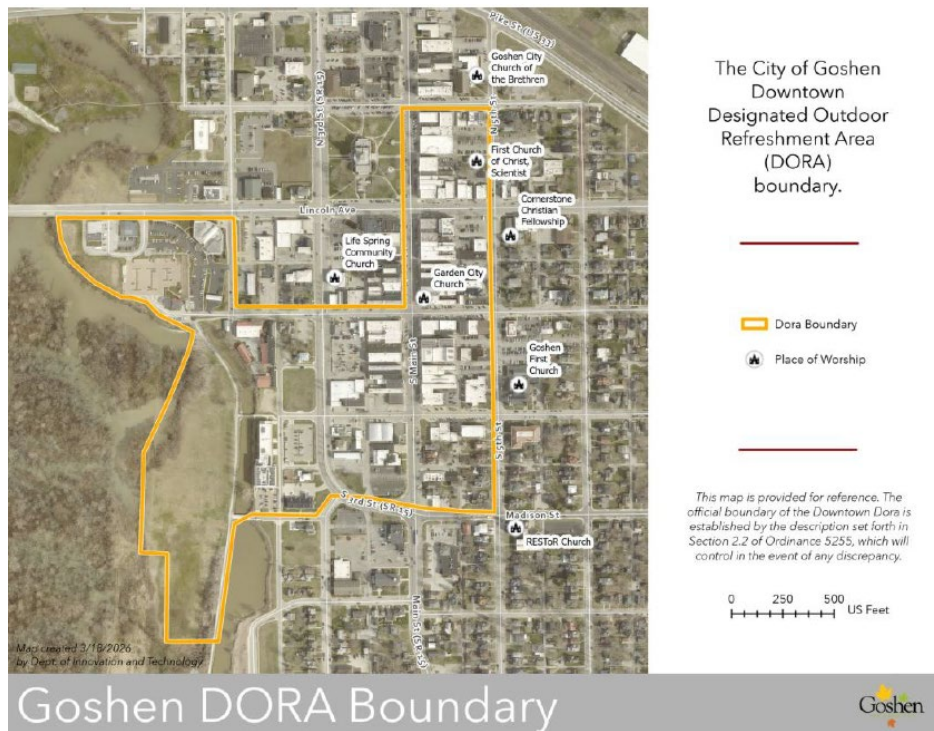
6.8.3. The hours of operation of the Downtown DORA.

### 7. Miscellaneous Provisions.

7.1. Consistent with the general principles of Indiana law, the Common Council retains the general authority to terminate the operation of the Downtown DORA at any time following the passage of an appropriate ordinance.

7.2. The Common Council finds that the Goshen Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area is consistent with the City of Goshen's Zoning Ordinance.

**This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage, approval, and publication pursuant to Indiana law.**





## **SUMMARY OF MARCH 23, 2026 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 5255:**

**Mayor Leichty invited a staff presentation about Ordinance 5255.**

**Assistant City Attorney Don Shuler** said Ordinance 5255 would establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area. He said in July 2023, the State Legislature passed a statute that allowed communities to adopt Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas, often referred to as DORAs.

**Shuler** said the principal idea of this idea is that communities designate an area – a community can have up to seven different areas – where underneath certain regulations and conditions, as in the statute, people can purchase an alcoholic beverage from a certain permittee that has a license through the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission (ATC) and within that area, can freely walk outside with that cup or container of alcohol.

**Shuler** said, “There are limits, as you’ll see in the ordinance, that are based on the state statute that reference the amount, or the size of the drink, the number, as well as the hours of operation, and the various boundaries of it.”

Before the meeting, **Shuler** said **City Director of Administrative Affairs Michael Wanbaugh** distributed an amended version of the ordinance (**EXHIBIT #2**). The only change from the version in the Council meeting packet was to references in Exhibit A of the map and in the description in Section 2.2 of the ordinance in the location of a boundary line. He said instead of a boundary line being on the north side of Washington Street, between Main Street and 3rd Street, it was relocated to the south side of Washington Street, between Main Street and 3rd Street.

**Shuler** said that change was due to some of the restrictions that are in place when trying to create these boundaries. He said someone seeking an alcohol sales permit, if they are located generally within 200 feet of a wall of a church or school, must get consent from that church or school to get their permit, or at least get a statement from that church or school that they do not have an objection. So, there needed to be a change to accommodate those discussions.

**Shuler** said Ordinance 5255 incorporates the provisions as required by the state statute for signage and developing and delegating a safety plan with the Board of Public Works and Safety. The proposed ordinance also sets the hours of operations, who maintains control over the public walks, who can bring alcohol in and other provisions.

Before answering legal and technical questions about the ordinance, **Shuler** said **Michael Wanbaugh** would make a presentation about the proposed Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area as well as feedback from downtown business owners and community.

**Michael Wanbaugh, Director of Administrative Affairs for the City**, discussed this proposal using a 10-page PowerPoint presentation titled “Goshen Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)” (**EXHIBIT #3**). He outlined the background of DORA, outreach to downtown businesses, outreach to nearby churches, DORA boundaries, DORA signage, DORA branded cups and participation, safety and operations and benefits to Goshen.

**Wanbaugh** said a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) is defined as a state-authorized space where adult beverages can be purchased from participating business and enjoyed while exploring within that boundary. He said the proposal “supports local businesses, enhances events like First Fridays, which has a lot of different outdoor events, and maintains clear rules to ensure a safe and well-managed experience.”

**Wanbaugh** said in 2023 a new state law allowed cities to designate controlled areas for purchase of alcoholic beverages and since that time more than 50 communities have applied for and been approved for DORAs. He said, “(DORA has structured rules, all current national, state, and local laws apply. And we feel that it’s a strong fit for Goshen’s active downtown.”

As part of research of the idea, **Wanbaugh** said the Mayor’s Office conducted outreach to local downtown businesses through the City’s partners at Downtown Goshen, Inc.



**Wanbaugh** said a survey was sent out to local businesses and the City received about 55 responses. He said, “Over 90% of those respondents expressed strong support for a DORA within the City. Many of them expected increased sales, increased visits, and activity within there.”

**Wanbaugh** said the 11 businesses within the boundaries of the DORA “have expressed strong support in participating in that. And we’re also supported by Downtown Goshen Inc., the Goshen Downtown Economic Improvement District, the Goshen Chamber of Commerce and the Elkhart County Convention of Visitors Bureau.”

As part of the preparation process, **Wanbaugh** said City staff also reached out to local congregations within or nearby to the proposed DORA. He said, “We wanted to make sure that we were in compliance and that we were being good neighbors. So, state law does require that consultation does occur and approval or a signed non-opposition document be completed for the ATC (Alcohol & Tobacco Commission) application.

“So, we met or spoke with nine congregations during this process. Seven of them offered their support or no objection. Two of those weren’t necessarily within the boundary, or we didn’t necessarily need approval from them, but they were near enough the boundary where we thought we would reach out to them as well. One is currently presenting the proposal to their church council. That will occur this week, so we’re waiting for that approval. And one requested removal from the boundary ... and we adjusted the boundaries to reflect that.”

**Wanbaugh** said the proposed DORA boundaries exclude residential properties and at those boundaries, as required by the state law, the City would have clear signage of entry and exit. He showed examples of DORA signs in other communities, adding, “They must clearly state that beverages must remain inside the boundaries.”

**Wanbaugh** said according to state statute, any beverage that is taken out of a dining establishment must be approved and have a designated, logo which identifies it as a “DORA Cup.” The cup size limits set by state law are 16 ounces, 12 ounces, and 10 ounces. And the maximum adult beverages sold would be two per person.

**Wanbaugh** said if a business choose not to participate and didn’t want somebody walking in with a beverage, “we could also create signage at the front of that business that indicated whether they participated in it or not.”

**Councilor Schrock** asked if the City would be making all the signs. **Mayor Leichty** responded, “Not necessarily. We could just create the template.” But she said the City would make all of the DORA boundary signs.

**Wanbaugh** said, “As part of the plan, Police would maintain full enforcement authority within the district. The City controls the sidewalks in public areas. We would submit to the State a public safety plan and a sanitation plan and we would also provide training for the participating businesses.”

Hours for the DORA would be Thursdays between 4 and 10 p.m., Fridays between 4 and 11 p.m., Saturdays between noon and 11 p.m. and then special events, which are presented to and approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety, **Wanbaugh** said.

Regarding the benefits of a DORA, **Wanbaugh** said, “We are really excited to build on the success of First Fridays, which is celebrating its 20th year this year. We feel that this is a natural progression in the visitor experience downtown and keeping pace with statewide and neighboring communities. We feel it will encourage longer downtown visits and support our growing downtown dining scene ...

“And what it really does, especially for an event like First Fridays, is it reduces barriers and expense in putting up designated areas, like a beer garden or something like that, which is required by state law now, if you don’t have a DORA. And we feel like it will really help our local businesses downtown and help drive the economic activity.”

**Councilor Schrock asked if children would be allowed in the DORA.**



**Wanbaugh** responded that they would, adding, "There wouldn't be any gates, so they would be welcome to be downtown just like anybody else – like in a restaurant, or other public places."

**After Wanbaugh's presentation, Mayor Leichty made some comments.**

**Mayor Leichty** said the DORA legislation was requested by communities in response to Indiana's "funky" alcohol laws which prohibit selling alcohol to people who are visiting for First Friday and other special events. "That's issue number one that we're trying to resolve; to make it more feasible for the businesses that are trying to actually help promote business in their business establishments to participate.

"So, by having a DORA, those businesses can sell beverages that can then be consumed outside their front door. So, for example, if you went and bought a slice of pizza at The Fold, you could also buy a beer to drink with your pizza and sit outside and enjoy that while listening to a concert outside."

**Mayor Leichty** continued, "Goshen has taken a pretty conservative approach. Elkhart had a DORA that they established that has more days of the week that are included. We're really focusing on event activities and trying to mitigate the burden of responsibility of putting up all of the fencing that has been required for our events."

The **Mayor** said there will be two sections of the proposed DORA – one around the Goshen Brewing Co. area that would extend down along the Millrace, where events like Arts on the Millrace, have been held, and the second area in the downtown area around where First Friday's events and activities have been held.

"So, we want to make it feasible to eliminate the need of fencing. You'll see the fencing that is typically utilized ... at every event that we have in our downtown district, and this is the other thing the State Legislature was trying to eliminate – the need for is having fencing around your events.

"At one point, it was deemed acceptable that you could just have a gate on either end if you were in a Main Street district and the walls of the building would be considered barriers, and then the ATC determined that, no, actually, you needed to have fencing inside the street. So, you know, events like First Fridays or Arts in the Mill Race, or other Goshen Brewing events, have had to procure, whether it's borrowing it from the City or renting it from someplace, to put fencing around that perimeter. So, what we're trying to do is eliminate the need of putting up and taking down that fencing each time, and allowing people to have, a freer movement within that zone."

**Mayor Leichty** said, "Now, there continue to be a lot of constraints on that. We talked already about churches having to have buy-in and support. And so, we've done that work, but really what we're asking for, and the reason that it's coming to you now, is that we have our First Friday event that will take place in May, outdoors, and I know that the event promoters would love to not have to procure a band of 20 people to set up and take down fencing for that event. So, we're trying to get it, approved in time that that would no longer be necessary for this year's events."

**Mayor Leichty** also said, "We are not trying to increase the consumption of alcohol broadly downtown. It is currently legal to drink alcohol and have it in a container. In the City, you just cannot be intoxicated and a danger to yourself or others."

Still, the **Mayor** said, "It is currently legal. for you to have a concealed container of alcohol downtown. So, this is not changing that law. That is already permitted. What is not permitted is for you to buy it at a downtown restaurant and walk outside with it. So, all we're trying to do is increase flexibility for our downtown stores to sell you the beverage that you already have the legal right to have.

"But again, this is part of Indiana's complicated alcohol laws. So, we're asking for you to provide that additional support for our downtown businesses who are interested in participating – the 11 downtown businesses that are interested in participating."



**Mayor Leichty invited questions and comments from Councilors.**

**Council President Weddell** asked if it currently was legal for him “to walk around with my cup that doesn't have the sticker on it, as long as I'm not being obnoxious.” The **Mayor** responded, “Welcome to Indiana.”

**Council President Weddell** asked **Michael Wanbaugh** if the survey of downtown business owners just included restaurants and bars or also stores. **Wanbaugh** said both were included and there were a variety of responses.

**Council President Weddell** asked why some downtown eateries on the west side of Main Street were not included in the DORA. **Wanbaugh** said that is because a downtown church objected to an adjacent DORA in a close proximity. In response to a follow-up question, **Wanbaugh** said the DORA doesn't include the lawn of the old Elkhart County Courthouse because County Commissioners decided they wanted a “wait and see” approach.

**Council President Weddell** asked what would happen if he carried a DORA cup, which was acceptable to carry on the east side of Main Street, on the west side of Main Street, which is not part of the DORA. He asked if it would be permissible to walk into a business on the west side.

**Wanbaugh** said he believed that would be the case. The **Mayor** said businesses on the west side of Main Street not included in the DORA could not sell alcoholic beverages from DORA cups.

**Assistant City Attorney Shuler** said, “The DORA would not permit them to do that, but then you're still underneath the general state law that, if you have an open container, you can carry that in places, including private property, if the private owner allows you to do so. As long as you're not violating another statute.”

**Councilor Schrock** asked if business owners could refuse permission for people to go into their businesses with open containers of alcoholic beverages. **Shuler** said, “Yes. This doesn't change that. The private property owner still controls their private property.”

**Council President Weddell** asked if people with a DORA cup could still walk outside of the DORA boundaries because state law allows open containers. **Shuler** said, “Correct. The State of Indiana's public open container law is focused on that you can't have it in a vehicle.”

**Council President Weddell** asked if any Councilors were concerned about the fact that because some downtown establishments might not be in the DORA it might seem unfair. **Councilor Peel** said perhaps this could be the subject of a later conversation with the downtown church opposed to the DORA; it might allow it later.

**Councilor Nisley** asked if any retailer in the DORA can sell alcoholic beverages. **Mayor Leichty** said, “No, only those that are licensed already with alcohol sales permits.”

**Shuler** said, “Correct, so they have to be licensed through the ATC to sell alcohol, and in order to sell beverages and the cups that can leave the premises, it's part of the process to get ATC approval. Should the Council adopt this ordinance, a packet is submitted to the ATC that includes the ordinance. It also includes the statement for many of the necessary churches in the buffer area, a little statement of no objection, and it includes a form that the state creates saying of the individual businesses that they want to be what's called a designated permittee in the DORA to be able to sell for that purpose.

“So, right now, we have 11 businesses listed in the In the ordinance, as the ones that said they would submit that application if the ordinance would pass. And then any future business would just have to complete that application and submit it and be approved by the agency.”

**Councilor Nisley** asked if a food truck parked inside the DORA could get approval to sell alcoholic beverages.

**Shuler** said they would need to get approval from the ATC and permission from the City Board of Public Works and Safety for temporary event sales.



**Councilor Nisley** asked about the liability of someone who stopped at each DORA location, drank two beers at each, got drunk, jumped in a car and then hit and kill somebody. He asked who would be liable and if it could be the City of Goshen. **Councilor Gerber** said she heard the same question from a downtown bar owner.

**Shuler** said, "It's hard to answer some of that, because when you're into tort law-type issues, they're incredibly fact-sensitive, so every little bit of fact makes a difference. So, the City passing the ordinance is just making it permissive. Everybody is making their own individual choices in terms of what they do.

"For the liability that generally attaches for bars and restaurants to serve alcohol, it comes back to whether or not they have some knowledge that the individual in question was inebriated and they continued to serve them despite that knowledge, so they didn't exercise some type of reasonable care. So, obviously, this (DORA) may impact their ability to know that, but that obviously would be their defense to any type of claim against liability.

"As you said, Councilor, sometimes people sue the City just because the City's there. It's very unlikely that any type of liability would attach to the City in this type of situation, because again, it's similar to passing a speed limit provision on a certain road. Somebody goes that speed and gets into an accident."

**Shuler** said for the City to have liability it would depend "whether or not you guys had knowledge that this is creating an issue that already existed, and you just ignored it. And those facts don't exist right now for that type of liability to attach.

"Obviously, if that changed at some point in the future, that's part of our job in the Legal Department, to be aware that the law is changing in that regard. We've done that on other things, but in this type of situation, it would be unlikely. I'm having trouble imagining a scenario where liability is attached to the City. For the individual business owners, ultimately, it's going to come back to what their knowledge is in the individual fact situation and speak to all of those factors.

**Councilor Riegsecker** said the City would just be establishing a DORA boundary "because somebody could still go to a bar and have two drinks and then walk down to another bar and have two drinks. Eventually, somebody has to say, 'You've had enough drinks,' whether you're in this door or not, or whether we have this door or not, right? So, I think we're establishing a boundary that those people can participate in this." **Shuler** responded, "I would say all this actually does in regard to that is it just allows them to carry those beverages outside."

**Councilor Gerber** asked about carrying DORA cups from one business to another. She said, "If I were to buy a drink at the Elephant Bar with the sticker, walk out and then wander over to the Goshen Theater, and I haven't finished my drink, could I walk into the theater with a drink in my cup? Or do drinks have to be consumed outside?"

**Shuler** said, "It's consumed outside unless you have the property owner's permission to enter with the open cup. And that's part of the signage I talked about, whether or not you can enter in with an open container with the DORA label on it." In response to a follow-up question, Shuler said a cup from one DORA business could be brought to another DORA business.

**Councilor Gerber** said, "One constituent wanted to know if the stickers will have dates on them, and what's to prevent someone from saving their cup, and in violation of the ordinance, keeping it so that they could wander around the streets." **Michael Wanbaugh** said, "I think there's several things that you can do. You can change colors. You can have dates. We were going to look at what some of the other communities were doing, and kind of emulate some of those safety precautions, as far as the ability to save a cup and bring it back. But even if you brought a cup back in, you would have to purchase the alcohol."



**Councilor Gerber** said, “And the other question this person had was about the yes DORA and no DORA, and you answered that. The businesses that are opting out, they don't have to go to any extra trouble to indicate that they are a 'no' if they can have a branded sign that makes it easier for everyone as a measure of communication.”

**Councilor Gerber** also said, “Just generally speaking, I don't have an issue with this, but I think it's an opportunity to recycle. We don't have receptacles downtown, so it's not something that I can try to insist on in this moment, but I do think it is a concern. I don't want to add solid waste downtown, and if you're sending more cups out into the street, there will be more solid waste, and so I would like to see us add recycling.”

**Council President Weddell** said, “I don't really like to walk around with a plastic cup, because things get warm. I'd like to have an insulated cup. And so, I didn't know if I go somewhere, I get the sticker and put it on my own personal insulated cup.” **Wanbaugh** said that was issue that could be worked out. Council President Weddell said there could be issues with sanitation about reusing cups.

**Councilor Nisley** asked how much the City would be spending on cups, stickers and signage. **Wanbaugh** said the City would buy the perimeter signage and stickers, but merchants could buy the cups.

**Mayor Leichty** said the City could create template for businesses to make their own signs. She said, “We're trying to minimize cost and provide as much flexibility to the participating businesses as possible. And we're trying to minimize costs for the City. I mean, the branded cups are awesome, but we're trying to be very conscientious about any additional expense that the City would incur by doing this.”

**Assistant City Attorney Shuler** said, “For some context, I mentioned the statute was passed in 2023. There has been one amendment to it. That one amendment was simply to make it so that you could not dictate that the permittees and the vendors in the business, or the DORA, had to purchase the cup from a specific vendor. And I think that's why the DORAs that have been established since July 1 of last year, when that went in effect, have gone to the sticker route.”

**Councilor Lederach** asked **Wanbaugh** how many of Indiana's 50 DORA communities he has communicated with.

**Wanbaugh** said he spoke to officials in Elkhart and Mishawaka about their processes and procedures and has checked the ATC website for other DORA communities. Councilor Lederach said it made sense to replicate the successful practices of other communities, including Zionsville and Lawrenceburg. He added, “We don't need to reinvent the wheel of what works and what's not working.” **Council President Weddell** and **Mayor Leichty** said Warsaw, Winona Lake and Fort Wayne also have DORAs.

**Councilor Schrock** asked if cities were expanding DORAs because they were doing well or not doing well.

**Wanbaugh** said it is probably because they have been successful and want other businesses to benefit. **Councilor Nisley** asked about the rationale and benefits of expansion.

**Mayor Leichty** said, “Councilor, a lot of times they get expanded, so part of the statute allows a city to have up to seven DORA areas. And a lot of times they end up being in highly useful public spaces that are used for special events. So, even if you didn't have a retail establishment that was part of the seller, you might have a food truck that would come in, and that would allow you to use that public space without adding the ugly fencing around that event space ... In Goshen, we're trying to focus on how to allow our downtown businesses to participate more and receive the benefits of the events that we're participating in and give them some flexibility and reduce the amount of workload required for anybody that's producing those events.”



**Councilor Peel** asked **Police Chief Miller** if he had any concerns about adding a DORA downtown.

**Chief Miller** said, "Personally, I don't. I don't think it's going to cause any burdens to the Police Department. We've already got establishments that sell alcohol, and (people) do go from establishment to establishment. So, usually the people I feel that participate in events like this are more the law-abiding citizens than are out there trying to cause issues. The good thing that ... I feel confident about is, obviously, we're still going to enforce all the state statutes and public intoxication and all that, so if somebody does become unruly, it would be no different than how we deal with someone else.

"So, I personally don't have any concerns with it. It (DORA) might bring in more people, but I don't necessarily know if it's the people that we may have issues with or not. I think a lot of the people that come downtown just come down and want to enjoy the downtown and the events, and they're usually pretty calm."

**Mayor Leichty** added that in order to receive the City's authorization, people producing events on City property are required to hire off-duty police officers to provide security. She said, "So, if there were additional issues, that's at the cost of the event producer, not the City."

**Councilor Nisley** expressed concern about the impact of the DORA on children downtown for First Friday.

**Councilor Schrock** agreed and said, "It probably one of the few places that you can take your kids and drop them off at night in a festive area ... where they're probably not going to get in trouble. They're pretty safe right downtown." He added, "Kids and alcohol don't go together. That's why you're not supposed to go into a bar until you're 21."

**Councilor Nisley** said additional alcohol sales will not benefit the downtown. He said, "If people are coming downtown now, because they can walk around and drink, they're not down there to do anything else ... They're just coming down to drink, so the bars are benefiting from that more than anything else. I just have a hard time with mingling kids down there with people walking around drinking."

**Michael Wanbaugh** responded, "I think that if this goes well, it's not going to be very noticeable to the general public. It's going to be very similar to what a First Friday looks like – people outside, enjoying each other, dining outside. People are still going down there visiting the restaurants, walking around. It's a responsible program for responsible people who handle the responsibilities. That's the ultimate goal."

**Councilor Nisley** said, "I guess you said one key word, and that's 'if' it goes well. We don't know that and it's going to take one time for it not to go well. That's going to be the tragedy, I think."

**Council President Weddell** related his experience last summer attending Arts on the Millrace, which had alcohol sales. He said, "They had barriers set up from pretty much the Pump House all the way down to Jefferson Street because of the current rules. And Goshen Brewing Company had a table there and they were serving. And my brother and I purchased beer from there, and we then mingled amongst all the vendors and all the people that were there. Most of them were adults, but there were definitely kids running around.

"You know, **Councilman Nisley**, hinged on the word 'if.' I think the other keyword here is 'responsible.' There are irresponsible individuals out there, whether there's a DORA or not, who are going to be irresponsible and cause problems. And then there are those that are responsible. I can't control those that are looking to cause problems."

**Councilor Peel** said, "There's drinking at these events already. There are people that are drinking at First Fridays already down at those events; they're just enclosed in a fenced-in area. There are people at the Arts on the Millrace that are already drinking. There's people that are drinking inside restaurants that just come outside after they're done drinking.



“Every day, there are people drinking. They're drinking at home. They're drinking in front of their children. I get it. I don't drink much at all. I respect people that do and do not,” **Councilor Peel** said.

“I don't think that it's going to be very noticeable at all. I respect those that are having a struggle with it as well. I'm all in favor of this. I think it's going to relieve a lot of unnecessary work to put up fences.”

**Mayor Leichty** said, “I will just add, as the founder of First Fridays, the last thing I would want to see, or that anybody else would want to see, is that our most prized family-friendly event would be undermined by a policy decision that this body would make. And if we saw things going awry, we would certainly want to course correct.

“I think the proof is in the success of those events already, and that they're continuing to be family-friendly already.”

**Mayor Leichty** continued, “**Councilor Schrock**, as you mentioned, you know, there's kids running around. They're just running around inside ugly orange snow fence, and so all we're saying is we would like the kids downtown just to be able to not be inside an ugly snow fence, because the snow fence goes for multiple blocks. It's just an artificial barrier that now is the substitute for walls that we used to be able to use.”

The **Mayor** added, “Again, I agree with the sentiment that we want to make sure that Goshen continues to be a place where families and kids and young adults can thrive and feel safe. And if I thought for a second that this was going to interfere with the success that Goshen has created already, I would not be supportive of bringing this to you for your consideration. But based on what I've seen in other places and how I've seen Goshen handle its events so far, I think we can do this safely and responsibly.”

**Councilors Gerber, Schrock and Nisley** asked **Michael Wanbaugh** about the completeness of the survey of business owners about the proposed DORA. They asked about the people surveyed and whether there were business owners who opposed the DORA. **Wanbaugh and the Mayor** said surveys were sent to many businesses.

**Councilor Nisley** said he would not support a Second Reading of the DORA ordinance tonight. He said he wanted to talk to downtown business owners and ask them about this proposal.

**Councilor Riegsecker** said he also wanted more time to consider the ordinance and would not support a Second Reading vote tonight.

Before public comment on Ordinance 5255, **Council President Weddell** suggested that the Council pass a motion to amend the ordinance.

**Councilors Weddell and Riegsecker** then made a motion to amend Ordinance 5255, *Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area*, to the version provided at tonight's Council meeting that changed a boundary line location both on Exhibit A of the map and in the description in Section 2.2 of the ordinance. (Instead of a boundary line being on the north side of Washington Street, between Main Street and 3rd Street, it was relocated to the south side of Washington Street, between Main Street and 3rd Street).

There were no questions or comments about the amendment from Councilors.

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously passed the Weddell-Riegsecker amendment to Ordinance 5255, Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors voting “yes,” at 7:11 p.m.**



**At 7:11 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited questions from members of the audience on Ordinance 5255.**

**Glenn Null of Goshen** said he learned tonight that he could openly drink alcoholic beverages downtown as long as it's concealed, which he said reminded him of what happens in Skid Rows of big cities like South Bend or Chicago. He said that many years ago the City of Goshen passed a law banning open containers in vehicles, but it was problematic to enforce because it was difficult to determine the city limits.

**Null** said it would be the same way with the DORA boundaries downtown. He also said that there are ordinances against riding skateboards and bicycles downtown, but it still happens. He said, "You ever been down downtown at First Friday? You get ran over by them little Rugrats. We'll call them what they are. And as an older guy, now that I have a cane, I have a good defense. They don't like being beat, but that happens occasionally. Sometimes you have to attitude adjust."

**Null** said the DORA could cause more underage drinking because older friends may buy alcoholic beverages for their underage friends. He said, "Of course, he could have brought it from home now that everybody knows you can just bring it in."

**Null** asked **Council President Weddell**, a Doctor of Optometry, whether it would be OK for him to have a few drinks in the DORA and then drop by for his afternoon eye examination by Dr. Weddell. Null jokingly asked, "That going to be okay, buddy?" Council President Weddell said, "As long as you bring me one. But other than that, no! I'll have a sign on my door that says, 'Not participating. Thank you. Or no.'"

**Null** said the City won't be able to stop people from bringing alcoholic beverages downtown. He also said he believes some people will abuse the system and drink excessively. And he asked who would enforce the law against drinking alcoholic beverages on the Courthouse lawn.

**Null** also suggested the Council impose a "sunset provision," requiring the ordinance to expire after a number of years and then expire or have to be passed again. He said elected officials sometimes impose temporary taxes that never expire, adding, "I don't trust politicians. They are a lying bunch."

**Null** also said he didn't support this ordinance. "I disagree with it 100 percent, because I think it's a safety issue, and it's going to be impossible to enforce. Like I said, we already have ordinances that aren't enforced."

**Nick Kieffer, President and CEO of the Goshen Chamber of Commerce**, commended the Mayor and her staff for advancing this proposal. He said he has been discussing this possibility with the Mayor for several years.

"We understand the boundaries and the legislation, the way it's written, but I would urge you to consider adding this to Goshen. Councilmen, you said you were going to take some time and talk to some business downtown. If it fits in my schedule, I'd love to join you, help to answer any questions that I could be available for anybody that would like to do that. Just reach out."

**Nicholas Sanger of Goshen** said he's only lived in the City for two years and only recently learned about First Friday. Still, he said he likes to go downtown.

Echoing comments from **Council President Weddell**, **Sanger** said, "Irresponsible people are going to be irresponsible people. Responsible people are going to be responsible. Trying to control everything is going to make things difficult for people who would take this as a positive thing. And just to punish everyone and saying no one can do it."



“And I also think that having 55 communities that also do this, I think if the first 5 ones were bad, no one else would be doing it. So, I think, just as the rule of thumb, the fact that it's been successful so far shows that it's not too much of a concern.”

**Sanger** said there would be things to watch. For example, he said he would want to know if there would be a penalty for taking an alcoholic beverage out of the DORA. He said he wouldn't want to be punished for that. He would just want to be told to go back inside the DORA.

**Sanger** said he heard concerns about people abusing alcohol by going from one DORA site to another but said, “you can also just bar hop now; you know. You can just go to one bar to another and they're not going to know.”

While some issues or kinks might need to be worked out, **Sanger** said, “Overall, I don't see this as that pressing of a danger, to say the least.”

**Mayor Leichty** responded, “Presumably, it would be more expensive to bar hop this way, because you'd have to buy the sticker which would permit you to do that. So, if you're staying inside the restaurant it would likely be less expensive, so there's some motivation for people to stay inside as well, that way.”

**There were no further questions, so the Mayor closed the public comment period at 7:21 p.m.**

**Councilor Nisley** said, “Both people (Council President and Sanger) have been saying ‘Responsible people will be responsible people.’ But I have seen a lot of very responsible people get stupid when they drink.”

**Councilor Riegsecker** said, “A couple of points of clarification, I guess. There's still public intoxication laws, right? So, you can't just go out and be, whatever, right. Yeah, well, I'm not going to talk about my high school years.”

**Councilor Riegsecker** continued, “There a couple comments about stepping outside of these boundary lines. I don't think that you can get arrested or anything for that with a cup in your hand. The boundaries are for people that are participating, right? But since you can have an open container ... it just has to be disguised. I don't think you have to have it in a bag.”

**Councilor Riegsecker** said that as long as a person is not drunk they can consume alcoholic beverages downtown. And he said people will be able to walk down Washington Street from downtown to the Millrace.

As for a suggested sunset provision for the ordinance, **Councilor Riegsecker** said, “I feel like this Council is responsible enough, and this City administration is responsible enough, that we know if it's not working, we will adjust, or we will start over. Right? So, I'm not worried about that.”

**Mayor Leichty** said, “There's an explicit provision in 5.2 in the ordinance that says that the Mayor and the Chief of Police can further restrict days or hours of operation at any point in time. We wanted to build in as much care and responsibility as possible.

“So, we started First Fridays in 2007 and we have incorporated outdoor consumption of alcohol into those events and been able to do that safely and successfully thus far. The only difference here would be whether or not downtown businesses could participate, and whether or not we would need snow fence around those events or other events that would take place in the Millrace that we've done in the past.”

**Councilor Nisley** said, “I believe it also says that the City Council has total authority over shutting it down or not.”

The **Mayor** responded, “Yes, we would need to bring that back to you if we were going to suspend it indefinitely or make modifications. So, we could do an emergency stop, and then if we wanted to stop it permanently, that would come back to you for approval.”



**Councilor Lederach** said the ordinance does state that a DORA container must remain in downtown DORA area. He said, "There's penalty for not doing that, but it is in there."

There was discussion among Councilors and the Mayor about how this provision would be enforced by police.

**Another person in the audience asked to speak, so Mayor Leichty reopened the public comment period.**

**Angela Wentz of Goshen** said, "I just want to kind of clarify for my own peace of mind, and I kind of feel like we're maybe getting a little distracted ... basically, these stickers would allow the businesses to sell and let people take them out the door within this district, right? And that's really the only thing that's really changing?"

The **Mayor** responded, "Correct."

**Wentz** added: "One more thing. And then the result would allow the people who put on First Fridays and other events to not have to put out the fence. And so, it just really comes down to those two, really. Thank you."

**Counselor Gerber** said that in light of the discussion about people having open alcoholic beverages downtown, there is a DORA provision stating that a person may not consume an alcoholic beverage within a DORA that was purchased outside of the DORA. She asked if this would prohibit carrying alcoholic beverages into the DORA.

**Mayor Leichty** said, "Yes It would restrict the paper bag during those hours."

**Councilor Nisley** asked if the City could overrule the state law that allows open containers.

**Assistant City Attorney Shuler** said, "The short answer is yes. There's actually a lot of communities around the state that have their own ordinances that basically have their own open container law that prohibit it in certain areas. So, I think that was a concern that came through when discussing it with the various groups that the City talked to in preparing this ordinance to add that provision."

**Councilor Riegsecker** said the wording of the ordinance seemed strange that "any open alcoholic beverage container purchased within the downtown DORA must remain with the downtown DORA." He said, "It sounds like you're supposed to leave your cup, so, might say 'Must remain within the downtown DORA.' Is that what they were trying to say?"

**Mayor Leichty** said, "You're saying the beverage, not the cup? So, it should say, any alcoholic beverage."

**Councilor Riegsecker** said, "Any alcoholic beverage container purchased within the downtown DORA. They're talking about the container, must remain with the downtown DORA." **Councilor Gerber** said, "Or is it must be consumed?"

**Councilor Riegsecker** said, "I don't know, but something probably needs to be adjusted there before we get done with this whole thing, maybe." **Mayor Leichty** said, "I think that's state language, but we can confirm that before the next review."

**Mayor Leichty then asked the Clerk-Treasurer to conduct a roll call vote.**

**On a roll call vote, Councilors passed Ordinance 5255, Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, First Reading by a 5-2 margin with Councilors Gerber, Lederach, Peel, Riegsecker and Weddell voting "yes" and Councilors Nisley and Schrock voting "no" at 7: 30 p.m.**

**There was no unanimous consent for Second Reading consideration, so Ordinance 5255 will be back before the Common Council at the April 27, 2026 meeting.**



### Privilege of the Floor

**At 7:31 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited public comments for issues not on the Council agenda.**

**Glenn Null of Goshen**, a longtime City resident who has attended and spoken at Common Council meetings for many decades, said he was appearing before the Council for the last time. **Councilor Nisley** asked that Null be give more than the usual three minutes to speak this last time.

#### **These were Null's entire remarks:**

"I will say that I have been a pain to the backside of this Council and Mayors since the early '80s. So, some of you weren't even born or didn't know what was going on, which isn't too far off from now. But anyways, so I've been around a while.

"I can remember harassing (Mayor) Max (Chiddister). I used to ambush him. His parents lived in the same building that I lived, at Westgate. And I'd hear him leave, and I would corner him in the hallway, tell him how I thought he was running the City. Then I started to come down and tell the current (Council) – your positions.

"I can remember when Mel Troyer was on here. Some of you don't know that name, but he was a no-nonsense type of guy. Didn't see too much go by. I've seen a lot of DINOS (Democrats In Name Only) and a lot of RHINOS (Republicans In Name Only) serve.

"So, over the years, I can remember telling (then Councilor) Al (Kauffman) because he asked the Chief at the time to help him draw an ordinance up for banning firearms in the City. And I overheard that and I told him, 'Go ahead and try. You know, ain't going to happen.' And the Chief told me the same thing.

"But when he got to be Mayor, I didn't treat him any differently. I told him the way I seen it, just like I did (Mayor Mike) Puro. And I did (Mayor) Jeremy (Stutsman). Gina and I have had some serious discussions, but we've always been able to get to a common ground. May not be a big piece of ground, but there was always something common, which is unheard of nowadays. If you don't like what I'm saying, then you're a Nazi.

"So, for some of you, I have noticed that this Council has given up more power than they had in the past to the Mayor. A lot of it went to the Board of Works. I don't agree with that, because I don't elect the Board of Works.

"I believe in voting. I've voted regularly since I was 18 years old. I might have voted Democratic once or twice – not for somebody but against somebody. And I hope when I hit West Goshen Cemetery that I quit voting. But knowing this community, you know, I'll probably be pulling that D ticket. I'll roll over in my grave.

"So, I'm basically saying goodbye. I haven't been here in a year. I have some medical issues that I was told to conserve my emotions and energy, so I've given you guys a break. I'm not going to be as brutal to you as I have been to some of the other groups I've talked to, But I've enjoyed my time here.

"It's important for citizens to understand how the sausage is made. People don't understand that. That means the little things. You know, you enjoy that sausage, but if you watched them make it or did it, you wouldn't eat it.

"So, it is important that you do the job that we've hired you to do. And that means bucking up against the Mayor or whoever it be, because they want to push more power through, then do that. That is what your job is.

"So, this is my last meeting. I don't think you're going to screw up too bad where I have to come back, but anyway, so, we'll see y'all when I'm down at Yoder-Culp (Funeral Home). Hopefully not too quick, but yeah. Thank you."

**Mayor Leichty** responded, "Glenn, I just wanted to say that you're absolutely right. We have had our fair number of disagreements, but we also found some common ground in places that people might not think that two people on the opposite sides of the spectrum of political beliefs, would find themselves working together."



The **Mayor** continued, "But it was for that reason that I gave you a key to the City, because I believe that the role that you've played in our community is vital. You've stood up for what you've believed in. You've come to Council meetings, and you've participated regularly.

"You've held people accountable for their actions, and you also read the budget, and you actually come with detailed analysis of what is in the budget. And as somebody who puts a lot of time into preparing that budget, it actually means a lot that people are paying attention. And I have always appreciated that.

"Whether I agree or disagree with your analysis, I've appreciated the time and energy and effort that you've given to those conversations. You are a rare breed, and you will be sorely missed. And I will miss your humor and I will miss you a lot. So, thanks for being here tonight to say goodbye; that means a lot."

**The Mayor invited other Councilors to comment.**

**Councilor Nisley** said, "I'd just like to say, Glenn, I want to publicly thank you."

**Councilor Riegsecker** said, "Glenn, thanks for being a major participant in City Council meetings and County Council meetings and letting your voice be heard."

**Councilor Schrock** thanked Null for his service on the Goshen school board and added, "Thanks for coming to the shop. You're welcome anytime, Glenn."

**Councilor Lederach** said, "Glenn, you probably don't remember this, but I was at Goshen High School as a brand-new administrator, and you came to a football game smoking a cigar, but you didn't light it. And so, we came to a common agreement that there's no smoking on campus, but you could still chew on your cigar. So, there is agreement."

**Paul Stauffer of Goshen** thanked the Council for giving Glenn Null extra time to speak. He said, "I've often appreciated Glenn's voice, even though I frequently don't agree with him, but that's how this is supposed to work, so I appreciate him, and I appreciate you for that."

**Stauffer** said he wanted to remind Councilors about the May 5 Primary Election. He acknowledged that City employees will get the day off. He noted that both political parties, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party, are responsible for recruiting poll workers to help the election run fairly and smoothly and need more poll workers than ever before.

He added: "If anybody in the range of my voice is interested in being a poll worker, please reach out to your party officials for that. If any department heads would like to let the people in their departments know that this is an opportunity they can have on that day, if they would like. I think that would be a nice civic service that they can provide.

"And I'll also ask if I can do a little public service announcement, just to let everyone know the last day you can register to vote before the primary is April 6th, and if you think you're already registered, you should go to indianavoters.com and just double-check, make sure, because things happen."

**John Stoltzfus of Goshen** said, "Where I live, there's a dog named Justice. There are some chickens. I'm more concerned, though, that a Goshen resident, a working Goshen resident, had to ride to jail, had to ride to Fulton County, had to ride to Kentucky. And according to the Constitution, the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, Section 9 of Article 1."



**Stoltzfus** continued, “According to Goshen Resolution 2016-45, people in the City are protected by the Constitution. Who’s responsible? Who’s able to respond? We the people? We the neighbors? How does this work?”

“I want to know what I’m going to do, I want to know what we are going to do. I want to know what to do when the numbers sound like three to five people a day from Elkhart County detained. Where is due process?”

In closing, **Stoltzfus** mentioned a song by Jackson Browne called “Standing and the Breach” and then recited a poem called “The Human Promise.” Stoltzfus said:

*I promise to protect life in all its forms and fragile beauty.*

*I promise to seek and speak the truth, and to live by it, Even when it is difficult.*

*I promise to act with justice and compassion so that none are abandoned or forgotten.*

*I promise to create and to share hope through kindness, courage, and imagination.*

*I promise to repair what has been broken and to pass forward a living world rooted in care.*

*This is my promise.*

*This is our promise.*

*This is the promise of being human.*

**Stoltzfus** then said, “Thank you so much for your work.”

**At 7:43 p.m., Mayor Leichty closed the public comment period.**

#### **ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

**Mayor Leichty asked if there were any reports from Councilors.**

**Councilor Riegsecker** said he wanted to give a “shout out” to the **City Stormwater Department**. He said he informed **City Stormwater Coordinator Jason Kauffman** “about a situation out in my district that was causing some flooding that was potentially going to crest the road, maybe, and you have to get some signs up. So, he did come out and take a look at it, and he contacted the appropriate parties to get the problem solved, and they came out right away and got that taken care of for District 1.”

**Councilor Lederach** said, “Out at the **airport**, we’re going to have some major changes coming up in April. A runway is shutting down, April 6th through, hopefully, May 22. That’s going to change things; it all depends on the weather. So, they’re still open. They’re just not going to be a lot of flights coming in and out.”

**Mayor Leichty** announced the death of **Mitch Stidams**, a City of Goshen colleague, on March 28. The Mayor said Mitch, who worked in the Central Garage, had an illness about a year and a half ago and it was thought he had made a full recovery but the illness returned.

She added, “I just would ask that you keep their whole family in your prayers and thoughts. I think it’s a real commendation on the whole Central Garage team that really rallied around Mitch to make it possible for him to continue doing what he loved every single day up until the very last day of his life. He worked up until lunch on the last day that he was alive, and said he wasn’t feeling well, went home, took a nap, and didn’t wake up. And the only reason that that was possible was because the guys in Central Garage worked so closely around him to fill in gaps and make sure that he was supported and able to do what he loved, which was being a mechanic and working on cars and engines.”



**Mayor Leichty** said that along with the whole team, Mitch took care of all of the City's vehicles and equipment and he will be missed. The Mayor added, "That team is really hurting because they're a small group of folks who works really closely together. So, if you see any of the guys from Central Garage, or women from Central Garage, I'm sure that they would appreciate an affirming word. There will be a celebration of life for Mitch this coming Saturday. His obituary is online, and I'll make sure to share it with all the Councilors as well."

**Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre** said that earlier in the afternoon he emailed Councilors financial and budget reports for January 2026 and February 2026. These reports normally come as regular Council agenda items, but they were not received in time to be included.

**Aguirre** said he wanted to distribute them to Councilors "so that you know what's going on in terms of our City finances." He said he would include them as exhibits to the Council minutes (**EXHIBITS #4 & #5**).

**Aguirre** added, "We are just at the beginning of the year so there's really nothing remarkable to report. We have the money we need or we hope we need. It's being spent and there's no anomalies, no issues and no problems. At this point, we have 87.36% of our budget remaining. That's what we'd expect to find. So, I just wanted to put that on the record that I had provided these to the Council and these will be available online to the public."

**There were no further comments by the Mayor or by Councilors.**

**Adjournment:**

**Councilor Nisley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Riegsecker.**

**On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Mayor Leichty adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.**

**EXHIBIT #1:** *The minutes of the Dec. 15, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Common Council as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilors were provided copies of the 31-page document before the meeting and approved them at the meeting by a 6-0-1 voice vote (Councilor Riegsecker abstained).*

**EXHIBIT #2:** *Before the meeting, City Director of Administrative Affairs Michael Wanbaugh distributed this new version of the Ordinance 5255, Establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area. The only change from the version distributed in the Council meeting packet concerned references both on Exhibit A of the map and in the description in Section 2.2 of the ordinance in the location of a boundary line. Instead of a boundary line being on the north side of Washington Street, between Main Street and 3rd Street, it was relocated to the south side of Washington Street, between Main Street and 3rd Street. Councilors amended Ordinance 5255 to incorporate this version and eventually passed it on First Reading.*



**EXHIBIT #3:** A 10-page PowerPoint presentation, titled “Goshen Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA),” on the background of DORA, outreach to downtown businesses, outreach to nearby churches, DORA boundaries, DORA signage, DORA branded cups and participation, safety and operations and benefits to Goshen. Michael Wambaugh, Director of Administrative Affairs for the City, outlined the DORA proposal to the Common Council using the PowerPoint presentation.

**EXHIBIT #4:** Provided to the Council for review at the meeting was a four-page City of Goshen budget report for January 2026. The report summarized the budget and cash balance performance for Civil City funds included in the 2026 budget, which was approved by the Council in October 2025. This report was intended to provide a reasonable understanding of the City’s financial position.

**EXHIBIT #5:** Provided to the Council for review at the meeting was a four-page City of Goshen budget report for February 2026. The report summarized the budget and cash balance performance for Civil City funds included in the 2026 budget, which was approved by the Council in October 2025. This report was intended to provide a reasonable understanding of the City’s financial position.

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gina Leichty, Mayor of Goshen**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk-Treasurer Richard R. Aguirre**



**Engineering Department  
CITY OF GOSHEN**

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## Memorandum

To: Goshen City Council

From: Goshen Engineering

**RE: QUIET ZONE ALONG THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN MARION BRANCH –  
PROJECT UPDATE (JN: 2009-0046)**

Date: May 18, 2026

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The City has been working to establish a quiet zone along the Norfolk Southern Marion Branch railroad line – which roughly bisects Goshen along 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Several inquiries have been received from concerned residents regarding the status of the quiet zone. Goshen Engineering staff wish to provide the following update to City Councilors and the public:

1. The City has completed a diagnostic meeting with Norfolk Southern (NS) and the Federal Railroad Authority (FRA).
2. The City submitted a draft application to the FRA, which has been distributed to stakeholders and comments have been received.
3. Permit applications for an extension of the Winona Trail over the railroad, as well as pedestrian improvements on East College Avenue, were initially denied.
4. The City has met with Norfolk Southern representatives this past January and April to better understand why these permits were denied and to determine potential paths forward.
5. We are awaiting an additional meeting with Norfolk Southern to discuss multiple crossings throughout the City, including those along the Marion Branch Quiet Zone.
6. Right-of-way determination at the Madison Street crossing has been difficult, and the City has hired American Structurepoint to survey the area and provide clarification.
7. Dependent on the outcome of upcoming meetings with Norfolk Southern, the Quiet Zone application and final comments will be able to be submitted to the FRA.
8. An eight- to twelve-month review timeline is anticipated once the final application is submitted.

City staff, in discussions with our consultant American Structurepoint, have desired to proceed cautiously, as changes to the proposed application or a mis-step at this point may result in having to start the process over again.



**City Clerk-Treasurer  
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TO: Mayor Gina Leichty and the Goshen Common Council  
FROM: Richard Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer  
RE: Budget Reports for April 2026  
DATE: May 13, 2026

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Attached for the Council's review are financial reports summarizing the budget and cash balance performance for Civil City funds included in the 2026 budget, which was approved by the Council in October 2025. These reports are intended to provide a reasonable understanding of the City's financial position. They are unaudited and may require some interpretation.

**Fund Balance Report**

This report presents cash balances for all budgeted funds as of April 30, 2026, highlighting the City's overall liquidity. All funds currently maintain sufficient balances to support planned expenditures. Note that balances are unaudited and subject to reconciliation.

**Budget Report – Revenues**

This page summarizes revenue collections for each fund through April 30, 2026 showing progress toward projected revenue levels. Remember that some funds receive the levy in two allotments in June and December (General, Debt Service, MVH, Cumulative Fire, Park & Recreation, Aviation, CCD, Cumulative Sewer).

**Budget Report – Expenditures**

Expenditures to date represent approximately 24.58% of the annual budget, leaving 75.42% remaining, which is consistent with expectations for this point in the fiscal year.

**Budget Report – Expenditures in the General Fund**

The final page breaks down the General Fund by department, providing a focused view of each department's budget performance to date.

**Summary**

As of April 30, 2026, the City of Goshen remains in a financially stable position, with total cash balances of approximately \$92.0 million across all funds and sufficient liquidity to support operations. Year-to-date, the City has generated about \$6.6 million in revenues while incurring \$21.2 million in expenditures, resulting in a temporary deficit driven primarily by the timing of major revenue collections later in the year, such as property tax distributions. Overall spending represents approximately 24.6% of the annual budget, leaving more than 75% of appropriations remaining, which is consistent with expectations at this stage of the fiscal year. Most funds, including the General Fund with an ending balance of about \$16.2 million, maintain positive balances, and expenditures across departments are generally tracking within budget, indicating the City is managing resources prudently and is well-positioned to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of 2026.



# Fund Balance Report

Fund	Beginning Balance	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Ending Balance
1101 - GENERAL FUND	\$ 23,413,627.44	\$ 3,953,635.94	\$ 11,159,134.29	\$ 16,208,129.09
2201 - MVH FUND	3,957,170.47	290,300.54	1,073,377.48	3,174,093.53
2202 - LOCAL ROAD & STREET	1,692,437.19	112,731.44	1,000,000.00	805,168.63
2203 - MVH-RESTRICTED	2,170,645.55	123,144.53	316,952.39	1,976,837.69
2204 - PARKS AND RECREATION	5,813,766.78	84,674.91	340,774.68	5,557,667.01
2206 - AVIATION FUND	578,272.37	32,494.67	441,542.11	169,224.93
2209 - LIT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	6,994,467.83	676,503.24	584,426.29	7,086,544.78
2214 - PROBATION FUND	114,106.61	25,399.23	40,074.07	99,431.77
2226 - REDEVELOPMENT OPERATING	467,796.89	8,573.92	86,795.09	389,575.72
2228 - LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUE EDUCATION	103,347.97	6,290.37	21,315.09	88,323.25
2234 - UNSAFE BUILDING FUND	140,024.05	-	-	140,024.05
2236 - RAINY DAY FUND	2,654,516.59	-	-	2,654,516.59
2240 - LIT - PUBLIC SAFETY	2,036,381.34	674,972.49	967,521.60	1,743,832.23
2256 - OPIOID SETTLEMENT UNRESTR	123,558.28	-	-	123,558.28
2257 - OPIOID SETTLEMENT RESTR	55,470.66	-	-	55,470.66
2258 - TOWNSHIP FIRE SUPPORT	577,658.01	350,000.00	207,255.87	720,402.14
2500 - COURT FEES	57,699.26	25,448.93	71,746.95	11,401.24
2501 - RESIDENTIAL LEASE FEES	85,255.87	17,130.00	16,617.77	85,768.10
2503 - ELECTRIC UTILITY SALE	3,032,547.39	21,501.02	-	3,054,048.41
2504 - OLD LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUE ED	-	-	-	-
2505 - STORM WATER MANAGEMNT	1,295,111.51	10,078.74	168,820.60	1,136,369.65
2506 - ECON IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	81,256.70	-	16,501.77	64,754.93
2508 - REDHAWK ACADEMY	18,860.80	60,000.00	1,221.91	77,638.89
3301 - DEBT SERVICE	66,286.55	-	183,600.00	(117,313.45)
3311 - TIF BOND P & I PYMT FUND	791,534.28	-	-	791,534.28
3320 - BOND P&I EAST COLLEGE AVE	127,449.22	-	-	127,449.22
3321 - INDIANA AVE BOND P&I	59,500.09	-	-	59,500.09
3323 - CHERRY CREEK BOND P&I	1,204,097.98	-	-	1,204,097.98
3331 - TIF DEBT SERVICE RESERVE	-	-	-	-
3333 - DSR - CHERRY CREEK	294,331.73	-	-	294,331.73
4401 - CCI (CIGARETTE TAX) FUND	334,031.92	-	4,444.57	329,587.35
4402 - CUMULATIVE CAP DEVELOP	1,134,462.66	155.37	152,257.54	982,360.49
4425 - CCI FIRE STATION	687,955.54	-	47,128.05	640,827.49
4428 - CCI STORM SEWER FUND	3,722,952.68	-	25,138.91	3,697,813.77
4445 - TIF SOUTH EAST E.D.	25,918,489.25	148,454.00	3,142,172.74	22,924,770.51
4446 - TIF CONS RR/US 33/DT	8,803,374.54	13,160.67	371,714.73	8,444,820.48
4447 - TIF LIPPERT/DIERDORFF	648,551.76	-	65,159.84	583,391.92
4450 - TIF EAST COLL AVE	15,185.39	-	-	15,185.39
4451 - TIF INDIANA AVENUE	37,279.26	-	-	37,279.26
4502 - ARP FISCAL RECOV FUND	3,499,980.77	-	267,582.98	3,232,397.79
4651 - CEMETERY CAPITAL IMPROV.	70,219.54	2,781.37	-	73,000.91
4660 - 2015 GOB PROCEEDS	849,472.25	-	-	849,472.25
4661 - 2021 GO BOND PROCEEDS	2,095,776.67	-	175,592.30	1,920,184.37
8801 - FIRE PENSION FUND	279,948.51	-	162,718.96	117,229.55
8802 - POLICE PENSION FUND	476,340.82	95.06	111,217.00	365,218.88
<b>Report Total:</b>	<b>\$ 106,581,200.97</b>	<b>\$ 6,637,526.44</b>	<b>\$ 21,222,805.58</b>	<b>\$ 91,995,921.83</b>



# Budget Report

## Group Summary

For Fiscal: 2026 Period Ending: 04/30/2026

Fund	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
<b>Revenue</b>						
1101 - GENERAL FUND	\$ 32,143,882.64	\$ 32,143,882.64	\$ 1,050,324.25	\$ 3,953,635.94	\$ (28,190,246.70)	87.70%
2201 - MVH FUND	4,149,500.38	4,149,500.38	66,461.81	290,300.54	(3,859,199.84)	93.00%
2202 - LOCAL ROAD & STREET	651,636.74	651,636.74	-	112,731.44	(538,905.30)	82.70%
2203 - MVH-RESTRICTED	721,871.65	721,871.65	-	123,144.53	(598,727.12)	82.94%
2204 - PARKS AND RECREATION	4,164,613.86	4,164,613.86	2,922.70	84,674.91	(4,079,938.95)	97.97%
2206 - AVIATION FUND	544,071.67	544,071.67	8,431.71	32,494.67	(511,577.00)	94.03%
2209 - LIT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	2,632,315.44	2,632,315.44	225,501.08	676,503.24	(1,955,812.20)	74.30%
2214 - PROBATION FUND	-	-	9,994.63	25,399.23	25,399.23	0.00%
2226 - REDEVELOPMENT OPERATING	275,031.62	275,031.62	7,950.00	8,573.92	(266,457.70)	96.88%
2228 - LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUE EDUCATION	23,361.07	23,361.07	2,880.09	6,290.37	(17,070.70)	73.07%
2240 - LIT - PUBLIC SAFETY	2,620,849.00	2,620,849.00	224,990.83	674,972.49	(1,945,876.51)	74.25%
2258 - TOWNSHIP FIRE SUPPORT	-	-	-	350,000.00	350,000.00	0.00%
2500 - COURT FEES	82,413.85	82,413.85	8,853.50	25,448.93	(56,964.92)	69.12%
2501 - RESIDENTIAL LEASE FEES	-	-	3,170.00	17,130.00	17,130.00	0.00%
2503 - ELECTRIC UTILITY SALE	-	-	-	21,501.02	21,501.02	0.00%
2505 - STORM WATER MANAGEMNT	628,354.92	628,354.92	1,254.55	10,078.74	(618,276.18)	98.40%
2506 - ECON IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	65,000.00	65,000.00	-	-	(65,000.00)	100.00%
2508 - REDHAWK ACADEMY	-	-	55,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00%
3301 - DEBT SERVICE	375,181.00	375,181.00	-	-	(375,181.00)	100.00%
3311 - TIF BOND P & I PYMT FUND	817,115.00	817,115.00	-	-	(817,115.00)	100.00%
4401 - CCI (CIGARETTE TAX) FUND	55,836.16	55,836.16	-	-	(55,836.16)	100.00%
4402 - CUMULATIVE CAP DEVELOP	958,556.00	958,556.00	-	155.37	(958,400.63)	99.98%
4425 - CCI FIRE STATION	638,398.00	638,398.00	-	-	(638,398.00)	100.00%
4428 - CCI STORM SEWER FUND	679,701.62	679,701.62	-	-	(679,701.62)	100.00%
4445 - TIF SOUTH EAST E.D.	10,598,528.90	10,598,528.90	-	148,454.00	(10,450,074.90)	98.60%
4446 - TIF CONS RR/US 33/DT	4,431,221.13	4,431,221.13	-	13,160.67	(4,418,060.46)	99.70%
4447 - TIF LIPPERT/DIERDORFF	269,694.39	269,694.39	-	-	(269,694.39)	100.00%
4651 - CEMETERY CAPITAL IMPROV.	8,848.70	8,848.70	976.00	2,781.37	(6,067.33)	68.57%
8801 - FIRE PENSION FUND	550,070.00	550,070.00	-	-	(550,070.00)	100.00%
8802 - POLICE PENSION FUND	423,049.52	423,049.52	15.00	95.06	(422,954.46)	99.98%
<b>Report Total:</b>	<b>\$ 68,509,103.26</b>	<b>\$ 68,509,103.26</b>	<b>\$ 1,668,726.15</b>	<b>\$ 6,637,526.44</b>	<b>\$(61,871,576.82)</b>	<b>90.31%</b>

Budget Report

For Fiscal: 2026 Period Ending: 04/30/2026

Fund	Original	Current	Period	Fiscal	Variance	Percent
	Total Budget	Total Budget	Activity	Activity	Favorable (Unfavorable)	Remaining
<b>Expense</b>						
1101 - GENERAL FUND	\$ 31,986,787.00	\$ 32,753,147.73	\$ 2,404,175.91	\$ 11,159,134.29	\$ 21,594,013.44	73.27%
2201 - MVH FUND	3,979,920.00	4,047,939.53	238,015.09	1,073,377.48	2,974,562.05	79.36%
2202 - LOCAL ROAD & STREET	700,000.00	1,700,000.00	-	1,000,000.00	700,000.00	41.18%
2203 - MVH-RESTRICTED	854,500.00	1,176,841.77	56,579.62	316,952.39	859,889.38	77.88%
2204 - PARKS AND RECREATION	2,971,988.00	2,971,988.00	83,183.45	340,774.68	2,631,213.32	91.33%
2206 - AVIATION FUND	572,000.00	845,554.43	312,802.99	441,542.11	404,012.32	84.77%
2209 - LIT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	3,628,000.00	7,399,582.18	144,558.51	584,426.29	6,815,155.89	94.06%
2214 - PROBATION FUND	123,130.00	123,130.00	9,434.62	40,074.07	83,055.93	75.12%
2226 - REDEVELOPMENT OPERATING	311,630.00	311,630.00	18,228.03	86,795.09	224,834.91	78.00%
2228 - LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTINUE EDUCATION	36,000.00	52,000.00	925.74	21,315.09	30,684.91	60.79%
2240 - LIT - PUBLIC SAFETY	3,549,790.00	3,549,790.00	238,063.45	967,521.60	2,582,268.40	79.45%
2257 - OPIOID SETTLEMENT RESTR	71,832.00	71,832.00	-	-	71,832.00	100.00%
2258 - TOWNSHIP FIRE SUPPORT	607,570.00	607,570.00	45,948.36	207,255.87	400,314.13	73.45%
2500 - COURT FEES	56,000.00	77,813.61	13,779.15	71,746.95	6,066.66	25.50%
2501 - RESIDENTIAL LEASE FEES	73,206.00	73,206.00	3,754.91	16,617.77	56,588.23	82.43%
2505 - STORM WATER MANAGEMNT	1,053,176.00	1,090,296.90	29,172.08	168,820.60	921,476.30	87.19%
2506 - ECON IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT	89,350.00	89,350.00	3,330.00	16,501.77	72,848.23	85.26%
2508 - REDHAWK ACADEMY	25,000.00	25,000.00	465.61	1,221.91	23,778.09	96.97%
3301 - DEBT SERVICE	371,350.00	371,350.00	-	183,600.00	187,750.00	50.56%
3311 - TIF BOND P & I PYMT FUND	946,440.00	946,440.00	-	-	946,440.00	100.00%
4401 - CCI (CIGARETTE TAX) FUND	85,000.00	85,000.00	1,292.77	4,444.57	80,555.43	96.29%
4402 - CUMULATIVE CAP DEVELOP	1,426,220.00	1,447,320.00	85,693.21	152,257.54	1,295,062.46	95.40%
4425 - CCI FIRE STATION	210,000.00	210,000.00	-	47,128.05	162,871.95	77.56%
4428 - CCI STORM SEWER FUND	1,700,000.00	1,700,000.00	15,168.18	25,138.91	1,674,861.09	99.41%
4445 - TIF SOUTH EAST E.D.	7,087,000.00	7,590,175.00	156,866.49	3,142,172.74	4,448,002.26	60.67%
4446 - TIF CONS RR/US 33/DT	1,724,000.00	4,915,609.42	35,947.52	371,714.73	4,543,894.69	93.17%
4447 - TIF LIPPERT/DIERDORFF	250,000.00	250,000.00	-	65,159.84	184,840.16	73.94%
4450 - TIF EAST COLL AVE	900,000.00	900,000.00	-	-	900,000.00	100.00%
4502 - ARP FISCAL RECOV FUND	2,750,648.00	6,154,335.92	208,077.78	267,582.98	5,886,752.94	99.03%
4660 - 2015 GOB PROCEEDS	849,472.00	849,472.00	-	-	849,472.00	100.00%
4661 - 2021 GO BOND PROCEEDS	2,977,606.00	2,977,606.00	-	175,592.30	2,802,013.70	94.10%
8801 - FIRE PENSION FUND	567,200.00	567,200.00	39,369.21	162,718.96	404,481.04	78.25%
8802 - POLICE PENSION FUND	422,400.00	422,400.00	27,768.00	111,217.00	311,183.00	80.24%
<b>Report Total:</b>	<b>\$ 72,957,215.00</b>	<b>\$ 86,353,580.49</b>	<b>\$ 4,172,600.68</b>	<b>\$ 21,222,805.58</b>	<b>\$65,130,774.91</b>	<b>75.42%</b>
<b>Report Surplus (Deficit):</b>	<b>\$ (4,448,111.74)</b>	<b>\$ (17,844,477.23)</b>	<b>\$ (2,503,874.53)</b>	<b>\$ (14,585,279.14)</b>	<b>\$ 3,259,198.09</b>	<b>18.26%</b>



# Budget Report Group Summary

For Fiscal: 2026 Period Ending: 04/30/2026

Department	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
<b>Fund: 1101 - GENERAL FUND</b>						
<b>Expense</b>						
01 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 10,862.45	\$ 19,137.55	63.79%
02 - COUNCIL	153,723.00	153,723.00	10,720.50	47,122.25	106,600.75	69.35%
03 - MAYOR	543,775.00	543,775.00	40,236.92	176,567.13	367,207.87	67.53%
04 - CLERK-TREASURER	793,700.00	793,700.00	60,482.45	219,859.84	573,840.16	72.30%
05 - LEGAL	948,575.00	954,071.00	52,276.51	246,009.76	708,061.24	74.21%
06 - COURT	533,200.00	533,200.00	45,624.80	177,105.69	356,094.31	66.78%
07 - BOARD OF WORKS	3,401,580.00	3,576,304.52	355,989.67	2,166,685.51	1,409,619.01	39.42%
08 - TECHNOLOGY	643,794.00	780,856.90	53,969.30	278,830.76	502,026.14	64.29%
09 - CEMETERY-GENERAL	443,009.00	443,009.00	32,221.11	112,171.33	330,837.67	74.68%
10 - ENGINEERING	1,153,713.00	1,153,713.00	79,104.17	351,430.62	802,282.38	69.54%
11 - POLICE DEPARTMENT	9,806,023.00	10,063,948.31	673,117.55	2,994,537.35	7,069,410.96	70.24%
12 - FIRE DEPARTMENT	8,510,374.00	8,511,009.00	649,379.75	2,879,412.13	5,631,596.87	66.17%
15 - BUILDING DEPARTMENT	707,082.00	707,082.00	51,366.85	226,965.99	480,116.01	67.90%
16 - PLANNING DEPARTMENT	448,054.00	575,094.00	33,452.03	148,296.33	426,797.67	74.21%
18 - CENTRAL GARAGE	1,780,938.00	1,780,938.00	131,742.50	536,591.83	1,244,346.17	69.87%
19 - BUILDINGS-GROUNDS	1,479,768.00	1,479,768.00	76,786.34	313,429.97	1,166,338.03	78.82%
46 - ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE	609,479.00	672,956.00	56,905.46	257,586.99	415,369.01	61.72%
90 - UNAPPROPRIATED	-	-	-	15,668.36	(15,668.36)	0.00%
<b>Expense Total:</b>	<b>\$31,986,787.00</b>	<b>\$32,753,147.73</b>	<b>\$ 2,404,175.91</b>	<b>\$11,159,134.29</b>	<b>\$21,594,013.44</b>	<b>65.93%</b>
<b>Fund: 1101 - GENERAL FUND Total:</b>	<b>\$31,986,787.00</b>	<b>\$32,753,147.73</b>	<b>\$ 2,404,175.91</b>	<b>\$11,159,134.29</b>	<b>\$21,594,013.44</b>	<b>65.93%</b>
<b>Report Total:</b>	<b>\$31,986,787.00</b>	<b>\$32,753,147.73</b>	<b>\$ 2,404,175.91</b>	<b>\$11,159,134.29</b>	<b>\$21,594,013.44</b>	<b>65.93%</b>



**CITY OF GOSHEN, INDIANA**

City of Goshen Legal Department  
City Annex  
204 East Jefferson Street, Suite 2  
Goshen, Indiana 46528-3405

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May 18, 2026

To: Goshen Common Council

From: Shannon Marks, Legal Compliance Administrator

RE: Goshen Downtown Economic Improvement District Board Appointments

The Goshen Downtown Economic Improvement District (EID) Board consists of five members appointed by the Goshen Common Council to serve staggered two-year terms. Board members must either own real estate in the district or be directly involved in a business operating within the district, and at least three members must be real estate owners within the district.

The current EID Board members are Justin Bell, Denise Davis, Jason Oswald, Miriam (Mim) Shirk, and Rosie Singh (Morales). The terms of Justin Bell and Rosie Singh (Morales) expired on May 31, 2025, and they are currently serving as holdover members. The terms of Denise Davis, Jason Oswald, and Miriam (Mim) Shirk will expire on May 31, 2026. All current members have expressed interest in continuing their service on the EID Board.

Pursuant to Goshen City Ordinance 3760, as amended, the EID Board is required to solicit input from all real estate owners within the district for names of persons to serve on the Board prior to submitting recommendations to the Common Council for appointment. George W. Burkley III also expressed interest in serving on the EID Board again.

Ballots listing the names of the six (6) individuals willing to serve on the EID Board were mailed to all property owners within the district that are subject to an annual assessment. Property owners were asked to vote for no more than five (5) individuals. The ballots are to be returned by Friday, May 15, 2026.

The results of this polling process will be presented to the Common Council at its meeting on May 18, 2026, at which time the Council will be asked to appoint five (5) individuals to the EID Board – two (2) to serve the remainder of the term ending May 31, 2027, and three to serve a two-year term beginning June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2028.

## ORDINANCE 5261

### Amend False Alarm Penalty

WHEREAS the City of Goshen Common Council adopted Ordinance 4754, amended by Ordinance 5012, to establish a penalty to be charged when the Goshen Police Department and/or Goshen Fire Department responds to False Alarms generated by private Alarm Systems;

WHEREAS the cost of the Goshen Police Department and/or Goshen Fire Department responding to False Alarms has increased since the adoption of Ordinance 4754; and

WHEREAS the City of Goshen seeks to increase the amount of penalties imposed when responding to False Alarms to more accurately reflect the City of Goshen's actual costs incurred in responding to False Alarms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana, as follows:

#### **Section 1. False Alarm Penalty.**

- A. The owner of real estate serviced by an Alarm System shall be subject to a False Alarm fine for each False Alarm occurring at an Alarm Site to which the Goshen Police Department and/or Goshen Fire Department responds occurring after the first two (2) False Alarms occurring within a calendar year.
1. The False Alarm fine shall be One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) for the third and fourth False Alarms occurring at an Alarm Site within a calendar year, and
  2. The False Alarm fine shall be Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for the fifth and all subsequent False Alarms occurring at an Alarm Site within a calendar year.
- B. If both the Goshen Police Department and Goshen Fire Department respond to the same False Alarm, the event shall be considered a single False Alarm.

#### **Section 2. Notice.**

- A. The City shall provide the owner of the real estate with a written notice of each False Alarm occurring at an Alarm Site and any False Alarm fine assessed pursuant to Section 1.
- B. The owner of the real estate shall be required to pay a False Alarm fine within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice.
- C. The money collected from False Alarm fines assessed shall be deposited into the General Fund.

#### **Section 3. Hearing; Appeal.**

- A. The person or entity receiving a written notice of a False Alarm or a notice of the assessment of any False Alarm fine may request a hearing before the Goshen Board of Public Works and Safety to dispute the existence of a False Alarm occurring at the Alarm Site or to otherwise dispute the accuracy of a False Alarm fine. The request for a hearing must be in writing and received by the Mayor's Office within fifteen (15) days of the date of the written notice.

B. The person or a representative of the entity will be given the opportunity to appear at the hearing before the Board of Public Works and Safety, with or without counsel, to present evidence to the Board to dispute the existence of a False Alarm occurring at the Alarm Site or to otherwise dispute the accuracy of a False Alarm fine. Each person may cross-examine those persons presenting testimony to the Board and testify on their own behalf. The City will assist the person in obtaining witnesses, exhibits, and documentation to present at the hearing if such information is not otherwise available to the person requesting assistance and can be obtained by the City.

C. At the hearing, the Board of Public Works and Safety shall enter a finding determining whether a False Alarm occurred at the Alarm Site, and whether the False Alarm fine assessed is correct. The Board may affirm or modify the original notice consistent with the Board's findings.

D. Any appeal from the findings of the Board of Public Works and Safety shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of Indiana Code § 36-1-6-9, as amended.

**Section 4. Definitions.**

A. Alarm Site shall mean the location or address served by an Alarm System. Each location or address served by a separate Alarm System shall be considered a separate Alarm Site.

B. Alarm System shall mean any device or set of devices intended to detect and signal the occurrence of an activity requiring an emergency response to the Alarm Site at which the device or set of devices are installed and operated. For the purposes of this ordinance, an Alarm System installed on a motor vehicle or on someone's person is excluded.

C. False Alarm shall mean the activation of an Alarm System resulting in notification of the Goshen Police Department and/or Goshen Department which occurs as the result of mechanical or electronic failure, malfunction, improper installation, or the negligence or intentional conduct of the occupant of the Alarm Site or the occupant's employees, customers, or invitees. For the purposes of this ordinance, an alarm is false when, upon inspection by the Goshen Police Department and/or Goshen Fire Department, there is no evidence of criminal activity, fire, smoke, carbon monoxide, heat, or other threat of emergency of the kind for which the Alarm System is designed to give notice.

1. A False Alarm shall not include an alarm which can reasonably be determined to have been caused or activated by violent weather conditions.

2. An alarm activated during an Alarm System testing procedure shall not be considered a False Alarm if the owner of the real estate first notifies the Goshen Police Department and Goshen Fire Department.

**Section 5. Effective Date.**

A. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and adoption according to the laws of the State of Indiana.

B. The accrual of False Alarms shall be on a calendar year basis and the assessment of the False Alarm fine set forth in Section 1 shall go into effect from and after passage, approval, and adoption of this ordinance.

**Section 6. Other Ordinances.**

All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the terms of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict, including Ordinances 4754 and 5012.

**Section 7. Severability.**

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and the invalidity of any phrase, clause, or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

PASSED by the Goshen Common Council on May \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina M. Leichty, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

PRESENTED to the Mayor of the City of Goshen on May \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, at the hour of \_\_\_\_:  
\_\_\_\_. m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED and ADOPTED on May \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina M. Leichty, Mayor



City Clerk-Treasurer  
CITY OF GOSHEN

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**TO:** Mayor Gina Leichty and the Goshen Common Council  
**FROM:** Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Ordinance 5262, Additional Appropriation  
**DATE:** May 18, 2026 (for First and Second Readings)

---

Thank you for considering Ordinance 5262, Additional Appropriation, which requests authorization from the Council and Mayor to spend additional and available money from a City account. The Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer requested this ordinance because the Common Council is the City's fiscal body which authorizes the City's budget and any budget adjustments.

As you know, an appropriation is "permission to spend available money" and is tied to a specific fund. Within a fund there are four spending categories and multiple accounts. It is possible to get permission to move budgeted spending between accounts and categories, but sometimes the total appropriation within a fund is insufficient for the fund's total spending, due to emergencies, unforeseen circumstances, or budget errors. In this case, the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer propose an additional appropriation if the expenditures are necessary and paying the expenditure might otherwise overspend the budgeted appropriation.

After Council approval, the Clerk-Treasurer submits the additional appropriation to the Department of Local Government Finance ("DLGF") for final approval. The DLGF will only approve an additional appropriation if the Clerk-Treasurer proves that the City has cash available for the additional appropriation and the following year's budget.

Attached is a memorandum from Building Commissioner Myron Grise concerning a request for an additional appropriation from the Unsafe Building Fund. As noted in the memorandum, the reason for the additional appropriation is that these funds were inadvertently not appropriated during the budget process last Fall.

The affected fund has a sufficient cash balance to spend this appropriation. If the Council approves Ordinance 5262, the Clerk-Treasurer will submit necessary information to the DLGF for final approval.



**Building Department  
CITY OF GOSHEN**

204 East Jefferson Street, Suite 5 • Goshen, Indiana 46528-3405

Phone (574) 534-1811 • Fax (574) 533-8626 • TDD (574) 534-3185  
building@goshencity.com • goshen.in.gov

April 29, 2026

Mayor Gina Leichty and Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre:

The Goshen Building Department is requesting the following appropriation

1. Appropriation of \$140,024.05 to Line 2234-5-4360500, UNSAFE BLDG/DEMO/RECEIVSH

This figure represents the unappropriated cash balance of the Unsafe Building Fund. Although this balance was available at the time the 2026 budget was prepared, the funds were inadvertently not appropriated for the 2026 budget year. This additional appropriation is necessary to allow the Building Department to expend Unsafe Building Fund monies during 2026 for the demolition, removal, repair, including through receiverships, and securing of unsafe premises within the corporate limits of Goshen, as authorized by Indiana Code § 36-7-9.

Thank you.

Myron Grise  
Building Commissioner

**ORDINANCE 5262**  
**Additional Appropriation**

WHEREAS it has been determined that it is necessary to appropriate more money than the amount appropriated in the current year's annual budget,

WHEREAS pursuant to notice given, the Goshen Common Council conducted a public hearing on the proposed additional appropriation,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that Goshen Common Council makes the following additional appropriation of money in excess of the current year's budget for the fund(s) named:

**UNSAFE BUILDING FUND**

2234-5-4360500

DEMO/RECEIVSH

\$140,024.05

**PASSED by the Goshen Common Council on May 18, 2026.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

PRESENTED to the Mayor of the City of Goshen on May 18, 2026, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard R. Aguirre, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED and ADOPTED on May 18, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina Leichty, Mayor