

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-25**

**A Resolution Requesting that Local Governments, the Lake County Council and the Indiana General Assembly Pass the Legislation that is Necessary to Reinvigorate the U.S. 30 and Interstate 65 Intersection**

WHEREAS, there are currently two casino licenses assigned to the City of Gary with the casinos being owned and operated as the Majestic Star Casino by the Barden Companies, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, one of the casino licenses in Gary is being used by a casino boat that Barden acquired when licenses were originally issued and the other is being used by a casino boat Barden acquired from Trump Indiana and from a practical standpoint the two casinos are operated as one and should only need a single license, leaving the other license unused; and

WHEREAS, committees of the Indiana General Assembly are currently considering legislation that would allow the one active license to be moved within the City of Gary and to be land based; and

WHEREAS, legislation to allow the movement of the Gary license to a land based location could require that the Barden Companies give up its unused license which could then be reissued by the state to another operator at another location; and

WHEREAS, the casino in French Lick, Indiana has been operating as a land based casino since 2008; and

WHEREAS, there has been discussion that that the unused license will be moved to Vincennes, Indiana, which would remove it from Northwest Indiana where it was originally issued; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Hammond has proposed that the unused license be moved to Hammond, which already has an active casino license and operating casino; and

WHEREAS, since there are active casinos in the western part of Lake County with licenses in Hammond, East Chicago and Gary, with no other casinos heading east until you reach Michigan City, it would seem appropriate to move the unused license to a location east of Gary such as Hobart; and

WHEREAS, since the existing casinos and the locations which are being proposed for moving the Gary license are accessible from Interstate 80/94 or Interstate 90 where they are easily accessible from Chicago to the west, it would seem appropriate to move the unused license to a location along Interstate 65 where it is easily accessible from the south; and

WHEREAS, a plan has been proposed to create a new destination development at the intersection of U.S. 30 and Interstate 65 on the location of the old Radisson Hotel, Star Plaza and Twin Towers in Merrillville called 'The Farm at Crossroads Commons' which hopes to draw visitors from across the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, the recently released report from the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) recommended a convention center be created in Northwest Indiana and three of the five recommended sites are the site of the former Century Mall in Merrillville, the site of the former Radisson Hotel, Star Plaza and Twin Towers in Merrillville and the Silverstone development in

Hobart, all of which are at the intersection of U.S. 30 and Interstate 65; and

WHEREAS, Lake County has spent county TIF redevelopment funds to design and install the infrastructure for the Silverstone development in Hobart; and

WHEREAS, due primarily to the economic down turn of 2008, the Silverstone development remains unfinished without tenants; and

WHEREAS, a large anchor tenant such as a casino and/or convention center surrounded by supporting businesses was envisioned during the design of the Silverstone development and the development is large enough to include large anchors along with parking, hotels, restaurants and shops; and

WHEREAS, people who are drawn to destinations such as convention centers, casinos or developments like the proposed 'The Farm at Crossroads Commons' spend time and money at surrounding retail, hotel and restaurant businesses; and

WHEREAS, the retail, hotel and restaurant businesses originally created in the 1970's at the intersection of U.S. 30 and Interstate 65 have been an economic engine that created and sustained jobs and businesses for thousands of Hoosier residents; and

WHEREAS, retail businesses across America, like those along U.S. 30 in Hobart and Merrillville are suffering from an economic downturn and those that are being most successful at remaining active and vibrant are doing so by being tied in creatively with other surrounding ventures to create destination shopping opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the retail, hotel and restaurant businesses originally created in the 1970's at the intersection of U.S. 30 and Interstate 65 have been an economic engine that created and sustained jobs and businesses for thousands of Hoosier residents; and

WHEREAS, the synergy that would exist by having a development like 'The Farms at Crossroads Commons', a casino and a convention center along with the retail, hotel and restaurant businesses located near each other, would create an economic juggernaut that would end up having a much larger economic impact on the area than the individual developments might have separately,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana as follows:

1. We hereby ask that Mayor of Hobart to start holding meetings with members of Hobart Common Council, members of the Merrillville Town Council and the various stakeholders in these proposed projects so the communities of Hobart and Merrillville and the related stakeholders can develop a unified plan and begin to move forward together with the re-energizing of the area around the U.S. 30 and Interstate 65 intersection and the creation of a mega destination economic engine for all of Northwest Indiana.

2. We hereby ask the Lake County Council and the Indiana General Assembly to support the plan that is developed by Hobart and Merrillville for reinvigorating the U.S. 30 and Interstate 65 intersection, to recognize the economic importance of this area, to recognize that a project such as this

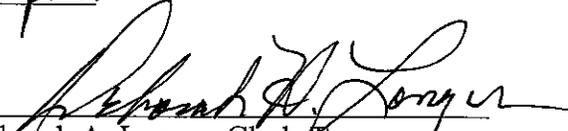
can be good for the whole county and to develop and pass the necessary legislation that may be required to implement and fund the plan that is developed by the two communities.

ALL OF WHICH is ADOPTED as the resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hobart, Indiana on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

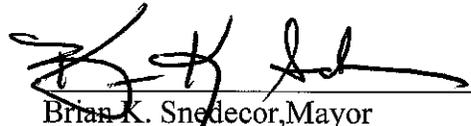
  
PRESIDING OFFICER

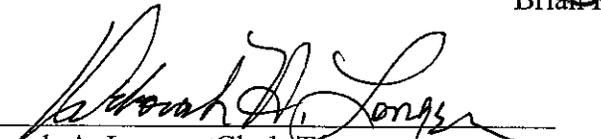
ATTEST:   
DEBORAH A. LONGER, Clerk-Treasurer

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Hobart on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018 at the hour of 7:45 p.m.

  
Deborah A. Longer, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED, EXECUTED and RETURNED by me to the Common Council of the City of Hobart on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

  
Brian K. Snedecor, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Deborah A. Longer, Clerk-Treasurer