BILL NO. R-25-10-17

RESOLUTION NO. R- _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2026 BUDGET FOR THE DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

Whereas, On October 24,1995 the Common Council of the City of Fort Wayne ("Council") adopted Resolution R-70-95 (Bill Number R-95-09-21) which established the 'Downtown Fort Wayne Economic Improvement District" ("District"); and

Whereas, On September 23, 2025, the Common Council of the City of Fort Wayne ("Council") adopted Special Ordinance No. S-118-25 (Bill Number S-25-08-34) which renewed the "Downtown Fort Wayne Economic Improvement District" ("District") for the calendar years 2026 through 2035; and

Whereas, Indiana Code 36-7-22-17 requires that the Board of said District submit for approval the 2026 Budget for the District; and

Whereas, the mission of the District is to increase the value of downtown and mobilize leadership and resources to achieve the community's vision for downtown;

Whereas, the attached budget (Exhibit A) directs the funding for the District to maintain and promote its mission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA:

Section 1. The 2026 Downtown Improvement District budget is approved as described in Exhibit A attached.

Section 2. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and any and all necessary approval by the Mayor.

____
Council Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

____
Malak Heiny, City Attorney

DOWNTOWN *Fort Wayne*

Downtown Fort Wayne Services 2026

Downtown Fort Wayne is pleased to be entering into a new decade of service to an expanded Downtown District with new businesses as well as investment ready property. An increase in Downtown residents both housed and unhoused, pose new Clean & Safe challenges for our shared community. Downtown continues to benefit from successful community events, destination promotion, and placemaking. The stage is set for ongoing strategic growth, both in the expanded Downtown District and in our adjacent business corridors.

Downtown Fort Wayne will:

- ✓ Continue to provide critical and much-needed services that help facilitate economic growth and increase overall vitality downtown.
- ✓ Expand our role as convenors and collaborators to grow stronger partnerships to shape a more cohesive vision for downtown, as well as to advance economic impact for future growth, and build the downtown brand.
- ✓ Leverage assessment revenues bringing additional activation and investment downtown and increasing impact as the ownership representative for the District.

Core Services to be provided by Downtown Fort Wayne in 2026:

- **Clean & Safe:** Downtown Fort Wayne remains vigilant about keeping downtown clean and welcoming with an increasing focus on much-needed safety and hospitality service to support the growing and thriving mixed-use neighborhood.

  Projects to ensure the public realm remains clean, safe, and ready for commerce include:

  - ✓ The Downtown Ambassador Program, providing critical safety and hospitality services for our residents, businesses, and visitors alike.
  - ✓ Cleaning, litter collection, weed cleanup, graffiti removal, and snow clearing assistance at key intersections during the winter months.
  - ✓ Development and support of a unifying aesthetic for downtown's public spaces and right of way through streetscape enhancements and amenities.

- **Marketing & Events:** The Downtown Improvement District will continue to develop and deliver an experience that encourages locals and visitors of all ages to visit downtown by maintaining and enhancing the image, awareness and usage of downtown as a vibrant hub of regional activity where people eat, shop, stay, live, work and play.

  This will include:

  - ✓ Working with community partners to reinforce an authentic brand for downtown.
  - ✓ Targeted communication and messaging to the locals and visitors through multi-channel marketing programs.
  - ✓ Year-round programming of events and activities that bring a diverse demographic of groups to experience, explore and engage downtown.
  - ✓ Generating positive media coverage through strategic media relationships and collaborations.

- **Placemaking & Business Services:** Downtown Fort Wayne will continue to be the go-to resource for its stakeholders on all things downtown, providing leadership, business support, and advocacy where it's critical to those who live and work here.

  Projects to support our stakeholders will include:

  - ✓ Downtown planning, advocating, and championing on behalf of downtown stakeholders.
  - ✓ Placemaking through seasonal installations and public realm beautification
  - ✓ Working with community partners to support the retail, restaurant, and storefront experience.
  - ✓ Providing business support and information for current and potential downtown businesses.

EXHIBIT

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	2026 Budget
Revenue and Support	
4000 · DID Assessment	$759,387.30
4650 · Downtown Dining District Dues	$42,000.00
4100 · City of Fort Wayne Support	$185,000.00
4105 · City - Infrastructure/Capital	$65,000.00
4200 · County of Allen Support	$75,000.00
4300 · Business Contributions	$0.00
4400 · Individual Contributions	$0.00
4500 · Grants	
4500.1 · Grants - Art This Way	$20,000.00
4500 · Grants - Other	$50,000.00
Total 4500 · Grants	$70,000.00
4600 · Event / Programming Revenue	
4610 · Sponsorships	
4610.1 · Sponsorships - ATW	$50,000.00
4610 · Sponsorships - Other	$200,000.00
Total 4610 · Sponsorships	$250,000.00
4630 · Entrance/Participation Fees	
4630.2 · Fees - Food Trucks & Stakeholder	$5,500.00
4630.1 · Particpation Fees	$7,000.00
Total 4630 · Entrance/Participation Fees	$12,500.00
Total 4600 · Event / Programming Revenue	$262,500.00
4700 · Interest Revenue	$12,000.00
4900 · Other Income	$50,000.00
Total Revenue and Support	**$1,520,887.30**
Expense	
6010 · Personnel Costs	
6010.1 · Staff Compensation	
6011 · Salaries	$605,775.30
6012.1 · Payroll Taxes	$47,515.06
6020 · Employee Benefits	
6022 · Health/Dental/Life/AD&D	$90,935.53
6025 · Parking for Staff/Mileage Reimb	$4,160.00
6024 · Retirement Plan	$9,000.00
6013 · Workers Compensation	$5,500.00
Total 6020 · Employee Benefits	$109,595.53
Total 6010.1 · Staff Compensation	$762,885.89
6710.1 · Contract Fees / Labor	
6810 · Accounting	$30,000.00
6257 · ATW	$36,850.00
6257.1 · Grant Work	$10,000.00
6830 · Legal	$8,500.00
7122.1 · Social Media	$42,000.00
7200 · Strategic Plan	$3,000.00
7201 · Tech Support	$23,000.00
Total 6710.1 · Contract Fees / Labor	$153,350.00

Total 6010 · Personnel Costs	$916,235.89
8001 · Art This Way	
8001.1 · ATW - Artist Stipends	$45,000.00
8001.3 · ATW - Marketing & Events	$5,000.00
8001.2 · ATW - Logistics & Supplies	$20,000.00
8001.4 - ATW Art Crawl	$0.00
Total 8001 · Art This Way	$70,000.00
8000 · Bank and Finance Charges	$0.00
6610.1 · Conferences / Meetings	
6260 · Stakeholder Services support	$25,000.00
6610 · Conferences/Training/Travel	$10,000.00
6170 · Meals for Board Meetings	$0.00
6410 · Meeting Expenses	$4,500.00
Total 6610.1 · Conferences / Meetings	$39,500.00
7800 · Depreciation Expense	$7,500.00
6180 · Office Equipment	$6,500.00
6710 · Events	
6712 · Event Production	$130,000.00
6720 · Grants-Jointly Sponsored Evts	$0.00
6720.1 · Grants Jointly SponsProjects	$10,000.00
Total 6710 · Events	$140,000.00
6820 · Insurance - Commercial; D&O	$10,500.00
6251 · Landscaping/Planters	$52,500.00
6254 · Maintenance/Supplies	$0.00
6430.2 · Marketing	
7100 · Co-Op Marketing	$10,500.00
7135 · Downtown Dining Marketing	$39,500.00
7130 · Sector Marketing	$12,000.00
6430.1 · General Marketing/Branding	$36,000.00
7122 · Website & E-Newsletter	$40,000.00
Total 6430.2 · Marketing	$138,000.00
7400 · Miscellaneous	$15,387.41
6110 · Occupancy (Donated in 2026)	$0.00
6100 · Office Expenses	
6620 · Dues/Subscriptions	$39,000.00
6140 · Postage	$650.00
6145 · Printing & Copying	$3,100.00
6150 · Supplies	$4,500.00
6130 · Telephone/Internet/Cell	$5,514.00
Total 6100 · Office Expenses	$52,764.00
6259 · Infrastructure / Streetscape	
6259.1 · Maintenance Materials	$27,000.00
6259 · Infrastructure / Streetscape - Other	$18,000.00
6259.2 Outdoor/Public Realm	$25,000.00
Total 6259 · Infrastructure / Streetscape	$70,000.00
7999 · Volunteer Activities	$2,000.00
Total Expense	**$1,520,887.30**
Revenue over (under) Expense	**$0.00**

October 21, 2025

The Honorable Russ Jehl, President
Fort Wayne City Council
c/o City Clerk's Office
200 E Berry St, Suite 110
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

RE: 2026 Budget

Dear President Jehl:

The Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District, an economic improvement district organized under IC 36-7-22, and authorized by City Council on September 23, 2025, has a budget subject to approval by City Council (IC 36-7-22-11).

In accordance with its By-Laws, the Downtown Improvement District annually adopts the budget. At their meeting on October 21, 2025, the Downtown Improvement District Board of Directors adopted the attached 2026 budget.

The Downtown Improvement District respectfully submits this budget to City Council for final approval.

Sincerely,

Robert Walters

Robert Walters
President

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#DTFW