

On a scorching hot summer day in June 1968, a tall, slender, dark-haired man and recent graduate from Ball State University's first graduating class in Urban Planning, stepped out of his car and wandered into Michigan City, City Hall for a drink and a rest stop. Little did he know that his entry marked the beginning of a lustrous career.

Charles "Chuck" Oberlie was offered a job as the Assistant Planning Director. Eventually, appointed to the roles of City Planner, Controller and elected Mayor.

Throughout his career with the City of Michigan City, he worked tirelessly to analyze and develop a plan to provide essential services. Some neighborhoods and business districts did not have sanitary, water or utility services. He supported the creation and development of Tax Increment Financing Districts, Urban Development Areas, and master plan studies which benefits the community today. The projects which bring him a great sense of pride are the Trail Creek grants for fishing access, Michigan Boulevard Beautification Project Phase 1, Zoo projects, Skate Park and the support of MCAS After Hours Program.

Chuck held leadership positions with the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, leading this business membership resource center in economic development initiatives and building business retention programs in addition to creating leaders through neighborhood development efforts.

Building trusted relationships with all people, providing an empathetic ear, a willingness to listen to dissent and provide solutions has been the most rewarding part of his career. He is an inspiring mentor, coach, humble leader and trusted friend.

His leadership has been recognized throughout his career, receiving the Sagamore of the Wabash; Breakfast of Champions, State Champion Award; Liberty Bell Award; and the Norman E. Tufford Award.

Chuck raised three wonderful children, who embody his values. He and his wife, Rita, are proud residents of Michigan City.

