

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on November 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Houston and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call, by Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann, was answered by Councilors Kim Kramer, Tim McQuinn, Ralph Widmer and Doug Pepple. City Attorney George Loy was also present.

Minutes- Kim Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting at 6:00 pm as presented. Ralph Widmer seconded the motion. All ayes except for Doig Pepple who abstained, motion carried.

Additions & Deletions-None

Citizen Participation-There were no citizens present who had anything to bring up. Mayor Houston reported to the Council he had received a thank you note from Ivy Tech Chancellor David Bathe for the new sidewalks and repaved streets along Condo and O'Connor Streets. Also, State Representative Don Lehe sent a letter to the City congratulating us for the work completed using the Community Crossings program. Mayor Houston also read a letter from Gale Spry, Director of the White County Council on Aging. Gale thanked the City for the assistance provided through the years with building maintenance and presently with the repaving of the parking lot.

Department Head Reports-ADA Coordinator Cathy Gross reported that the OPIOD Task Force partnership with the Boys & Girls Club along with Meadowlawn Students created and put on a play centering on opioids prevention. The group of student thespians will be presenting the play to other students in the area. The Wellness Committee from the City recently worked with IPEP on safety training for City employees. IPEP advised the Committee of grants that are available and several City departments applied. The Fire Department will be receiving \$22,000.00, Police-\$7,000.00, Wastewater-\$6,300.00 and Parks-\$2,158.40. Wastewater Superintendent Adam Downey indicated he will be speaking at the Indiana Water Environmental Association conference held at Purdue on the 12th. He and Rod Pool will be giving tours of the Water and Wastewater Plants to Twin Lakes students on 11-18-19. On the 14th the department will be doing an inspection at Ball Corporation. Adam said samples are typically taken twice a year. Adam also reported that the department will be working with SRF to spend down the remaining loan amount (\$84,000) by being reimbursed for the Bryan's Lift Station generator including the labor to install. Additionally, other safety equipment will be purchased. Fire Chief Galen Logan reported on a Community Paramedicine presentation made by Paul Miller of the Crawfordsville Fire Department. Chief Miller was instrumental in setting up a community paramedicine program in Montgomery County. On November 1, 2019 Galen indicated he met with Gary Rhuede and Jeremy Kyburz of Adkev for preplanning efforts on the matter of how the MFD would fight a fire at the plant location. Water Superintendent Rod Pool reported the department repaired a broken hydrant on Bluewater. He also said the wash tanks will be cleaned out by Merrill Brothers which will save money for the City because it prevents chemicals from being treated by the wastewater plant at a high expense.

Police Chief Randy Soliday reported that officer Ryan Pyle was attending a class on “understanding human behavior and body language”. He also indicated the MPD will be giving a tour of the Police Station to the Boy Scouts. Assistant Street Commissioner Dave Livesay reported that 11-4-19 will be the first day for leaf pick up. He also said some Christmas lights will be put up by 11-20-19 for the local “Black Friday” shopping event. Central Paving will be laying the base coat of blacktop very soon for the Council on Aging lot and will finish the surface coat in the Spring of 2020.

Committee Reports-None

Old Business-None

New Business

- 1. Introduction of Water and Wastewater Rate Ordinances**-Mayor Houston asked Adam Downey to provide some background information on this matter. Adam began his remarks by referring to his memorandum of 10-18-2019 which capsulized the discussion/action by the ordinance committee. The last water rate increase was in 2011 at 9.5%. The last sewer rate increase was in 2014 at 56%. Unfortunately, the daily cost of running the utilities has increased over time while the number of customers over the years has stayed basically the same. Adam further outlined the age of the lift stations and pipes in the ground will require either replacement or maintenance. The City has an agreed order with IDEM to complete the details of the approved long-term control plan which deals with the mitigation of combined storm and sanitary sewer lines. Adam pointed out the need to determine a new location for drilling water wells since the current location is out of physical space for any new wells. However, Superintendent Rod Pool has a plan to save money once the rate hike goes into effect and purchase land for a future well field. The goal is to do this without bonding. After working with Baker Tilly Financial Advisors, Adam indicated the ordinance committee has voted to recommend a 12.5% increase to water rates and a 15% increase in sewer rates in 2019. Adam stressed that in 2020 and 2021 additional rate changes will be required to meet the Baker Tilly utility rate analysis for the long-term health of the water and sewer departments. Councilor Ralph Widmer inquired about future rate changes. Adam responded the ordinances in the Council’s possession only deal with 2019 and will go into effect March 1 2020. The next administration will need to work out the future increases. The exact amount with sewer should be connected to the next long-term control project which is estimated to cost \$9,000,000. Ralph also asked about the progress on the water test wells. Rod Pool indicated the testing looks good so far. City Attorney George Loy outlined a proposed change to the deposits section of each ordinance found in section 2. The current rate of \$75.00 with water will increase to \$100.00 and the same rate of \$75.00 for sewer will increase to \$125.00. Commercial and industrial deposits will also increase as indicated in the same section. George also indicated there was a provision for installment accounts in the code. Rod Pool indicated this goes back to large projects in the 1980’s but should be removed. Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann agreed the code reference should be repealed. City attorney George Loy also indicated allowances for “sprinkler rates” are not found in the code. The Council could make some type of formal provision for them.

Finally, George outlined details on evaporation rates in section 5. Councilor Tim McQuinn reviewed the actions of the committee for the council and the audience. Tim McQuinn made a motion to move Ordinance 2019-15 Amending Rate & Charges for the Wastewater Utility and Ordinance 2019-16 Amending Rates & Charges for the Water Utility onto the Council agenda of 11-18-19 for 1st Reading. Kim Kramer seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters-None

Adjournment-There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

James D Mann
Clerk Treasurer
City of Monticello