

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY DECEMBER 16, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on December 16, 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, Phil Vogel and Doug Pepple. City Attorney George Loy was also present.

Minutes-Kim Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2019 meeting at 6:00 pm as presented. Ralph Widmer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: McQuinn-aye, Kramer-aye, Pepple-aye, Widmer-aye, Vogel-abstain. Motion carried.

Additions & Deletions-None

Citizen Participation-None

Department Head Reports-Park Superintendent Mitch Billue reported that he is discussing and planning a Spring 2020 sign language class which will be taught by Katherine Tardiff. Mitch wished everyone a “Merry Christmas”. ADA Coordinator Cathy Gross said applications for ADA Coordinator will be accepted until 12-20-2019. She thanked all the Council members for their service and acknowledged Phil Vogel for serving on the Board of Works and the City Council. Fire Chief Galen Logan reported the entire department went through training on gas emergencies with NIPSCO during the week of 12-2-2019. The MFD participated in the Monon Christmas Parade. The Rensselaer Chamber of Commerce presented the MFD a letter of thanks for assisting the Rensselaer Fire Department as they battled a large fire event in downtown Rensselaer on November 17th. Wastewater Superintendent Adam Downey reported that he attended the Indiana Rural Water Association conference in French Lick and made a presentation on the impact of nitrogen with wastewater treatment plants. Adam also reported that the City Standards & Specifications Manual has been updated. The manual is online at the City website. The last update was in 2012. Street Commissioner Frank Arthur reported that 163 truckloads of leaves have been picked up. NIPSCO removed three light poles at the “roundabout” (Gordon Road and South Sixth Streets) because they are too close to the street area. The street department will consider options (LED) prior to putting the lights back up. Police Chief Randy Soliday reported one squad car was in an accident and it may be a total loss. The Shop with a Cop event was very successful. Randy indicated \$17,831.00 was raised and spent on the food and presents for the kids. New recruit Jacob Kelly will be taking his pension physical on 12-19-19.

Committee Reports-None

Old Business-

- 1. Public Hearing-Proposed Water & Wastewater Rates-**City Attorney George Loy opened the Public Hearing at 6:17 pm for Ordinances 2019-15-Wastewater and 2019-16-Water. George indicated the public hearing was properly advertised and notices sent out in writing to some property owners as specified by law. George reported the last wastewater increase was done in July of 2014 and the last water increase in 2011. The City retained the accounting services of Baker Tilly to conduct a rate analysis and financial plans for both utilities. George went on to provide details of each ordinance and defined the effective date as March 1 2020. Mayor Houston commented that the Water Utility has paid for major projects such as East South Street water main, West Broadway water main and the West Broadway water improvement project without having to obtain loans or sell new bonds. He also outlined Wastewater projects such as the Maple Street interceptor, Bryan's Lift Station underground storage lines, and the new wastewater plant. City Attorney George Loy asked if there was any additional comment from the audience. Hearing none he closed the public hearing at 6:23 pm.
- 2. 2nd Reading-Ordinance 2019-15-An Ordinance Amending Rates and Charges for the Use of and Services Rendered by the Wastewater Utility-**Tim McQuinn made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-15. Phil Vogel seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.
- 3. 2nd Reading-Ordinance 2019-16-An Ordinance Amending Rates and Charges for the Use of and Services Rendered by the Water Utility-**Tim McQuinn made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-16. Kim Kramer seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

New Business

- 1. Resolution 2019-11-Resolution to Encumber Funds-**City Attorney George Loy presented the resolution as follows: Street Department-\$20,000.00 from New Equipment and \$7,000.00 from Road Salt. Fire Department-\$79,891.54 from New Equipment. Ralph Widmer made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-11. Doug Pepple seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.
- 2. Ordinance 2019-18-Transfer of Funds-**Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann explained the transfers are necessary to cover expenses with suppliers that have supported the increased activity in 2019 with many projects being pushed forward by the City. Doug Pepple made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-18 and move it on to a 2nd reading on 12-23-2019. Kim Kramer seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

- 3. Accounts Payable Vouchers-**Kim Kramer made a motion to approve the accounts payable vouchers as presented. Doug Pepple seconded the motion. Councilor Tim McQuinn commented on his experiences reviewing and approving the vouchers. He indicated it has been his privilege to carry out the responsibility over his term as a councilperson. All ayes, motion carried.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters-Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann asked the Council to consider a memo he circulated to all council members regarding an error with 2 line items where a transfer will need to be made of \$4.00 and \$6.00 respectively to properly fund those specific budget lines in 2020. The memo will be attached to this meetings minutes and be a part of the record.

Council member Phil Vogel introduced some pictures of 3 or 4 houses which have either experienced a fire or are in a state of decay. He said he would like to see the Council give more guidance to the compliance officer and try and get something done. Mayor Houston indicated there has been some success dealing with these matters and yet more to do in the future. Council member Ralph Widmer thanked Tim McQuinn and Phil Vogel for their efforts on the Council and for the City. He also thanked Mayor Houston. Tim McQuinn indicated his gratitude for serving the citizens of Monticello his hopes to serve again. Council member Doug Pepple thanked Tim McQuinn and Phil Vogel for their efforts over the years. He also expressed his appreciation to all the department heads and the work of the department employees in 2019. Doug also thanked Mayor Houston for his leadership and friendship over the past 8 years. Mayor Houston expressed his appreciation for the Council's efforts and support over his tenure in office. Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann reflected on his experiences over the past eight years with the Council, the Board of Works, the Department Heads, with ADA Coordinator Cathy Gross and with Mayor Houston.

Adjournment-There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

James D Mann
Clerk Treasurer
City of Monticello