

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 West Washington Street on November 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Aaron Sims. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. While the meeting was conducted in person, it was also available via Zoom and live on Facebook.

Roll Call: Called by Clerk Treasurer Doug Pepple was answered in-person by Mayor Aaron Sims, City Attorney George Loy, Councilors Shanda Cortez, Kim Kramer, Dave Patty, Gary Allen and Bill Cheever.

Minutes: Councilor Shanda Cortez moved to approve the minutes of October 21 and October 28, 2024; Councilor Kim Kramer seconded. All ayes.

Additions & Deletions: - None

Citizen Participation: Andrew Burns (via Zoom), Phil Vogel and Dr. Fred Henney addressed the Council with concerns about the deer herd roaming the east Ohio Street neighborhood. They reported damage to automobiles, vegetation landscaping and injury/death to pets. Councilman Patty pointed out he has recently been in discussions with other area residents. He is working with the city attorney to draft an ordinance that may be modeled after the successful Warsaw, Indiana ordinance. Further, he has consulted with DNR and a state biologist for a possible professional controlled hunt. Police Chief Travis Clark was included in the discussion. He offered his opinions including donating meat to the food pantry should a controlled hunt be conducted.

Department Head Reports:

- ADA Coordinator Diane Bunnell announced January 17 Art Contest displays will be in the west bays. The Twin Lakes High School media group will video the art. Their video will be on the city website. The Halloween Party was well attended with 52 attendees and was considered a success. Adult changing table locations have been identified. She was pleased to announce that Kiwanis awarded ADA with an additional \$5,000 grant for accessibility equipment in the parks.
- Park employee, Bret Anderson filling-in for Superintendent Mitch Billue who is speaking at the Indiana Parks and Recreation conference at French Lick, Parks facilities have been winterized and will begin winterizing equipment. Thanks for volunteers removing invasive species at the nature park on October 12th and the Street Department for hauling it all away.
- Fire Chief Cody Scheurich reported plans for Christmas with Santa for December 14 from 7am to 10am. They expect as many as 50 youngsters to attend – bonus a picture with Santa! Recently, with the Monon Police Department, distributed and installed 60 child car seats. In one day the department incurred two large incidents. Thanks to Idaville, Buffalo, Reynolds and Delphi departments for assisting. All firefighters were outfitted with new gear which will be delivered this winter.
- Travis Clark, police chief, said Halloween candy was distributed at Arni's and Trunk or Treat event. Taser firearm defensive tactics training is scheduled. Conducted CPR training attended by water department employees. New hiring effort starts this week and pleased to announce new patrolman to be sworn in tonight.
- Street Superintendent Frank Arthur said the Beechwood project nearly completed. Waiting to hear soon about awards from Community Crossings and HSIP grants. His asset management plan was accepted and now qualified for next round of Community Crossings grants. Leaf pick begins and expects the next 5 weeks to be engaged with that. Christmas lights going up with ceremony on November 20th.
- Bob Lindley, Wastewater Superintendent, shared Bobby Neal and Bruce Wilson attended the recent Alliance Indiana Rural Water Conference in Fort Wayne. Bobby Neal also repaired a sewer line blockage due to construction debris on north 3rd Street. The Dewatering Project site preparation continues with Brand Electric and Accudig concluding their work. Bob estimates the facility to be operational sometime in January.
- Water Superintendent Brad Haygood's report included Ben Knight also attended the Fort Wayne conference with wastewater staff. A line leak at Twin Lakes and Maxwell Streets was repaired. Meter pit on Beechwood was replaced and a line was removed at the roundabout construction site.

Committee Reports and Old Business: None

New Business:

- Frank Arthur and Mayor Sims recognized two employees, Josh Watts and Matthew Johnson who are now qualified as CDL trainers.
- New police patrolman Evan Morrow was sworn-in by Mayor Sims with Chief Clark attending.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters: None

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mayor Sims adjourned the meeting at 6:39pm

Respectfully,

Doug Pepple

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello