

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 West Washington Street on October 7, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:17 pm by Mayor Aaron Sims. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance by student guest Kevin Hernandez.

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 corrected spelling errors and suggested “Beggars Night” be changed to “Trick or Treat Night” in the distributed September 16 minutes. Councilor Bill Cheever to approve the minutes as of September 16, 2024, as amended; Councilor Gary Allen seconded. Councilor Kim Kramer abstained, All other aye.

Additions & Deletions: - None

Citizen Participation:

- Josh Hamm, local resident, asked for Council and Mayor support to make the community more aware of the needs of cold weather clothing and food for the hurricane victims in the southeast United States. Josh has recently taken a truck load to Black Mountain, North Carolina and will be taking another this week. Mayor Sims offered City Hall as a drop off location for these items.
- School Board member Mike Godlove cited the need for supporting the Twin Lakes School Corporation referendum as a tool for sustaining economic health for the city. He referenced Dr. Hicks, economics professor at Ball State University who recently wrote about the importance of high-quality local education as a cornerstone of sustaining smaller communities in Indiana. Mike explained that the average taxpayer will experience an increased tax burden of about \$20 per month. The additional revenues will be used to attract and retain teachers as well as be invested in additional school safety measures.

Department Head Reports: Oral reports by each department:

- ADA – Diane Bunnell said the department received a second grant from the Community Foundation for \$3,000 which will be used for additional city park accessibility projects. She reminded all of their October 19th costume party at the American Legion.
- Fire Department – Chief Scheurich announced he and Nick Green will be attending the AIM Summit Conference in Fort Wayne. Nick will be presenting at the conference. The department received their grant award from FEMA in the amount of \$85,000. Fire Prevention Week is underway (October 6-12). The department will be going to the schools to share fire prevention and safety tips with students.
- Parks – Mitch Billue shared traffic concerns going and coming at the park drive near the round-about construction area. Improvements at the central pavilion are underway. Bluewater Park resurfacing is complete and new benches have been placed. The Nature Center water feature has been electrified and operating. Three upcoming events: This Saturday at Altherr are two – Weed Wrangle 10am to noon to eradicate invasive species – all invited to assist! Haunted Walk 5pm to 9:30pm. Sunday the Rotary Road Rally will launch from the City Park at noon. All profits go to the City Park Projects.
- Police – Chuck Morehead reported safety training for active shooter drills were taught at Monticello Healthcare by Chief Clark and Ryan Pyle. New secretary Shirley Loges has started working on her own. Part-time police officer Dane Holmes is close to active duty again. November 9th they will have testing for new police officer candidates.
- Street – Superintendent Frank Arthur described the resurfacing in the RCA Neighborhood as nearly completed – applying stripes is about all that is left. Beechwood project is moving well and 6th Street railroad crossing repair is complete. The HSIP Grant application is complete, if awarded we could be granted \$3,400,000 which will require a 10% match. Brush pick-up is completed...next are the leaves! Finally, expect the on-line city auction to occur in November.
- Wastewater – Superintendent Bobby Lindley described tree roots for the sewer blockage on Fairwood Drive – now repaired. Vac truck engine repair was quoted as \$7,800 but when he picked it up in Fort Wayne it was

\$8,400 for additional repairs and enhancements. Biosolids Dewatering Project – Reynolds Construction cleared the area to receive the centrifuge which is expected to arrive tomorrow. Aggressively, Bobby is hopeful it will be operational in January. The large (300,000gal) aeration tank was drained and cleaned. While empty the staff replaced 628 air diffusion membranes.

- Water – Brad Haygood outlined LGS plumbing work is nearly finished and reviewing their punch list in the RCA Water Main Replacement project. Waiting now for completing the Ball Corporation easement agreement. The new Lakeview Optometry building on 6th Street is hooked up now. Some workarounds have been completed at the South Main Street construction area. They have 106 Meter Heads yet to be replaced to improve signal reception. Now, when time permits, winterizing is beginning.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

1. Ordinance 2024-16 “Ordinance for Appropriations and Tax Rates” second reading was moved for approval by Councilor Gary Allen, seconded by Councilor Kim Kramer. All ayes.

New Business:

1. Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Proclamation was read by Mayor Sims.
2. Veterans’ Day Parade consideration was presented by Jeff Wilbourne of the White County Veterans’ office. The route, time, and date (November 11th) were presented. After some discussion, Councilor Bill Cheever moved to allow the parade and was seconded by Councilor Kim Kramer. All ayes.
3. Ordinance #2024-17: “Elected Officials Salary” was presented for the first reading Councilor Bill Cheever moved to accept the ordinance on first reading and was seconded by Councilor Gary Allen. All ayes.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters: Human Resources Director Lori Cheever alerted the Council, and all other staff of the upcoming open benefit enrollment set for October 17th at the fire station. The event will start at 7am. Lori reminded all of the “Darken Walk” for suicide prevention at Pine View on Sunday October 13th. The Council should look for her email regarding instructions for Internal Controls and documentation.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mayor Sims adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm

Respectfully,

Doug Pepple

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello