

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 West Washington Street on December 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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 December 2, 2024; Councilor Kim Kramer seconded. All ayes.

Additions & Deletions: - None

Citizen Participation: - None

Department Head Reports:

- All Departments submitted their respective written reports to the Mayor and Council. There were no questions. However, Wastewater Superintendent Bob Neal asked to address the Council concerning city employee Bobby Neal. He asked Alliance of Indiana Rural Water representative, Chad Reynolds, to step forward with Bobby Neal. Bobby Neal was recognized as the first city employee to complete the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water's 2 year apprenticeship program. To qualify for completion, Bobby completed 4,000 hours of on-the-job training, 288 hours of technical training and pass one of his certifications (he passed his Class 1 certification.) Reynolds also pointed out all candidates need a strong mentor too – and that was Bob Lindley. Applause followed his certificate presentation.

Committee Reports: - None

Old Business:

- Councilor Bill Cheever moved to adopt Amended Ordinance #2024-19 concerning salaries for appointed officers, public works and utilities employees' salaries for 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dave Patty. All ayes.
- Councilor Bill Cheever moved to adopt Amended Ordinance #2024-20 concerning salaries, training and promotions for the Monticello Fire Department for 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kim Kramer. All ayes.
- Councilor Shanda Cortez moved to adopt Amended Ordinance #2024-21 concerning salaries, training and promotions for the Monticello Police Department for 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gary Allen. All ayes.

New Business:

- Due to the very delayed or non-delivery of utility bills, the Clerk Treasurer contacted the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) for guidance to forgive late fees for the current billing period (ending January 18, 2025). The SBOA will allow the city to forgive ALL customers late fees for the period ending January 18, 2025 provided the Council approve it. It will have no impact on any other utility matter such as shut offs. Councilor Shanda Cortez moved to approve late fees forgiveness as described. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kim Kramer. All ayes.
- The submitted Accounts Payable Voucher report was reviewed by the councilors. Councilor Bill Cheever moved to approve the report which was seconded by Councilor Dave Patty. All ayes.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters:

- Mayor Sims was pleased to announce the matter of the Sredl property on Bluewater Drive has been concluded. The property was sold to a contractor. The proceeds of the sale resulted in the city receiving a check for \$12,500 at closing. Rightfully, Mayor Sims thanked City Attorney George Loy for fashioning the settlement.
- Many compliments were made concerning the SOMA Lighted Christmas Parade, headed by comments from Councilor Dave Patty.
- Assistant Fire Chief Ryan explained how families participated in Breakfast with Santa – a big hit again this year.
- Police Chief Travis Clark shared the fun that was experienced with their recent annual Shop With a Cop adventure to Walmart. They had 45 families and typically spend \$14,000 per year – fully supported by the community.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mayor Sims adjourned the meeting at 6:31pm

Respectfully,

Doug Pepple

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello