

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
COMMON COUNCIL  
CITY OF MONTICELLO  
MONDAY DECEMBER 2, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 West Washington Street on December 2, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:22 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:** The call by Clerk Treasurer Doug Pepple was answered in-person by Mayor Aaron Sims; Councilors Shanda Cortez, Dave Patty, Kim Kramer, Gary Allen, and Bill Cheever; and City Attorney George Loy.

**Minutes:**

Councilor Shanda Cortez moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2024, regular Council meeting. Kim Kramer seconded the motion. All ayes.

Councilor Shanda Cortez moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024, Executive Session. Councilor Bill Cheever seconded the motion. All ayes.

**Additions & Deletions:** - Council Bill Cheever recommended agenda items 7 and 8 be deleted from the agenda with no objection.

**Citizen Participation:** - White County Economic Development Corporation (WCEDC) Director Randy Strasser announced interest by a potential purchaser of the R&M Grocery building. Not identifying the entity, he did indicate it would be a retail business.

**Department Head Reports:**

ADA Coordinator Diane Bunnell was pleased to announce the total awards from the Community Foundation in 2024 were \$15,000. Art Contest banner sponsorships have begun. 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Zook, is seeking funding opportunities with ADA projects. She is teaching her students basic civics and the power of their influence to motivate the state to put changing tables in all state parks.

Fire Chief Cody Scheurich reminded all of Breakfast with Santa coming December 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7am hosted at the station. MFD purchased a high-fidelity manikin for paramedic and continuing in-service training. A group purchase with the city's portion of approximately \$6,000.

Park Superintendent Mitch Billue reported his presentation at the IPRA conference in French Lick was received very well. It allowed Mitch to emphasize the value of community support. Also attending was Mayor Sims. A Sandhill Crane exhibit is now on display at the Nature Center. Just received an augmented projector to assist with teaching topography. Reminded all the "First Day Hike" is set for January first at the Nature Center starting at 9am. A one-hour hike.

Police Chief Travis Clark indicated Tribbett Electric was making progress with updating lighting in the office. The hiring effort continues with one candidate moved successfully through the background check and is preparing for the Chief/Assistant Chief interview. "Shop with a Cop" will be at Walmart on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Get ready for the sirens! Deer Task Force continues to meet as they seek solutions to the deer problem in some neighborhoods.

Street Superintendent Frank Arthur was extremely pleased to announce an HSIP Grant award through INDOT of approximately \$2,900,000. This was considered the third highest award in the state. The grant requires a 10% city match. Much of this will be used for lighting on the city's south side. Frank estimated the city has received about \$8,000,000 in Community Crossings Grant awards since 2016 and new applications will start after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Wastewater Superintendent Bob Lindley expressed his appreciation for all the work that was available after Thanksgiving. 420 cubic yards of biosolids were applied to farm acreage recently. The generators at Bryant's and the plant were serviced and the building demo at 717 East Street is completed, filled, and will be seeded in the spring.

Water Department Manager Brad Haygood reported they are ready for winter with the salt spreader mounted on one of their trucks. There were a few main breaks. The lead line inventory letter has been mailed to consumers.

**Committee Reports:** - None

**Old Business:**

**For second reading:**

1. Consideration Ordinance #2024-19 Establishing Appointed Officers, Public Works, and Utility Salaries for Calendar Year. Motion to approve was made by Councilor Bill Cheever and seconded by Councilor Gary Allen. All ayes.
2. Consideration of Ordinance #2024-20 Establishing MFD Salaries, Training and Promotion for Calendar Year 2025. Motion to approve was made by Councilor Shanda Cortez and seconded by Councilor Kim Kramer. All ayes.
3. Consideration of Ordinance #2024-21 Establishing MPD Salaries, Training and Promotion for Calendar Year 2025. Motion to approve was made by Councilor Shanda Cortez and seconded by Councilor Dave Patty. All ayes.

**New Business:**

Monticello Redevelopment Commission (MRC) submitted their 2025 Spending Plan to the State. As a courtesy MRC member Dan Oldenkamp presented their plan to the councilors for informational purposes. He pointed out this is not a budget but a spending plan. The state now requires all regional development commissions to submit a spending plan.

Streets of Monticello Association (SOMA) President Brandi Page shared their 2025 calendar of events. Unclear was the Halloween date as it is the Council's decision. Councilor discussion concerning defining the date ensued. The date for Halloween will be subsequently determined. All other dates of the SOMA schedule were met with approval. SOMA will produce a formal calendar of events circular when Halloween date is finalized.

Resolution 2024-07 was moved for approval by Councilor Bill Cheever and seconded by Councilor Gary Allen. The resolution indicates the city's interest in acquiring properties for development. All councilors voted aye.

**Miscellaneous and All Other Matters:** - None

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully,

Doug Pepple

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello