

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 West Washington Street on January 6, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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, City Attorney George Loy, Councilors Shanda Cortez, Kim Kramer, Gary Allen and Bill Cheever. Councilor Dave Patty answered via Zoom.

Minutes:

- Councilor Shanda Cortez moved to approve the minutes of the regular December 16, 2024 meeting, Councilor Kim Kramer seconded. All ayes.
- Councilor Kim Kramer moved to approve the minutes of the special December 30, 2024 meeting. Councilor Bill Cheever seconded. All ayes.

Additions & Deletions: – None

Citizen Participation: – None

Department Head Reports:

- Fire Chief Cody Scheurich announced Captain Hill’s retirement. A celebration party is scheduled for March 14th. The department is expecting their second set of battery powered rescue tools. These tools are more powerful and among their uses they are used to cut open vehicle to extract victims. The recent pancake breakfast was a big success ... considering getting more tables.
- Mitch Billue, Parks Superintendent reported the “First Day Hike” at the nature park was well attended with 15 participants. The north pavilion construction quoting process has started. Mitch is seeking at least four quotes. Pool restroom partitions are expected to be installed soon.
- Officer Chuck Morehead told the council new officer Aaron Benedict had passed the PERF portion of his new hire process. He will attend the Academy at the end of next summer. A second candidate has moved through the hiring process and is now at the background check level. Taser training will start tomorrow. Jokingly, he invited the councilors to participate.
- ADA Coordinator Diane Bunnell was pleased to have completed her annual report and submit it to INDOT. She reminded all that March is Disability Awareness Month. Much is planned and she encouraged all to watch for announcements!
- Street Superintendent Frank Arthur reminded the public they are picking up all real Christmas trees provided the tree stands and ornaments have been removed. Snow so far this year has been minimal. He is expecting to submit a request soon for Community Crossing grant.

- Bobby Lindley, Wastewater Superintendent said most calls for service fall on the resident's side. Therefore the repair is the property owner's responsibility. Annual IDEM report prep is in full gear. The de-watering crew is nearly done setting up the new equipment.
- Water Department Superintendent Brad Haygood said more main breaks have occurred and somewhat expected with the freezing and thawing. The main repair on Pierce Circle has been repaired.

Committee Reports: – None

Old Business: – None

New Business:

1. Election of Council President. Councilor Kim Kramer nominated Councilor Bill Cheever as president which was seconded by Councilor Gary Allen. Hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed. For the vote, all councilors voted aye with the exception of Councilor Cheever who abstained.
2. Council appointments were agreed to as follows:
 - a. Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District Councilor Kim Kramer moved by Councilor Bill Cheever and seconded by Councilor Gary Allen, All ayes.
 - b. White County Area Plan Commission Councilor Gary Allen moved by Bill Cheever and seconded by Councilor Shanda Cortez. All ayes.
3. Karen Aldrich, 2025 chairperson of Poppy Days, requested permission to conduct a bucket shake fundraiser on May 16 and 17. After discussion with all safety and street departments, Councilman Bill Cheever moved to allow the request, seconded by Councilor Shanda Cortez. All ayes.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters: – None

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully,

Doug Pepple

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello