

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 W Washington St on November 17, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Mayor Aaron Sims. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. While the meeting was conducted in-person, it was available via Zoom and live on YouTube and Facebook.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Aaron Sims, Councilors Gary Allen, Bill Cheever, Kim Kramer, Tim McQuinn, Dave Patty and Attorney George Loy, answered in-person by Clerk Treasurer Shanda Cortez.

MINUTES:

Councilor Kramer made motion to approve the minutes from November 3, 2025. Councilor Cheever seconded. All ayes.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: NONE

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: NONE

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Written reports were submitted with possible Q & A from the Mayor and Council. No questions were asked by the council.

ADA- Diane Bunnell submitted a report stating that she is working on the report for INDOT for the Street department as well as the LEP information from all departments. She is working on dates & information from the school & Health Care Centers for the Art/Banner contest. Starting the process of moving to her new office at the Utility office.

FIRE-Chief Scheurich submitted a report stating that December 13th 7am-10am at the Fire Station will be breakfast with Santa. Proceeds go to provide Christmas presents to 40-50 area kids. Union Township has agreed to pay for the new fire hose order that was needed after the testing of the fire hoses. All 3 shifts have completed sonar training. The boat is sonar equipped. Chief wanted to give a shout out to Jake Robertson with Mel's wrecker service for all his help to the fire department. He provided lunch during training, lends his equipment for training & many hours of his time.

PARKS-Superintendent Mitch Billue submitted a report stating that Brody Kopplemann and fellow scouts have made considerable progress with construction of the observation deck. Mitch has solicited quotes for a new pool heater, a concrete pad for the skate park & fencing for the pickle ball courts. Quotes will be able to be reviewed by the Parks Board on the 11/19/25 meeting. On November 3rd, there was a progress meeting with HWC engineering and F&K regarding transformer location for the new City park lift station. Leslie Coating has originally indicated that they were planning to be on site this week so that they would get the painting on the pickleball court done. They have now moved the painting until Spring of 2026 due to the weather. All waterlines to the parks have been blown out for the winter. Thank you to Superintendent, Brad Haygood, and his crew for helping to winterize the parks.

POLICE-Chief Clark submitted a report stating that Captain Morehead, Patrolman Estudillo & Patrolman Morrow all assisted Rotary with their Reality Store at RMS. Captain Morehead, Chief Clark & Patrolman Blake all spoke at TLHS for Career Day. The last car is at move over outfitters for the transport cage install. Patrolman Morrow's car was up fitted with drone equipment. Lastly, he was waiting on quotes for 2 new Ford SUVs for 2026 to replace 2 chargers.

STREET-Superintendent Frank Arthur submitted a report stating that he and his department are trying to get the construction projects completed. The leaf truck and street sweeper are staying busy with leaf pick-up. He is getting the equipment ready for winter season. The street department will start putting Christmas decorations up on Monday, 11/17/25, and the official lighting will be Wednesday, 11/19/25 on the Courthouse lawn at 6:30PM. He has received word from INDOT that the 2026 Community Crossings awards will be announced before the end of 2025. His department has been attending various training and safety classes.

WASTEWATER-Superintendent Bob Lindley submitted a report stating that at the last progress meeting for City Park Lift Station they have finally agreed on a plan for NIPSCO to start installing their electrical line hookups to the lift station and the Parks service panel. Sycamore Estates mandrel and air testing were performed on 11/4 & 11/5 on the sewer lines. Testing did not go well and there are some things that will need some work before re-testing can be

done. IDEM paid a visit to the department on 11/5 with a few lab changes. The new dump truck was picked up on 10/28/25 and has had a new safety strobe light package installed.

WATER-Superintendent Brad Haygood submitted a report stating Angelo Valle, passed his first DSM test. Angelo will be moving on to take his WT3 test. Kyle Bird is studying to take the DSM for the 2nd time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **ORDINANCE 2025-10a AMENDING HOURS FOR DEER NUISANCE:2nd READING**—No questions. Councilor Patty made motion to pass. Councilor Kramer seconded. All ayes.
2. **ORDINANCE 2025-14: 2026 MONTICELLO FIRE DEPT SALARY MATRIX—2nd READING:** No questions. Councilor Cheever made a motion to pass. Councilor Allen seconded. All ayes.
3. **ORDINANCE 2025-15: 2026 MONTICELLO POLIC DEPT SALARY MATRIX—2nd READING:** No questions. Councilor McQuinn made a motion to pass. Councilor Patty seconded. All ayes.
4. **ORDINANCE 2025-16: 2026 APPOINTED OFFICERS, PUBLIC WORKS & SAFETY & UTILITY SALARIES—2nd READING:** No questions. Councilor Patty made a motion to pass. Councilor McQuinn seconded. All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **AREA PLAN ORDINANCE 2025-A85:** Area plan director, Jenilynne Kyburz, spoke about the zoning ordinance amendment. This is for amending the standard for an electronic messaging sign. Updating the previous distance of 500 ft from a residential property to 100 ft. The BZA has had issues with reoccurring variances. The 3 businesses that were brought up were Vogel, Mussall's and the Monticello Christian Church. Councilor Allen made motion to approve the Amendment 2025-A85. Councilor McQuinn seconded. All ayes.
2. **AREA PLAN ORDINANCE 2025-A86:** Area plan director, Jenilynne Kyburz, proposed the amendment for the current standards for Data Center development. Additional standards that were added to the ordinance would be property value guarantees, safety training based on the battery storage section, and lighting restrictions. Some modifications that were proposed were increased setbacks from 30 ft side and 20 ft rear to 40 ft plus additional footage for any building above 40ft. Councilor Cheever made motion to table this ordinance for the next meeting. There is a 90-day deadline. Certification deadline is in February 2026. Should it expire and not be acted upon, this will default. Council Allen seconded. All ayes. Jenilynne will be notified after the next council meeting of what will happen and does not need to come back for this topic.
3. **ORDINANCE 2025-17: TRANSFER FUNDS—1ST READING:** Councilor Cheever stated that he wanted some clarifications on transfers. He had no questions for the Clerk/Treasurer office-straight forward transfers. The Street Department had to replace additional sidewalks not planned. NIPSCO raised the rates and cost of utilities increased. The Parks Department stated that they needed to replace a pool heater. Transfer for costs of the bottle fill station at the pickleball courts. Transfer for costs for the pickleball court, skate park concrete pad & refurbishing equipment. The last transfer for the pickleball fencing. No further questions. Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve transfers. Councilor Cheever seconded. All ayes.
4. **ORDINANCE 2025-18: WHEEL TAX—1ST READING:** Attorney George Loy explained what all the ordinance entails. Street Superintendent Frank Arthur spoke about the Community Crossings grants. The city has benefited from this Grant since 2016 and has received around \$8 million over the years. For the City to be considered for Community Crossings Grant or the Lane Mile Distribution Grant the city must adopt a wheel tax ordinance. These grants help with our sidewalks, roads, lights and stoplights. This tax is for plate year 2027 that is paid for only at your yearly registration. Councilor McQuinn stated he would like to go towards Frank's numbers of \$15 for excise and \$25 for wheel tax. Councilor Cheever made motion for \$7.50 for the excise tax and \$25 for the wheel tax. Councilor Allen seconded. All ayes.
5. **APPROVE ALLOWANCEC DOCKET—PAY PERIOD ENTING 11/2/25:** No questions. Councilor Cheever made motion to approve. Councilor Allen seconded. All ayes.
6. **APPROVE APV's 10/31/25—11/12/25:** No questions. Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve. Councilor Kramer seconded. All ayes.

MISCELLANEOUS AND ALL OTHER:

Councilor Kramer stated that she loved the Christmas lights.

Mayor Sims stated that the Christmas lighting is Wednesday, 11/19/25, at 6:30PM on the Courthouse lawn.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully,

Shanda Cortez

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello