

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on April 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Houston and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call, by Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann, was answered by Mayor Ken Houston, Councilors Doug Pepple, Phil Vogel, Tim McQuinn, Ralph Widmer and Kim Kramer. City Attorney George Loy was also present.

Minutes-Phil Vogel made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2019 meeting at 6:00 pm as presented. Kim Kramer seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Additions & Deletions-Mayor Houston announced that item 5 on the agenda would become item 3 and items 3 and 4 would shift to 4 and 5.

Citizen Participation-None

Committee Reports-None

Old Business-None

New Business

1. **Bucket Shake-Knights of Columbus-Steve Goodwin**-Steve requested permission to hold a tootsie roll fundraiser using the City's approved streets on May 31 from 8 am to 5 pm and on June 1 from 8 am to noon. Ralph Widmer made a motion to approve the request as presented. Doug Pepple seconded. All ayes, motion carried.
2. **2019 Welcome Magazine-Discussion of Advertising**-Cindy Beck-Warren presented samples of the 2018 magazine. She indicated the magazine is placed in businesses along the I-65 interchanges. There will be approximately 10,000 printed. Phil Vogel inquired about the reason for the separate magazine (a different magazine was recently printed focusing on White County). Cindy indicated the Welcome Magazine is for the tourists and it would be too expensive to combine them into one. It was decided to take the matter under advisement and make a decision at the April 15, 2019 meeting.

3. **Discussion of East Ohio Street**-Mayor Houston indicated it was his understanding that the Council wishes to hear and discuss a plan that was considered in the past. East Ohio Street Committee member Ralph Widmer then reviewed the plan which been approved by the Committee. Council member Widmer said there have been discussions with the Mayor, Board of Works members, affected property owners, and engineer Jason Miller on the Committee plan. Ralph indicated that once approved by the Council the plan would move to the Board of Works for final approval. Ralph outlined the plan (drawings were posted on white board in Council chambers) for the audience. Mayor Houston commented the plan goes back to September of 2017. Board of Works member Grace Oilar asked the audience (some of the impacted property owners were present) whether as a whole was the plan acceptable. Regarding the plan, there were more people indicating they were in favor that those that said they were not in favor. Kathy Rupel asked Council members Widmer and Vogel if they would be voting on the Committee plan. Kathy said she feels Widmer and Vogel should be recused from voting on the matter because they benefit from the Committee plan. Ralph Widmer said he would not be voting on it and Phil Vogel said he would be voting on it. Kathy Rupel indicated she does not feel the plan affords an equitable share of the right of ways required because she gives 80 feet and others do not give as much. Phil Vogel said the corner is very dangerous due to the rocks and trees. Jerry Phelps echoed Vogel's concerns about the safety issue at the corner and suggested that many years ago the property was an open corn field. Kathy Rupel asked if the trees were cut down would it solve the problem. Jerry Phelps said it would help solve the problem, but not completely because the City has to maintain the road and they need the right of way. Mayor Houston reminded the audience that the matter before the Council was the Committee's plan and a vote to approve it or not. If approved the plan would go the Board of Works for their approval. The Mayor then said he would give three minutes to those wishing to speak. Bob Chrisop outlined the history of the property areas with East Ohio Street going back to the 1960's. He said the City should be maintaining the road. He also said there was a violation of state law back into the early 70's regarding ingress-egress from one subdivision to another. Mr. Chrisop further elaborated on the nature of Indian burial grounds that he believes exist in the area which was known as Slenker's Point. Jean Phelps said she was driving around the curve along E Ohio Street and met a City snow plow head on. She avoided an accident by backing into a neighbor's drive. She said this is an example of why the corner is a safety issue. Sharon Schakel of 1121 E Ohio Street addressed the Council and indicated she is giving up some of her property for the road. She also agreed the corner is a safety concern. Kathy Rupel addressed the Council and stated that if she would have been approached before the meeting about removing trees they would have been 99% positive about doing so, but now the situation has gone too far. Kathy said she feels the burden with giving up property should be more fairly decided and requested the Board of Works to consider this in their upcoming meeting. Tim McQuinn asked for a show of support by a raising of hands from those both in favor and not in favor of the plan. Kim Kramer made a motion to approve the Committee's plan as signed 9-25-2017 and move it to the Board of Works for their consideration. Doug Pepple seconded. Roll call vote: McQuinn-aye, Kramer-aye, Pepple-aye, Vogel-aye, Widmer-abstain. Motion carried.

4. **Monticello Personal Policy Update**-Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann reported that he, Mayor Houston and Doug Peple have interviewed prospective vendors who have the expertise to assist the City with an updating of the policy and procedure manual. Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele based in Muncie and NewFocusHR from Indianapolis are the two vendors under consideration. Jim indicated that although both proposals include pricing for training, the manual itself, job descriptions, and forms it was decided to focus on the manual first. Jim also said that in checking references for both companies everything with both of them came back good. The price for the policy manual was much better with NewFocusHR. Mayor Houston and Doug Peple agreed moving forward with an update with the legal component of the policy manual is important. Doug Peple made a motion to approve the expense of \$4,500.00 with an annual update of \$125.00 for updating the City Policy Manual by contracting with NewFocusHR. Ralph Widmer seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. This will go to the Board of Works for approval of a contract.
5. **INDOT-Community Crossings Contracts-Local Match**-Mayor Houston announced that the City received all six projects that were applied for in January 2019. The City's local match is \$218,200.03 with the balance of \$654,599.83 coming from INDOT. Tim McQuinn made a motion to approve the local match and for the Mayor to sign the contracts with INDOT. Phil Vogel seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. It was discussed that the Council will move forward with an additional appropriation process for \$150,000.00 taken from MVH with the balance of the match coming from 2019 budgeted funds with the Street Department.

Department Head Reports-Mayor Houston gave a report on behalf of the Fire Department. Chief Logan, Assistant Chief Green and Firefighter Hill are attending an active shooter training in Indianapolis. District 4 is paying for and providing training on April 7 and it will be held at the new station. This training has to do with how to extract appendages from machines in the workplace. Park Superintendent Mitch Billue reported the Building Trades class has finished the truss work with the foundation at the Altherr Nature Center and will be moving on to installing the sub-floor. Mitch said the department has removed the old walls at the City Pool bath houses and new partitions will be installed soon. Wastewater Superintendent Adam Downey reported he will be going to Washington DC on April 3rd and 4th representing the Indiana Water Association. He said he will be meeting with 5 of the 9 Congressmen from Indiana and one Senator to discuss the issues with small cities and towns funding wastewater and water services. He indicated he will be encouraging them to fund as much money as possible for projects back in Indiana. ADA Coordinator Cathy Gross reported that the Gazebo was demolished on March 31st and it only took about one hour. A new one will be built as an Eagle Scout project with the help of several organizations. The Wellness Committee is sponsoring a weight loss challenge and a bowling tournament. Water Superintendent Rod Pool indicated the EPA will be stepping up the replacement of lead water lines even if they are service lines for residential. Street Commissioner Frank Arthur said spring clean up is coming up this Saturday for the East side of Monticello. Police Chief Randy Soliday reported he will be attending LEPC on April 2nd and the Opiate Taskforce on

April 3. The Rotary is hosting a canine benefit event at the Tippecanoe Country Club on April 18th. Randy also said the gentleman working the crosswalk at Broadway and 3rd Streets is being interviewed by Channel 18 News. He brightens the day for motorists because he waves all the time.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters-Tim McQuinn said he was in Shippshewana recently and noted that they had public restrooms in the downtown. He further stated having public restrooms in Monticello would help us be a tourist destination and with our festivals. Mayor Houston requested the Council review and comment on the sample ordinances for an Ordinance Officer which were handed out at the meeting of March 18th. He would like to have City Attorney George Loy prepare a new ordinance as soon as possible. Mayor Houston also requested clarification regarding the old fire station as far as what he can tell someone that expresses interest. And, whether a formal appraisal should be completed.

Adjournment-There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

James D Mann
Clerk Treasurer
City of Monticello