

DECEMBER 18th, 2024
Wednesday

Special Meeting

YEAR END MEETING FOR 2024
FOR THE
TOWN OF MONON

The Council of the Town of Monon met on **Wednesday, December 18th, 2024**, in the Monon Town Hall Conference Room.

Members present were President Ken Hickman, Ron Benakovich, Toni Onken, Chris Franklin and Jamie Myers. Also present were Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Attorney Rebecca Trent was absent.

President Hickman started the meeting @ 6:30 pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of silence.

PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:

Jamie Myers made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.

Toni Onken seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

\$ 145,074.53

ORDINANCE 2024-12, 2025 SALARY ORDINANCE...President Hickman stated that at the November meeting, the council voted against a proposed increase to the council members pay. On December 4th the 2025 Salary Ordinance was brought to the council for their consideration. At this time, Member Myers stated that there were some part time employees who were inadvertently left out of the previous discussion and that he would like for the ordinance to be revised to include the following increases: council members \$15/week, Fire Chief, Asst. Chief, EMS Director and Asst. Director \$10/week and a \$2/hr increase for the following part time employees: crossing guards, emts and deputies. The proposal passed unanimously. Clerk Sipkema revised the ordinance to be presented at tonight's meeting. President Hickman explained that some of the council members did not hear that the salary proposal on December 4th reentered the council member increase. After consulting with Attorney Trent, it was decided that two salary ordinances would be drafted for consideration. President Hickman stated that Proposal #1 includes the council member pay increase of \$15/wk (\$780/year). Proposal #2 excludes the council members increase; no other position was affected. President Hickman stated that he would need a motion for a proposal to be considered and that due to time constraint the council would need to consider suspending the first reading rule and forgo the 2nd reading. Clerk Sipkema stated that to prevent the same situation in the future, the salary ordinance will be brought up for discussion beginning in June.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to suspend rules and forgo the 2nd reading for the 2025 Salary Ordinance.

Jamie Myers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jamie Myers made a motion to approve Salary Proposal #1.

Ron Benakovich seconded. 2 in favor and 3 against, motion denied.

Toni Onken made a motion to approve Salary Proposal #2 (no increase to council pay).

Chris Franklin seconded. 3 in favor 2 against. Motion passed by majority vote.

INSURANCE BIDS....Suzette Alma, Howe Insurance, presented their insurance bid for the Town of Monon package and workman's comp insurance. Representative Alma requested that the town enter into a three-year contract with Howe Ins. Ms. Alma explained that there is a lot of time and effort into providing yearly bids on their part as they are also asked to compile information for the clerk to share with interested agencies. Municipality insurance needs are very complex and not a lot of insurance companies will cover them. This contract would not include the town's health insurance policy, which is the policy that normally sees the biggest increases.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to enter into a three-year contract with Howe Insurance for liability & workman's comp insurance.

Chris Franklin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

OUTSTANDING/OUTDATED CHECKS

METER DEPOSITS

CK#5128	\$5.00	07/01/22	CK#5130	\$94.91	07/12/22
CK#5131	\$73.72	07/12/22	CK#5146	\$24.82	09/01/22
CK#5179	\$40.31	09/01/22	CK#5189	\$19.92	02/28/23
CK#5191	\$62.57	02/28/23	CK#5192	\$36.55	03/01/23
CK#5204	\$47.65	04/04/23	CK#5213	\$ 6.13	05/15/23
CK#5216	\$54.43	05/31/23	CK#5219	\$36.78	05/31/23
CK#5226	\$15.35	07/07/23	CK#5230	\$ 8.47	07/11/23
CK#5254	\$150.00	10/11/23	CK#5255	\$52.77	10/11/23

The above checks will be voided and total amount will be sent to Indiana Unclaimed.

OTHER OUTSTANDING & OUTDATED CHECKS

CK#	AMT	DATED	ACCT #	REASON
CK#6411	\$409.54	02/01/21	6101-490	DUPLICATE PAYMENT
CK#5221	\$150.00	06/12/23	6104-490	LOST CK, REPLACED CK#5237
CK#5240	\$150.00	08/30/23	6104-490	LOST CK, REPLACED CK#5338

The above checks will be voided and receipted back into the designated account.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to approve the outstanding/outdated checks as submitted.
Toni Onken seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION FOR YEAR END TRANSFERS....Resolution #2024-04 was presented for approval.
The total transfer amount is \$30,500.

Chris Franklin made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-04.
Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FIRE/EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTRACT.....**President Hickman stated that the** existing Fire & Protection Services contract between the town and department had been revised to reflect the 2025 pay increase for the fire chief (\$2,320) and assistant chief (\$1,420). There was also a revision to include the amount the town pays on behalf of the township for the yearly allowances. This change is in accordance with the 2024 contract between the town and the township. The monthly meeting attendance pay increased from \$10/meeting to \$20/meeting and the clothing and vehicle allowance each increased from \$100/year to \$200/year.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to approve the 2025 Fire & Protection Services contract.
Toni Onken seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Services Contracts....Clerk Sipkema stated that the 2024 payment per medical call was twenty (\$20) per run. The council will need to decide if they wish to keep the same amount or not. Member Myers and Member Franklin sustained from making any recommendation. After discussion,

Ron Benakovich made a motion to raise the amount per run to \$40/run.
There was no second. Motion failed.

Toni Onken made a motion to raise the amount to \$30/run.
Ron Benakovich seconded. 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed by majority.

APPOINTMENTS....

1. Toni Onken made the motion to retain KEN HICKMAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT. Chris Franklin seconded. 4 in favor, 1 against (Jamie Myers). The motion carried.
2. Jamie Myers made a motion to appoint TONI ONKEN, VICE PRESIDENT. No second, motion died.
3. Toni Onken made the motion to retain RON BENAKOVICH, VICE PRESIDENT. Chris Franklin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Ken Hickman made the motion to retain ROGER YOUNG, TOWN MARSHAL. Toni Onken seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Toni Onken made the motion to retain ROGER YOUNG, STREET COMMISSIONER. Ken Hickman seconded. 4 in favor, 1 against. The motion carried.
6. Chris Franklin made the motion to retain TONI ONKEN, KIRPC REPRESENTATIVE. Ken Hickman seconded the motion. The motion carried.
7. Jamie Myers made the motion to retain RON BENAKOVICH, WHITE CO. TAX ABATE BOARD. Chris Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
8. Ken Hickman made the motion to appoint JIM DAVIS, WHITE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Chris Franklin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Ken Hickman stated that Tyler Worrell has expressed interest in the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) position. Jamie Myers made a motion to appoint TYLER WORRELL to the BZA. Toni Onken seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

*****CORRECTION*****

The Library Board Representative was appointed on November 6, 2024, at the Monon Town Council Meeting. This was not included in the meeting minutes. Please enter for the record:

Toni Onken made a motion to appoint Bobbi Jo Fagerland as the Library Board Representative. Jamie Myers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG... stated that Peerless Midwest recently completed the annual Well & Pump Performance Testing and identified the following issues that need to be repaired or replaced:

1. **Mag meter, water plant:** The mag meter controls the flow of water for the town. Commissioner Young was not able to obtain a quote for a new mag meter, but installation was quoted at \$3,100.
2. **High service pump, water treatment plant:** Peerless noted that the motor has a grinding sound and it is unclear where the sound is coming from. The motor was greased but the sound did not go away. Peerless recommended that the high service pump be removed, disassembled, cleaned and overhauled and provided a quote in the amount of \$6,450. The last time this pump was overhauled was in 2017. Member Myers questioned how much a new high service pump would cost as he believes it would be a good idea to have a back up pump in stock in case of failure.

Chris Franklin made a motion to rebuild the high service pump in the amount of \$6,450. Jamie Myers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Clarifier, wastewater treatment plant:** as reported previously, one of the two clarifiers received damage to the impeller. The clarifier was welded as a temporary fix to keep things running. Commissioner Young suggested that the town proceed with the purchase of a new clarifier and keep the repaired clarifier for back up. A quote in the amount of \$14,271 was presented for a new clarifier, this quote does not include installation fees.

Chris Franklin made a motion to table this discussion and requested two additional quotes for the clarifier before proceeding. Jamie Myers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Dorothy St. Lift Station:** only one pump at this location is working, which has caused flow issues for the area on more than one occasion. Commissioner Young stated that Tanner Fluke inspected the station and it is believed that the issue is caused by the outdated control panel. Tanner Fluke recommended that the panel be completely revamped. There was discussion that the pump itself is bad, but Tanner Fluke does not believe that this is the case. A quote was received in the amount of \$10,125 + approximately \$250 for freight charges to bring this panel up to date.

Chris Franklin made a motion to accept Tanner Fluke's quote and get the panel revamped. Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Monon Fire Station repair:** Commissioner Young stated that the grinder pump system that was installed during the 2nd story remodel at the station was not sufficient. This has caused multiple instances where the sewer has backed up, with the most recent resulting in septic water running down the interior walls. The drywall has been removed and will need to be replaced at a later date, but the plumbing issue needs to be addressed. Only a licensed contractor can install a gravity feed system.

Chris Franklin made a motion to have Scheurich's install the gravity feed system only. Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNUAL NEPOTISM...forms were distributed and signed by all council members. The forms will be filed at the Clerk-Treasurer’s office.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG stated that the meeting room will be painted Jan 2nd , 2025. A quote from Tammy Linback was received in the amount of \$473, which included labor & materials.

JANUARY MEETING....The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8th, at 6:30 p.m.

Jamie Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Chris Franklin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned @ 8:11 pm.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:_____

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:_____

COUNCIL MEMBER:_____

COUNCIL MEMBER:_____

COUNCIL MEMBER:_____

ATTEST:_____