

## COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)

June 5, 2024

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Toni Onken, Ron Benakovich and Jamie Myers. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Chris Franklin was absent.

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

### MINUTES, PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:

**Minutes:** Toni Onken made a motion to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2024. Jamie Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to approve the REGULAR meeting minutes from May 1, 2024. Chris Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Payroll, Bills & Claims:** President Ken Hickman asked if all members had reviewed the claims and payroll. Clerk Sipkema stated that the \$30.00 claim for Vic Rater was removed from the Accounts Payable Voucher on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Linda Melton contacted Sipkema to let her know that the baseball & softball leagues would be paying the invoice. Member Myers stated that he also received the same information from Ms. Melton.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll. Jamie Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried. **\$321,705.57**

**MONTH END RECONCILIATION REVIEW / SIGN OFF:** President Hickman signed off on the May & June bank reconciliations. Council Members signed off on May & June month end balances.

**Ken Hickman, President,** thanked Jim Davis for all his hard work on preparing for the Monon Food Fest. Mr. Davis stated that he was pleased with the turnout of volunteers this year. Mr. Davis gave special thanks to the Monon Fire Dept, Roger Young and the town laborers for all their help.

### VISITORS:

**LARRY BROWN, Economic Development Representative,** shared that the Economic Development Director, Randy Strasser and the Board have been working diligently on obtaining grants for all of White County. There are numerous projects in Monon that are to be submitted for consideration of grant funding. Mr. Brown stated that the Readi 2.0 grant is to provide funding for projects that need done and that are ready to be done now. Jim Davis stated that there is a request for Monon to receive up to two million dollars toward the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Mr. Davis went on to share that there is also a Lilly Endowment Grant through the IEDC that will be administered in conjunction with the Readi 2.0 grant. This grant is to accelerate the state's support for rehabilitating deteriorated or abandoned properties. The old fertilizer plant in town has been submitted for consideration. The Monon Theater project has also been submitted for an Arts and Entertainment grant for up to \$800,000. Mr. Davis stated that he feels optimistic about the chance of being awarded this grant, but that there are particulars that would have to be addressed moving forward. Ken Hickman, President, thanked Mr. Brown and Mr. Davis for all their work to get these projects recognized and submitted for consideration of the grant funding. Mr. Brown asked that the Council keep in mind all that Economic Development is doing for the community at budget time.

**JIM DAVIS, All Aboard Monon,** announced that there will be another immunization clinic held in conjunction with the food pantry hours on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Monon Civic Center.

**LARRY REDLIN, Resident,** questioned the wording in the Servline brochure in regards to who is responsible for the service lines based on the location. In brief, the town is responsible for the lines from the main to the meter and the homeowner is responsible from the meter to the house. It was explained to Mr. Redlin that there are additional coverages that can be added to cover the service lines the resident is responsible for. The \$3 per month coverage that residents were automatically enrolled in is for leak loss protection only.

**TERRY SAUNDERS, Resident,** stated that she has had an issue with someone removing her sewer clean out lid and has posted No Trespassing signs on her property. Ms. Saunders also expressed concern that employees should not be wearing shorts while weed eating.

### UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS:

**COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING...** President Hickman asked Gabrielle what the status of the town was with IDEM as he recalled we were under a three-four month hold during the transition of operators. Gabrielle stated that IDEM requested that the town submits three months of operation data before a meeting is scheduled. Gabrielle said she is waiting on the April and May reports to proceed. April was a rainy month which will provide a lot of data for the upcoming meeting with IDEM to discuss the permit application. This meeting will be open to the public if 3 or more council members will be present. Gabrielle shared that the application for the Greenwood St project would be sent this week.

**PROPERTY CLEAN UPS.... Roger Young, Street Commissioner....**1) President Hickman inquired about the status of 103 N Arch St. that was ordered on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to remove the two dilapidated accessory buildings within 60 days. At this time, the buildings and weeds/saplings that were addressed in previous correspondences to the property owner have not been removed. Attorney Trent stated that proper notices have been sent and that the town can now opt to clean up the property themselves. The council discussed and decided to move forward with the removal of the accessory buildings and to clean up the overgrowth at the town's cost. This cost will be conveyed to the property through a property lien. Commissioner Young will work on getting quotes for the cost to the town to have the laborers clean up the overgrown weeds and saplings and a quote(s) for the removal of the buildings to present to the council at the July meeting. 2) Commissioner Young stated that they are also tagging abandoned vehicles. Member Myers asked what the procedure is for tagged vehicles. Commissioner Young stated that if tagged vehicle is in the right of way it can be towed away after 24 hours. If the vehicle is on personal property, there is a 72 hour waiting period before the vehicle may be towed. Member Myers stated that he has noticed that properties are getting cleaned up.

**STREET PAVING....Commissioner Young** presented quotes from Town & Country and Central Paving for 2024. Central Paving presented a quote for \$141,527.00 and Town & Country came in at \$147,536.95. The town has \$150,000 available to use for paving this year. Jamie Myers made a motion to accept Central's Paving's quote of \$141,527.00. Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion carried.

**SIDEWALKS...Commissioner Young** shared that the sidewalk work has been poured. Still waiting on backfill for the project to be complete.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**FIRE CHIEF....Sean Garrett** stated that the helmets and patches have been received and that he has received a check from the township for one half of that invoice. Chief Garrett presented a quote for 8 sets of turn out gear in the amount of \$38,340.08. The township has already agreed to pay one half of this amount in full. Chief Garrett stated that the remaining portion will be \$19,170.04. There was a brief discussion over paying in full or financing the town's portion of the purchase. Clerk Sipkema said she would need to look into this. Chief Garrett will request a financing quote from the company for consideration.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

**TOWN MARSHAL/STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG...1.** There was an incident of vandalism that occurred over the weekend involving thirteen vehicles throughout town. 2. There is a sinkhole at the intersection of Harrison & Lincoln streets. This area has been barricaded until it can be fixed. 3. Jerry Wiley has contacted the office regarding a tree stump in the right of way. Mr. Wiley has requested that the town help pay for the stump to be removed. The consensus of the council was that the removal of the stump is the property owner's responsibility and that it is not the policy of the town to assist with the removal.

**CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA...1.** The town has two CD's that are maturing on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Annette asked if the council would like to renew the CD's or transfer the funds to TrustIndiana. After a brief discussion...

Ron Benakovich made a motion to move the funds to TrustIndiana.

Toni Onken seconded. Motion carried.

2. A quote of \$5,200.00 was received for a new ramp and entry door at the new town hall. After a brief discussion...

Jamie Myers made a motion to accept the new ramp work, but exclude the new door until ADA requirements can be looked into.

Toni Onken seconded. Motion carried.

3. Jennifer Durlinger, EMS, emailed the office that Charrisse Hook was hired for the part-time EMT position. It was decided by the council that Ms. Hook shall be paid 9.92/hour. 4. The signed 2024 Emergency Services contract has been received. 5. Aim will be holding a Medical Trust Seminar in July. Annette will forward the agenda from last year to the council members to see if anyone is interested in attending to learn more. 6. Annette will be out of the office June 23-26<sup>th</sup> for state called training in South Bend.


**COUNCIL MEMBERS...JAMIE MYERS** asked that there are issues that he would like to see addressed in the meeting room; 1. the light above the council table be fixed. 2. the interior wall be removed to open up the seating area for the attendees. 3. obtain a quote for new chairs. Member Myers also stated that he would like to see a schedule of hours for the police and street department.


Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Jamie Myers seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:58 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

ATTEST: 