TOWN OF MONON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 3, 2026

The Council of the Town of Monon met for their Regular Meeting on, June 3, 2026 at the Monon Town Hall Conference Room, 422 N Market St. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Vice President Ron Benakovich, Jamie Myers, Toni Onken and Chris Franklin. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Town Marshall Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema. President Hickman started our regular meeting immediately following the Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of silence.

READING OF MINUTES....Council President Ken Hickman asked whether members had reviewed the Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 6, 2026 and the Executive Meeting Minutes dated May 6 and May 13, 2026. There were no additions or corrections.

> **Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Meeting Minutes as presented, Ron Benakovich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

BILLS, CLAIMS, PAYROLL AND MONTHLY RECONCILIATION....President Hickman indicated that, absent any objection, the presentation of payroll and bills would be combined with the monthly reconciliation for May 2026. Members confirmed they had reviewed the materials and offered no comments.

> **VP Benakovich made a motion to approve the bills, claims, payroll, and monthly reconciliation for May 2026, Member Franklin seconded. Motion carried unanimously. $434,837.35**

Visitors

SEAN GARRET, FIRE CHIEF.... Fire Chief Sean Garrett requested permission for a beer garden to be held in conjunction with the department's fish fry event on June 20, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:30 PM. The beer garden would be operated by a third party (Herold's Steakhouse), who would handle his own permits, insurance, and a licensed bartender. Security would be provided by Marshal Young. The proposed location was on the west side of the fire station building, in the grass area and adjacent tarmac.

Discussion arose regarding whether serving alcohol on town/government property was permissible. Attorney Trent confirmed that the council may grant special permission for such an event, and that doing so would satisfy the legal requirement.

> **Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the beer garden for the fire department fish fry event on June 20, 2026, Chris Franklin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

RESIDENT TERRY SAUNDERS AND PARK BOARD PRESIDENT DIANNE TRIBBETT.... questioned what could be done to address electric scooters being operated at high speeds near pedestrians in the downtown area and town park. Concerns were raised regarding rider behavior, including near collisions with pedestrians and vehicles. Marshal Young explained that electric scooters are generally treated similarly to bicycles under state law and that enforcement options are limited. He stated that the department has focused on educating riders about safe operation, traffic laws, and the use of lights at night. Council members and law enforcement officials encouraged residents to report incidents to dispatch so complaints can be documented and officers can respond when available. It was noted that specific complaints are necessary for enforcement actions and that continued public education remains the primary approach to addressing the issue.

DIANNE TRIBBETT, PARK BOARD PRESIDENT..... requested an additional appropriation of $27,300 to replace the Babe Ruth baseball diamond lights damaged in the March 2023 storm. The Park Board holds a $24,000 balance from a $56,039 insurance payout

after completing other storm related repairs. The proposed project totals $27,300, consisting of $21,600 from Tribbett Electric and $5,700 from Bowsher Excavating, and includes installing underground electrical lines for improved safety. During the discussion, President Hickman suggested utilizing the baseball fields for youth soccer programs during the fall off-season. Council and Park Board members noted the importance of athletic feeder programs and discussed expanding future recreational options to include softball leagues and tournaments. The Council voiced full support for the project and the funding request. Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema stated she will complete the required additional appropriation procedures to bring the matter back for formal board action at the next meeting.

New, Unfinished or Deferred Business

Commonwealth Engr...WW Project..... President Hickman reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant project continues to move forward on schedule. He noted that Commonwealth Engineering representative Gabrielle will participate remotely for routine project updates rather than attending in person. The project timeline is as follows:

- June 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. – Pre-bid meeting at Town Hall.
- July 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. – Bid opening at Town Hall.
- August 5, 2026 – Commonwealth Engineering will present bid recommendations to the Town Council @ the Regular Monthly Meeting.

President Hickman also reported that legal advertisements for the project have been scheduled to run twice in both the Herald Journal and News & Review, with publication occurring at least ten days prior to the pre-bid meeting.

2026 Salary Ordinance Revisions..... Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema presented proposed 3% cost-of-living pay increases for three positions that were inadvertently left out during the 2026 salary process. The proposed pay increases included the EMT, whose hourly wage would adjust to $12.44/hour, the Street Commissioner set to receive $792.31 biweekly, and part-time Deputy Bob Hickman whose hourly rate would become $26.46. To facilitate the transition, the council discussed the importance of aligning the increases with a retroactive pay adjustment from the beginning of 2026 with the June 10 paycheck. This adjustment results in a total retroactive amount for all three roles of approximately $651.68. In line with these discussions:

> **Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the 3% cost-of-living increases for the EMT, Street Commissioner, and part-time Deputy positions, retroactive to the first pay period of 2026; seconded by Vice-President Benakovich. The motion carried unanimously.**

Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema will prepare an amended salary ordinance for signature at the July 1st meeting.

Random Drug Testing ... Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema presented information on a proposed random drug testing program through a third-party clinic, including annual setup costs and per-test fees. The council discussed logistics, liability concerns related to off-site testing, and possible testing frequency. Attorney Trent and council members agreed that a comprehensive drug testing policy must be added to the personnel policy before enrolling in any program, as the existing drug-free workplace ordinance is not sufficient. The matter was tabled pending policy review and development.

Town Marshal Vehicle Quotes..... Marshal Young reported seeking three quotes for a new police truck, receiving two: Gutwein's at $48,529 and Hubbard's at $52,265. Twin Lakes Dodge Chrysler Jeep did not submit a quote after two contacts. Young recommended Ford, preferring to avoid Dodge due to engine and injector issues in the current fleet. He mentioned that some equipment from the old vehicle could be reused to save on costs. The current vehicle prompted the council to question whether SUV or sedan options like the Ford Explorer or Dodge Durango had been considered instead of a truck. Young stated the Ford Explorer price is similar and agreed to obtain more quotes before the next meeting. Expected delivery of the new vehicle would be year-end. The council showed interest in local purchasing. No decisions were made; more quotes will be reviewed later.

Utility Position..... The Council discussed promoting Tracy to a unified management role over both the water and wastewater operations to resolve operational conflicts and structural bypasses

among staff. Under this reorganization, Tracy will advance to Utility Superintendent on a probationary basis, carrying full authority over operations and staff disciplinary actions. Former Street Commissioner Roger Young will transition into a consulting and advisory capacity to assist her during the training period. Her position will shift from hourly to a starting superintendent salary of $58,230.68, effective June 6, 2026.

> **Jamie Myers made a motion to appoint Tracy Anderson as Utility Superintendent effective June 6, 2026, under a salary structure of $58,230.68 with full personnel authority, and transition Roger Young to an operational consultant. Ron Benakovich seconded the motion. The motion carried 4–1, with Member Chris Franklin voting nay.**

> **Jamie Myers made a separate motion to officially amend the salary ordinance to reflect the new Utility Superintendent rate, which includes the 3% cost of living increase added at the beginning of 2026, Ron Benakovich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema noted she would prepare the amended salary ordinance for the next meeting. President Hickman indicated he and Marshal Young would meet with the utility staff the following morning to communicate the council's decision.

Council Member Onken raised a concern about communication protocols going forward, noting that Park Board members should direct park-related maintenance needs to Tracy or her workers rather than to Marshal Young, and that Tracy's contact information would be made available to the Park Board.

STAFF REPORTS

Roger Young – Town Marshal....1) Firearms training was postponed and will be rescheduled. 2) The department assisted with escorting the Veteran's traveling "Wall that Heals" from Logansport to the White County 4-H Fairgrounds. 3) Young highlighted efforts to adapt patrol hours and paths and noted ongoing discussions with the new county prosecutor to improve case outcomes.

Annette Sipkema – Clerk/Treasurer ..... 1) Generator Service Agreement: Presented a maintenance agreement from Hermman and Geotz for the town's five generators. The council discussed the importance of regular maintenance of the generators.

> **Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the annual service maintenance agreement with Hermman & Geotz; Chris Franklin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

2) Sipkema noted she had distributed evaluations for the Street Commissioner and Town Marshal in anticipation of upcoming budget workshops, and indicated she would also prepare an evaluation form for the full-time EMT position for council review. It was confirmed that the Town Board is responsible for evaluating the EMT position. 3) Sipkema reported that payment for services nor a signed contract had not been received from Monon Township for 2026 Emergency Services. She had emailed the invoice and contract directly to the trustee but had not received a response. Member Myers asked to be copied on any follow-up correspondence so he could assist in pursuing the matter. An outstanding check issued to Monon Township in Dec of 2024 in the amount of $7,889 also remains uncashed; the council discussed whether the payee may have believed it was offset against an amount owed, and whether the check remains cashable. Sipkema will follow up. 4) The town received its supplemental LIT (Local Income Tax) distribution of $67,946 and supplemental EDIT funds of $9,820. Sipkema noted that Senate Bill 1 is expected to eliminate the current funding structure for LIT and EDIT distributions, though implementation has been delayed to 2028. She noted these funds are critical to the town's operating budget, the town currently receives approximately $48,000 monthly distributions for LIT & EDIT. She suggested the council consider meeting with the county to discuss future funding structures. 5) Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Grant: Proposed pursuing a grant for home repairs, offering up to $25,000 per household, with a town match of 10%. Maximum round is $350,000, requiring a $35,000 match. The council expressed interest in moving forward with an outreach survey, with a November application deadline in mind. 7) Budget Workshop: Scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Attorney Rebecca Trent……. Attorney Trent confirmed, following the beer garden discussion earlier in the meeting, that town ordinance allows the council to grant special permission for alcohol service at an event on town property, and that the motion approved earlier was sufficient authorization, provided the third-party operator secures all required state permits.

Council Members……. Member Myers (Jamie): Commended Marshal Young for his community policing approach and encouraged other officers to spend more time on residential side street patrol. He acknowledged the department's work and expressed support for the direction of the department.

President Hickman asked Attorney Trent to contact Standish Consulting regarding his contractual obligation to visit the plant monthly and attend quarterly Council meetings, which had not been fulfilled. Attorney Trent indicated she would request his attendance at the next meeting.

All Other Matters… A gentleman has inquired about the township's grass truck stored at the fire station. Clerk Sipkema stated that she could not locate a title for the subject vehicle in the town's file of jointly owned Emergency Equipment. Fire Chief Garrett confirmed the truck belongs solely to the township. It has been indicated to Chief Garrett that the trustee intends to place the vehicle for sale through a municipality auction firm based in Indianapolis.

There being no further business,

Ken Hickman made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.; Toni Onken seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Regular Meeting of the Monon Town Council is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Ken Hickman

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: Ronald Burk

COUNCIL MEMBER: Toni Onken

COUNCIL MEMBER:

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

ATTEST: Annette Sipkema

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Monon Town Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing after as long as this media is supported.
Official signed minutes may be requested at the Clerk's Office or viewed at https://townofmonon.com/2025-minutes