

**COUNCIL MEETING
(REGULAR)
April 3, 2024**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, April 3, 2024**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Toni Onken and Jamie Myers. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Ron Benakovich and Chris Franklin were absent.

-President Hickman started our regular meeting @ 5:54 pm & led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of-silence.

-MINUTES, PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:

Minutes: -Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the REGULAR meeting minutes from March 20, 2024.
-Toni Onken seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Payroll, Bills & Claims: President Ken Hickman asked if all members had reviewed the claims and payroll.

-Toni Onken made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.

-Jamie Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried. \$180,466.19.

-MONTH END RECONCILIATION REVIEW / SIGN OFF: None at this time.

VISITORS:

TERRY SAUNDERS, RESIDENT expressed her opinion of the new leak protection plan being offered to residents and questioned if the sprinkler allowance had been added to the signed policy. Ms. Saunders stated that Jamie Myers and Chris Franklin are Volunteer Firefighters and questioned if it was proper for them to make a motion or approve any requests involving the fire department. Attorney Rebecca Trent stated that this is not a conflict of interest. Members Myers and Franklin do not have to excuse themselves from any discussions involving the Volunteer Fire Department. Lastly, Ms. Saunders expressed her concern over the Board reducing the number of meetings per month from bi-weekly to monthly. President Hickman stated that additional meetings will be called as needed.

UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS:

COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING...1. Gabrielle stated that the Preliminary Engineering Report and application has been submitted to SRF. 2. Gabrielle informed the Board that the original design did not include the Greenwood Street addition. 3. Gabrielle stated that before the Greenwood Street design can be submitted, there has to be in a public hearing for review. This hearing must run as a legal ad at least 10 days prior.

MEETING DATE...President Ken Hickman requested to interrupt Gabrielle to discuss the future meeting schedule. President Hickman asked that the Board reconsider their decision to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. President Hickman realized that this schedule would interfere with the All Aboard Monon meetings that are also scheduled on the 2nd Wednesday. President Hickman also mentioned that Attorney Rebecca Trent's schedule should also be considered. Member Jamie Myers expressed his desire to move the meeting to 6:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 to allow additional time for members to get home from work and/or extra-curricular activities.

Jamie Myers made a motion that the regular monthly meeting be revised to meet the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Toni Onken seconded. Motion Carried

COMMONWEALTH CON'T.... It was decided that Gabrielle will present the revised drawing on May 1st @ 6:30 p.m.

WATER LOSS AUDIT & VALIDATION: Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema stated that she spoke with Dustin Standish. Mr. Standish confirmed that he is working with Chad Reynolds out of Alliance and they will be completing the report.

PROPERTY CLEAN-UPS... Marshal Young stated that the property clean up letters will be sent by this weekend. Marshal Young also stated that they are actively tagging vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS:

STREET PAVING/SIDEWALKS.... Marshal Young stated that he will reach out to Town & Country and Central Paving for street paving quotes. President Hickman inquired about what work was done last year on 5th St, past Walnut. Commissioner Young stated that the entire street was not repaved and that the pothole was cold patched. Jamie Myers requested a list of streets paved in 2023. Annette Sipkema will look for this information and send it to the Board. Diana Tribbett questioned who is responsible for park paving. Commissioner Young stated that the park is responsible. There was a brief discussion over streets and sidewalks that need addressed. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG... 1. Marshal Young stated that the MPD is currently completing required training. Firearms training is also coming up. 2. The department is reviewing their current Policies and Procedures for any revisions that may be required. 3. Blitz 132, Operation Pullover has commenced.

STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG... 1. Marshal Young just found out that EJP is parting ways with Sensus. Sensus is the manufacturer of our new water meters. Marshal Young stated that he spoke with Dustin Standish and they will be looking for a new Sensus representative. 2. Applications are still coming in for the labor position at this time; interviews are currently underway. 3. The Toro mower has been delivered. 4. Deadline for bids on the Dixie and Grasshopper mowers has been moved up to Friday, April 5th. 5. A truckful of scrap was hauled to Rensselaer for disposal. 6. The tire on the street sweeper has been repaired and is up and running. 6. Marshal Young received a trade in value of 16,000 – 18,000 for the Chevy Silverado from Gutwein Motor Company.

CLERK-TREASURER... 1. Annete Sipkema stated that American Legal Publishing is updating the ordinances from 2022 to present. Once this is completed the ordinance will be available online. 2. Servline brochures were sent out with April billings and an alert was created on the Town of Monon page. 3. The town received notification that there will be a rezone hearing for 507 N Market St on April 8th. The property owners have requested to rezone from neighborhood business to multi-family residential. 4. The 2020-2023 Audit is still underway.

COUNCIL MEMBERS... There was no other business from the council members at this time.

MONON FIRE DEPT.... Sean Garrett approached the Board to request approval to purchase twenty (20) new helmets for the fire department. Helmets expire ten (10) years after their manufactured date, fourteen of the helmets to be replaced were manufactured in Dec. 2014. Chief Garrett presented a quote of \$9,000 for 20 helmets and patches. Chief Garrett explained that a firefighter is not allowed to participate in training exercises with expired equipment. Member Myers said he had been in contact with Jacob Garling, Monon Twp. Trustee, prior to the hearing. Mr. Garling suggested that the fire department consider splitting the cost three ways. Chief Garrett said he would mention this at their next meeting on April 4th, but that he could not answer that at this time. There was discussion between the Board and Attorney Trent over the specifics of the contract between the town & township for emergency services. Attorney Trent stated that the contract requires pre approval from the Township Board for the township to pay their portion. Chief Garrett stated that he is concerned that a delay will leave the department with expired helmets at the end of the year since current lead time is 8-12 weeks to receive the product.

Jamie Myers made a motion to approve up to \$4,500 for the new helmets, pending township approval. Toni Onken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 6:49 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.


COUNCIL PRESIDENT


COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT


COUNCIL MEMBER


ATTEST


COUNCIL MEMBER