

**COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)  
NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Ron Benakovich, Toni Onken and Jamie Myers. Also present were Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young, Attorney Rebecca Trent and Clerk Treasurer Annette Siphema.

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:** President Hickman asked if everyone had a chance to review the Regular meeting minutes and Budget Adoption minutes from October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the REGULAR & BUDGET ADOPTION minutes as presented. Ron Benakovich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**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 unanimously. **\$334,872.03**

**Month End Reconciliation Review / Sign Off...** President Hickman reviewed the September & October 2024 bank reconciliations and validated them. Council Members and Pres. Hickman reviewed and signed off on the September & October month end balances.

**VISITORS**

**BRADEN EVANS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WHITE COUNTY AREA PLAN**, presented White County Zoning Amendment #A79. Asst. Dir. Evans explained that Amendment A79 is a proposal to establish updated, more restrictive regulations and standards for Commercial Solar Energy Systems. This amendment provides for more restrictive setbacks from road rights-of-way, non-participating parcels as well as municipalities. This amendment also changes the Permitted zoning district from A-1, General Agriculture to A-2, Agriculture Industry (I-1 and I-2 districts continue to be a permitted zoning district for these facilities). Asst. Dir. Evans went on to explain that the amendment was tabled by the White County Commissioners at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The commissioner's requested setbacks be revised to a more universal setback requirement. Mr. Evans stated that once the revisions are made, the amendment would need to be presented and voted on again by each municipality. Toni Onken made a motion to table the amendment. Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**JIM DAVIS, WHITE COUNTY COMMISSIONER**, handed out invitations to the November meeting at the Civic Center. Mr. Davis stated that the guest speaker is from Indiana Landmarks. Indiana Landmarks assists communities with adding historic buildings to the National Registry. The speaker will discuss why this is important and how it can be accomplished for individual buildings. Commissioner Davis presented information from the Community Crossings Grant (CCMG) and local amounts awarded to other White County municipalities. Mr. Davis stated that there will be two opportunities to apply for the grant in 2025, January and July. This grant assists with road paving and possibly additional assistance with sidewalks and drainage for roads that are approved for the grant. The Town of Monon applied for this grant in 2016 through 2019. Commissioner Davis stressed that the town should be applying for this grant. The grant requires a lot of detailed information, but there are companies that will assist with the process for a fee. Commissioner Davis stated that the grant award far exceeds the cost of these services. Lastly, Mr. Davis reiterated that there is money through the Brownfield Grant that could assist with the cleanup of the property on 3<sup>rd</sup> street, but for this to move forward the town has to have possession of the building.

**UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS:**

**COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING... MEGHAN PINTOZZI** stated that she had a task order prepared for the Town of Monon to update the 5-year wellhead protection plan that is past due. This task order is for an amount up to \$8,500 depending on the services that are needed to complete the plan. Clerk Treasurer Siphema stated that this report was due in 2022. The Wellhead Protection Plan was first implemented in 2007. The Town of Monon had formed a committee to create the plan. Commissioner Young was on this committee and he has been in contact with KIRPC to try to obtain a copy of this plan. The original plan was prepared with the assistance of

Wessler Engineering and completed in 2008. This plan was revised in April 2013. It seems that any revisions required could be completed internally without assistance from an outside company. Once this plan is received, Commissioner Young will look it over and see what all needs to be updated. The task order was tabled at this time.

The WWTP application had been revised and resubmitted to IDEM. Commonwealth met with IDEM after permit submittal. At this meeting, IDEM stated that they would expediate the review. Megan stated that Commonwealth can also provide services to assist with the CCMG if the town decides to apply for this grant.

**GOLF CART ORDINANCE....**council provided feedback to Attorney Trent regarding the proposed ordinance. Attorney Trent will work on the revisions for the next meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBER TERM ORDINANCE...**President Hickman read the ordinance aloud. After a brief discussion regarding how the seats were determined, Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the ordinance as is. Toni Onken seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**TRASH AMENDMENT....PRESIDENT HICKMAN** stated that this amendment involves the current fee and brush pickup information. The proposed amendment would raise the current trash rate of \$13.40 to \$13.96 effective January 1, 2025 and a rate of \$14.55 effective January 1, 2026. Section F has also been revised to reflect the revised information regarding brush pick up. This change reduced the size of limbs and weight limit that the street department would pick up for brush. Resident Terry Saunders expressed her concern that the increase is too high for residents on a fixed income. Clerk Treasurer Siphkema stated that the contracted rate that is charged for the service increases each year to a predetermined amount. The increase is necessary to offset the amount of money that the town chips in for trash removal. Without an increase, the town would be responsible for over \$10,000 for the service. The town has picked up a little over \$5,000 each year for the service and the fees proposed are to maintain this amount. Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the Amendment to 92.03, Garbage (Ordinance #09-2024). Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**TOWN HALL DEDICATION....PRESIDENT HICKMAN** stated that Dr. Henney & Dr. McGuire's widow donated their building on Adams Street to the town. The Town Hall and Police Department moved to the new location in December of 2023. To express our gratitude, a Donar Recognition Day should be scheduled.

**SALARY PROPOSAL....CLERK SIPKEMA** recommended to the council a 2 – 5% cost of living raise for 2025. President Hickman expressed his opposition to any increase for the council members. Commissioner Young suggested that employee Tracy Anderson be promoted to Sewage Plant Operator. There was a brief discussion. Council agreed that Ms. Anderson should be promoted to the Non-Certified Sewage Plant Operator position. Member Myers suggested that the salary increase be based on performance instead of a cost-of-living increase. With that said, Member Myers made a motion to approve the following increases for 2025:

Council Members	\$800.00	Sewage Plant Operator	\$1,500.00
Clerk Treasurer	\$3,000.00	Laborer 1	\$1,400.00
Town Marshall	\$1,500.00	Laborer 2	\$1,300.00
Deputy Marshall	\$1,500.00	EMT 1	\$1200.00
Attorney	\$2,000.00	EMT 2	\$508.80
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer	\$1,500.00		

Ron Benakovich seconded. Two members opposed the motion resulting in a tie. Clerk Siphkema voted against the motion. Member Myers made a motion to redact the council member increase from his motion, but that all other amounts remain the same. Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Salary Ordinance will be prepared for presentation at the December meeting.

**AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS.....PRESIDENT HICKMAN** stated that he had recently learned that the Civic Center is in need of a new roof. Member Myers inquired if there was any other fund that the town could use for the new roof. CT Siphkema stated that the CCD funds could be used. Member Myers suggested that the town utilize the remainder of the American Rescue Funds for the fire department equipment needs and the purchase of additional radio read meters. Chief Garrett presented the items needed which included new pagers, supply lines and a hydrant bag. Chief Garrett stated that the current pagers are outdated and that it is becoming a challenge to have these pages repaired. The department would need to purchase 14 new pagers. Chief Garrett stated that the department prefers to stay with Motorola and presented a quote of \$7280 for (14)

Motorola Minter Series 7 pagers. The department is also in dire need of supply hose. At a recent fire in town, the department did not have enough hose to hook up to the fire hydrant. Chief Garrett & Assistant Chief Tiede went around town and measured the distance between the hydrants and the furthest house that they may need to reach. They also took into account the amount of hose that would be needed to stock the truck with hose upon return from a call. This would allow the department to properly clean & maintain the hose after use. Based on this research, Chief Garrett requested 600' of new supply lines. The cost of the line is \$298 per 50' of hose. Chief Garrett has received approval from the township trustee to purchase the pagers, hoses and hydrant bag, so the cost would be split evenly between the town and township. President Hickman stated that the fire department has been neglected for a long time and that Chief Garrett is doing an excellent job getting the department in order. Commissioner Young reminded the council that there is also an issue at the WWTP with the clarifiers. One of the clarifiers impellers has been welded as a temporary fix to keep the plant running. Both clarifiers need to be replaced and the quotes he has received are between \$10,000-\$15,000 per clarifier.

Jamie Myers made a motion to purchase fourteen new pagers for the fire dept, a hydrant tool bag, 600' of hoses for the fire department and one hundred radio read meters. Toni Onken seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**HYDRANT FEE.....**There was a brief discussion regarding sharing a portion of the monthly \$2166.50 hydrant fee with the residents. The purpose of the fee is to provide funding for the hydrant system including maintenance, infrastructure, new hydrant installation, repairs, upgrades and upkeep of the current hydrants. This will be looked into further and discussed at a later date.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG....** (1) an after action debriefing was recently held at the Lafayette Post. An official release should be released soon. 2) The Durango is at Twin Lakes CDJR to repair a faulty fuel pump. This repair will cost approximately \$1400. 3) finalizing training hours.

**STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG....**1) brushes for the fine screen auger at the WWTP have been received. 2) Park has been winterized. 3) There recently was an issue involving the gravity feed system that was installed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> story living quarters at the fire station. There have been multiple issues involving the grinder pumps. Commissioner Young is working on obtaining quotes to convert the grinder pumps to a gravity feed system.

**CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA...**nothing at this time.

**COUNCIL MEMBER JAMIE MYERS...** 1) stated that it has been found that the fire department was covered under a workman's compensation policy. 2) Member Myers stated that he was discussing the construction of a new community center/fire station with the township trustee and would like to see the town work with the trustee to move forward on this project. There is funding that is available through Homeland Security and Red Cross if the center meets the requirements.

**COUNCIL MEMBER RON BENAKOVICH...**asked if a no parking sign can be placed on Walnut St. Member Benakovich expressed his concerns over the narrow street and children darting out between cars. Commissioner Young will look into this.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Toni Onken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:45 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Ken Hickman

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: Ronald B. ...

COUNCIL MEMBER: Toni Onken

COUNCIL MEMBER: ...

COUNCIL MEMBER: ...

ATTEST: Annette Sipkema