

COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)
May 1, 2024

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Toni Onken, Chris Franklin and Jamie Myers. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Ron Benakovich was absent.

President Hickman started our regular meeting @ 6:38 pm following Commonwealth's Public Hearing for the proposed sewer project.

MINUTES, PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:

Minutes: Chri Franklin made a motion to approve the Nuisance Hearing Minutes from April 3, 2024. Toni Onken seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the REGULAR meeting minutes from April 17, 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. Chris Franklin made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll. Jamie Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried. **\$127,356.93**

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

VISITORS:

JIM DAVIS, All Aboard Monon, reminded everyone that the Food Fest is scheduled for downtown on June 1. Parade will begin at 9:45 from the High School and the Food Fest will begin at 10 a.m. Jim Davis stated that he has been working with Lyle Tribbett to get electric installed at the former gas station site just north of the tracks (303 N Market St). Jim Davis asked that Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema reach out to NIPSCO to fill out an application for a new meter that can be turned on and off as needed for the site. There is also a plan to install permanent electric at the Caboose site.

Jim Davis also talked about internet towers that are being installed by Wabash Heartland around White County to provide internet access to those residents who are unserved or underserved. Jim Davis also announced that there will be an immunization clinic at the Monon Civic Center that will be held on May 21st.

UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS:

COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING...Gabrielle Taber gave a brief recap of the information provided in the Public Hearing and presented the PER Resolution for President Hickman to sign. This resolution is to approve the revised PER for submittal to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the resolution. Chris Franklin seconded. Motion passed.

PROPERTY CLEAN UPS.... Roger Young, Street Commissioner, stated that it appears that most of the notified property owners are cooperating in clean up efforts. Commissioner Young stated that he will do follow up inspections the next time he is on duty for properties that were notified of the mowing requirement. There was one certified letter to a property owner of several properties in town that was returned as undeliverable. Member Myers questioned how clean ups were addressed for Evergreen Trailer Park. Commissioner Young stated that the letter went to the property owner and that it was explained that each individual lot could be charged up to \$1,200 if the property was not cleaned up.

STREET PAVING....Commissioner Young has received a quote from Town & Country for the street paving project. Roads included: Jackson Ct, the alley between State Rd 16 and Brook St, Railroad St to 421, Middlestat to Spruce, the new town hall parking lot and approximately 4,000 sq. ft. of parking area at the town park. Commissioner Young noted that the road in the park from the north side of the ditch to about the first curve needs replaced. Also, the culvert on the east side of the park is eroding and needs balace placed on both sides. Commissioner Young will check with Mike Kyburz, White County Highway Superintendent, to see if the county could install a new drain. Commissioner Young and the town council are waiting on the second quote for the proposed work for final decision.

SIDEWALKS... **Annette Sipkema, Clerk Treasurer**, shared the quote that she received from Melton Construction for sidewalk work the town requested. A quote of \$51,120.00 was received for US 421, 5th St. to Brook and a ramp at the new town hall. The Council had a general discussion over the sidewalk work along 421 and if it would be possible that the state may share the cost of the sidewalk work since it is in their right of way. Clerk Sipkema explained that a quote was also received for the sidewalk work for Houser St, Middlestat St to Spruce (south side) in the amount of \$34,520.00. This quote does not include the work that needs to be done at the town hall, but CT Sipkema stated that this would not be an issue as money was worked into the 2024 budget for building repairs for the new town hall location. Jamie Myers made a motion to proceed with the Houser St project in the amount of \$34,520.00. Toni Onken seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT HICKMAN read aloud the Advance Payment of Claims Ordinance to the Board. This ordinance will allow CT Sipkema to pay certain claims prior to Board Approval. Any claims paid will be included on the Accounts Payable Voucher for Board review and approval. Chris Franklin made a motion to approve the ordinance. Jamie Myers seconded. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS:

TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG... 1. Marshal Young reported that Michelle Nelson has resigned from her position as crossing guard. Mrs. Nelson provided 19 years of reliable service to the community and she will be greatly missed. 2. The Police Department continues to work towards completing mandatory training. 3. The town officers continue to participate in Operation Pullover (OPO).

STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG... 1. Commissioner Young stated that the mosquito spray has been received. 2. Commissioner Young was contacted by Brian Madison, Sensus Account Development Manager. Commissioner Young stated that he felt this was a very informative conversation. Mr. Madison is working towards getting our account set up the way we need it before he hands us over to the new Sensus distributor, Core & Main. A representative from Core & Main will then reach out to set up training for the equipment. 3. Commissioner Young purchased a bed edger, hedge trimmers, etc to maintain town properties. 4. Commissioner Young informed the council that there is a tripping hazard at the fire station that needs to be addressed.

PRESIDENT KEN HICKMAN....inquired if the fire department has ordered the helmets that were approved by the council. The Monon Town Council approved up to \$4,500 for the helmets at the meeting on April 3, 2024. Jamie Myers stated that the helmets had not yet been ordered as they were waiting on township approval to proceed. Member Myers asked if the township can deny Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) purchases for the department. The helmets and turn out gear are essential to protecting the community and need to be replaced as required by the manufacturer. Attorney Trent stated that in her opinion PPE would not fall under the equipment and supplies that are listed in the contract as items that require prior approval. Member Myers will contact Fire Chief Garrett to request he moves forward with the helmet order. President Hickman also inquired if any quote had been received for the turn out gear that is also expiring in the near future. Member Myers will contact Chief Garrett to request he gets quotes to present at the next meeting for turn out gear.

CLERK-TREASURER... 1. CT Sipkema explained to the Council that at this time the Town of Monon does not require their approval prior to the issuance of a White County Building and Planning permit within the Town of Monon. CT Sipkema stated that the office can request that any permit that would require a new service or one that would increase the load on the sewer be sent to the town for review. Attorney Trent and the council all agreed that with the current IDEM situation, the town should be reviewing these permits. CT Sipkema will reach out to WC Building & Planning. 2. CT Sipkema stated that the 2020-2023 State Board of Accounts Audit has been completed and that the exit conference was held on 4/22/24. The town received a great review with only two items needing attention.

COUNCIL MEMBERS...nothing at this time.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:58 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Kan Williams

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: Ronald Beck

COUNCIL MEMBER: Loni Ouker

COUNCIL MEMBER: Jay

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

ATTEST: Annette Supkema