

**COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)
SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Ron Benakovich, Toni Onken, Chris Franklin and Jamie Myers. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

President Hickman started our regular meeting @ 6:38 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 from August 7th, 2024. Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the REGULAR meeting minutes from August 7th, 2024. Chris Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Payroll, Bills & Claims: President Ken Hickman asked if all members had reviewed the claims and payroll. Jamie Myers inquired if it would be possible to convert the phones to internet phones to try to save money on the numerous telephone bills the town receives. Clerk Sipkema stated that that was brought up at the budget workshop and that she will look into it further. Clerk Sipkema stated that she received an invoice from Tribbett Electric for electrical work done at the caboose in 2023 and 2024. A quote for \$5335 dated September, 2022, was included with the invoice, but C-T Sipkema could not find any record where the Council approved the quote. Jim Davis stated that the Park Board approved the work to be completed and that the invoice is to be paid out of their budget. Dianne Tribbett agreed that this invoice was approved by the park board.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.
Toni Onken seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

\$180,341.23

VISITORS

LINDA MELTON, RESIDENT, expressed her concern that cars were parked on the diamonds during the recent Cross-Country meet. Linda Melton and Dianne Tribbett also brought up that there were no porta potties provided for the event and that it was found later on that feces had been smeared all over the men's bathroom. Roger Young stated that the facilities were not locked up following the schools departure from the premises, so there is no way to determine if the bathrooms were left that way by the school. Roger Young stated that the school is responsible for ordering and paying for porta potties if needed and that ultimately the decision to allow the use of the property is the decision of the Park Board. It was suggested that the Park Board address the situations with the school and decide if they will continue to allow the school to hold the athletic competition at the park. Ron Benakovich also stated that the school should make a donation to the park for the use of the premises.

RAY GRIFFIN, RESIDENT, questioned why it was decided that town employees would be allowed to drive snow trucks home. Roger Young stated that only employees who live in town will be allowed to drive the trucks home when snow is predicted. Mr. Griffin also expressed his concern about the condition of some street signs and the visibility of stop signs. Roger Young stated that street signs are currently being made. Mr. Griffin requested that the town install a no semi sign on Pine St. due to the fact that semi's routinely damage this stop sign. Roger Young responded that with the treatment plant located at the end of Pine St that would not be feasible.

DIANNE TRIBBETT, PARK BOARD MEMBER, stated that there the log cabin was damaged over Labor Day weekend. Damage was not reported and appears to be caused by a grill grate that was placed against the frame of the door. Mrs. Tribbett asked about filing an insurance claim for the damage. Roger Young stated that the insurance deductible is \$1,000 and that he does not believe the cost to replace the wood would be more than that.

BRADEN EVANS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WHITE COUNTY AREA PLAN, presented Zoning Ordinance Amendment #A79. Assistant Director Evans explained that this proposed amendment is to establish updated, more restrictive regulation standards for Commercial Solar Energy Systems. Assistant Evans stated that the Area Plan Commission (APC) voted 9 in favor and 0 against the amendment, but that the first reading of the amendment was tabled by the White County Commissioner's for further discussion. At this time, no other municipality in the county has acted on the proposed amendment. Area Plan expects the Commissioner's to recommend changes to the amendment. The amendment would then be revised and sent through the entire process again. Assistant Evans gave an overview of the proposed changes in the current amendment. President Hickman suggested

that the town table the amendment until the Commissioner's make their decision. Jim Davis, County Commissioner, stated that Black Prairie was recently approved by the commissioners for a new commercial solar farm. Black Prairie has agreed to meet all the new requirements of the proposed amendment with the exception of the Special Exception requirement. Commissioner Davis stated that there is no appeal process offered for the Special Exception requirement, and that this is the issue that the commissioner's would like to see worked out before they act on the amendment. Toni Onken made a motion to table Amendment A79. Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS:

COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING... GABRIELLE TABER said that they have received the peak day flows and that they are needing the hourly flow data to schedule the meeting with IDEM. President Hickman asked about how long until the project will be ready to be opened up for bids. Gabrielle said that after the meeting with IDEM, they will be ready to submit the application. The application usually takes 1-2 months to be approved. Once approval is received, then the project will be opened up for bidding.

PROPERTY CLEAN UPS.... Marshal Young stated that the spreadsheet will be updated to delineated between vacant and occupied properties on the list. Attorney Trent is working on the property letters. President Hickman inquired on the status of the order to remove the accessory buildings at 103 N Arch St. The Council and Attorney Trent discussed the process at length. Attorney Trent assured the Council that the Nuisance Ordinance process had been properly executed and that the town can proceed with the removal as ordered.

GOLF CART ORDINANCE....CT Siphkema inquired if the council wanted to pursue the implementation of a golf cart registration ordinance and if so, would Attorney Trent prepare the ordinance? The Council discussed what they would like to be included in the ordinance, proposed registration fee and consequences for failure to properly register with the town. Attorney Trent stated that she would draft an ordinance and send this out to the council prior to the next meeting.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN.....CT Siphkema stated that the American Rescue Funds that were received from the federal government following COVID either needs to be expended or obligated by December 31, 2024 or the funds may have to be returned to the federal government. Previously, it was believed that the money received would not be subject to this rule since it was marked as revenue replacement, but it has been made clear that the December 31st deadline applies to all ARPA funds received. CT Siphkema stated that after the purchase of the turn out gear for the fire department is complete, there will be approximately \$98,932 remaining. President Hickman stated that he and CT Siphkema discussed this and thought it would be best to spend the money instead of trying to go through the obligation process. President Hickman said he would like to pay the recent truck purchase in full instead of financing the vehicle. Member Myers stated that he would like to see the town finance the vehicle as planned and purchase an additional ¾ ton truck. There was a lengthy discussion among the council members, Roger Young and CT Siphkema of items that this money could be used for. Commissioner Young stated that there is visible dirt/grime building up on the streets, so he would like to get the Bobcat Street Sweeper attachment ordered. CT Siphkema stated that a quote of \$11,518.07 was received approximately six months ago. Chris Franklin made a motion to purchase the sweeper attachment. Jamie Myers seconded. The council asked Attorney Trent what would happen if the purchase amount has increased since the original quote was received. Attorney Trent stated that the council could approve the purchase up to a certain amount to allow for any increase in the cost of the attachment. Toni Onken made a motion to approve the purchase of the Bobcat sweeper attachment up to the amount of \$15,000. Chris Franklin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CT Siphkema will send an email with the other items mentioned for further discussion at the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG...ongoing training with local and state agencies.

STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG...1) two employees have started a five-week course on water distribution. After completion, the employees will take the IDEM test at Ivy Tech. 2) Dorothy Street lift station is outdated. Commissioner Young stated that they are looking at a couple different options and the cost that would be associated with the repair/replacement. 3) still waiting on quote for four new hydrants 4) closing day for the Splash Pad will be September 15th

CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA...1) the Town of Monon's Code of Ordinance is now available online as a searchable document. 2) reported that trash rates will increase to \$14.61 on January 1, 2025. Current trash rate the town pays is \$14.05/unit; a \$13.40 fee is charged to users. 3) CT Siphkema provided information she received from Edwin Buswell, KIRPC, regarding equipment grants.

ATTORNEY REBECCA TRENT.... nothing at this time.


COUNCIL MEMBER TONI ONKEN...reported that the southeast curve by the park pole building appears to be washing out. Commissioner Young stated that this portion of the road needs repaved.

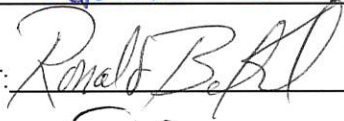
COUNCIL MEMBER RON BENAKOVICH...reported that there was broken glass in the street and requested that the street department stop and clean up any broken glass in the roadway.

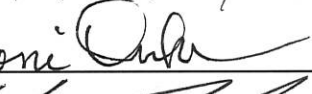
Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Jamie Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:12 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024, immediately following the Budget Adoption.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

ATTEST: 