

**COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)
OCTOBER 2ND, 2024**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Ron Benakovich, Toni Onken, Chris Franklin and Jamie Myers. Also present were Town Marshal/Street Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Attorney Rebecca Trent 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 Hearing minutes from September 4th, 2024. Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the REGULAR & BUDGET HEARING minutes as presented. 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.

Toni Onken made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.
Jamie Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. **\$180,331.77**

Month End Reconciliation Review / Sign Off... President Hickman reviewed the August bank reconciliations and validated it. Council Members and Pres. Hickman reviewed and signed off on the August month end balances.

VISITORS

TERRY SAUNDERS, RESIDENT... asked if the sidewalk along 4th St would be cold patched. Commissioner Young stated that this will be addressed in the spring.

UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS:

COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING... GABRIELLE TABER said that they have received the information needed to schedule the meeting with IDEM. This will be a virtual meeting held on Friday, October 4th at 9:30 a.m. This meeting is to go over the data provided with IDEM prior to submitting the permit application.

PROPERTY CLEAN UPS... tabled until further notice.

AMERICAN RESCUE FUNDS.....PRESIDENT HICKMAN stated that his preference is to pay the new truck purchase in full and use the remaining funds to purchase the three fire hydrants to replace the out of service hydrants and purchase equipment needed for the Fire Department. Commissioner Young stated that he spoke to Brad Gutwein, Gutwein Motor Company, and he has offered \$13,000 trade in value for the 2015 Chevy truck. The truck has approximately 99,000 miles on it. The council and clerk discussed the items they would like to see purchased with the funds. Main ticket items discussed were the purchase of a snow plow for the new truck, replacing fire hydrants that are no longer in service, purchase of a hydrant flow meter and cutting blades for the plows. There is also a need for a new AED machine. Member Myers stated that it might be beneficial for the town to look into leasing the AED machine instead of buying. The benefits of leasing are that the machine is always under warranty and can be repaired or replaced at any time to always provide the most up to date equipment. After all discussion between the council and clerk regarding use of the funds,

Jamie Myers made a motion to utilize a portion of the fund balance to (1) purchase the snow plow blade (2) trade in the 2015 Chevy Truck and pay for the F450 service truck in full (3) purchase two ball valves for the fire department and (4) purchase three 5" fire hydrants.
Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

GOLF CART ORDINANCE....PRESIDENT HICKMAN stated that he is not in favor of adding new ordinances until the town enforces the ones already in place. The council has spent numerous hours on a violation that is yet to be resolved. Ray Griffin, resident, expressed that he does not see what one has to do with the other. Mr. Griffin asked that if the ordinance is not passed at this time would the town at least post the rules of operation on the web. There was discussion among the council members regarding the status of the property that has been ordered to remove two

accessory buildings under the unsafe building ordinance. President Hickman stated that Attorney Trent has confirmed that the town has executed all the steps required to proceed with removal of the accessory buildings. President Hickman asked Commissioner Young if it is true that the contractor has an issue with proceeding with the job? Commissioner Young stated that the contractor requested that when the work is started that police be on site. Commissioner Young said he would check with Attorney Trent to find out if there are any issues with meeting the contractor's request. Member Myers stated that he had requested documentation from Attorney Trent regarding the removal order. He has not received anything yet.

President Hickman asked that the council look over the Golf Cart Ordinance and let Attorney Trent know if there are any changes they would like to see made before the next meeting. Ordinance tabled.

COUNCIL MEMBER TERM ORDINANCE... President Hickman stated that currently all council members are up for re-election in the same year which could create a new council with no experienced members. It is not believed that this would be in the best interest of the town, as not only could they have an entirely new board but also a new clerk-treasurer. This ordinance is to preserve experienced members to assist any new members and/or clerk. Attorney Trent has drafted an ordinance that will alternate the election of members by seat. Member Jamie Myers questioned how the seats were determined. Clerk Sipkema stated that she will inquire with Attorney Trent. White County Commissioner Jim Davis said that the town may want to consider synching their election cycle to the county wide election cycle which would ensure that voting centers are open in the Town of Monon. The town's last election ran in 2023, which was not a county wide election year. The only voting centers open for the election were held in Monticello. This may be the cause of the low voter turnout that occurred in 2023. Ordinance tabled for further discussion with Attorney Trent.

STAFF REPORTS:

TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG.... (1) ongoing training with local and state agencies. (2) September reports are not ready at this time.

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) Dustin Standish is working on training with the three town employees. 3) Splash pad has been closed and is currently being winterized. 4) Melton Construction has installed the door and ramp at the town hall. Melton's is also working on the sidewalk on Race St and uncovering the manhole on Houser St at their own expense. 5) Tree removal has started at the park. The township trustee has pitched in on the cost of the tree removal. 6) Roger explained that when a utility bill is not paid by the 15th, the town sends out a late notice. If payment is still not received, there is a red door hanger placed to inform the resident of the pending disconnection. Commissioner Young would like to do away with the red door hangers. Clerk Sipkema stated that Deputy Treasurer Beasley shared with her that in the past they would have 100 shut offs or more on a monthly basis. The use of the door hangers has significantly decreased this amount to somewhere between 10-20 shut offs per month.

CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA... 1) Each member received the evaluation forms for the Town Marshal and the Street Commissioner. Clerk Sipkema explained that it was up to council if they preferred to do two separate evaluations or if they would prefer to combine them into one. If they chose to submit one, Clerk Sipkema asked that if any additional comments were made to include which position the comment referred to. The council discussed and the consensus was that two separate evaluations should be completed. Clerk Sipkema asked that the council return the evaluations prior to or at the next meeting. 2) Trick or Treat will be on October 31st from 5-7 pm. 3) Josh Bowsher is preparing a quote to convert the town phones to internet based phones. To change to VOIP phones will require the town to be issued a new phone number. 4) The town will need to appoint a Library Board Member effective Jan 1, 2025. 5) Clerk Sipkema provided copies of the 2022 Water Loss Audit performed by Chad Reynolds with IN Alliance. The town lost 37.2 million gallons of water in 2022 and 46.331 gallons in 2023. Mr. Reynolds offered to perform a leak loss survey. Mr. Standish is looking into a possible discrepancy between the meter and well readings. 6) Attorney Trent requested an Executive Hearing to discuss legal issues. The council decided to hold the meeting on October 21st @ 6 pm. 7) The current trash ordinance (2023-07) only includes trash rates through 2024. Clerk Sipkema stated that the price the town pays per tote increases every year under our current contract with the 2025 rate @ \$14.61 per tote and the 2026 rate @ \$15.20. After discussion, the council decided that the amount charged per tote to the customer for 2025 shall increase to \$13.96 and the 2026 rate shall increase to \$14.55. These rates will keep the town's yearly cost for trash pick up to \$5460. The amounts will be entered into the trash amendment to be presented at the next meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMIE MYERS... 1) would like for the fire hydrant fee to be added to the next agenda for discussion. 2) Asked Commissioner Young to look at the door at the fire station. The door does not always latch.

COUNCIL MEMBER RON BENAKOVICH...asked Diane Tribbett, Park Board Member, if the board has addressed the issues brought up at a previous meeting regarding the use of the facilities with the school. Dianne Tribbett stated that the issue was discussed at one of their meetings, but it has not been addressed at this time.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Chris Franklin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:00 pm.

There will be an Executive Meeting on October 21st at 6:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: *Kent Hulman*

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: *Ronald Bask*

COUNCIL MEMBER: *Joni Duke*

COUNCIL MEMBER: *[Signature]*

COUNCIL MEMBER: *[Signature]*

ATTEST: *Anette Dupkina*