

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 W Washington Street on January 8, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Aaron Sims. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. While the meeting was conducted in person, it was also available via Zoom and live on Facebook. It was estimated that over 500 citizens attended or watched via the internet.

Oath of Office: Mayor Sims administered the oath of office to Fire Chief Sherrick, Assistant Chief Blake and Police Chief Blount.

Roll Call: Called by Clerk Treasurer Doug Pepple was answered by Mayor Aaron Sims, Councilors Shanda Cortez, Bill Cheever, Kim Kramer, Dave Patty and Gary Allen and City Attorney George Loy.

Minutes: Kim Kramer moved to approve the minutes of December 18, 2023 and Dave Patty seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Proclamation: Mayor Sims acknowledged the positive work of the Monticello Boys and Girls Club over the past 10 years through his reading of his proclamation.

Additions & Deletions: None

Citizen Participation:

Monticello policemen Clark and Foerg addressed the council about their concerns in the direction of the police department followed by their resignations. Gary Baker and Marsha Kyberz also voiced opinions in opposition to the appointment of Chief Blount. Paula Norwood expressed support for Chief Blount. Prosecuting Attorney Delgado expressed complete support for the police department and its leadership.

The *Thunder for Vets* organizer asked for Council consideration regarding the June 22 – 23 event. Support for the event was expressed by Nathan Baker, White County Veterans Office and Don Williams of AMVETS. Councilor Cheever suggested tabling the matter pending Council review.

Department Head Reports:

Street: Department is ready for winter. Christmas lights and decorations have removed and stored. Preparing for significant Community Crossings grant. Upgrading some lighting in city lots.

Wastewater: Collection system repair on Marion Street at Christmas. Gathering year-end data for annual reports.

Fire: For the year there were 3,526 calls (599 from Monon station), 82% were EMS calls while 18% were fire calls. Applied 1,372 medications. Paperwork for Paramedic School is submitted, hoping for August start. New ambulance is in service and starting 3 new full-time firefighters. Beginning interviews for Captains and Lieutenants with goal of Board of Works approval on January 22nd.

Parks: Christmas displays at courthouse this year worked very well. Applying for \$5,000 grant to enhance wildlife viewing area at Alherr Nature Center. Pool concessions facility will be upgraded. Some pavilions will be getting some much needed roof repairs. In 2023 119 reservations were made at pavilions that hosted approximately 6,000 guests. Swimming lessons reached an all-time high of 260 participants. January 28th there will be the year's first bird walk.

Police: New police car will be in service with all outfitting by March 1st. Will bring to the Board of Works on January 22nd consideration of new K-9 for the department.

Water: First water main break reported for this winter season.

ADA: March is Disability Awareness Month and banners will be placed by March 1st. Aktion Club and Mayor's Advisory Council holding popular activities such as bowling and meals with a program at the Christian Church. United Opioid Committee having success with high schoolers and the three phases of treatment: Prevent, Treat, and Recover.

Council Appointments:

Monticello Redevelopment Commission: Councilor Cheever moved for consideration for Dan Oldenkamp and Holly Moore; seconded by Kim Kramer. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Sims made three appointments: Bill Misenheimer, Courtney Bradshaw and himself.

Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District: Councilor Cheever moved for consideration for Kim Kramer; seconded by Gary Allen. All ayes, motion carried.

Area Plan Commission: Councilor Cheever moved for consideration for Gary Allen; seconded by Dave Patty. All ayes, motion carried.

Council President: Councilor Kramer moved for consideration Bill Cheever; seconded by Dave Patty. All ayes, motion carried.

Liaisons to City Departments: President Cheever indicated all Councilors and Department heads are aware of the assignments.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters: None

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Additional: I wish to express my appreciation to my first deputy, Mary Black, for her assistance in the gathering of this meeting's minutes.

Respectfully,

Doug Pepple

Clerk Treasurer

City of Monticello