

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009**

The meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on Monday, August 17, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jason Thompson and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call, by Clerk Treasurer Liz Oilar, was answered by Mayor Jason Thompson, Council Members Dave Kelly, Jim Mann, Grace Oilar, Bill Smith, and Eric Storm, and City Attorney George Loy.

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the regular and special meetings on Monday, August 3, 2009, a motion was made by Council Member Grace Oilar, seconded by Council Member Jim Mann, to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Citizen Participation

Liz Oilar addressed the Council with the plans for the upcoming Centennial Celebration for September. All four Monticello Sororities are in charge of this event. The Sororities are: Beta Sigma Phi, Tri-Kappa, Psi Otes, and Delts. The event is being called "Monticello's Pursuit of the 80's". It will be their version of Trivial Pursuit, with participation from the audience. Each week of September, each Sorority is responsible for a news article in the Herald Journal. It will be held on September 27, 2009, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Staggs Gym.

Judy Baker, representative of the Historical Society, addressed the Council to reopen their decision regarding the placement of a Tornado Memorial. At this time, the Memorial is to be at the corner of Bluff and Broadway. In the beginning, bricks were sold and there was a profit of \$3,469.76. There was a grant for \$1500.00 for a fountain for horses or humans. To complete this project would take possibly \$50,000.00. The Historical Society feels the Court House would be a better place for the Memorial and would only cost between \$5000.00 to \$10,000.00. The Kiwanis have also expressed an interest in getting this project completed. Connie Neiningner was on hand and spoke on behalf of the Kiwanis. After much discussion, it was decided that a survey would go out to the public, and the designer of the project will design a Plan A – Plan B at both locations, and Council Members Dave Kelly and Grace Oilar will serve on the core committee. The core committee will meet and present their findings to the Council at a later date.

Ken Kersey stated that he has talked with Council Member Dave Kelly about the no parking sign at McDonald's. He said he only asked for one sign and everyone got one but McDonald's. He doesn't understand why. Mayor Thompson stated that the City wrote a letter to INDOT asking to look at no parking signs specifically in front of McDonald's. It was INDOT'S decision to put the signs in the locations they did.

Department Head Reports

There were no Department Head reports. Fire Chief Shane Swaim introduced his new volunteer Andrew Hampton.

Committee Reports

Mayor Thompson gave the Council minutes from the Trash Committee that met on August 6, 2009. With the help of IACT, they received a lot of information back from cities and what they do about their trash pickup. Several communities charge a fee for trash on their water bills. They would like to accomplish the committee's goals without additional fees. There was general consensus ideas listed from the committee. The Council was encouraged to email the committee with any ideas or concerns. Mayor Thompson stated that the next step is to move forward with options for the new trash contract.

Neighborhood Watch Program – Larry Sanson

Larry Sanson stated that it has been over a year now that we have started discussing a neighborhood watch program. He believes that the citizens are in favor of the program. He stated that there is no cost to the City. He has talked to the newspaper and they have not done any coverage about it. The signs have been donated. The Police Department would have to sponsor this program. Police Chief Curt Blount stated that a true neighborhood watch is very expensive. The citizens have to be educated by law enforcement, what to watch for, what to do. It's not just putting up signs. Council Member Eric Storm would like to see this program get started. He will start to develop a plan. Council Member Jim Mann volunteered to help, also. They will get together with the Police Chief before the next Council meeting.

Happy Tails Presentation

Anna Kimberly, President, and Michelle Rogers, Vice- President, addressed the Council about Happy Tails. Happy Tails is a non-profit, temporary no kill animal facility in Buffalo. At this time, a stray animal is picked up and taken to Monon or Monticello Animal Hospital. They are held for three days. If they cannot find a home or are not adopted, they are put down. The ladies are in the final stages of opening their facility. They are lacking cat cages, which they need. The County has \$24,000.00 for animal control. They would like to see this money used differently in the care of the animals. Police Chief Curt Blount has spoken with these ladies, along with the Animal Control Officer. He stated that Dr. Kinnard and Dr. Hageman want to get out of the business of putting animals down. They are in favor of Happy Tails and are willing to drop some costs from them and get them out of their facility and into Happy Tails. Happy Tails is asking for the Council's blessing and help out with what they can. There is a fundraiser this Saturday at the VFW in which the Police Department is participating. Chief Blount encouraged the Council to stop out. He believes Happy Tails will be a positive thing for our community.

Discussion of USDA Rural Development Revolving Loan Fund – Connie Neininger

Connie Neininger provided the Council with information about a new program that is available. It is the USDA Rural Development Revolving Loan Fund. Several years ago the County applied for a USDA Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00. That grant was through the White County REMC. REMC was to put in a \$40,000.00 match. The grant was originally to be used for the infrastructure at the Wolcott Corridor, water and sewer. This project has been delayed and they were at risk of losing those funds completely if they did not utilize them by March of this year. They switched the use of this grant, reapplied through USDA, and asked to use it for a bridge loan for the Ivy Tech project.

USDA approved this, and they have paid back a large portion to REMC. This fund is now available for other projects throughout the community. It is money held by White County REMC and they have started a revolving loan fund. REMC will accept the applications. There is a review loan committee. They will make recommendations to the Board of Directors at REMC. They have a group working with the banks and a group addressing City and Town Councils. It is only available to rural communities. Eligible projects are economic development projects, municipalities and governmental entities for infrastructure improvements, and to non-profit organizations. This is a loan, not a grant. This money will now stay in our community.

Consideration of Speed Limit Change South Sixth Street – Street Department

Street Superintendent Doug Roberts stated that he has been asked by the contractors on Sixth Street to have speed reduction in the construction zone. It is presently 45 mph. They would like reduce speed ahead signs and 35mph during construction. The Council needs to approve this change. Council Member Eric Storm made the motion to approve the speed limit reduction during construction, seconded by Council Member Dave Kelly. All ayes, motion carried.

H. J. Umbaugh Budget Analysis Presentation

Dan Hedden and Danny Marsh, representatives from H. J. Umbaugh & Associates, addressed the Council about the proposed 2010 budget. Dan stated that this is a challenging time for local government. Revenue streams need to get back to normal and circuit breaker impacts need to become fixed and measurable. We need to wait that out and then make some long term planning decision. He stated that it is nice to work with the City's budget. His general comment on the budget is that everything works. Our focus is to see if the budget accomplished the things we set in motion last year. This is to preserve our financial position and our proposed budget does that. It also accomplishes the things that we need. Umbaugh looks at the budget in the same way as the DLGF. If there are any areas of concern or any areas that will raise red flags for the DLGF Umbaugh wants to let us know about that. Umbaugh did not find any red flags with the proposed 2010 budget.

Accounts Payable

Council Member Grace Oilar made the motion to approve the accounts payable as presented, seconded by Council Member Jim Mann. All ayes, motion carried.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Liz Oilar
Clerk Treasurer