

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008**

The meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on Monday, November 3, 2008, at 6:00 pm. 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 Council Members Dave Kelly, Jim Mann, Grace Oilar, William Smith, and Eric Storm, and City Attorney George Loy.

There being no additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes of the meeting on Monday, April 21, 2008, a motion was made by Council Member Bill Smith, and seconded by Council Member Grace Oilar, to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Citizen Participation

Ken Kersey thanked Jim Mann for helping Pizza Hut to fix their handicap parking. But now the signs and spaces do not coincide. Mr. Kelly will talk to Pizza Hut to see if we can correct this issue.

Department Head Reports

Water Superintendent Rod Pool stated they have the water line looped on Hillcrest and Fisher. This should be opened up and back in use Thursday. Everything else is normal.

Sewer Superintendent Joe Mowrer stated that he is getting ready to land applicate. They sent of lab work last week and should receive that back this week and will get in contact with Merrill Brothers. The house is pretty much demolished on treatment plant property. He is slowly working on National Homes. Other than that, just day to day stuff.

Parks Superintendent Mitch Billue stated that the concrete has been poured in the pavilion. They are winterizing the restrooms at the parks. On Wednesday they are starting to put up Christmas displays. On Saturday Walmart is helping with that task. The helicopter that landed on the field on Tuesday was really cool.

Police Chief Curt Blount stated that the carpet is completely installed in his department. The communication grant is done and they should hear something by the end of the year. This will finish out their computers in their cars. Yesterday was a hard day at the department due to the accident on Main Street. Everything else is normal.

Fire Chief Shane Swaim stated that they also had a hard day yesterday. They are working on their normal projects. They are losing Brett Milton for a year and a half. He is going to be deployed.

Consideration of North Star Branding Services

Mayor Thompson addressed the Council about North Star and the branding service they want to provide the City. We can use TIF dollars to pay for this because we are promoting the existing and economic development of that area. Council member Jim Mann wanted to know if there were any other funds we could possibly use and Clerk Treasurer Liz Oilar said we could use the Rainy Day Fund. Council member Dave Kelly wanted to know if there are enough TIF funds to do this and the Sixth Street project. We can make the payment in two installments. Mayor Thompson has spoken to other mayors and received favorable impute on North Star's service to them. Council member Jim Mann stated that this is something that will continue to help our City grow for years to come. The goal is to have the Brand become involved in our daily lives. This will take 10 months to complete. Council member Jim Mann made the motion that we move forward with North Star on the Branding program based upon initial payment of \$39,000.00 coming from the Rainy Day Fund, and then the balance of \$39,000.00 coming from the TIF dollars, seconded by Council member Dave Kelly. All ayes, motion carried.

Consideration of Ivy Tech Support

Mayor Thompson stated that Connie Neinger is here for Ivy Tech. The Council has previous minute meetings where they gave Ivy Tech \$10,000.00 for support last year. Council member Grace Oilar asked Connie about the needed funding she had calculated for Ivy Tech. She asked if she was considering this second \$10,000.00 donation in her calculations. Connie stated that the discussions we had last year were for the \$10,000.00 they did give and \$20,000.00 for this year, which has not been voted on at this time. She talked to the Mayor and asked him if he was aware of any of this and he was not. She is now asking if the City would consider any contribution this year for the Ivy Tech project. Council member Grace Oilar feels that Ivy Tech is a wonderful project that has come to our City and we are very fortunate to have this facility. The City will provide snow removal this winter. Council member Grace Oilar made the motion to pledge \$10,000.00 from the Rainy Day Fund to Ivy Tech, seconded by Council member Bill Smith. All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion of Downtown Parking

Mayor Thompson stated that he has been working with Council member Jim Mann about this issue, along with Police Chief Curt Blount. He has spoken with Mayor Roswarski, of Lafayette, about their downtown parking issues. They have given a free parking spot to each business owner in their city. This helps them enforce parking in front of the businesses. When they mark the car, you still get a ticket if you are on the same block. This keeps people from moving their cars from one spot to another. This would help our City so there is parking available in front of the businesses. Chief Blount stated that there is an ordinance about this issue. They can only give tickets certain times of the day. This ordinance needs to be addressed. Marking the sides of the tires would be easier to see, but will be harder for the owner to get off their tires. They are looking for more ideas. This issue will be addressed in the next few weeks.

Discussion of the Robertson's Dental Office Construction

Carol Robertson addressed the Council about the construction they would like to do with their dental office. They have started with a second set of plans as of January, after the first set was not approved. They have been pursuing that faithfully with their architect. She recently went to Area Plan to get a permit and she was told the Ordinance was changed and they would now be under the current guidelines. They now have parking spot issues that they were not aware of previously. There also now is a set back problem. They will now have to apply for a variance and set backs. They believe that they have been working on this project before the Ordinance was approved and should be allowed to continue to follow those guidelines. They would like to build a residence above the dental office. According to City Attorney George Loy, this is a County ordinance that they are working with. The Robertson's can apply for a variance as to the number of parking spaces, and the set back requirements. And they are on the November agenda for Area Plan. Council member Grace Oilar found previous meeting minutes concerning the Robertson's. Hopefully they will come in use to them at the Area Plan meeting. Carol also asked for a letter of support from the Council, which they agreed to do for them. The next BZA meeting is November 20, 2008. Charlie Mellon advised Carol to have everyone in the neighborhood in support of them to come to that meeting. Council member Eric Storm made the motion for two letters of support for the Robertson's variance request - set back on the parking lot and a variance on the number of parking spaces, seconded by Council member Dave Kelly. All ayes, motion carried.

Connie Neininger asked the Council to consider a contribution to the Economic Development Organization. She wondered if the Council would consider this for this year or a contribution in 2009. It was decided to put her on the next agenda.

Bob Gross addressed the Council about the Robertson's property and the Railroad tracks located there, and who owns them. City Attorney George Loy told him that he has given Carol copies of the Class Action Lawsuit Order. This defines how you go about resolving that question. It is up to the individual land owner. The City does not own it. The City and County has no involvement with that issue at all. He advised her to get an attorney.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Liz Oilar
Clerk Treasurer