

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY JULY 3, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on Monday July 3, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Houston and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call, by Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann, was answered by Mayor Ken Houston, Councilors Ralph Widmer, Doug Pepple, Tim McQuinn, Phil Vogel and Kim Kramer. City Attorney George Loy was also present.

Minutes-Phil Vogel made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2017 meeting as presented. Ralph Widmer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: McQuinn-aye, Kramer-Abstain, Pepple-Aye, Vogel-Aye, and Widmer-Aye. Motion carried.

Additions & Deletions-None

Citizen Participation-None

Department Heads Reports- Water Superintendent Rod Pool indicated permission has been granted to drill three test wells on the Britton Property. Rod also reported there is a water main break at the intersection of Railroad and Washington Streets. It will cost between \$5,000-10,000. Phil Vogel asked if the State would be replace the blacktop at the US 24 intersection with Railroad Street with concrete to avoid the chuck holes that exist because the trucks stop there. Doug Pepple asked if the radiuses could be improved at the intersections. Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Adam Downey said the old plant is handling 10% of the flow. The new plant is working well. The flooding problems at 3rd and Broadway should be better because they found erosion control fabric in the sewers. These were removed. Street Commissioner Frank Arthur reported 130 loads of brush have been removed over the past three weeks. SRTS is moving along well. The Street Department has been spraying for mosquitos. Fire Chief Galen Logan outlined the details of the motel fire between Monticello and Reynolds. The department had 43 runs over the 4th of July weekend. Parks Superintendent Mitch Billue reported that the Celebration in the Park was a huge success. The “creatures of night” program was held with 50 people in attendance. Three owls were being shown and discussed by a special presenter. The Rotary Boat Regatta is coming up at Bluewater Park. Chief Randy Soliday indicated the K-9 Olympics will be held soon with all three canines obtaining re-certification. On a sad note Officer Charlie Morehead’s father passed away on June 30th.

Committee Reports- None

Old Business-None

New Business

1. Consideration of a Purchase of Property-The property in question is located on the former McDonald's site on Main Street North of Farm Bureau before the railroad tracks. Phil Vogel indicated he spoke with the Mayor about this opportunity for economic development. The City might be able to offer an incentive by purchasing the property and having it available for someone to build a nice building. It would then go back on the tax rolls. Tim McQuinn said he is supportive of the purchase and we should buy it as cheaply as possible. Kim Kramer added that she is not in favor of the purchase. She pointed out that there are other empty buildings in the downtown area and we should be filling the empty ones first. Ralph Widmer asked White County Economic Development Director Randy Mitchell if his office receives phone calls about downtown retail space. Randy indicated the office does receive phone calls but the interest is in a larger building than what typically is available. Randy suggested he is in favor of the purchase. He said he hears the public would love to see a sit-down restaurant. Rod Pool asked about whether there are any deed restrictions which would prevent a restaurant from building on the lots. Phil Vogel said in his research there were none. Doug Pepple suggested he was 8.5 out of 10 in favor of moving forward. Randy Mitchell commented that owning the property places the Council and Board of Works in control of the developmental opportunities. Phil Vogel indicated the reserve price is very low on the property. Mayor Houston indicated he is not clear why the property has been vacant and not been sold prior to date. And, why the City would become the realtors in this situation. He also asked what our plan would be once we would take over ownership. He added we do have control of the property through the guidelines of the Area Plan Commission. Lastly, Mayor Houston indicated he is still against purchasing the property. Tim McQuinn made a motion to recommend the Board of Works move forward with a purchase of the property on N Main Street with a not to exceed amount of \$20,000.00. Doug Pepple seconded the motion. Roll call vote: McQuinn-Aye, Kramer-Nay, Pepple-Aye, Vogel-Abstain, Widmer-Aye. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters-Mayor Houston asked the Council Members to give some thought to the Tioga Road hillside. The hillsides are falling down and there is erosion all the way down to the bridge. The Mayor feels there is a safety concern.

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

James D Mann
Clerk Treasurer
City of Monticello