

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY AUGUST 2, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held on August 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cathy Gross at 6:00 pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was conducted in person and virtually using the Zoom virtual meeting format.

Roll call, by Clerk Treasurer Jim Mann, was answered “present and in person” by Mayor Cathy Gross, Councilors Bill Cheever, Kim Kramer, Ralph Widmer and City Attorney George Loy. Council-At-Large member Ken Houston was present virtually.

Minutes-Kim Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 19, 2021 as presented. Bill Cheever seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Additions & Deletions-None

Citizen Participation-None

Department Head Reports-Fire Chief Galen Logan reported that the money has been raised to purchase the “safe haven baby box” and nearly all the money has been raised for installation on the box. He is obtaining a quote on the installation. The department received a \$9,969.52 grant from FEMA for reimbursement of protective gear expenses. Also, he said the department will be receiving a \$15,000.00 grant from Department of Homeland Security for expenses connected to the Community Paramedicine Program. Safety Officer Bob Hickman reported he is working on a emergency action plan for the new City Hall Building. He also indicated that all of the new COVID cases in the State of Indiana are the delta variant. Wastewater Assistant Superintendent Bruce Wilson updated the Council on the collection systems improvement project with Cleary Construction. He said there have been 45 rain barrels delivered with “Project Rain Barrel”. Water Superintendent Wade Cohagen reported that some new meters have been delivered and will be installed as the department has time. He said a “walk-through” has been completed with the City Engineer on the S Main Street project and a letter has been sent to the contractor requesting that various issues be addressed. Parks Superintendent Mitch Billue indicated that the pool will close at 6:00 pm on August 8th. 223 swim lessons have been given this year which is the second highest ever. So far this year there have been 79 pavilion reservations and he expects another 20-40 by the end of the year. In 2019 the number of reservations was 149. Street Superintendent Frank Arthur reported that Pour Boys Construction is starting replacing sidewalks on W Marion Street. Curb work will be starting on W Washington Street next week. Frank said that an application was submitted for round 2 of Community Crossings. This would be for repaving of North Main Street for \$330,000.00. The City’s match will be \$80,000.00. Frank also stated that NIPSCO is scheduling the change of City street lights to LED lamps in 2022. ADA Coordinator Katherine Tardiff reported that preparations are underway for the ADA Golf Outing to be held on August 14th. She was virtually attending the National Symposium event as a result on receiving a stipend to pay for the expenses. Mayor Gross reported on behalf of Chief Lingenfelter that the background investigations continue with the officer candidates.

Committee Reports-None

Old Business

- 1. Resolution 2021-06-Amending the Declaratory Resolution for the Monticello Economic Development Area, Creation of New Allocation Areas, Approval of a Plan Amendment for Said Area and Designating a Taxpayer-**City Attorney George Loy outlined the procedure involved in expanding the City's TIF district. He said there will be two new allocation areas. One involving the riverfront and the other which would expand the area north along 6th Street. The resolution also designates Twin Lakes Solar LLC as a "designated taxpayer" which allows the personal property incremental increase in taxes to benefit the City in the future. Councilor Bill Cheever asked to confirm that the proposed Solar Farm will be in the current TIF district. City Attorney George Loy confirmed this point. Bill Cheever made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-06 as presented. Ralph Widmer seconded the motion. Roll call vote-all ayes, motion carried.

New Business

- 1. Discussion of Changing the Date for the Council Meeting of October 4, 2021-**Mayor Gross asked the Council to consider changing the scheduled meeting date of October 4 to another day and time due to the AIM Conference in French Lick. She is an AIM Board Member and there is a Board meeting at 7:00 pm on the 4th in French Lick. There will be other City Officials attending as well for the early education sessions offered on October 5th. Kim Kramer made a motion to re-schedule the meeting of October 4 to October 1st at 4:00 p.m. Ralph Widmer seconded the motion. Roll call vote-all ayes, motion carried.
- 2. Consideration of Litigation Settlement-**Mayor Gross asked the Council if there were any further questions regarding the litigation settlement which has been discussed during the recent executive session. City Attorney George Loy indicated that if the Council was prepared to move forward with this matter the motion would be to approve the memoranda of settlement document. Ken Houston offered a thank you to all that had a part in bringing the settlement to this point. Ralph Widmer asked if there could be a designated spokesperson from the City on this matter. City Attorney George Loy will be the spokesperson. Bill Cheever indicated he wanted to make sure of the source of the funding which would be used to make the settlement payment. Ken Houston said that he had questions on the payment as well. Ken Houston made a motion approve the memorandum of settlement as presented. Ralph Widmer seconded the motion. Roll call vote-all ayes, motion carried.

Miscellaneous and All Other Matters- Ralph Widmer reported that he rode along with the police department and learned much from the experience. He recommended others do the same. Ken Houston asked about the pedestrian trail on Tioga Road and whether the trail will be repaired once the wastewater project is completed. Mayor Gross and Parks Superintendent Mitch Billue said they would ask Cleary Construction at the next construction update meeting.

Adjournment-There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

James D Mann
Clerk Treasurer
City of Monticello