

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 W Washington St on October 27, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor Aaron Sims. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. While the meeting was conducted in-person, it was available via Zoom and live on YouTube and Facebook.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Aaron Sims, Councilors Gary Allen, Bill Cheever, Kim Kramer, Tim McQuinn and Attorney George Loy, answered in-person and Dave Patty answered via zoom by Clerk Treasurer Shanda Cortez.

MINUTES:

Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve the minutes from October 6, 2025. Councilor Kramer seconded. All ayes.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: NONE

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Brittani Blazic, President of the Meadowlawn PTO, spoke about the 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off Community Event that the Meadowlawn PTO is holding in the West Bays at City Hall on Saturday, November 15, 2025, 11AM-2PM. There will live music, activities for all age groups, and 9 different local restaurants competing for the best chili in White County. The tickets will be \$5/person or \$20/family. Tickets can be purchased online or at the event. All proceeds go to all the students & staff in Meadowlawn. Thank you to the city for all the support.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Written reports were submitted with possible Q & A from the Mayor and Council.

ADA- Working on dates and information for schools and Health care centers for Art/Banner contest and setting up March events for Disability Awareness month. ADA's office is moving to the utility office.

FIRE-7 team members are attending the rope rescue technician class this month. 6 team members will attend dive training this month. The fire department is looking at doing a fire investigator course at the station in March 2026. Paramedic Robert "Bob" Miller was killed in a car accident in Carroll County 10/9/25. He was well known to many EMS throughout the state. This was a big loss to our first responder community.

PARKS-Park staff has been working to install pilings for the observation deck being developed at the Nature Center. F&K is working to redirect sewer line from Anheier building to the new lift station. Mitch Billeu, superintendent, has been working with KIRPC on the ITP grant. The Rotary Clubs annual "Road Rally for the Parks" has a great success. There were approximately 14 cars participating in the event.

POLICE-The business that was supposed to the decals for the front of the PD and Utility office has been dissolved. Working with owner to get the funds refunded for the partial payment that was required. Officer Cosgray & Morrow were offered to help with the evidence room inventory if needed.

STREET-Rejuvtec worked on the asphalt preservation project. This was paid for by the Community Crossings grant 2024-2. HSIP project for battery back-up and replacing traffic lights by Hawk Enterprises is finished. Last pick up for brushes was scheduled for 10/27/25-10/28/25. Frank Arthur, superintendent, is working on a letter to mail explaining the change coming in January 2026 with the trash toters. Letters to go out mid-November.

WASTEWATER-F&K Construction open-cut the asphalt at the intersection of Circle Park Loop and the entrance to the Anheier Bldg. Daystar Construction is mobilizing on site to perform drilling for the new sewer lateral connecting the Anheier bldg. to the existing manhole structure at the lift station. The quality of the 1.5" asphalt surface on Tioga Rd is under review. On 10/10/25, interviews were conducted to hire for the open position.

WATER-Working on the repair list from the sanitary survey. MIU change outs, blue cards, locates, work orders and cleaned a few meter pits. Did a new tap on Sixth street and removed old chemical feed system in chlorine room.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2026 Budget: 2025-12-2nd Reading & Approval:** No issues or questions from the council. Councilor Cheever made motion to approve. Councilor Allen seconded. All ayes except Councilor Patty had to abstain due to being on zoom. Councilor Cheever gave thanks to all the departments in the City for working together on the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **PARKS DEPT: HIGHLINE TRAILS GRANT UPDATE:** Mitch Billeu, Parks superintendent, talked about the Highline trails that would be a trail that connects the whole city. Angie Moyer a project manager with Lochmueller Group, came to present the proposal of them doing the grant writing for 2 grants. Angie stated that the IDH grant will allow us to apply for a planning grant. There is a second grant that is through LAP state funding, Federal Aid Grant, that is 80/20 for development of the trail on the South end of Monticello. That section of the trail between Main & Tioga is estimated at \$550,000. With it being an 80/20 grant we would be looking at \$110,000 if we are awarded. Lochmueller will apply for both grants for \$20,000. Angie stated the IDH grant is currently open and closes on 11/14/25 and it will match up to \$20,000. The second grant through INDOT opens on 11/3/25 and closes 12/5/25. Mayor asked about the property values of homes on trails in other communities. Mitch stated that the statistics show a 15% increase in the values of homes on the trails. Attorney George Loy stated that the BOW is responsible for the approval of contracts with the City and the Council is responsible for the approval of funding. Councilor Cheever made motion to table this proposal until there is further information given. Councilor McQuinn seconded. All ayes. Councilor McQuinn asked to get more information by the next meeting on 11/3/25.
2. **APPROVAL ORDINANCE 2025-13: Elected Officials Salary Ordinance:** Councilor Allen made motion to pay ordinance to 2nd reading & approval. Council Cheever seconded. All ayes.
3. **APPROVAL ALLOWANCE DOCKET for pay-period ending 10/5/25:** Councilor Cheever made motion to approve. Councilor Allen seconded. All ayes.
4. **APPROVE APV'S:** Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve. Councilor Allen seconded. All ayes.

MISCELLANEOUS AND ALL OTHER:

1. Mayor reminded everyone that Trick or Treating for the City is on 11/1/25 from 6p-8p. This will coincide with SOMA's Trunk or Treat from 3p-5p.
2. Councilor McQuinn gave an update on the Joyce Gunther Ride Benefit has raised up to \$5,000.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully,

Shanda Cortez

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello