

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 W Washington St on December 1, 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, Tim McQuinn, Dave Patty and Attorney George Loy, answered in-person by Clerk Treasurer Shanda Cortez.

MINUTES:

Councilor Patty made motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 2025. Councilor McQuinn seconded. All ayes.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: Brandi with SOMA added as #2 for approval for the 2026 SOMA events.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: NONE

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

ADA- No report was given.

FIRE-Chief Scheurich went to Ohio this past week to look at a new dive water rescue truck. Union Township is going to fund the new dive truck. Noah Hatke has received all his certifications and is a new paramedic. Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, December 13th 7am-10am. Interviewed for their open position and will be brought before the next Board of Works meeting on December 15th.

PARKS-Superintendent Mitch Billue stated the Christmas lights look great downtown and thanked everyone. The "You are here" signs are up and thanked the Rotary Club for their installation of the signs. He had a weed wrangle on October 28th. The water slide is here and on the deck at City Pool. Thank you to REMC for sponsoring half the water slide. He has received the dump truck and just finished paperwork and sent it off to the state for the plate. The last parks board meeting they did have a resolution signed for an acquisition of land at Voight Park.

POLICE-Chief Clark is back from vacation. All cages are installed and being used. They have received 2/3 drones. The 3rd is smaller and will be used for inside buildings. Shop with a Cop is December 7th at 3PM.

STREET-Superintendent Frank Arthur stated that they have been putting in several hours for snow removal. They have 6 plows, 4 trucks with 2 front end loaders. He just ordered another 250 tons of salt. Monticello did not get funded for the 2026 INDOT Community Crossings Grant. He will reapply in 2026 for the other amount of the Community Crossings Grant. Letters were sent out for the new trash service with OnPoint. There is a meeting to go over the last details with OnPoint next week. Public will get a letter when the new trash toters will be delivered.

WASTEWATER-Superintendent Bob Lindley thanked 2nd in command, Bruce Wilson, for all his work while Bob was gone on medical leave. There is a progress meeting this week for the City Park Lift Station. They are just waiting on electricity with NIPSCO. He has made a decision for hiring that will be on the next Board of Works meeting on December 15th.

WATER-Kyle Byrd spoke and stated that Angelo passed his W3T test and has DSM. They tested 2 backflows. 1 passed and 1 failed. The department also helped SOMA with the downtown flower pots.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **AREA PLAN ORDINANCE 2025-A86:** County has approved this ordinance. Councilor Cheever stated that he had needed more time to review and that this ordinance looks like it will protect the City of Monticello. Councilor Cheever made motion to approve. Councilor Allen seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.
2. **ORDINANCE 2025-17: TRANSFER OF FUNDS:** No questions or discussion. Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve. Councilor Patty seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.
3. **ORDINANCE 2025-WHEEL TAX:** Councilor McQuinn stated that he would like to see \$100,000 not \$40,000. He would like the excise tax to \$15.30 and then wheel tax at \$40.00. He stated this will get our

street department more money to be able to do the roads. Councilor Cheever stated that he did not want to apply this tax, but since we have to he would like to do the lower rate. Per Superintendent Frank this money cannot be used on sidewalks. Attorney George Loy stated that this ordinance can be amended in future years. Councilor Patty asked about the Lane Mile Director Distribution Grant. Superintendent Frank spoke that if a wheel tax is not in place we would not be eligible for that LMDD Grant. He stated that the Community Crossing Grant is not directly related to the wheel tax ordinance. Mayor Sims stated that no one wants to implement this tax, but the state is pushing the local government to pass this to be eligible for future grants. Mayor Sims stated that he tends to lean towards the opinion of Superintendent Frank as he knows his projects and how much money he is needing. This is a once-a-year tax at the BMV when you are renewing your registration. Councilor Patty asked Superintendent Frank on average of what we spend on streets, he said, we average about \$1 Million a year. The next round of Community Crossings Grant opens in July 2026 at which time the City will reapply. Councilor McQuinn made motion to amend to Ordinance to be \$15.30 for excise tax & \$40 for wheel tax. Councilor Patty seconded. Councilors Allen & Cheever voted against. Councilors McQuinn & Patty voted in favor. No majority motion did not pass. Councilor Allen made motion to keep the Ordinance as written with \$7.50 for excise tax and \$25.00 for wheel tax. Councilor Cheever seconded. Councilors Allen & Cheever voted in favor. Councilors McQuinn & Patty voted against. No majority motion did not pass. Attorney Loy stated that due to both motions failing. This is tabled until the next meeting on December 15, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **SOMA—CHECK WAS PRESENTED:** Brandi Page with SOMA presented the City with a check in the amount of \$19,397.16 for the Christmas Light Fund.
2. **SOMA EVENTS:** Brandi Page also went through the dates for events that SOMA would like to have in 2026. Councilor Allen made motion to approve the dates. Councilor Patty seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
3. **APPROVE ALLOWANCE DOCKET—PAY PERIOD ENDING 11/16/25:** No questions. Councilor Patty made motion to approve. Councilor Cheever seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVE APV's 11/13/25—11/25/25:** No questions. Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve. Councilor Cheever seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS AND ALL OTHER:

SOMA & Rotary Club's Lighted Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 6PM.

Councilor McQuinn wanted to note that even though the council may not agree they are all still friends.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully,

Shanda Cortez

Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello