

**MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Common Council, of the City of Monticello, Indiana, was held at 120 W Washington St on December 15, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 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, Dave Patty and Attorney George Loy, answered in-person by Clerk Treasurer Shanda Cortez.

MINUTES:

Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve the minutes from December 1, 2025. Councilor Cheever seconded. All ayes except Councilor Kramer abstained.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: NONE

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Jasmine Brantley spoke to the Council. She wants to have a food shelf for free food pantry posted in Monticello. This shelf would be for hygiene products, diapers, food, etc. She stated that she would maintain or help where needed. Councilor Patty asked if Jasmine is affiliated with any churches or organizations. She stated that she would be doing this on her own. She said that she does have organizations that want to donate items. Councilor Cheever stated that there is nothing on the City Council to do with zoning or approval. He stated that it is a good program and can help where they can. The Council only has the ability to change things on City property not County property. Wayne Schroeder from the audience asked if there could be pantries put out at Kroger or Walmart as well.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Written reports were submitted with possible Q & A from the Mayor and Council. No questions were asked.

ADA- Diane Bunnell submitted a report stating that she is still recouping from her accident on 11/10/25. She is working on dates and information for schools, and the health care centers for the Art/Banner contest. Disability awareness month is in March.

FIRE- Chief Scheurich submitted a report stating that Breakfast with Santa was on December 13, 2025. All the employees are in paramedic class and will be completed by Christmas. They will have a new group of paramedics beginning their FTO phase soon. The paperwork for reimbursements for paramedic school is completed. He does not have an ETA on when the money will come in.

PARKS- Superintendent Mitch submitted a report stating that Brand Electric has started plumbing conduit for the new lift station's H-Frame. Once the H-Frame is in place NIPSCO will be installing the electric service needed for the station's operations. Still waiting on the county for the permit for the parking plan at the pavilions. He has started working in the pool's water treatment building to remove what is left of the pool's old furnace. He plans to have the new unit in place by the end of March 2026. There was damage to the Central Pavilion's roof during the last snowstorm.

POLICE- Chief Clark submitted a report stating the stats from January-November. They were in the parade and did shop with a cop this past Sunday.

STREET- Superintendent Frank submitted a report stating that he has been fielding calls from the public about the change of trash pickup with OnPoint and wants to stay with the smaller totes instead of the new 96-gallon totes. Leaf pick-up has stopped due to the snow. Snow has been keeping them busy. They also did not get approved for the Community Crossings grant but will reapply for the next round of money in July 2026.

WASTEWATER- Superintendent Bob submitted a report stating that they had their monthly engineering meeting on Dec.3, 2025 with HWC, City Engineer and F&K Construction. Cummings Crosspoint performed bi-yearly maintenance to the Plants Main generator and Bryans Lift Station Generator. D2 is removing over hanging tree limbs around the maintenance building at the plant and at Bryan's lift station storage building.

WATER- Superintendent Brad submitted a report stating they have worked on locates, work orders and snow removal/salt. They are getting ready for the plant inspection.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **ORDINANCE 2025-WHEEL TAX-2nd reading:** Mayor Sims stated that no one wants to do this. But the State is forcing it so we can be eligible for future grants. Councilor Cheever stated that action needs to be taken on this. There is not enough support to table this down the road. Councilor Cheever discussed the Lane Mile Direct Distribution grant in the amount of \$60,000-\$100,000 is the projection for Monticello. He also stated that as of today, the State has passed that if you do not pass both taxes then the city will not qualify for the grants. Councilor Cheever then made a motion to do an amendment of Wheel Tax amount of \$5.00 and the excise tax of \$7.50. Councilor Allen seconded. Councilors Allen and Cheever votes ayes. Councilors Kramer, Patty and McQuinn voted against. Councilor McQuinn made motion to use wheel tax of \$40.00 and excise tax of \$15.30. He stated the wheel tax would affect few citizens, and the excise tax is mid-range. That will give the street department approximately \$100,000 in 2027. Councilor Patty seconded. Councilors Kramer, McQuinn and Patty voted ayes. Councilors Allen and Cheever voted against. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **STREET:** Superintendent Frank stated he would like permission to apply for HSIP/NOFA grant. This grant would be for 3rd & Broadway Street to get a crosswalk light. He would like to make it safer for the school kids. They need something there that will stop the oncoming traffic. There is an officer stationed there at the intersection currently. This would be for 2029 with a total cost of \$550,000 and the grant is 90/10. The city would be paying for 10%. Councilor Patty made motion to approve. Councilor Cheever seconded. All ayes except Councilor Kramer was absent at the time of voting. Chief Clark did state that last week Officer Rich Lee was helping an elderly lady cross the street and almost got hit.
2. **CLERK/HR: 2026 HSA FUNDS:** Clerk Treasurer, Shanda Cortez, stated that it was proposed in the past that there would be an increase in HSA funds in the amount of \$500 for each single & family. Clerk/Treasurer Shanda stated that after speaking with HR and Mayor they would like to see it to be fair of \$250 increase for single and \$500 for family which was still within the budget for 2026. The handbook committee brought this topic up and would like to see it as 50% for both single and family. This would put it at \$750 for single and \$1500 for family HSA funds. This just needs to be in the minutes so HR can move forward with 2026 HSA funds for employees. Councilor Cheever stated this came about because there was no increase in health insurance premiums for employees for 2026 and don't know when the last time this was changed. Councilor Cheever made motion to approve. Councilor Patty seconded. All ayes.
3. **APPROVE ALLOWANCE DOCKET PAYROLL ENDING 11/30/25:** Councilor Patty made motion to pay the employees. Councilor Cheever seconded. All ayes.
4. **APPROVE APVs 11/26/25-12/11/25:** Councilor Allen had a question about the YMCA in the amount of \$24,000. Mayor Sims explained there is a feasibility study to be done if the community wants a YMCA. Mayor Sims states there was a committee formed with local businesses, people from the public, IU Health, and all the schools for their input. Councilor McQuinn wanted to know what the \$24,000 was getting the city. Mayor Sims explained that the feasibility study is for the city to see what the community wants in the YMCA. There will be 600 calls in the community to people asking about what they would want to see in a YMCA. We are paying for the services of the feasibility study. Councilor Allen asked when it was going to take place. Mayor Sims states the study will take place in a couple of months. Councilor Allen stated he has not been involved in the committee for the YMCA and questioned when he saw the \$24,000 on what it was for. Councilor Allen stated that this is a whole new avenue that we are going down. Mayor Sims stated this isn't a new avenue because this was on the banners in the Christmas Parade float, and on the white board in the conference room in the back for over a year now. Councilor Patty stated, "maybe we should table this for a minute, because these guys seem to be in the dark about it at this point?" Attorney George Loy stated that you can table it and approve the other items on the APV. Councilor McQuinn asked where did the money come from and if we had the money and once that was answered we can move forward. Clerk/Treasurer Shanda stated that the money used was out of the CEDIT funds. These funds are County Economic Development Income Tax that the Mayor can spend on infrastructure and improvements for the city. Councilor Cheever explained the same. Councilor McQuinn made motion to approve. Councilor Kramer seconded. All ayes.

MISCELLANEOUS AND ALL OTHER:

Special Council meeting: 12/29/25 at 9:30am for Resolution 2025-10: Additional appropriations.
City Hall will be closed Wednesday, 12/24/26-Friday, 12/26/25 for Christmas.
The Mayor, Clerk/Treasurer and Council all wish the city a safe & happy Holiday!

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully,
Shanda Cortez
Clerk Treasurer, City of Monticello