

**COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)
MAY 7, 2025**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Vice President Ron Benakovich, Chris Franklin, Toni Onken and Jamie Myers. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Marshall/Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

President Hickman started our regular meeting @ 6:30 pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of silence.

MINUTES, PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:

Minutes: President Hickman asked if everyone had a chance to review the Executive, Public and Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 2, 2025.

Chris Franklin made a motion to accept the Executive, Public and Regular Minutes dated 4/2/25. Jamie Myers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Payroll, Bills & Claims:

Toni Onken made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll. Jamie Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. **\$271,807.78**

Month End Reconciliation Review / Sign Off....

Toni Onken made a motion to accept the April reconciliations as presented. Jamie Myers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS:

TERRY SAUNDERS, RESIDENT, expressed concern that the recently installed "Slow, Children Playing" signs are encouraging children to play in the alleys, particularly in the area between the wash house and Brook Street. Marshall Young addressed this concern, stating that the signs were placed at the alley entrances to serve as an extra caution to drivers, highlighting the presence of children in that area. The signs were placed on the two alleys specifically after complaints were received regarding vehicle speed in the area. The council agreed with Marshall Young on the addition of said signs.

DIANNE TRIBBETT, PARK BOARD PRESIDENT, a new pickleball court (60 by 40 feet) and shuffleboard area are being added to the park. A small vendor will provide asphalt, but he requires payment upon completion. Clerk Sipkema stated she will need to know in advance the day the work is to be done and the completed work will need to be inspected/approved before the check is released.

JIM DAVIS provided an update on the Brownfield application for the old fertilizer plant site and asked President Hickman to sign the grant application for KIRPC. Mr. Davis explained that if the Brownfield grant is awarded for the site, there is a stipulation that the property must remain vacant for 5 years upon completion. The only exception to this rule is for housing, Mr. Davis stated he would propose an apartment building to assist with the housing crisis in Monon. At one point, the town will need to purchase the property to satisfy grant requirements. Mr. Davis expressed that there is interest in commercial development near town and if this location were approved, it would increase the housing needs of the town.

Mr. Davis stated that the Monon Food Fest will be held on June 7th from 10 am to 5 pm. Mr. Davis requested that Marshall Young ensure that he receives the bar applications for the Beer Gardens prior to signing off on any approvals. Clerk Sipkema inquired if there will be bounce houses this year. When the committee held their fall day at the park, it was found that bounce houses are not covered by the town's insurance and that a rider policy must be purchased. Clerk Sipkema will reach out to Howe Insurance to find out how much this policy would cost.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING.... Wastewater project designs are under final review, with submission to USDA Rural Development expected next week. Gabrielle Taber informed the council that currently there are only 2 USDA employees, so this process may take a bit longer than normal. Ms. Taber requested dates that the council and attorney would be available for a working group call with Commonwealth, Barnes & Thornburg and Baker Tilly to discuss the next steps, what is needed and how to submit the information. Ms. Taber inquired with Attorney Trent on the easement information she was provided. Clerk Siphkema stated that she had a signed easement from North White Building Trades, which Attorney Trent stated that was the last one she was waiting on.

SIDEWALKS/STREETS..... Commissioner Young stated that he had received one quote for the street project. The quote came in below the allotted amount, so he added the following streets: south end of Jacob's old building that runs east to west, the alley that runs along the west side of 421 in the 200 block (old pizza place to 2nd) and a significant portion of the initial circle drive in the park. The park circle has been patched numerous times over the years, but it is in really sad shape. The council discussed and conferred to move forward with the street list that Commissioner Young has for 2025, but requested that Young obtain additional quotes for review at the next meeting.

Tabled to the next meeting.....

TOWN/TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICE CONTRACT.... President Hickman explained that the contract is back on the agenda. This contract was approved on December 18, 2024, but due to a technicality the contract needs to be resigned. Volunteer Firefighter and Council Member, Chris Franklin, submitted his conflict of interest form to the president. Member Jamie Myers, also a volunteer firefighter, submitted his form on February 5th. President Hickman asked if there were any questions from the council. Being none.....

Ron Benakovich made a motion to approve the 2025 emergency service contract.
Toni Onken seconded. Motion carried, 3 ayes and 2 abstain.

COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT (CCMG).... President Hickman inquired to the council how they would like to proceed with a CCMG. Following a thorough discussion, the council agreed to compile a list of streets, sidewalks and drainage areas that need addressed in 2026. The council discussed some areas of concern including, flooding on portions of Fifth Street and Arch Street and the condition of sidewalks, especially on the west side of town. Council Members should submit their list to Clerk Siphkema to be shared with the engineer for a cost estimate. Given that Indiana has temporarily suspended the July call to decipher the recently enacted legislation, it would be advantageous to complete as much of the leg work before the next call.

DEPARTMENTS:

TOWN MARSHALL ROGER YOUNG..... 1) Bob Hickman will start road duty after the school year. Shift adjustments for occasional double coverage have been discussed. 2) 13 properties were identified as needing attention, but Marshall Young has encountered difficulty in identifying the owner in cases that the property was recently sold and the deed has not yet been recorded. Door hangers have been left. 3) There are some large items that have not been picked up. Marshall Young is working with Waste Management to get these items removed.

STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG... 1) The backhoe sold for \$6,250. 2) A water leak was fixed at the park and the horse arena hydrant was leaking so it was removed and the line was sealed. 3) Street sweeping is ongoing and a new gutter brush has been ordered for the sweeper. 4) Commissioner Young stated the recent independent water testing provided positive results. 5) The water and wastewater plants appear to be functioning well at this time. 6) Commissioner Young stated that he had received a quote for an F-250 four wheel drive single cab truck with a spray in bed liner and emergency lighting for in the amount of \$50,212. This truck was also quoted with a larger engine for about \$5,000 more. The council requested that Commissioner Young obtain additional quotes, but also include comparable 2024 models.

CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA... 1) Building Dedication is scheduled for May 16th at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Henney and Mrs. Deborah McGuire plan to be in attendance. 2) The Waste Management contract information was emailed earlier today. Clerk Siphkema stated that the council

would need to consider if they wish to end the WM contract in 2025 or stay through 2026. The difference is that if the contract is terminated in 2025 the town would be responsible for returning the totes to WM, whereas if we stay through 2026 WM would remove them at no cost. Commissioner Young stated that he thought it would be a good idea to request trash removal bids and inquire if another company would be interested in collecting & returning the existing totes to WM for the town. Clerk Sipkema will prepare a legal ad and ask that bids be submitted prior to our June meeting. 3) Senate Bill 1 was recently enacted. Clerk Sipkema explained that the state has released a fiscal note with estimated losses, but the information provided is preliminary and clerks have been cautioned to deduct another 10% (min). 4) AIM and Baker Tilly have partnered to offer a 6 week virtual budget course for free. 5) There are two boilers located at the WWTP and two boilers at the Civic Center. A permit from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is required to be posted at each site. This permit is valid for 2 years. Currently, Hartford Boiler Company (insurance provider) inspects the boilers and submits the report to the IDHS site. It is then the clerks responsibility to renew the permit.

ATTORNEY REBECCA TRENT...Easements for WWTP project are ready to be recorded.


COUNCIL MEMBERS....Toni Onken inquired if the street department grades the alleys. Commissioner Young stated that gravel alleys were graded, but not if the alley also included grass. Commissioner Young will look at the alley between Race & Arch in the 200 block. Member Onken stated that she has received inquiries as to whether the basketball court will be replaced at the park.

VICE PRESIDENT BENAKOVICH asked if the railroad ties that were left in the town lot can be removed. Commissioner Young will look into.

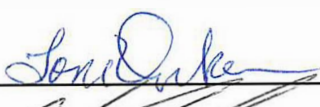
There being no other business to discuss,

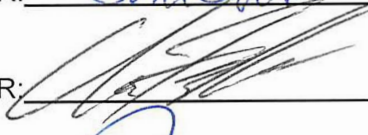
Jamie Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Chris Franklin seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:57 p.m.

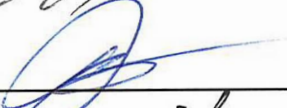
The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

ATTEST: 