

CITY OF MONTELLLO
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 7:00 PM
MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by Ken Streich

Members Present: Marylin Merrill, Dick Dufour, Bill Faulkner, Venise Mugler, Ken Streich, Ron Knutson, Dennis Schrimpf, Brian Schrimpf

Others: Michele Little, Melanie Lendosky - Johnson Block (Virtual), Karlene Utke, Maureen Krivanik, Patti Schlaefer, Chuck Bornhoeft, Carol Faulkner

Motion by D. Schrimpf/B. Schrimpf to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Faulkner/Dufour to approve council meeting minutes from December 1, 2025, Knutson stated he felt his statement was not recorded properly. Discussion on when council members were notified about CD's possibly being used to cover operating expenses. Discussed Knutson's comment about not knowing about situation until September, not having seen letter from accountant. Discussed how this is stated in the minutes. Knutson stated reports from MBEG have not come to meetings until 5 to 6 months into the year. Knutson feels he did not receive initial letter. Many council members state they feel they did not receive the letter. Mugler states it was not in council packet in 2024. Members would like wording of original minutes to state that they feel they did not receive the letter. Motion failed.

Motion by Knutson/Mugler to amend minutes to state that council feels they did not receive letter. Motion carried. Motion by Merrill/B.Schrimpf to change wording of audit to compilation and strike 2025 in discussion on city finances.

Motion by Mugler/Faulkner to approve minutes with amendments. Motion carried.

Motion by Mugler/Dufour approve the 12-1-25 Finance Committee minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mugler/Faulkner to approve the 12-10-25 Special Finance Committee minutes with amendment that Mugler was not in attendance. Mugler would like name of committee to be changed, they will change it at next meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Mugler/Dufour to approve 12-10-25 Public Works committee minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dufour/D. Schrimpf to approve 12-17-25 Public Safety minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by B. Schrimpf/D. Schrimpf to consent library minutes Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussed City Finances & engagement letters. Merrill concerned about real audit vs compilation, would like to have confirmation that reports are correct. Melanie Lendosky talked about audit process and what council is looking for and asked council's specific concerns. Discussed rates and estimates – rough estimates around \$10k if not bigger problems. Discussed cost of audit. Discussed advantages and disadvantages of switching companies. Knutson's concern is that current company's audit doesn't come in until 6-8 months after end of year. Lendosky stated that the deadlines for reporting are in May and June, and that Johnson Block would have to ask for an extension city chose to go with them this year. Discussed council's expectations and familiarity of accounting. Discussed location of firm – Johnson Block is located in La Crosse, Madison, and Mineral Point. Committee discussed companies. Michele Little (city Treasurer) stated she feels Corning (MBEG) is an asset to the city, and would like to help the board obtain the information they would like to see more regularly, she feels that he is valuable because he knows the history of the city's finances. Committee discussed options. Discussed CD's. Council stated they feel committees should not have been putting money into CD's if city was in debt. B. Shrimpf stated all CD money was used for city operations. Discussed city budget process. Discussed changing companies vs staying with current for audit. Discussed audit vs compilation. Concluded that council will not get the answers they are looking for in an audit. Discussed current amount set in budget. Motion by Merrill/D.Schrimpf to go forward with engagement letter from Miller, Brussel, Ebben & Glaeske. Knutson opposed. Motion carried.

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No new business

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Carol Faulkner stated that her business uses MBE&G & they like them.

Patti Schlaefer asked how long MBG&E with city – 18 years

Maureen Krivanik stated that she is understanding more of what has happened the more she is at meetings.

Discussed letter from Dec 2024 and information given to council. Karlene read newspaper from December with Corning's statement stating that he had informed council in 2023 and 2024 that the city's debt was exceeding revenue. Discussed consolidation of loans.

Patti Schlaefer stated council should ask more questions of auditor.

Merrill feels city and new treasurer on right path.

Knutson asked where the money for the sale of the city land near the landfill was allocated, Streich stated in went into the general fund.

Knutson asked about payment for the new fire truck, this money was set in 2026 budget.

U asked about shared revenue payment that came in November.

Discussed Treasurer & Clerk duties and that the city did not technically have a treasurer in November.

MAYOR COMMENTS Streich hopes everyone keeps Jim Houdek & Mark Mueller in thoughts & prayers

Motion by Faulkner/B. Schrimpf to adjourn carried at 8:29 pm

NEXT MEETING: February 2nd, 2026

Minutes by Marie Anderson, City Clerk