

COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)

JUNE 4, 2025

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Chris Franklin, Toni Onken and Jamie Myers. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Marshall/Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Vice President Ron Benakovich was absent.

Council President Ken Hickman announced that the meeting was being recorded and participation in the meeting was attendee's consent to be recorded and to the rebroadcast of the recorded meeting. The recorded meeting is available on the Town's YouTube channel, @townofmonon.

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: Jamie Myers made a motion to approve the REGULAR meeting minutes from May 7th.

Chris Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Payroll, Bills & Claims: Chris Franklin made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.

Toni Onken seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

\$311,700.21

Month End Reconciliation Review / Sign Off....President Hickman reviewed the May bank reconciliations and validated them. Council members also reviewed and signed off on the May month end balances.

VISITORS:

JIM DAVIS, All Aboard Monon, announced the upcoming Food Fest on Saturday, June 7th. Mr. Davis shared that 34 vendors will participate, which is the highest # of vendors in the last five years. There will also be, a parade, a puppet marionette show at the Monon Theatre and other various activities. Mr. Davis expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Young and his crew for their extensive cleanup and maintenance efforts around town.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING.... Gabrielle Taber provided an update on the ongoing collaboration with USDA Rural Development and the working group (including town members, Baker-Tilly (Financial Advisor) and Barnes and Thornburg (Bond Council)).

- The group is collecting documentation required by USDA to proceed with the wastewater project.
- The town's right-of-way map is being updated, including the locations of all lift stations. Attorney Trent will review the updated map once complete.
- Regular calls will continue; the next call is scheduled for 3:00 on June 11th.
- Timeline: Once the project goes out to bid, the process is expected to take approximately 18 months from that point.

SANITATION BIDS.....President Hickman shared that the current provider, Waste Management (WM), contacted Clerk Sipkema that afternoon to inquire if the town wished to extend their current contract through December 2026. During this conversation, Clerk Sipkema informed Dave Wainscott, WM Representative, that the town recently posted legal advertisement for sanitation bids in two local newspapers. Mr. Wainscott requested, through Clerk Sipkema, that the council consider granting an extension for WM to submit a bid since they were unaware of the request. President Hickman asked the council how they would like to proceed and shared that he did have WM's 2026 pricing from the current contract. The consensus was that WM had the same opportunity as the other two companies to present their bid and President Hickman was directed to proceed.

President Hickman opened and read aloud the proposals from On Point Waste Services, Apex and shared Waste Management's 2026 sanitation rate. Representatives from On Point and Apex were present to answer any questions the council may have. Key discussion points included the logistics of collecting and returning the current Waste Management totes, the quality of new totes provided by each bidder, and their procedures for large item pickups. When all discussion was finished, Chris Franklin made a motion to table the decision to the next meeting. Clerk Sipkema will email a copy of the submitted bids to the council for further review.

2026 COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANT APPLICATION (STREETS, SIDEWALKS, DRAINAGE).....

Clerk Sipkema reported she received recommendations to include Greenwood Street, Arch Street and Race Street on a cost estimate request from a local engineer. Specific blocks of Arch and Race were not submitted, but Member Franklin suggested from State Rd 16 to 1st Street be included even though it was noted that some sections of these sections were recently repaved. Member Franklin noted that when it rains, the water does not flow to the storm drains. 3rd St from 421 to Pine was also suggested to be added. Sidewalks and drainage repairs are to be included on Pine, Arch & Race St. It was noted that water taps should be installed at the time Greenwood St is redone. The water taps can not be included in the grant proposal and would be at the expense of the town. Clerk Sipkema will contact the engineer with the information.

SIDEWALKS/STREETS.....Commissioner Young presented quotes from Town and Country and Central Paving for the 2025 street project. Town & Country submitted a quote for \$152,812.36 and Central Paving came in at \$140,022.00. The town has \$150,000 available to use for paving this year. quality.

Chris Franklin made a motion to accept Central Paving's bid in the amount of \$140,022.

Jamie Myers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sidewalk Funding and Usage....Clerk Sipkema stated that there is \$22,867 remaining in sidewalk funds from tipping fees for 2025. The council discussed rolling over the funds for next year as \$22,000 is insufficient for significant sidewalk work. Member Myers asked if any of that funding could be used for stump removal from sidewalk areas that have suffered storm-related damage, with estimates of \$150–\$200 per stump and a potential total of \$3,000–\$4,000 for 20 stumps. President Hickman explained that the sidewalk fund originated from a landfill tipping fee contract, initially justified as a sidewalk improvement fund for safety, especially near schools. The contract is believed to be for 20 years, with a 5% tipping fee allocation. Jim Davis was a county commissioner at the time the initial contract and he believes there are no written requirements that restrict the fund to sidewalks only, though that was the original intent. President Hickman stated that he doesn't want to get away from using the tipping \$\$ for sidewalks, but that Member Myers can prepare a list of stump locations for consideration.

DEPARTMENTS:

TOWN MARSHALL ROGER YOUNG..... 1) Roger and Bob will be away for three days for training in Michigan City. 2) A rock was thrown through the Civic Center window; a vendor will be contacted for replacement. 3) Bob will cover for Roger during his absence, allowing Roger to work with Jake on police matters.

STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG... 1) Ongoing tasks include weed control, mowing, stump grinding cleanup at the park, clearing around stop signs, and alleyway maintenance. 2) A technician will be on site tomorrow to troubleshoot the splash pad. 3) Commissioner Young stated that he received a quote from Andy Mohr for a 2024 truck with upgrades in the amount of \$48,100. Commissioner Young reminded the council that Gutwein's quoted a 2025 F 250 with upgrades in the amount of \$50,212 and asked that the council consider purchasing locally if they wish to proceed. Commissioner Young stated that the 2001 and 2008 trucks will need to be replaced soon, but that he prefers to keep the 2008 truck since it is still functional and could be retained for park and winter use (e.g., salt spreading), despite its poor appearance. There was also about \$9,000 worth of work put into the 08 in 2023. The council and clerk-treasurer discussed financial options.

Jamie Myers made a motion to purchase the 2025 F-250 from Gutwein Motors financing the purchase.

Chris Franklin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA... 1) reminded everyone that all independent contractors need to have a Certificate of Liability on file with the town listed as the certificate holder before they begin work and that a W-9 is required before payment is released. 2) Dan Sublette has requested permission to set up his food stand in the right of way on the west side of Market St. (in the 300 block near Gutwein's). Marshall Young mentioned that the old Sunoco lot that the town owns may be a safer location and the council agreed. Member Myers questioned if the lot would then be opened up to other food trucks? Yes, the lot could be utilized by others. 3) Supplemental LIT distribution was received in the amount of \$107,380. Clerk Sipkema suggested that \$50,000 be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund for SB1 impact uncertainties. 4) The funds received from White County for the WWTP project have now been depleted. Clerk Sipkema will utilize the WW Sewer Improvement Fund to cover remaining pre construction costs. 5) The Emergency Services contract between the town and township have been delivered to the township board for their approval. 6) The 2025 Emergency Service invoice was mailed to the trustee at the beginning of May.

ATTORNEY REBECCA TRENT...1) The Ready 2.0 grant application for \$2.3 million is still pending; update is expected after June 11, 2025. 2) Easements for the WWTP project are complete.

COUNCIL MEMBERS....Member Myers inquired if ordinance violations are being addressed by a single officer. Marshall Young stated that he has addressed this.

Member Toni Onken raised concern about properties the remain unkempt despite previous clean up efforts. Marshall Young explained that property owners are notified through certified mail or talking to the owner directly. State statute imposes required notification and response times. There was a brief discussion about reviewing and possibly revising the ordinance to reduce administrative burden, such as attaching a fee for repeat violations. Member Myers expressed his concern about a property on Spruce St that the fire department helped clean up a few years ago is now back in disrepair.

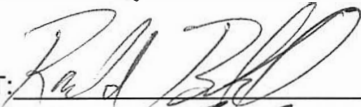
There being no other business to discuss,


Chris Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jamie Myers seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:32 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, July 2, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

ATTEST: 

These minutes are a summary of actions taken at the Monon Town Council meeting. The full video archive of the meeting is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/@townofmonon> for as long as this media is supported.

Official signed minutes may be requested at the Clerk's Office or viewed at <https://townofmonon.com/2025-minutes>