

TOWN OF MONON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 1, 2026

The Council of the Town of Monon met for their Regular Meeting on, July 1, 2026 at the Monon Town Hall Conference Room, 422 N Market St. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Vice President Ron Benakovich, Toni Onken and Chris Franklin. Also present were Town Marshall Roger Young, Superintendent Tracy Anderson and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema. President Hickman started our regular meeting immediately following the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of silence.

Member Jamie Myers and Attorney Rebecca Trent were absent.

READING OF MINUTES....Council President Ken Hickman asked whether members had reviewed the Regular Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes dated June 3, 2026. There were no additions or corrections.

Chris Franklin made a motion to approve the Regular & Public Hearing Meeting Minutes as presented, Toni Onken seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BILLS, CLAIMS, PAYROLL Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema requested the addition of an invoice from Eric Katterhenry amount of \$850 for work completed at the park, including sealing a new door at the Little League field, sealing the press box, and weatherproofing the air conditioner opening. The addition was approved, followed by approval of the full bills, claims, and payroll.

Chris Franklin made a motion to approve the additional claim of \$850 to Eric Katterhenry, Toni Onken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to approve bills, claims, and payroll, Chris Franklin seconded. Motion carried unanimously. **\$158,384.33**

MONTHLY RECONCILIATION....None at this time.

Visitors

Dianna Tribbett, Park Board President, raised the question of whether the park caretakers would be permitted to use town equipment, specifically the bobcat and dump truck, for park maintenance tasks such as filling holes and clearing debris south of the barn. Council discussion centered on liability, accountability for damages, and the caretaker's prior experience operating the equipment. Council consensus was that the park caretakers are qualified to operate the equipment, that any damages or repairs attributable to park use would be charged to the park budget, and that Municipal Superintendent Tracy Anderson would draft a simple use agreement to be signed and reviewed upon each checkout and return of equipment.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to allow park caretakers to use town equipment, with damages charged to the appropriate department and a use agreement to be administered by Municipal Superintendent Anderson, seconded by Chris Franklin. Motion carried unanimously.

New, Unfinished or Deferred Business

Additional Appropriation Resolution, Park..... Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema clarified that Resolution #2026-04 authorizes a \$27,300 additional appropriation for the Park Department. These funds will come from the existing park balance, which includes remaining 2023 storm insurance proceeds. The allocation will pay to repair the major baseball diamond lights that were damaged in that storm.

Chris Franklin made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-04, authorizing an additional appropriation of \$27,300 for the park, Ron Benakovich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commonwealth Engr...WW Project..... President Hickman reported that Commonwealth Engineering was not present but that a pre-bid meeting had been held the previous Wednesday, with strong contractor interest and every seat in the room filled. Contractors subsequently toured the wastewater plant to ask questions of the project engineer. Bids are due and will be opened on July 15 at 1:00 PM. Commonwealth will review the bids for compliance, and a recommendation for the lowest qualified bid is expected to be presented at the August meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema noted that during the recent IDEM inspection, it was noted that our permit to close the lagoon ponds had expired. Commonwealth has successfully obtained a permit extension, which is now valid until July 2027.

Ordinance #2026-6-1: Amended Salary Ordinance....The council reviewed Ordinance #2026-6-1, which formalizes the previously approved 3% COLA for eligible employees. During the review, two clerical errors were noted in the printed copies:

- **EMT Director stipend:** Listed as \$1,120 instead of the correct \$1,720.
- **Assistant EMT stipend:** Listed as \$820 instead of the correct \$1,120.

Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema noted the error and will present the revised ordinance for approval at the August meeting. The council noted the ordinance is approved in principle based on the prior vote on June 3, 2026.

Town Marshal Vehicle Quotes..... Marshal/Street Commissioner Young presented vehicle quotes received: a Chevrolet Tahoe from Hubbard's at \$58,191; a Ford Explorer from Gutwein's at \$47,573; and a Dodge Durango from Chrysler at \$45,424. Council noted that the Dodge Durango has reported reliability issues and expressed a preference for staying local with the Ford dealership. Council directed Marshal Young to obtain a trade-in value from the local dealer (Brad) on the current police vehicle, with the intent to also explore an outright sale to maximize return. It was noted that new model year availability may result in a 2027 model year vehicle, and that purchase funds are available in the appropriate budget line. No formal vote was taken; council consensus was to pursue a Ford option locally and obtain a trade-in quote before returning with a final recommendation.

OCRA – Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grant.....Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema presented information on the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grant program. This initiative assists income-eligible homeowners with essential housing repairs, including roofing, HVAC, electrical, water heaters, and ADA-accessible ramps. Because the grant requires a certified grant administrator, the Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission (KIRPC) was identified from the state's qualified list to manage the entire process, including community surveys, public hearings, and initial application reviews. KIRPC's administrative fee of approximately 8% to 8.5% will only apply if the grant is awarded. The town's responsibilities include committing a local match and establishing a five-member board to score applicants upon approval. Funding for the local match will be drawn from the town's economic development account.

The Town Council reviewed three potential funding options: a \$350,000 grant requiring a town match of roughly \$38,500, a \$250,000 grant requiring a \$27,500 match, or a \$200,000 grant requiring a \$22,000 match. While the upcoming November 2026 grant cycle does not leave enough preparation time, the town will target the 2027 application cycle instead. After a brief discussion,

Ron Benakovich made a motion to apply for the maximum grant allowance of \$350,000 with the corresponding \$38,500 town match. Toni Onken seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The matching funds will officially be integrated into the 2027 Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) Budget.

STAFF REPORTS

Roger Young – Town Marshal.....1) Reported that a notice of foreclosure has been served on the property located at 305 N Race St. He is in contact with the mortgage company regarding the property's condition and compliance status. 2) LED Lighting Upgrade – Fire Station: Marshal Young initiated a project with Energy Harness to replace and upgrade lighting at the fire station with LED fixtures incorporating motion and sound sensors. The estimated cost is \$4,998.33 (without scissor lift rental; rental is \$1,050 if needed). Projected savings over the 11-year life of

the lights are estimated at over \$24,000. Marshal Young is pursuing the possibility of borrowing a scissor lift to avoid the rental cost. Installation is anticipated by end of August or early September.

Tracy Anderson – Municipal Superintendent1) New Town Mail Payment Box: Tree removal completed, and the new payment box is installed and ready for use. 2) Check Valve: Prior corrosion damage from brine water was repaired, and a contractor from Spear is scheduled to replace the failed check valve. 3) Street Sweeper: Repair quote received from Mancilla Custom Metal to perform on-site welding for the damaged equipment. 4) Alleyways: Proposal made to use the dump truck for rock fill to fix potholes, alongside quotes presented to the council for the rental or purchase of a Harley Rake. 5) Signage: Ongoing maintenance and repair work to straighten stop signs knocked over by truck traffic. 6) Sampler Machine: Thermostat failure reported in the new machine, with a replacement quote of approximately \$4,000 provided to the council. 7) Lead and Copper Testing: Satisfactory test results achieved due to homeowner compliance with the IDEM corrosion control plan. 8) Workout Equipment @ Park: Maintenance completed following the receipt and installation of a replacement part. 9) IDEM Visit / I&I: Ongoing inflow and infiltration violation identified during a plant visit, requiring a formal response letter by the Certified Wastewater Operator, Standish Consulting, within 30 days of June 26. 11) WWTP: Access to the town garage is blocked by Vanguard's collapsed storm drain; Superintendent Anderson will contact the responsible party to expedite a routing decision. 12) Clarifier Repair: After disassembly and inspection, it was determined the clarifier cannot be repaired on-site due to the need for specialized tooling. A quote of \$14,580 was received from Walker (the original manufacturer) to perform the repair at their facility in Aurora, Illinois. A competing on-site quote from MIG was received at \$10,450, but Superintendent Anderson expressed concern that an on-site repair attempt might not succeed and could still incur call-out charges. It was also discovered that spare parts previously thought to be on hand were incorrect; Walker has agreed to exchange them at no charge if the unit is brought to their facility. Superintendent Anderson proposed that staff drive the unit to Aurora (approximately 2 hours 45 minutes) to avoid a shipping cost of up to \$600, there were no objections from the council. After a brief discussion,

Toni Onken made a motion to approve the clarifier repair by Walker Process Equipment. Chris Franklin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Annette Sipkema – Clerk/Treasurer....1) Holiday Schedule: Town Hall and all employees will be off Friday, July 3 and Monday, July 6, in accordance with the 2026 salary ordinance, which follows the county holiday schedule. 2) Trash/Waste Collection: On Point Disposal has reported persistent issues with residents overfilling trash totes. Going forward, On Point will photograph overflowing totes and provide the address to Town Hall. Town staff will post notices at the residence in both English and Spanish, advising the resident to obtain an additional tote (available for \$84/year directly from On Point) or face having their collection skipped the following week. 3) Utility Billing Glitch: A system connectivity issue caused only half of the monthly meter reads to upload for billing. Rather than conducting re-reads six weeks later, the decision was made to issue estimated bills, with actual readings reconciled the following month. The issue was resolved by hardwiring Tammy's computer to eliminate the wireless connection drop. 4) Consumer Confidence Report (CCR): The CCR has been posted to the town website, linked on water bills, and printed copies are available at Town Hall and at the meeting. 5) State Board of Accounts: Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema noted she will be out of the office for State Board of Accounts training on July 13 & 14. 6) LIT Restructuring Meeting: On July 9 at the Civic Center, Clerk-Treasurer Sipkema will attend a meeting with surrounding area treasurers and a representative from AIM (Association of Indiana Municipalities) to discuss the restructuring of Local Income Tax (LIT) distribution. LIT represents approximately double the town's property tax revenue for the general fund. Recent legislation encourages municipalities to meet with one county official to reach a non-binding agreement on future LIT distribution.

Council.... Member Franklin reported that a revised EMS run sheet has been shared with council via Google Docs, allowing the director and designated EMTs to modify it for improved run reporting. He also raised the possibility of filling the EMT 2 position with a young, EMT-certified candidate from Monticello who expressed interest. The proposed arrangement would have the individual stationed at the fire station during daytime hours to ensure coverage. Council discussed the merits, noting Jennifer's current on-call arrangement involves approximately five calls per month on average. Concern was raised about downtime and cost-effectiveness of adding a second full-time on-call EMT. Member Franklin suggested the individual might also be considered for an open town laborer position, which would provide productive work during non-

call hours. No formal action was taken; Member Franklin indicated he would speak with the candidate further to assess interest and suitability.

President Hickman raised two matters: (1) he advised that the ditch on the north side of town would no longer be weed-whacked by staff (park nor town) due to safety concerns, and would instead be burned off in the fall, with a contractor to be arranged for periodic mowing if available; and (2) he strongly encouraged staff and employees to limit outdoor physical work during peak afternoon heat, noting that with heat indices reaching 105°F, no task is urgent enough to risk employee health and safety.

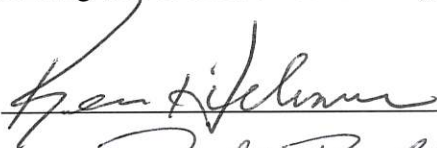
All Other Matters.....No additional matters were brought forward.

Adjournment

Chris Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m., seconded by Ron Benakovich.

Council was reminded that a special budget workshop is scheduled for July 8, 2026 at 5:30 PM, and that the next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:



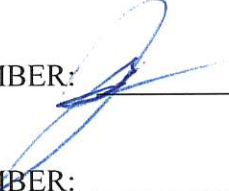
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:



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 after 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>