

Town of Monroe

Town Board Meeting

June 6, 2024

Monthly expenses were reviewed and approved.

May minutes were approved.

Those in attendance at tonight's meeting are Mike Geels, Josh Geerken, David Bard, Mark Burry (in for Clayton Lengerich), Justin Shaffer, Kris Burkhart, resident Bill Bliss, both newspaper journalists, Rachel Tague, Josh Fiechter & AJ Bertsch.

New Business

Josh Fiechter with Monroe Feed & Grain was present at tonight's meeting. He is asking council for permission to paint the silos on the Monroe Feed & Grain's lot. He wasn't sure of the proper protocol so he wanted to start with council and go from there. Council encouraged Josh to make positive changes and appreciated him coming to them first before doing anything. Council had no objections. Council did want to make sure that there wouldn't be a potential of any paint being sprayed onto other residential property but Josh assured council he would be rolling the silos, not spraying. Without any further concerns, council wished him luck and thanked him for coming to the meeting. Josh said the date he'd like to start painting will be from mid-June through September. He also wants to have local business advertisements painted on the silos once they've been painted white.

Old Business

New water main at the feed mill but it's not been attached to the highway because the depth numbers Justin has aren't correct so that didn't work out. Justin is thinking about revisiting it when the highway project gets started.

Consumer water reports have gone out.

Flemings is still on the schedule for July to work on the Andrews St water project. The Street project on Andrews will start once the water project is complete, Justin thinks that will be in September or October.

Brad Yoder N of Polk St 200 ft stretch county wants to know if we'd be interested in taking over a stretch of road

Brad Yoder with the County Highway Department approached Justin and asked if the town would be interested in taking over about 200 feet of road on N Polk Street. They got to taking about S Van Buren as well and it was brought up that the town could take over a small portion of an area on S Van Buren near the eq basin. Justin asked Mark Burry what would need to be done in order to acquire these sections of roads. Mark suggested it could only mean having to do a resolution but he would discuss this with Clayton and leave it in his hands. In order for any CCMG projects to be covered, the town would need to own these sections.

Fire Department

Kris presented the Innovative Concepts invoice to council. This invoice is for the added camera in the vestibule along with camera access to all cameras via computers throughout the building. The towns responsibility is \$1409.00 and the Fire Department to cover \$800.

The Fire Department is also accepting applications.

They are also holding a fund raiser/raffle to win a new golf cart. Tickets are for sale at Best One of Monroe.

A new AED has been added to the Fire Department building. This was donated by the hospital.

Police Department

AJ was present at tonight's meeting. He is asking council to approve the new police department policy that he and Clayton have created. David just asked for the policy to be cleaned up a bit as far as grammatical errors and punctuation and so forth, other wise he's in agreement that it looks good. Josh made a motion to accept the new police policy. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

AJ would like council to consider the hiring of Nathan Hunter and Derek Loshe. They are both currently working for the City of Decatur. They would be 2 part time town marshal's that would work roughly 15 hours each. AJ will continue to work his 10 hours per week as well. David made a motion to accept the hiring of the two. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Both new deputy marshals will be hired in at \$20 per hour.

Town Attorney

Mark Burry is here tonight for Clayton Lengerich. The first ordinance tonight is the farm animal ordinance. This prohibits any and all farm animals from being within town limits unless they are on an acre or more. Rachel brought up that the ordinance does not allow for residents to have chickens. She asked if council wanted to approve this even though we've always said residents can have chickens. Mike told council to put a hold on accepting this ordinance until things can be reviewed and changed. Council would like to put a cap on the number of chickens allowed in town. That number will be 6, no more than 6 chickens per house. They'd also like to add no roosters are permitted within town limits. The other change is with regard to animals defecating/urinating in town on properties and streets. That ordinance would need to allow for Amish buggies driven by horses. Mark made some notes and will take this back to Clayton to address.

The next ordinance up for review and acceptance is ordinance 2024-8. This ordinance is for animals as pets within the Town of Monroe. This ordinance rescinds ordinance 1975-4. Mark read briefly ran through the ordinance covering the basic gist of the ordinance. Josh made a motion to accept. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Proper protocol for calling in a wandering/lost animal is to call the sheriffs department who will then contact animal control to go pick up the animal and take it to the Adams County Animal Shelter.

Clerk-Treasurer

Rachel was present at tonight's meeting but had nothing to report.

Other Business

Bill Bliss was present at tonight's meeting. He is asking if the jake brake ordinance is a definite go for the town to enforce. Justin was told at one point that he couldn't post any signs on state roads. He has since learned that he can. Mike asked Mark to have Clayton work on this for the next town board meeting.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

Town Board President

Clerk-Treasurer