

Town of Monroe
Town Board Minutes
October 3, 2024

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

September monthly expenses were reviewed and approved.

September minutes were reviewed and approved.

Those in attendance at tonight's meeting were Mike Geels, Joshua Geerken, David Bard, Clayton Lengerich, Justin Shaffer, AJ Bertsch, Kris Burkhart, Rachel Tague, both newspaper journalists, Mindy Carroll, Betsy Ward, Daniel Juarigue, Becky Bowman and Dana Bowman.

New Business

Justin met with Brooke's construction to discuss a couple street projects that were affected by the Andrews St project. He doesn't have dates of when Brook's will start but Justin said it'll be about 2-3 weeks yet.

Town Superintendent

Justin wants to remind everyone that coming October 16th there will be a new 4way stop at the corners of Polk and 124/Washington St. There are signs lighted signs placed temporarily.

Justin continues to work on getting pictures from residents for their water connections into their homes. It was asked if lead is found, if it's the residents responsibility? Justin said it's the towns responsibility he also said it is a federal law that the lead is removed.

Justin said he and Karthon will do water main flushing between October 14-18, 2024. These dates may change depending on when Brook's starts on the streets though. He will keep everyone posted on changes.

Justin would like to start a water credit program for the residents. As it stands Justin asks residents to if he can pull water samples from them to send in for testing. He's been met with some resistance and has even been turned away. He'd like to add an incentive for those who allow him to come in and run water from their kitchen sink for 5 minutes for this testing. He is proposing a \$5.00 credit to each homeowner each month that they allow this testing. He feels this is a fair amount to credit and it helps the town to do their necessary testing. He will let Rachel know of who should be credited. This will be on a rotating basis each month and not every resident all the time. Jos made a motion to approve. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Clayton mentioned that it would be a good idea to incorporate this new water credit program into the already existing water ordinance.

With Claytons recommendation, Justin is asking for approval for the SRF project, he can ask for a motion contingent on the notice to proceed in order to get a signature after a public meeting. Get motion to proceed contingent. David made a motion to accept. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0

With Clayton's recommendation, Justin would like to ask council moving forward with any SRF project to make a contingent approval on work where there is a required signature that can be received outside of a public meeting. David made a motion to proceed with this. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Town Marshal

AJ Bertsch was present at tonight's meeting. AJ will make a Facebook post about the new 4-way stop signs placed at Polk St and Washington St intersection.

He mentioned that the new county server project bringing the town Marshal's office on board with the rest of the county will start this next week. He's hoping to be on the county server within the next few weeks.

AJ would also like to bring attention to the need of new radios for the PD. He's currently got 3 working radios but, in the event, they have to bring everyone in to work, they do not have enough radios. He'd like to have a total of 6 new radios.

Fire Department

Kris Burkhart was present. He brought with him a receipt for new tires for the new rescue unit that was acquired last month. The receipt is in the amount of \$3203.46 from Best One in Monroe. David made a motion to cover this expense for the Fire Department. Mike seconded. Josh abstained from this vote since he's on the Fire Department. Motion passed 2-0.

Clerk-Treasurer

Rachel was present at tonight's meeting. She is asking for the approval of the 2025 budget. Josh made a motion to accept the 2025 budget as is. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Rachel also brought the need for an amended 2024 Salary Ordinance to council tonight. Since the hiring of Karthon, council had bumped his pay up from \$16.00 to \$19.00 which was based off of the previous employees pay but Rachel needs the ordinance updated to reflect this change. This change will be retro back to Karthon's start date of 09/03/2024. She also noticed that the Crossing Guard's hourly rate needed updated. The previous hourly rate was based off of the previous school year which was approved in 2023. The new pay rate of \$20.00 per hour needs to be stated in the amended ordinance. This pay rate will be retro to 08/01/2024. Josh made a motion to accept these changes. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The last thing on Rachel's agenda is deciding on a trash company for the town. Mike Geels spoke and said he'd like to hear from the residents in town who are present to hear their thoughts on the trash service companies that have offered service.

Becky Bowman asked who the companies were. David stated it was between Reliable and WM, both out of Fort Wayne.

Todd & Janee Nussbaum spoke and said that they are unhappy with how WM provides service. Janee had watched the WM truck driver pick up her trash can, empty it and then drop it from its highest point making it come crashing down. He did the same thing with their neighbor's trash can.

Daniel Juarigue spoke up and said he'd like to go with Reliable because he has watched WM at work and isn't pleased with their service.

Clayton made mention that he'd like to create an agreement between Reliable and the Town, he feels Reliable's contract is more of a quote and would like to see something better in place. Josh made a motion of approval for Clayton to create an agreement. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Town Attorney

Clayton brought with him the water rate ordinance 2024-14. He is asking for approval which will increase water rates. Josh made a motion to accept the new ordinance. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Other Business

Dana Bowman spoke and said he's very unhappy with the decision to place a 4-way stop at Polk and Washington. He asked council when they found out about this. David said he found out when everyone else did. He doesn't understand why council doesn't have a voice. Josh spoke up and said that he has called INDOT and was met with deaf ears. Clayton spoke up and said that if council could do something they would. It's out of the town's hands at this point.

Daniel Jaurigue asked council if they would consider a water discount for those who water their gardens. He states he has a large garden and feels if he's not using the sewage while watering his garden, why does he have to pay for the sewage. He's asking to use a separate meter when watering his garden. He

says that those with pools get that option, why can't he? Mike said it's something that they will consider and has asked Justin to find out what other communities do for their residents who water their gardens. Mike said council will discuss this at next month's meeting.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

Town Board President

Clerk-Treasurer