

City Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 23, 2026



Call to Order

Mayor Akers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., City Clerk Taryn Wigley called the roll.

Attendees

Council Members Clarissa Pace, Michael James, Al Peer, Allan Nichols, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present. Cedric Leonard and Craig McRae were absent.

Minutes

Clarissa Pace moved to accept the minutes for the June meeting, Mike Wigley seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the June minutes passed.

Old Business

a. Update on 600 N Main St.

City Inspector Brian Rodgers informed the council that the home owner has gotten his building permit since the last meeting and has done a substantial amount of yard work. He also emailed the council building plans that were submitted by the homeowner on the same day of the meeting. Mike Wigley voiced that he did not believe that the plans and the amount of money that was allotted for the repairs would be enough to get the house up to code. The home owner explained that he is going back and forth from South Carolina, where he currently works. He is looking for a job in Monticello that would allow him to finish up the repairs on the house. Allan Nichols moved to give the homeowner 60 days to make improvements and meet with the council again, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. They aye's had it with Michael Wigley in opposition.

New Business

a. Discussion with Cody Stringer with AL Franks Engineering

Cody with AL Franks Engineering explained a proposed project. The plans included connecting water lines on highway 278 to the intermodal water tower. Mayor Akers added that all 3 water wells would be linked, which will benefit future growth in Monticello. Clarissa Pace moved to go forward with the project, Allan Nichols seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the project will be put into motion.

b. Discussion with Nita McDaniel

Nita McDaniel addressed the council asking for funds to repair older damages at the historic post office. She explained that there is water damage from a previous roof leak. She added that there are patches of carpet in the building, and she would like for it to be replaced. A supplemental packet was presented to the council with quotes for replacements. The historic post office is on the historic registry list, and they have visitors that come in to tour the office and get their passport stamped.

c. Resolution Amending 1998 One Cent Sales Tax Fund for Repairs on Historic Post Office

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. The council decided to use Paint and Lighting Plus for materials to repair the historic post office. Finance Manager Ashley Rodermund added that \$15,000.00 was allotted for repairs, but another \$14,000.00 will be added for the carpet. She recommended either doing an exact \$29,000.00 or \$30,000.00 to the line item. Clarissa Pace moved to add \$30,000.00 to the line item for repairs, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

d. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Conex Box and Amendment to 1998 One Cent Sales Tax Fund

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers explained that this would be to store permanent records that the City is required to keep. They are currently in the old fire station, but that area will soon be renovated and not suited for storage. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

e. Resolution Authorizing Contract with Area Agency on Aging of Southeast Arkansas

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Ashley Rodermund explained that this is the yearly contract, but the fund dropped about \$10,000.00 from last year. She didn't have an explanation as to why. Clarissa Pace moved to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

f. Resolution Accepting Bid for Monticello Sports Complex Sidewalks Projects

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. WJ Excavating & Trucking had the lowest bid at \$297,080.00. Claudia Hartness moved to accept the resolution with WJ Excavating &

Trucking, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

g. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Bid for 2025 Enterprise Funds Audit

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Searcy and Associates had the lowest bid that was not to exceed \$15,000.00. They have been used in the past and they are very professional. Mike Wigley moved to accept the resolution, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

h. Approval of Records Disposal

Ashley Rodermund presented a records disposal form to the council for records that they are no longer required to keep. Clarissa Pace moved to accept the form, Allan Nichols seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the form was approved.

i. Resolution Declaring 925 Cedar Hill St. a Nuisance

Michael Wigley introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Brian Rodgers informed the council that a certified letter was sent and signed for, but no other communication was had with the homeowner. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Allan Nichols seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

j. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 118 Mona Lisa St.

Michael Wigley introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Brian Rodgers stated that the City bush hogged, used a track hoe, and a chain saw for the back yard. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

k. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 396 Winchester Rd.

Mike Wigley introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Al Peer moved to accept the resolution, Clarissa Pace seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

l. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 866 N Slemmons

Mike Wigley introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Brian Rodgers informed the council that the owners have paid their bill and cleaned the yard. Clarissa Pace moved to table the resolution

indefinitely, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution was tabled.

m. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 1225 East Shelton

Mike Wigley introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Brian Rodgers informed the council that this property is a squatter house. The City hauled away garbage and had to use multiple pieces of equipment to clean up the property. There has been no communication from the owner. Clarissa Pace moved to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

Public Comment Section

Adena Handly addressed the council. She is the director of the 2nd Baptist Church food pantry and informed the council of all the good things that the church has been able to accomplish for Drew County. She added that the goal is to have a separate building that is entirely dedicated to the food pantry. She is asking for any donations or help that could be provided.

Mayor Comment Section

Mayor Akers reminded the council that July 3rd will be the Fireworks and Food Trucks Festival at the sports complex, updates to the water tower have started, and the Monticello app is live and available to download.

Meeting Adjourned

Al Peer moved to adjourn the meeting, Allan Nichols seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Wigley". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "M" and "W".