

**Full Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

**Principles and Guidelines**

The elected officials of the City of Monticello shall hold themselves accountable to the following principles and guidelines:

**Elected Officials Conduct with One Another**

This council is composed of individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities, values, opinions and goals. Despite this diversity, each council member has chosen to serve in public office in order to preserve and protect the present and the future of the City of Monticello, Arkansas. This common goal should be acknowledged even as council members may "agree to disagree" on contentious issues.

**1. Conduct in Public Meetings**

**Practice civility and decorum in all discussions and debate.** Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. This does not, however, allow council members to make belligerent personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive or disparaging comments. No shouting or physical actions that could be construed as threatening will be tolerated. Therefore, city elected officials will:

- Avoid personal comments that could offend other council members.
- Honor the role of the Mayor in maintaining order.
- Be respectful of other members of the city council, committees, city staff and the public by refraining from abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks.
- Treat citizens and fellow council members with respect.
- Request the opportunity to speak and address the council through the Mayor or other official conducting the meeting.
- Recognize fellow council members and guest speakers by their formal names and appropriate titles; after initial acknowledgement, the terms "Mr." or "Ms." May be used.
- Be respectful of others' time and be prepared in making remarks.
- Be prompt in attending public meetings so that they may begin at the publicly posted time.

**1. Conduct with the public**

Be polite and professional to speakers and treat them courtesy. Personal concerns are often the reason citizens come before the council to speak and elected officials should remember that their

behavior will either relax the speaker or push their emotions to a higher level of intensity, therefore, the council will:

- Limit comments to issues and avoid personal attacks.
- Remain seated when someone is speaking at the podium.
- Give the speaker their attentiveness.
- Ask for clarification when necessary but avoid debate and argument with the public.
- Not engage in personal attacks of any kind under any circumstance.
- Make no promises on behalf of the council or staff.
- Make no personal comments about other council members.

#### **Full Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

##### **Conflicts of Interest**

A conflict of interest is a situation which the financial, familial or personal interest of an elected official of the City of Monticello come into actual or perceived conflict with his or her duties or responsibilities with the City of Monticello. Perceived conflicts of interest are situations where there is the appearance that an elected official may or could personally benefit from actions or decisions made in his or her official capacity or where a council member or official may be influenced to act in a manner that does not represent the best interest of the City of Monticello.

- All elected officials have a duty to report the matter to the Mayor and City Clerk; the Mayor will report any matters of this nature to the City Council and City Clerk.
- Elected Officials of the City of Monticello should recuse themselves from voting on matters when the criteria listed above for a conflict of interest are met.

#### **Code of Conduct with Affirmation**

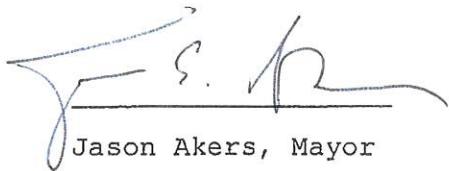
##### **City of Monticello, Arkansas Code of Conduct**

##### **Opening Statement**

This code of conduct is designed to describe the manner in which the mayor and council members should treat one another and others with whom they come in contact in representing the City of Monticello.

I affirm that I have read and understand the City of Monticello City Council Code of Conduct. The principles and guidelines of mayor and council members set forth in this document promote civility and set a standard of excellence that engenders trust and promotes the public good. This municipality will not condone activities that are in violation of the principles of appropriate conduct.

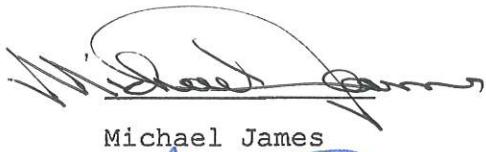
ADOPTED on this 29th day of January, 2026.



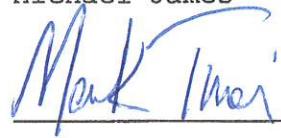
Jason Akers, Mayor



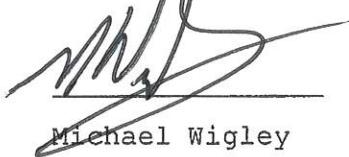
Clarissa Pace



Michael James

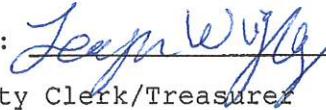


Mark Tiner



Michael Wigley

ATTESTED:

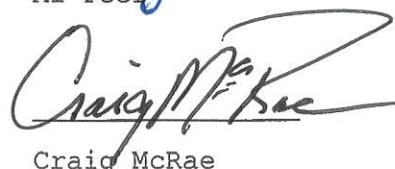
By:   
City Clerk/Treasurer



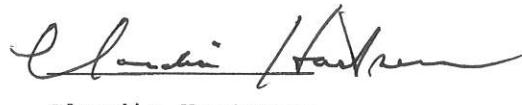
Cedric Leonard



Al Peer



Craig McRae



Claudia Hartness