

AGENDA  
MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
203 WEST GAINES ST. CITY COUNCIL ROOM  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 , 2026 @ 6PM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Invocation
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
- V. Approval of Minutes
- VI. Unfinished Business
- VII. New Business
  - a. Resolution Amending 2026 Advertising and Promotion Commission Fund Budget
  - b. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 510 West Shelton
  - c. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 616 East McCloy
  - d. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 703 East Jackson
- VIII. Public Comment Section
- IX. Mayor Comment Section
- X. Meeting Adjourned

# City Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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## 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 Cedric Leonard, Michael James, Al Peer, Craig McRae, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present. Clarissa Pace and Mark Tiner were absent.

## Minutes

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

## Old Business

### New Business

#### a. Special Presentation

Mayor Akers recognized two individuals who are crucial to City Hall and the City of Monticello. Ashley Rodermund was awarded Employee of the Year and Joe Burgess was awarded Citizen of the Year.

#### b. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract for Architectural Services for the Renovation of the Old Fire Station

Mayor Akers introduced Michael Rogers, a civil engineer out of El Dorado, who gave the council a small presentation on his intentions for the old fire station. Craig McRae 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. 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.

#### c. Resolution Approving Appointments to the Drew County Historical Commission

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

**d. Resolution of Organization of City Council for 2026**

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. Mayor Akers reminded the council that this resolution gets signed yearly. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Cedric Leonard seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**e. Resolution Establishing Code of Conduct 2026**

Craig McRae 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. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**f. Resolution Establishing Continuation of Government Function in Emergency Situations**

Craig McRae 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. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Michael James seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**g. Resolution Accepting Updates and Adjustments to the 2025 Operating Budget**

Craig McRae 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. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**h. Resolution Accepting Updates and Adjustments to the 2025 Sales and Use Tax Budget**

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

**i. Providing for and Adopting a 2026 Budget for Certain Funds for the City of Monticello**

Craig McRae 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. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**j. Providing for and Adopting a 2026 Budget for Certain Sales and Use Tax Fund for the City of Monticello**

Al Peer introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**k. Authorizing 2026 Contract for Economic Development Services.**

Craig McRae 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. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

**State of the City Address**

Mayor Akers highlighted the year 2025 for the council. The City was awarded \$1,234,994.00 in grants and gained \$129,170.50 in liquidation of property. He also made several infrastructure improvements, including repairs and upgrades to wells 3 and 9, new water meters, and several new water lines. There were no compliance issues in 2025. Several city streets were reconstructed, and new signage was added or repaired. Economic success was reported with Weyerhaeuser's 500 million dollar plant breaking ground. Mayor Akers informed the council that 2026 will consist of Hwy 83 paving, waterline projects, City Hall renovations, more sidewalks, a walking track at the sports complex, a water tower renovation, and the city pool renovation.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF MONTICELLO ADVERTISING & PROMOTION  
COMMISSION FUND BUDGET FOR 2026**

Whereas, the Monticello Advertising & Promotion Commission has a need to add expenses to their Advertising & Promotion Commission Fund Budget for 2026;

Whereas, the cost of said expenses are not included in the City of Monticello Advertising & Promotion Commission Fund Budget for 2026;

It is, therefore, by the Monticello City Council, resolved as follows:

1. That the City of Monticello Advertising & Promotions Commission Fund Budget for 2026 be amended as follows:
  - a. Decrease Expense Line Item # 5202 Supplies, Materials by \$5,000 to \$2,000;
  - b. Add Expense Line Item # 5702 Outlay – Mach, Equip, Vehicle - \$5,000;
  - c. Add Expense Line Item # 5104 Employee Insurance - \$10,000;
  
2. That this resolution will be effective February 26, 2026.

(END OF RESOLUTION)

ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**Advertising & Promotion Commission Fund  
2026 Operating Budget**

2026.02.26

	<b>Account Number</b>		<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
	<b>General Revenue</b>		
	4620	3% Tax Income	130,000.00
		<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$130,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
	<b>Personnel</b>		
	5101	Salaries	(45,000.00)
	5103	Payroll Taxes	(3,600.00)
	5104	Employee Insurance	(10,000.00)
	5105	Workman's Compensation	(40.00)
	5106	Retirement	(7,000.00)
	5110	Annual Employee Benefit	(350.00)
	5301	Licensing, Training, Travel, Dues	(1,000.00)
		<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>(66,990.00)</b>
	<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
	5202	Supplies, Materials	(2,000.00)
	5207	Advertisement	(10,000.00)
	5307	Bonding	(130.00)
	5313	Festivals	(10,000.00)
	5904	Projects & Progress	(6,000.00)
		<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>(28,130.00)</b>
	<b>Services</b>		
	5402	Utilities	(500.00)
		<b>Total Services</b>	<b>(500.00)</b>
	<b>Capital Outlay of Equipment/Structures</b>		
	5702	Outlay - Mach, Equip, Vehicle	(5,000.00)
		<b>Total Capital Outlay of Equipment/Structures</b>	<b>(5,000.00)</b>
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$100,620.00)</b>
		<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$130,000.00</b>
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$100,620.00)</b>
		<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$29,380.00</b>

RESOLUTION NO. 26-\_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION FINDING AND DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS  
SITUATED ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AT 510 West Shelton IN THE  
CITY OF MONTICELLO TO BE  
A NUISANCE, ORDERING THE NUISANCE TO BE ABATED  
WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, AUTHORIZING ABATEMENT BY THE  
CITY AND IMPOSITION OF A LIEN FOR EXPENSES INCURRED  
BY THE CITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, it is found that the structures situated on real property located at 510 West Shelton in the City of Monticello and owned by Connie Franklin, constitutes a nuisance and should be condemned pursuant to the ordinances enacted by the City of Monticello;

WHEREAS, the property constitutes a nuisance in that the structures on the premises have fire damage and/or are dilapidated and cannot be inhabited and are unsafe, further, that the vegetation in the yard is unsightly and that there is significant trash and refuse in the yard, constituting a health and safety concern;

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello has sent letters and notices to the owner of record pursuant to City Ordinance prior to the consideration of this resolution and sufficient action has not been taken by the owner to abate the nuisance as requested within such letters and notices, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid findings have been made after due and timely notice was given to the owner that this resolution would be considered at this time and place, and said owner failed to show just cause why this resolution should not be adopted:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MONTICELLO, as follows:

Section 1. That the aforesaid structures situated on the real property located at 510 West Shelton of this City are hereby found and declared to be a nuisance, that the said structures are a hazard to the health and safety of the public in general and are hereby condemned.

Section 2. That the owner is ordered to remove the said structures from the property or to otherwise repair the structures to inhabitable condition within thirty (30) days of the posting of a true copy of this Resolution on the structures.

Section 3. That should the owner refuse or fail to so remove or repair the structures within thirty (30) days, the City of Monticello shall remove the structures by demolition, or other corrective action. And shall file lien against the owner's title to this property for the costs incurred by the City for such demolition or other corrective actions.

Section 4. Should asbestos testing be required before demolition by the City of Monticello, The City Council of the City of Monticello authorizes entry upon and into the property by an ADEQ (Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality) licensed asbestos tester for the purpose of asbestos testing. The samples taken shall be sent to a certified laboratory for the testing for the presence of asbestos. The asbestos tester shall make available to ADEQ and the City of Monticello the laboratory test results before demolition occurs. Extra time shall be allowed for this purpose.

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(END OF RESOLUTION)

ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER

RESOLUTION NO. 26-\_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION FINDING AND DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS  
SITUATED ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AT 616 East McCloy \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE  
CITY OF MONTICELLO TO BE  
A NUISANCE, ORDERING THE NUISANCE TO BE ABATED  
WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, AUTHORIZING ABATEMENT BY THE  
CITY AND IMPOSITION OF A LIEN FOR EXPENSES INCURRED  
BY THE CITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, it is found that the structures situated on real property located at 616 East McCloy \_\_\_\_\_ in the City of Monticello and owned by Donney & Lashunda Jackson, constitutes a nuisance and should be condemned pursuant to the ordinances enacted by the City of Monticello;

WHEREAS, the property constitutes a nuisance in that the structures on the premises have fire damage and/or are dilapidated and cannot be inhabited and are unsafe, further, that the vegetation in the yard is unsightly and that there is significant trash and refuse in the yard, constituting a health and safety concern;

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello has sent letters and notices to the owner of record pursuant to City Ordinance prior to the consideration of this resolution and sufficient action has not been taken by the owner to abate the nuisance as requested within such letters and notices, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid findings have been made after due and timely notice was given to the owner that this resolution would be considered at this time and place, and said owner failed to show just cause why this resolution should not be adopted:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MONTICELLO, as follows:

Section 1. That the aforesaid structures situated on the real property located at 616 East McCloy \_\_\_\_\_ of this City are hereby found and declared to be a nuisance, that the said structures are a hazard to the health and safety of the public in general and are hereby condemned.

Section 2. That the owner is ordered to remove the said structures from the property or to otherwise repair the structures to inhabitable condition within thirty (30) days of the posting of a true copy of this Resolution on the structures.

Section 3. That should the owner refuse or fail to so remove or repair the structures within thirty (30) days, the City of Monticello shall remove the structures by demolition, or other corrective action. And shall file lien against the owner's title to this property for the costs incurred by the City for such demolition or other corrective actions.

Section 4. Should asbestos testing be required before demolition by the City of Monticello, The City Council of the City of Monticello authorizes entry upon and into the property by an ADEQ (Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality) licensed asbestos tester for the purpose of asbestos testing. The samples taken shall be sent to a certified laboratory for the testing for the presence of asbestos. The asbestos tester shall make available to ADEQ and the City of Monticello the laboratory test results before demolition occurs. Extra time shall be allowed for this purpose.

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(END OF RESOLUTION)

ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER

RESOLUTION NO. 26-\_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION FINDING AND DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS  
SITUATED ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AT 703 East Jackson IN THE  
CITY OF MONTICELLO TO BE  
A NUISANCE, ORDERING THE NUISANCE TO BE ABATED  
WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, AUTHORIZING ABATEMENT BY THE  
CITY AND IMPOSITION OF A LIEN FOR EXPENSES INCURRED  
BY THE CITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, it is found that the structures situated on real property located at 703 East Jackson in the City of Monticello and owned by Ralph & Linda Barnes, constitutes a nuisance and should be condemned pursuant to the ordinances enacted by the City of Monticello;

WHEREAS, the property constitutes a nuisance in that the structures on the premises have fire damage and/or are dilapidated and cannot be inhabited and are unsafe, further, that the vegetation in the yard is unsightly and that there is significant trash and refuse in the yard, constituting a health and safety concern;

WHEREAS, the City of Monticello has sent letters and notices to the owner of record pursuant to City Ordinance prior to the consideration of this resolution and sufficient action has not been taken by the owner to abate the nuisance as requested within such letters and notices, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid findings have been made after due and timely notice was given to the owner that this resolution would be considered at this time and place, and said owner failed to show just cause why this resolution should not be adopted:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MONTICELLO, as follows:

Section 1. That the aforesaid structures situated on the real property located at 703 East Jackson of this City are hereby found and declared to be a nuisance, that the said structures are a hazard to the health and safety of the public in general and are hereby condemned.

Section 2. That the owner is ordered to remove the said structures from the property or to otherwise repair the structures to inhabitable condition within thirty (30) days of the posting of a true copy of this Resolution on the structures.

Section 3. That should the owner refuse or fail to so remove or repair the structures within thirty (30) days, the City of Monticello shall remove the structures by demolition, or other corrective action. And shall file lien against the owner's title to this property for the costs incurred by the City for such demolition or other corrective actions.

Section 4. Should asbestos testing be required before demolition by the City of Monticello, The City Council of the City of Monticello authorizes entry upon and into the property by an ADEQ (Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality) licensed asbestos tester for the purpose of asbestos testing. The samples taken shall be sent to a certified laboratory for the testing for the presence of asbestos. The asbestos tester shall make available to ADEQ and the City of Monticello the laboratory test results before demolition occurs. Extra time shall be allowed for this purpose.

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(END OF RESOLUTION)

ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER