

City Council Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 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 Michael James Al Peer, Allan Nichols, Craig McRae, Mike Wigley, and Claudia Hartness were present. Clarissa Pace and Cedric Leonard were absent.

Minutes

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

Old Business

New Business

a. Resolution Appointing Member to Monticello Parks Commission

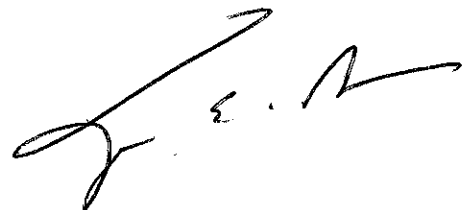
Craig McRae introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers recommended Ked Donham to fill the open spot on the Parks Commission. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

b. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Bid for Rehabilitation of Water Tank

Michael James introduced the resolution and moved to suspend the rules and read by title only, Mike Wigley 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 and use Municipal Management for the amount of \$305,000.00, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

c. Resolution Declaring 300 N Main St. a Nuisance

City Inspector Brian Rodgers informed the council that he has not had contact with the owners. Mayor Akers added that this property is under new ownership and the owners are asking for an extension. Michael James moved to not introduce the resolution and table the resolution for 30 days. Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution was tabled.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. E. N.", is located at the bottom right of the page.

d. Resolution Declaring 616 E McCloy St. a Nuisance

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. Brian Rodgers informed the council that there have been issues with this property since June of 2025, the owner was asked to stay in contact with Mr. Rodgers, which did not happen until the day of the council meeting. Fire Chief Eric Chisom added that the house burned in 2019, and no permits have been purchased for renovations. Craig McRae moved to accept the resolution, Mike Wigley seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

e. Resolution Declaring 317 E Wood St. a Nuisance

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. Brian Rodgers informed the council that a certified letter was sent and returned back to him.

f. Resolution Imposing a Lien on 416 N Maple St.

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. Brian Rodgers spoke with the owner, who is located in Blytheville and unable to come to the meeting. The property was declared a nuisance last year and no other work has been done to the property since that time. Michael James moved to accept the resolution, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

Mayor Akers asked the council for permission to amend the agenda to add two items that he received last minute. Craig McRae moved to amend the agenda, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the agenda was amended.

g. Resolution to Purchase Stage and Amendment to 1998 One Cent Sales Tax Budget

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 and Amanda Laudell made the case that they want Monticello to continue to thrive and level up the annual events. Currently, musical acts that perform in Monticello are performing on a trailer that is hooked up the back of a pickup truck. A real stage would make our events more attractive and it could also be used for other events. Michael James moved to allot \$21,000.00 to purchase the stage, Al Peer seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the resolution passed unanimously.

h. Ordinance Regarding Wellhead Protection

Craig McRae introduced the Ordinance and moved that it be read in its entirety, Claudia Hartness seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and City Attorney Whit Barton read. Mayor Akers emphasized the importance of security for our wellhead and

protecting our drinking water. City Attorney Whit Barton added that it would be smart to also put a notice on real estate records if this ordinance passes. Michael James moved to call this the first reading and move to the second reading next month, Craig McRae seconded. A yay/nay vote was called. The aye's had it and the first reading was done.

Mayor Comment Section

Mayor Akers informed the council that Spring on the Square will be May 15th and the first ever bass fishing tournament will be held at Lake Monticello on May 16th.

Meeting Adjourned

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

Jason Wigley