January 8, 2026 5:00 p.m.

The meeting of the Montezuma Town Council is being livestreamed and will be available for viewing @www.youtube.com/@TownofMontezuma. In addition, a copy of the approved minutes from prior meetings will be available on the Montezuma Town Website: www.in.gov/towns/montezuma/

The Montezuma Town Council met in Special Session with all members, Clerk Treasurer, Town Marshal/Town Manager and Superintendent present.

Re-Organization for the year 2026 was held:

Clerk Morgan called the meeting to order taking nominations for Town Council President. Bartlow made the nomination of John Norris. Motion to accept the nomination was made by Atkinson seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

Council President Norris took charge of the meeting taking nominations for Town Council Vice-President. Atkinson made the nomination of Paul Bartlow. Thomas made motion to accept the nomination of Paul Bartlow seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

Atkinson made motion to keep the department assignments the same as for 2025 and they are as follows:

Utilities:	Bartlow/Norris	Utility/Town Finance:	Atkinson/Norris
Cemetery:	Bartlow/Thomas	Fire Department:	Bovair/Thomas
Streets:	Bovair	Buildings:	Bovair/Thomas
Parks:	Bartlow/Norris	Police Department:	Atkinson/Norris
Zoning/ Annexation:	Bartlow/Atkinson		

Motion was seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

Bovair made motion to approve the following appointments for 2026:

Town Attorney: Scott Craig
Town Marshal/Town Manager: John Koch

Motion was seconded by Atkinson. All in favor.

Bovair made motion to approve the following appointment for 2026:

Fire Chief: Kurt Lanzone

Motion was seconded by Thomas. All in favor except for Bartlow and Atkinson whom abstained from the vote.

Thomas made motion that the Town Council meetings will go to one meeting a month unless it is decided that a Special Session would be held throughout the month if needed and would be posted and newspaper notified accordingly. The January Regular monthly meeting will be held on January 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. to allow the close-out of 2025 and have the necessary documents ready for that evening. Beginning in February all Regular Monthly Meetings will be held on the third (3rd) Thursday of the month and begin at 6:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Atkinson made motion to accept and approve Ordinance 2026-01-01 as presented. (Ordinance vacating a portion of unnamed street in the First Addition to Cortez Subdivision--.42 acres of Parcel No. 61-05-36-014.000-013/North Side). Motion was seconded by Bovair. All in favor. Ordinance to be recorded accordingly.

Bartlow made motion to approve and accept the offer of $ 2,500.00 from Oriden to allow them to use the old easement Montezuma has in Vermillion County. It does not prevent Montezuma from using it in the future if ever the need be, it just allows us to share the easement with Oriden. Motion was seconded by Thomas. All in favor.

Bartlow made motion to approve one water/sewer adjustment request according to Ordinance for Account #9206.06/Fawn Rich. Motion seconded by Atkinson. All in favor.

Thomas made motion to approve the following billing adjustments:

$ 878.07	Correction to sewer billing credit/not caught prior to billing update
(.85)	Correction to incorrect budget posting
0.0	Budget Billing Credit moved/Customer off Budget
(70.51)	Should not have been charged for water
0.00	Gas Meter Credit Adjustment moved to billed account
(119.28)	Gas Meter Mis-Read for 01/01/2026 Billing
(183.75)	Remote Water Read did not pick up correctly

Motion seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

Mike Novac of RCAP was present and informed council that EPAAA will be making changes to the requirements for the PFAS testing.

Chris O'Brian, Parke County Emergency Director was present to let the council know that they are finishing up on the County Wide Hazard Mitigation update which has to be done every 5 years. Should be done by next week and a draft copy will be sent to council for their review and input.

Cyndi Todd, Partnership Parke County informed members that she is in the process of reaching out to Dustion Whalen of HWC for information on the issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in order to prepare for the OCRA Wastewater Application to be submitted later this year. In addition, she stated that they are thankful for the contributions from the town. Annual Impact report should be mailed soon.

Bruce McElheny, Sewer Operator was present to discuss with council issues he has been having at the Treatment Plant. He stated it was a ruff December with high flowing, high levels and ponding.

Assistant Fire Chief P. Atkinson stated there were 12 runs for the month of December bringing the 2025 total to 141. In addition, he informed members the department has received 2 applications for the volunteer roster. Bovair made motion to approve the applications of Dean Brown and Natalie Atterbury. Motion seconded by Thomas. All in favor except for S. Atkinson and Bartlow whom abstained from the vote. P. Atkinson also stated that there are changes coming for the Volunteer Firefighters mainly to do with reporting and training.

Nathan Gill property owner of 1 W Crawford Street and Dean Gregg property owner of 41 E Crawford Street were present to discuss parking issues in that area since Mr. Gill has opened up his restaurant. Both property owners were allowed to express their concerns and much discussion was had. Town Council President Norris stated that Town Attorney Craig is not present this evening and he would need to be contacted to find out what the law is and easement rules. Town Manager Koch spoke up to say that he thinks the best-case scenario is to have the property owners involved to include Mart Jeffery whom is another owner affected, and see if we can get everyone working together to find a resolution to the issues. More discussion was had with the matter being tabled until further investigation and information can be obtained.

Diana Bartlow, Park Board President presented council with copies of the 2025 Park Board Report and the 2025 Treasurer's Report. In addition, she stated that the Park Board is wanting to place a firebox/fireplace at the Montezuma Shelter at Aztec Park. It was stated that they would be working on a grant to cover the cost of it. Clerk Morgan to contact the insurance company to see how it would affect our coverage.

Town Manager Koch reported the following on the Utility side of things:

Crew has started work on the Eagle Scout Shelter

Brad has ordered more water parts due to low inventory
Oil has been ordered for the vac station
We would like to place road signs at the cemetery (prices to be obtained)

Atkinson made motion to adjourn seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

John Norris, Town Council President

Cathy L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer

January 29, 2026 6:00 p.m.

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Due to year end duties the January 15th meeting was postponed until January 22nd but that meeting rescheduled due to the SWP School Board meeting scheduled for the same evening. Meeting rescheduled for January 29th. 2026.

The Montezuma Town Council met in Regular Session at the Montezuma Community Center with Bovair, Norris, Atkinson, Bartlow, Clerk Treasurer, Town Attorney and Town Marshal/Town Manager present.

Dustin Whalen of HWC presented Pay App #9 for MSI Construction in the amount of $ 353,410.15 and updated council members on the status of the Water Treatment Project. In addition, Whalen presented HWC pay request-Distribution # 19 in the amount of $ 104,517.00. Bartlow made motion to approve the MSI Pay App # 9 and the HWC pay request-Distribution # 19. Motion seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

In addition, Whalen stated that there are four HWC outstanding invoices for services on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Compliance project. Bartlow made motion to approve the Invoices 4, 5, 6 & 7 in the amount of $ 94,750.00. Motion seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

Atkinson made motion to accept and approve Resolution 2026-01-01 (Adoption of the Parke County Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2026). Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Bartlow made motion to approve and accept the minutes of 12/18/2025 and 01/08/2026 as presented. Motion seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

Bartlow made motion to approve the following claims/warrants as presented:

EOM December 2025:	$	102,999.30
12/29/2026 Meeting Claims:	$	582,289.39

Motion to include Payroll Warrants for 12/23/25, 01/02/26, 01/08/26, 01/15/26, 01/22/26 & 01/29/26 in the amount of $ 67,905.23.

Motion also to include Bank Reconciliations for End of Month December 2025 as follows:

Utility:	$	3,705,702.55
Town:	$	811,537.14
Payroll:	$	2,781.31
Customer Deposit:	$	40,450.00
BNY Mellon:	$	49,294.46

Motion was seconded by Atkinson. All in favor.

Atkinson made motion to approve 1 Billing Adjustment in the amount of (358.46) for a previously approved water/sewer leak adjustment request and four water/sewer leak adjustment requests for the following accounts:

Eric Summers # 2050.00
Bruce Shoopman # 4130.03
Ellie Tallman # 6110.02
Kim Griffin # 1235.01

Motion seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

Town Council President Norris stated that he along with Councilman Bartlow, Town Manager Koch, Town Attorney Craig and property owners Mart Jeffery, Nathan Gill and Dean Gregg had met to try to come up with some kind of a solution to the parking situation on Water Street North of US 36 to Wilkison Street. Discussion was held with a proposed thought to not allow parking on Water Street from US # 36 to Wilkinson Street in order to stop the parking feud and to make it safe for everyone.

Much discussion was had on the matter. Ordinance 2026-01-02 (an ordinance restricting parking on certain portions of water street) amending MMC 4-5-2 was presented. Bartlow made motion to suspend the rules and adopt upon the 1st reading. Motion was seconded by Atkinson. All in favor. Atkinson made motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01-02 as presented. Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Nathan Gill representing S & G Excavation informed members that once the Duke Power Plant job gets going there will be quite a bit of truck traffic in and out of town on Washington Street.

Attorney Craig led discussion in regards to the Town's Investment Accounts and a Team's meeting held between himself, Clerk Morgan, Town Manager Koch and Jason Eiteljorge and Jon Royer of First Financial Bank. Discussion was had on the need for the council to decide if they want to proceed with managed investments or transition to a custody account held in the money market as it is currently. Bovair made motion to proceed with managed investments. Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor. Council President Norris and Clerk Morgan signed the Account Investment Policy Statement to be forwarded to First Financial Bank.

Penny Cox representing the Girl's Softball Association submitted their 2025 Yearly Report for council review. In addition, she submitted a check to Clerk Morgan for their 2026 yearly field fee.

Diana Barltow, Park Board reminded everyone the Annual Chili Cook-Off will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026.

Asst. Fire Chief Paul Atkinson reported 8 runs to date for the Fire Department.

Town Manager Koch presented a quote from Industrial Supply for the purchase of new street signs in the amount of $ $ 2,553.72. Bartlow made motion to allow for the purchase of the signs and to be paid for from the MVH Fund. Motion was seconded by Atkinson. All in favor except for Bovair whom abstained from the vote.

In addition, Koch informed members that the radio receivers and external antennas are in dire need of being replaced on the overhead doors at the Utility Shop building. A quote from Overhead Door was obtained in the amount of $ 2,243.00. Council in agreement for the upgrade.

Discussion was had on Community Crossing Grants and whether the council would like to apply for funding for paving. More information to be gathered.

Discussion was held in regards to investing more funds. Town Manager Koch stated that he had spoke with Clerk Morgan earlier this morning and we feel like more should be invested from the Operating Funds instead of sitting in the checking accounts where it is not drawing much if any interest!! Bovair made motion for more to be invested from the Electric Operating, Gas Operating, Water Operating and Customer Deposit E-G-W Funds. Transfers to be made as follows:

Electric Operating:	$ 850,000.00
Gas Operating:	$ 300,000.00
Water Operating;	$ 60,000.00
Customer Deposit E-G-W:	$ 5,000.00 each fund

Town Marshal Koch reported the following on the Town side:
Statistics:
21 Calls for Service
2 Felony Arrests
0 Misdemeanor Arrests
0 Citations
2 Warnings

In addition, he informed members that he and Darian will be attending the IDEA Conference in Indianapolis February 18th to February 20th.

Councilwoman Bovair stated that she would like to see some kind of barrier put around the Fire Hydrant at the corner of Water Street and Crawford Street due to the increased traffic in that area. Asst. Fire Chief P. Atkinson stated that would be a good idea but needs to be installed so that the Fire Dept. can easily have access to it with the hoses.

Discussion was had on updating the Town's Floodplain Ordinance to be in compliance with the updated Firm's. More info to be gathered.

Town Attorney Craig led discussion on the information he had obtained from Ron Regan of UGM. It was stated that Panhandle has appealed the decision on the rate increase refund. The decision is between FERC and Panhandle. Mr. Regan wants to file an "amicus brief" in support of FERC in agreement of the decision. Our share of that filing would be approximately $ 4,000.00 to $ 5,000.00. He is needing a decision by February 12th. Bovair made motion for the town to be a part of the filing. Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Atkinson made motion to adjourn seconded by Bovair. All in favor.

John Norris

John Norris, Town Council President

Cathy L. Morgan

Cathy L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer