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

February 19, 2026 6:00 p.m.

The meeting of the Montezuma Town Council Meeting is being livestreamed and will be available for viewing at www.youtube.com@Town of Montezuma. 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 Regular Session at the Montezuma Community Center with Atkinson, Norris, Thomas, Bartlow, Clerk Treasurer and Town Attorney present.

Thomas made motion to approve and accept the minutes of 01/29/26 as presented. Motion seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Bartlow made motion to approve the following as presented.

EOM Claims January 2026:	$	8,999.76
MSI/BNY EOM January 2026:	$	395,072.00
02/19/26 Meeting Claims:	$	438,647.66
02/19/26 Industrial Supply Claim:	$	5,325.78
Sandusky/Ace Hardware APV Corr.	$	188.61

Motion to include Payroll Warrants for 02/05/265, 02/12/26 and 02/19/26 in the amount of $ 31,812.66.

Motion also to include Bank Reconciliations for End of Month January 2026 as follows:

Utility:	$	3,549,318.68
Town:	$	810,367.44
Payroll:	$	2,845.98
Customer Deposit:	$	40,540.00
BNY Mellon:	$	34,783.92

Motion was seconded by Thomas. All in favor.

Atkinson made motion to approve 1 Water/Sewer Leak Adjustment request for Account # 6160.01/Paul & Helen Meyers. Motion also to include 5 billing adjustments in the following amounts.

(990.42)	Gas meter read incorrectly for 02/01/26 billing
0.00	Credit moved from customer old account to new acct.
(682.96)	Prev.app. W/S leak adj/1021.01 CREDIT adj.
(65.15)	Previously approved leak adjustment
(1,724.88)	Previously approved leak adjustments

Motion seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Thomas made motion to approve the Annual RD Budget for 2026 and the Annual RD reporting schedules for 2025. Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Bartlow made motion to hire Larry Tippin, CPA to bring our Capital Assets reporting into SBOA compliance for $ 75.00 per hour not to exceed $ 5,000.00 unless mutually agreed. Motion was seconded by Thomas. All in favor.

Atkinson made motion to allow for a $ 350.00 donation to the Montezuma Boy's Baseball League to be paid from Electric Operating and Gas Operating. Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Doug Dreher of Epic Insurance was present and presented council members with information on the 2026/2027 renewal premium for the Commercial Package Insurance. The renewal fee is approximately $ 80,388.00. Discussion was had on the Replacement Costs for the Emergency Response Vehicles. It was decided to revise at a slightly higher RC. A motion was made by Atkinson to accept the premium as stated with the additional RC costs to be added once that info is obtained. Motion was seconded by Bartlow. All in favor.

Bartlow made motion to approve MSI Construction Pay Application # 10 in the amount of $ 950,078.73. Motion seconded by Thomas. All in favor.

Dustin Whalen, HWC presented Change Order # 4 for the New Water Treatment Facility Project in the amount of $ 9,341.00. Whalen discussed with members what the change order entailed. Atkinson made motion to approve Change Order # 4 in the amount of $ 9,341.00 seconded by Thomas. All in favor.

Whalen updated members on the status of the Wastewater Improvement project. It was stated they are still working on the design-once completed will be getting with Bruce, Sewer Operator to discuss in depth.

Assistant Fire Chief P. Atkinson report 13 runs so far for February bringing the yearly total to 21.

Mike Novac, RCAP presented council with a work plan for the year and stated that the major thing happened last year is that the IURC passed new legislature that will require everyone to have an Asset Management Plan in place in order to go after funding. Novac stated the form will not be out until March and the "Final" won't be due until 2030. In addition, he stated that Rural Development now requires board training.

Bruce McElheny, Sewer Operator informed members that he has been having blower issues—kept losing bearings. During testing it was found that relief valves were intermittingly sticking. Back on track now.

Diana Bartlow, Park Board President stated the final draft of the 5-year Park Master Plan will be due to DNR by 11.25.26.

Rick Patton, owner of several rental properties in town was present inquiring about how the Town's Mobile Home Ordinance worked. He stated that he had bought a mobile home that is a 2015. Much discussion was had with Town Attorney researching the ordinance and further investigating stated that the age of the trailer goes by the title. Town Attorney Craig and council members were in agreement that the mobile home would not be in compliance with the mobile home ordinance since it is older than the 10-year allowance.

Councilman Thomas stated that new State Legislature presented that would force the consolidation of townships. Discussion was had on the matter. Town Attorney stated that probably wouldn't happen until 2029

Councilman Bartlow stated that he had received a complaint in regards to the property located at Water Street/Market Street.

Council President Norris stated that he had tried to obtain more quotes for an Electric Rate Study but had contacted three outfits in Indy and when told how many meters we had he was told that they were not interested. Norris stated that Crone, Jared Hall would do for $ 5,000.00. Town Attorney Craig stated that it would be a good thing to have a 5-year plan worked into the study.

Attorney Craig stated that he had been talking with Ron Regan of UGM in regards to the discount gas program and would be consulting with bond lawyers to make sure that program would not interfere with future bond needs.

Attorney Craig presented the agreement with Oriden for the easement use for $ 2,500.00 for Council President Norris's signature.

In addition, Craig stated that he is working on the draft for the Floodplain Ordinance changes that need to be made. DNR needs the draft by March 13th for review.

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

John Norris

John Norris, Town Council President

Cathy L. Morgan

Cathy L. Morgan, Clerk Treasurer