

THE CITY OF MOMENCE

MOMENCE, ILLINOIS 60954

CHARLES STEELE, Jr., Mayor
AMBER LUPE, Clerk
N/A, Treasurer

ALDERMEN:
Melissa Collett Doody Tanya Fordahl
Bonnie Straley David Cook
Josh Anderson Tom Temple
Mike Hart Mark Lesyna

MOMENCE CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, September 08, 2026 Council Meeting

Time: 7:30 P.M.

The City Council Meeting of the City of Momence was held in the Council Chambers at 29 North Dixie Highway, Momence.

ROLL CALL-

Roll was called by the Clerk with Aldermen Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl, Cook, Temple and Lesyna present.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES-

Alderman Straley made motion to approve the minutes. Alderman Cook seconded the motion with Aldermen Doody, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl, Temple and Lesyna voting yes.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS-

Alderman Straley made motion to approve the bills as presented. Alderman Lesyna seconded the motion with Aldermen Doody, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl and Temple voting yes. Alderman Cook passed.

CITIZENS FORUMS-

Tim Navatril

Discussed parking at the Post Office. According to Navatril, the Postmaster asked him to drop off a letter pertaining to "No Parking/10-Minute Parking Only" designation for postal customers. According to him, they are requesting 2 or 3 spots due to difficulty getting into the post office. Navatril claimed the problem is when the bar across the street is doing lunch and customers are using that area to park rather than the other street. He also noted he would like to see handicap parking where the ramp is because that spot is always taken from the other restaurants on Locust. Mayor Steele discussed any parking issues we have requires us to pass an ordinance regulating it if council chooses to do so. This would be given to Alderman Lesyna. Mayor Steele also noted there is very limited parking downtown and every business struggles with this. Discussion was had between Alderman Lesyna and Navatril in regards to how many spots as well as postal hours being 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. and it would not apply after hours. Chief Siemsen agreed there is an issue there but requested time to research it. Mayor Steele reminded Navatril that Mayor does not have a vote and council has the paperwork and will take this into consideration.

Lorelli and Shawn Bennet

Lorelli was unable to attend. The couple is looking to put up a fence. Shawn provided proposal A in front of Plan Commission Board. Discussion took place and no significant resolution took place according to notes.

The fence was disputed by neighbors (Reams). Tonight Shawn Bennet provided proposal B to the council as well as photos. Bennet discussed what his aspirations are and also discussed he wanted this for peace and security and to stop foot traffic and golf carts going through the yard he takes care of. He did also note prior to them owning the house, the front door was moved to face Market Street from Fourth Street. There is evidence where the door used to be. According to Bennet, Matt Cousin discussed if the door did face Fourth street than it is a matter of just a permit. Mayor Steele asked, "Is this a different option than what you presented at the Plan Commission Board meeting?" Bennet discussed that this plan b was not presented. Mayor Steele believes this need to go back in front of Plan Commission Board as a revised option. Alderman Anderson explained the only matters able to be discussed tonight are what was in the original plan and what was recommended by Plan Commission Board. The neighbor of Bennet was present and objected to different facets of conversation. Clerk Amber Lupe discussed reaching out to assist in the Variance process and providing another Plan Commission meeting date.

OLD BUSINESS-

Nothing for old business.

ALDERMANIC-

Alderman Anderson- August 27, 2026 there was a Plan Commission Board meeting for two variances. 210 Spruce Street requesting a 14x20 shed. 5 ft off property rather than 10ft. It was recommended by the planning and zoning board to go ahead and move forward with letting him put the shed on property. Alderman Cook made a motion to approve. Alderman Fordahl seconded the motion with Aldermen Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart, Temple and Lesyna voting yes.

The next Variance was for 327 West 4th Street. This was disputed by the neighbors. Discussion took place with no resolution at that time. There was a motion to not recommend as is to council. It was recommended to the Benetts to maybe come up with a different proposal to bring to Plan Commission Board and see what we can do with that. Recommendation is to not on current proposal. Alderman Straley made a motion to table this issue until it goes back to Plan Commission Board. Alderman Cook seconded the motion with Aldermen Doody, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl, Temple and Lesyna voting yes.

Alderman Straley- Called a budget and finance meeting at 7:15 P.M. before the next council meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEADS-

CHIEF OF POLICE (Patrick Siemsen)-

- Discussed Stats from last month.

- Participating in "Blue Envelope Program" – program is designed to allow autistic/disabled motorists to safely and more effectively engage with law enforcement. No cost for this program. Envelopes will be available at City Hall, Police Department and the Library. Discussion had about the Police Department posting a video promoting this program.

- 457 Plan for all city employees. (No cost for city to participate) Nationwide to be the provider. An Ordinance will be need to be passed for this.

- Conducted body-worn camera training.

- Waiting on final date of contract.

*An ordinance has been created and will be sent out prior to next meeting in regards to 457.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (Eric Vela)-

- Ground down a lot of unintentional speed bumps in town.

- Sewer project is moving, but slowly. Took over getting water out of hole to continue moving forward. The

hole is empty now and things will be starting back up again this week. Quote for dewatering for next 3 months was \$750,000 and we got it accomplished for \$15,000 a month roughly.

-Water tower is still holding water. We are waiting on the inspection report to come back from that. (North tower)

CITY COLLECTOR (Bobbie Munyon)-

-Training for Tyler Tech will be starting back up this week. Instead of closing city hall down from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. we are going to do a morning training than next day afternoon and rotate it.

-Thanked everyone for their help.

TREASURER REPORT-

Do not have Treasurer at the moment.

MAYORAL REPORT –

-Called Bobbie Munyon forward to take her Oath of office for the Collectors position.

-Read Glad Fest letter thanking the City of Momence.

-City of Momence Host Agreement (Republic) The original one was not a legal host agreement. They refused to negotiate the host agreement originally. We went into a contract with no expiration, and claimed it was not real and they do not have to pay us anything. They did come up with a host agreement finally and increased it slightly. Valid long term and cannot go beyond 30 years. Mayor Steele stated, “We need a motion to accept this.” Alderman Cook made a motion to approve. Alderman Lesyna seconded the motion with Aldermen Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl and Temple voting yes.

Mayor Steele stated, “We have some items for executive session regarding personnel possibly to come out and do business but other will not be brought up to do business. We need a motion to go into executive session regarding possible litigation and employment compensation.” Alderman Straley stated, “So Moved.” Alderman Doody seconded the motion with Aldermen Anderson, Hart, Fordahl, Cook, Temple and Lesyna voting yes.

Council went into Executive at 8:05 P.M.

Council came out of executive to open at 8:43 P.M.

Alderman Straley made a motion to Adjourn. Doody stated, “All in.” All Aldermen voted yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Lupe, City Clerk

