

THE CITY OF MOMENCE

Momence, IL 60954

ALDERMEN

CHARLES E. STEELE, JR., Mayor

AMBER LUPE, City Clerk

Melissa Collett-Doody

Bonnie Straley

Josh Anderson

Mike Hart

Tanya Fordahl

David Cook

Tom Temple

Mark Lesyna

MOMENCE CITY COUNCIL

Monday, May 18, 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 and Lesyna present. Tom Temple was Absent.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES-

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

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS-

Alderman Bonnie Straley made motion to approve the bills for payment. Alderman David Cook seconded the motion with Aldermen Doody, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

CITIZENS FORUMS-

John Denton (Momence Chamber of Commerce)

Approved for Street Closures (East Washington) Cruise Nights 4pm-8pm. Event starting at 5pm. June 9th, June 23rd, July 14th, July 28th, August 11th, August 25th and a rain date of September 8th. Production of Annie is July 17th-19th and if needed can move to West Washington during that time. Alderman Cook made a motion to approve. Alderman Doody seconded the motion with Straley, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Public Information Specialist

Anna Nunez (Houston, Texas) came and spoke on behalf of SBA (U.S. Small Business Administration). She discussed the March 10, 2026 storm and tornado damage and the different types of disaster loans that are available for long term, low interest. SBA issued a Disaster Declaration in response to a request received by the Governor. Homeowners, renters, private nonprofits and businesses all qualify. Nunez discussed that these loans can assist people getting back on feet as well as making property improvements that eliminate future damage and save lives. Some loans will assist with non-physical damage; meaning if the disaster did not occur

you would have been able to pay. According to Nunez, some of those non-physical damages include not making payroll, rent, utilities or other fixed debt. Survivors can apply for the physical damage loans through June 8, 2026 and Economic injury loans until January 11, 2027. Mayor Steele requested literature to be left in City Hall. Aldermen Fordahl did provide city Email to try and post all literature in the City App.

OLD BUSINESS-

Nothing for old business.

ALDERMANIC-

Alderman Straley discussed the Appropriations ordinance which has been posted and can be voted on the first meeting in June. Alderman Straley also requested budgets from all department heads as soon as possible. Alderman Straley also requested a budget and finance meeting for June 1st, 2026 at 7:15pm. Lastly, Alderman Straley discussed having a council computer at the City Hall building for all Council to use. It will be secure with individual emails and passwords. This computer could be used for council business such as printing ordinances or agendas and etc.. There will also be a 4 drawer file cabinet at City Hall for Aldermen to leave items rather than bringing them every week. First Drawer Ward 1, second Ward 2, third Ward 3 and forth Ward 4.

Alderman Anderson stated Chief needs an Executive session for contractual. Alderman Anderson also stated they did ground breaking ceremony at sewer plant.

DEPARTMENT HEADS-

Eric Vela- Vela started by repeating on what Alderman Anderson discussed, we did have a ground breaking ceremony for the sewer plant. They will actually be ground breaking the beginning of the month. They are getting the last of equipment here currently. Vela also discussed newsletters that will be going out due to blasts of dynamite.

Secondly, Vela discussed the whole water department was here yesterday. They were here 10 hours due to a massive water leak. However, they were able to get it slowed down and will be finishing up this week and putting a valve in. Vela also made council aware houses were affected with pressure issues if anyone reached out. The location was at Franklin and Water St. near the sewer plant

Next, Vela discussed the 2nd street project being underway. They are currently doing a couple sewer projects and water lines. Ford and Sons will be starting sidewalks this week. He believes they will be starting 2nd street in June, but might wait until after Gladfest. Alderman Anderson asked about golf carts on 2nd due to no sidewalks, however Chief Siemsen made it clear when they register they get a copy of the rules. Chief will also post a reminder on Facebook.

Lastly, Vela discussed as of today all overgrown lawns have been tended to. Chief Siemsen and Vela worked closely on this and found a company that is doing this fairly cheap. Chief discussed Baker and Taylor was in bankruptcy and had an attorney and passed it to another. This matter is still in limbo as they have not been responsive. If no contact is made soon Chief will reach out to Momence City Attorney Jacqueline Agee to assist in this matter. Alderman Anderson asked about how to recoup some of the money, Chief did make council aware they will be keeping invoices. Vela mentioned he had guys staying over for overtime, but it was not feasible with wear and tear on equipment as well as overtime vs hiring out. Chief mentioned is was \$50 for a house Baker an Taylor was \$800 due to it being overgrown, but upkeep weekly will be \$600.

Alderman Hart did have a question about 2nd street. He expressed concern if this project is pushed until after Gladfest we are running into school starting and it is the main route for the whole school district. Vela did

make mention that it was a concern and county was working the road, they are pushing to get it done with their contractor in June.

Tina Demack- Demack discussed she is still in training and requesting to close City Hall Thursday for a couple hours again. They are doing live training and mentioned part of the system will go live at the end of June. Next week will consist of financials, human resources and payroll information. Demack also stated "Bobbie is catching on quickly and relieving a lot of stress so they can train."

CHIEF OF POLICE (Patrick Siemsen)-

Chief Siemsen did provide a hard copy council report. Chief opened discussing Momence Police Department April Statistics. Some items on the council report he discussed were union negotiations being tomorrow 5/19/2026, they continue to seek out and remediate ordinance violations and still experiencing some solicitor issues. Chief Siemsen also indicated the department still has different open active investigations around town. Chief also discussed recruit Chris Sanchez is doing well and progressing in training. He also remarked that Carmen Arroyo is progressing and still scheduled to graduate on time (7/11/2026). The last two bullets items he made mention of is one officer will be going down to part time and he will need to replace that spot and disposal of items in the evidence room still continues. Lastly, he requested Executive session tonight to discuss personnel.

TREASURER REPORT-

Bobbie Munyon Absent, nothing to report.

MAYORAL REPORT –

Mayor Steele discussed Resolution #226 Intermittent Road Closures for IDOT due to 3 Parades. Alderman Cook made a motion to approve road closures. Alderman Doody seconded the motion with Straley, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Secondly, the Mayor discussed Clerk Lupe being an authorized signer on all accounts. Alderman Cook made a motion to approve Clerk Lupe being an authorized signer on all accounts. Alderman Doody seconded the motion with Straley, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Lastly, the Mayor discussed sidewalk dinning permits for Momence Café from May 10, 2026- October 21, 2026. Alderman Cook made a motion to approve outdoor dining for Momence Café from May 10, 2026- October 21, 2026. Alderman Anderson seconded the motion with Doody, Straley, Hart, Fordahl and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Mayor Steele also requested Executive session regarding employment compensation of specific employees of the public body as well as to discuss contractual for our water tower, not to come out and do business today. Mayor Steele did confirm with Alderman Anderson they will be going into Executive session to discuss contractual. Mayor Steele did request Eric Vela to stay.

Alderman Cook made a motion to go into Executive session. Alderman Fordahl seconded the motion with Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Council went into Executive at 8:16pm.

Council came out of executive to open at 8:34pm

ROLL CALL-

Roll was called by the Clerk with Aldermen Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart, Fordahl, Cook and Lesyna present. Tom Temple was Absent. Mayor Steele and City Attorney Jacqueline Agee and Police Chief Patrick Siemsen also present.

Alderman Cook made a motion to go in to executive session to discuss contractual and employment of a specific public body to come out and do business. Council stated they want to go into executive session to do business. Alderman Fordahl seconded the motion with Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart and Lesyna. Tom Temple was Absent.

Alderman Cook made a motion to go into Executive session. Alderman Fordahl seconded the motion with Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Council went back into Executive session at 8:36pm

Council came out of executive to open at 9:43pm

Alderman Cook made a motion to allow the chief to hire the officer who he wants to hire and to determine what salary that person will receive based on the union contract levels. Alderman Fordahl seconded the motion with Doody, Straley, Anderson, Hart and Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Alderman Cook made motion to adjourn. Alderman Fordahl seconded the motion with Straley, Anderson, Hart, Cook Lesyna voting yes. Tom Temple was Absent.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Lupe, City Clerk