

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting – July 15, 2026 -- 6:30 p.m.**  
**Town Council Chamber – Montville Town Hall**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comments by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville Town Council Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced.**

**1. Call to order.**

Chairperson Stone called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**3. Roll Call.**

Present were Chairperson Rocky Stone and Commissioners William Bauer, Jon Chase, John Plikus and Deborah Schober. Absent were Vice-Chair William Barlow, Mary Hillman and Morgan Matthewson. A quorum was present.

Also present were Recreation Director Peter Bushway, Town Council Liaison Kate Southard and Mayor Lenny Bunnell.

**4. Alternations to the Agenda -- None**

**5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the Agenda (3-minute limit).**

Chairperson Stone asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

**6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve.**

- a. Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2026.—No action

**7. Recreation Director's Report for July 2026.**

Recreation Director Bushway reported on Department activities as follows:

- Meetings are held on Mondays with Public Works and discussion was had concerning the bathrooms at Fair Oaks.
- Summer Camp was held at Murphy School for the first two (2) weeks, but have transitioned to Camp Oakdale, having survived the rain.
- The first summer concert was held last week; a decision will be made by noon tomorrow concerning the scheduled concert due to a high advisory from the State. One (1) extra day for a concert is scheduled for August for a cancellation.
- Bids for the pickleball/tennis courts have gone out and are scheduled for opening on August 12. The bid notice was posted on Monday per Chairperson Stone. The plans for this project were received this afternoon by the Recreation Director that he will discuss with the Chairperson as there is no designated parking nor where permanent parking will be located. There is the potential for using the robot for

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mapping parking lines for the Farmers Market up to paved handicap spots. Cones will be used as a deterrent for concerts regarding parking. Chairperson Stone commented on the plan for what is potentially phase 1 of this project and copies were available for review by the Commission. He mentioned a small, paved area at the entrance, screening for the bathrooms, planters in front of the pavilion, removing and leveling blacktop for cornhole, and determining designated parking. This phase will take care of drainage issues. Low cost improvements such as the temporary placement of boulders to keep people from driving into the barbecue area and planting trees were proposed by Commissioner Chase. Recreation Director Bushway noted that both sides of the pavilion is used by the Farmers Market and the CLA plan takes note of it. A winter bid is being sought for the main parking lot with submissions to Inland Wetlands and Planning & Zoning to take advantage of mid-June through the third week in July when there is less cars and activities.

- The makeup date for the fireworks is August 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. in conjunction with National Night Out by the Police Department.

**8. Report from Finance.**

Recreation Director Bushway reported that there are no concerns and noted that the financial report appeared to be for year-end FY 2026. As for the first month of the new fiscal year, he reported that there were no major purchases and the 4-5 weeks of pay in July in addition to the two (2) weeks in June. He also responded to the Chairperson that \$30,000 for Camp Oakdale will not be expensed having noted the spending freeze. The Recreation Director was not sure if the \$10,000 cost to Public Works for electrical work had been expensed but he would check with Patrick on the same. He added that the \$6,000 for the carnival and the funds for dance/gymnastics will be expensed in July.

**9. August Newsletter.**

Recreation Director Bushway reported that the August newsletter was in draft form stating that there is no information regarding regular programs date that will be obtained next week and adjustments made accordingly. Information about the National Night Out and its logo are included. During the fireworks on that night, the Fire Department will be present on the field with water packs. The Recreation Director also confirmed that information regarding the race will be included in the newsletter as questioned by Town Councilor Southard.

**10. Unfinished Business.**

Chairperson Stone reported on unfinished business as follows:

- a. Projects and funding status:
  - 1) Pickleball Parking Improvements (\$175,000 State Bond)

This project will go out to bid.

- 2) Large Pavilion Phase 1 Parking Improvements (\$200,000 State Bond)

This project is close and have plans have been given to the Commission for review.

- 3) Pickleball Camera Project (\$26,250 CIP Budget)

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Recreation Director Bushway reported that Public Works is trying to purchase a pole for the electrical conduit. Town Councilor Southard reported that there is an issue regarding the wiring and internet access.

- 4) Pickleball privacy screen (approved up to \$2,500 from Fund #079)

Recreation Director Bushway reported the pickleball privacy screen will arrive on July 24<sup>th</sup> and will be installed quickly.

- 5) Camp Oakdale Parking Improvements (\$1,150,000 CIF Grant)

Chairperson Stone reported about work on the plans discussed earlier.

- 6) Carnival Committee

Chairperson Stone reported that proceeds from the carnival was \$6,000, the best to date. He commented on a few issues—not leaving enough room between the food trucks and picnic tables were moved into the center where the food trucks were. Work may be done to get more picnic tables. Recreation Director Bushway reported that two (2) tables were taken from the field.

- 7) Community Center Discussions

Chairperson Stone reported on the wait for the new building committee to commence.

11. **New Business.** -- None

12. **Communications.** -- None

13. **Remarks from the Public (3-minute limit).**

Chairperson Stone asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

14. **Remarks from Town Council Liaison Southard.**

Town Councilor Southard reported on damage that occurred at the large pavilion; someone poured hot oil onto the grass. The incident is believed to have occurred Sunday night two (2) weeks ago. There is not a sign on display for this offense. Per a question by Chairperson Stone, Recreation Director Bushway reported that the responsible individuals have been identified and flagged as they are frequent renters. Calls have made to the home but have not been answered.

15. **Remarks from Parks & Recreation Director Bushway.** -- None

16. **Remarks from Commissioners.**

Commissioner Chase apologized for being a few minutes late but noted his presence confirmed a quorum. Commissioner Schober thanked Recreation Director Bushway for acting so quickly about the hornets at the pickleball court.

17. **Adjournment.**

**Motion** by Commissioner Bauer; seconded by Commissioner Plikus to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: all in favor. Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers

Recording Secretary Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON  
THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WEBSITE UNDER THE “RESOURCES” LINK.**