

Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
September 22, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Frentzel opened the regular meeting of Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Council members present: Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Christina McElfresh (remotely), Todd Hickman (remotely), and Robert Routson.

Mr. Funk moved to excuse Mr. Callahan and Mrs. Hale; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Funk moved to approve the Council minutes of September 8, 2020; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Linda Tucker addressed Council with concerns that all citizens should be treated with respect, residents need to be more involved, and hate has no home in our community.

Kara Brown addressed Council on the insensitive comments made by Council member Callahan during a July Council meeting and his unprofessionalism as a Council member.

Mayor Frentzel asked for Law Director Callahan's opinion on this matter. Law Director Callahan advised that the comments made by Council member Callahan do not meet the reasons for his removal by other members of Council pursuant to the Charter. He noted there is a recall procedure in the Ohio Revised Code that residents can follow.

Mr. Routson pointed out that not only were there comments made between Council members during the meetings, but there were a few Council members that were emailing back and forth the same message and a public records request can be made to see how others feel.

Katie Wagner addressed Council with concerns that Council member Callahan has not remained partial with religious freedom. She read a statement of "We are more than 1% and we are mobilizing to affect change in our community" on behalf of several people.

Maria Fezell addressed Council on her disappointment in a member of Council's comments and his lack of recognition and apology.

Kristen Carlson read a statement on behalf of Ahdlai Ratliff asking City Council if their priorities are for the people or the image of Monroe.

Mrs. Wasson advised that Mrs. McElfresh had forwarded an email with a request that it be read into the record this evening. Hearing no objections, Mrs. Wasson read the following:

“Hi Christina,

Thank you so much for offering to read my letter at the next city council meeting. I truly appreciate your desire to serve, and your efforts to help our voices be heard. Thank you for being bold enough to speak on our behalf. Would you please share the following at the next council meeting? Thank you!

Council,

I'd like to start by thanking you for your service to our community. I believe each of you accepted the call to serve out of a desire to positively impact our community. That being said, I am grieved by the lack of response to Mr. Callahan's behavior and, subsequently, toward the families of our community and beyond. While I recognize most of you have voiced your disagreement with Mr. Callahan, no action has been taken. During the meeting on September 8, letters and emails from the community were read and several specifically called for action from the council. It was met with, for the most part, silence. A lack of response and action is equivalent to bidding Godspeed. Who will take a stand for those who are marginalized? We are more than one percent, and we're mobilizing to affect change in our community.

Respectfully,

Lynette Musgrave
Monroe Resident”

Committee Reports

None.

Old Business

Resolution No. 63-2020. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and Fishbeck for professional engineering services to perform a Risk and Resiliency Assessment for the City's public water system. (Second Reading)

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 63-2020 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 63-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 63-2020; seconded by Mr. Routson. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 64-2020. A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock requested that Resolution No. 64-2020 be adopted as an emergency on the second reading to meet the filing deadline of the County.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Resolution No. 64-2020 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the second reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion Carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 64-2020 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 64-2020; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Ordinance No. 2020-28. An Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 2020-25, otherwise known as the permanent appropriations ordinance, to meet current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Monroe during fiscal year ending December 31, 2020.

Mr. Brock reported this amends the appropriations ordinance and includes the lifting of the wage freeze and amounts negotiated in the contracts.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 2020-28 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2020-28 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2020-28; seconded by Mr. Routson. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$77,532.00 to Stoops Freightliner for a cab and chassis and \$72,573.00 to Henderson Products, Inc. for the bed, plow, spreader, and other appurtenances for the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Brock advised that the expenditure was originally budgeted for \$195,000 and the total cost is \$150,105.00.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$77,532.00 to Stoops Freightliner for a cab and chassis and \$72,573.00 to Henderson Products, Inc. for the bed, plow, spreader, and other appurtenances for the Department of Public Works; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion to schedule a special meeting of Council for a retreat on October 10, 2020, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Hickman asked if participation can be remote and the total cost of the retreat. Mr. Brock replied that participation can be remote and the cost is \$5,000 for the consultant plus the cost of food if it lasts past lunch.

In response to Mr. Hickman's inquiry of not holding this at the City Building, Mr. Brock explained that we wanted to have the retreat off-site to take everyone away from any distractions and it will be held in the Monroe Community Room. Mr. Hickman is not in favor of spending \$5,000 on a retreat as there may be a possibility of four members of Council that participate remotely. It could be just three members attending in-person.

Mr. Funk moved to schedule a special meeting of Council for a retreat on October 10, 2020, beginning at 8:00 a.m.; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Routson moved to hold Trick-or-Treat on Halloween as long as the citizens follow the guidelines set by the County Health Department; seconded by Mr. Funk.

Discussion

Mayor Frentzel and Law Director Callahan clarified that the date was previously set by Council to always hold it on Halloween; however, Mr. Routson's motion included that citizens follow the guidelines set by the County Health Department

Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

- **Executive Session.** To consider confidential information related to marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance.

Mr. Funk moved to adjourn into executive session to consider confidential information related to marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance; seconded by Mr. Routson. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into executive session at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. Funk moved to reconvene into regular session; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Council reconvened into regular session at 7:58 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Funk moved to adjourn the regular meeting of Council; seconded by Mr. Routson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council