

Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
February 24, 2015 – 6:30 pm
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Rubin opened the regular meeting of Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call

The following members of Council were present: Dan Clark, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, Suzi Rubin, and Lora Stillman.

Staff members present: City Manager/City Engineer William J. Brock
 Law Director K. Philip Callahan
 Director of Finance Kacey L. Waggaman
 Assistant Fire Chief Richard Mascarella
 Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk of Council Angela S. Wasson

Mrs. Hale moved to excuse Mr. Black and Mayor Routson; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Hale moved to approve the Public Involvement Committee and Council Minutes of February 10, 2015; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Chris Miller and Greg Dunn of Ice Miller spoke to Council about Wi-Fi throughout the City. Mr. Dunn advised that the City should first look at fiber optic first and then expand out. As an example, the City of Dublin has 96 fibers (over 100 miles) connected to every data center in Dublin and it is the backbone of their Wi-Fi network. Dublin invested approximately \$5 million into this and it has yielded great economic development benefit. Another example is the City of Gahanna that extended fiber by putting it in as they added, repaired, and expanded roads without a lot of investment.

Mr. Clark stated that he read about different towns in an attempt to compete with private companies and some states have banned this.

Mr. Dunn confirmed that Ohio has no prohibition in doing this. What cities are good at is infrastructure, but have trouble with fast moving technology and hiring high-priced personnel to manage and operate it. It is hard to develop a model that works on a residential level and has usually been successful with communities that have their own electric facilities. It is also

successful with larger businesses and a relationship with organizations such as the CIC. If handled correctly, a fiber optic network is a good idea for a city; especially for economic development. Once you install a fiber optic network you can then look at Wi-Fi throughout the city. The City of Dublin has approximately \$35,000 per month revenue just leasing to telecommunication companies.

Mr. Clark asked what steps are necessary to accomplish this. Mr. Dunn advised that you look at what assets you have and other available assets. You want to connect to a data center as that is what businesses are moving to. The businesses can then connect to the data center.

Old Business

Resolution No. 06-2015. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a utilization agreement by and between the City of Monroe and the Monroe Lions Club for the artillery school at Monroe Community Park.

Mrs. Hale moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 06-2015 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 06-2015 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Resolution No. 06-2015; seconded by Mrs. Stillman. Roll call vote: four ayes; 1 abstention (Clark). Motion carried.

Resolution No. 07-2015. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a utilization agreement by and between the City of Monroe and the Monroe Lions Club for the Easter Egg Hunt at Monroe Community Park.

Mrs. Hale moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 07-2015 and have it read by title only.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 07-2015 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Resolution No. 07-2015; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: four ayes; 1 abstention (Clark). Motion carried.

Resolution No. 08-2015. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into utilization agreement by and between the City of Monroe and the Monroe Historical Society for the Cruise-In at the Cabin at Monroe Community Park.

Mrs. Hale moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 08-2015 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 08-2015 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-2015; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Emergency Resolution No. 09-2015. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and Dalene M. Pride for the auditing of certain Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles records related to the Motor Vehicle License Tax and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Hale moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 09-2015 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 09-2015 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 09-2015; seconded by Mrs. Stillman. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$10,000 to REDI Cincinnati for Director Membership.

As a follow up to the presentation by REDI at the last meeting of Council, Mr. Brock recommended that Council join at a Director Membership level. He was not sure if it was for a rolling 12 month period or would be prorated.

Mr. Hickman pointed out that Liberty Township is on the Ambassador Level for \$5,000 and have a large project in process. He added that Warren County spends \$100,000 per year for REDI and Warren County represents the City of Monroe as well. Mr. Hickman preferred to spend \$5,000 for membership and not \$10,000.

Mrs. Stillman noted that we did not have any power positions within Butler County and felt that is why West Chester Township and Liberty Township draw in businesses, as well as, the fact that they are townships.

Jennifer Patterson explained that the difference in the level of membership is the research capabilities and the ability to join them on trips. Some of the communities that have a lower cost membership do not have the industrial land like Monroe and REDI deals with industrial property and not retail.

Mrs. Stillman requested a report at the end of the year to show the benefits of spending the \$10,000 for this membership.

Mr. Hickman found it hard to believe we are having this much trouble marketing the land and felt Monroe should join for \$5,000.

No Council action was taken on this motion.

Consideration of Motion accepting the December 2014 Finance Reports.

Mrs. Hale move to accept the December 2014 Finance Reports; seconded by Mr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Hickman reported that the Public Involvement Committee met about the Bicentennial to be held in 2017 and consideration is being given on holding the celebration from a Thursday to Sunday. Mrs. Rubin announced that the next meeting is April 27th at 5:30 in the Community Room on East Avenue.

Mr. Brock advised that consideration is being given to move the fireworks on the hill and it will help expand the use of the actual event to the back of the park. There have been issues of not being able to use the back portion of the park.

Assistant Chief Mascarella explained that moving it on the hill will reduce the size of the shells to 5 inches as opposed to 6 inches. A 5 inch shell will go about 90 feet in the air with a fall out about 350 feet. After the show you have to account for all of the shells.

Mr. Clark reported the fireworks will go from 10 to 10:20 and the band will begin playing after the fireworks in an effort to have people stay in the park and help with traffic. Mr. Clark noted that the Monroe Lions Club hopes to move the parade to earlier in the day, but that will depend on the Monroe High School Band's availability.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hale moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Hickman.

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, CMC
Clerk of Council