

**Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
March 10, 2015 – 6:30 pm
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio**

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

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

Staff members present:

- City Manager/City Engineer William J. Brock
- Law Director K. Philip Callahan
- Chief of Police Robert Buchanan
- Fire Chief John P. Centers
- Director of Finance Kacey L. Waggaman
- Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk of Council Angela S. Wasson

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Rubin moved to approve the Finance Committee and Council Minutes of February 24, 2015; seconded by Mrs. Stillman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Emergency Ordinance No. 2015-03. An Ordinance to authorize the transfer of the amounts described herein from the General Fund to the Police Law Enforcement Fund, Fire-1989 Levy Fund, Street Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, S. A. Street Lighting Fund, and G.O. Bond Retirement Fund; and from the 2004 RID Fund to the G. O. Bond Retirement Fund, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock noted that these are the required transfers for 2014.

Mrs. Rubin moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2015-03 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 Ordinance No. 2015-03 by title only.

Mrs. Rubin moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2015-03; seconded by Mrs. Stillman. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2015-04. An Ordinance, otherwise known as the appropriations ordinance, amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 2014-40, to meet current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Monroe, during fiscal year ending December 31, 2015.

Mr. Brock referred Council to the comparison between the temporary and permanent appropriations prepared by Mrs. Waggaman. There were funds moved around, but not increased, to separate the IT services and an increase in the economic development personnel costs because benefits were not included in the temporary ordinance. The comparison reflects the capital improvement items as well.

Mrs. Rubin moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 2015-04 on two separate days, authorizing its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2015-04 by title only.

Mrs. Rubin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-04; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$21,000 to Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co. for the purchase of the 2014 audit services.

Mr. Brock reported that the State of Ohio performed Monroe's audits for the last three years and have recently sought bids to contract out this service. This is for the first year of the contract.

Mr. Black asked what the State charged and Mrs. Waggaman advised that the average was \$38,000 per year. The State only allows an independent firm to perform these services for 10 years and then the State again performs the audits. Mr. Black asked if there were any findings over the last three years. Mrs. Waggaman replied that there were, but nothing earth shattering.

Mr. Black inquired as to whether the State back-audits this firm's previous audits and Mrs. Waggaman explained that they do a quality review at the end of each audit.

Mrs. Rubin moved to authorize the expenditure of \$21,000 to Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co. for the purchase of the 2014 audit services; seconded by Mrs. Stillman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Brock stated that Council requested some metrics we could look at if we spent the \$10,000 for this membership and he included those in his report.

Mr. Hickman referred to the agreement with the Public Sector Advisors at a cost of \$1,500 per month and asked what the City gained from that.

Mr. Brock advised that we utilize them to track bills at the State level, such as House Bill 5. Currently there are no bills we are talking about. We have used them to talk to some businesses in the Dayton Area. When we originally brought them on the intent was to assist in bringing the Racino to Monroe and they did assist in putting together the JEDD.

Mr. Hickman moved to direct the City Manager to send notice to Public Sector Advisors by certified mail within three days to terminate the agreement; seconded by Mr. Black.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Clark noted that there are not a lot of guarantees in the agreement and it is a consultant agreement.

Mr. Brock noted that we have contact with the representative at least once per month and advised Council that he is not that attached to the service.

Mr. Black asked if there were any overlaps with REDI and Mr. Brock said there was no overlap and felt that REDI would be more beneficial.

Roll call vote: six ayes; one nay (Hale). Motion carried.

Mrs. Rubin moved to authorize the expenditure of \$10,000 to REDI Cincinnati for Director Membership; seconded by Mr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Report

Mr. Callahan reported that he has been working with Mr. Chesar on some items that will be brought to Council in the next 30 to 45 days and everything seems to be going in the right direction.

Mr. Clark asked about the status of the \$1,800 deposit for the fireworks and Mrs. Wasson confirmed that it was taken care of.

Mr. Clark reported that this Saturday will be the artillery training at the Monroe Community Park and the cannons are expected to go off around Noon.

Mr. Hickman was of the opinion that it is in Monroe's interest to have our own CIC and not the Monroe Area CIC with the Township and the School. In addition, he would like to see more transparency. The City of Monroe is the only one that gives money to the CIC. He asked Council to think about this as he will bring it up at the next meeting.

Mr. Brock advised we could have a work session and bring information about the creation of the CIC. We are working on legislation for some required documentation that had not been made previously. In addition, we are looking at what happens with the funding in the hands of the CIC if a new CIC was established.

Mrs. Rubin commented that the school is part of the City as well as they are important to the City and the Township is a big part of what we do as well. The idea is working together to improve the entire area.

Mrs. Rubin noted that the most recent \$30,000 grant the CIC received for Enterprise Drive the City would not have been able to obtain.

Mr. Brock, in response to Mr. Hickman's question, advised that the money paid to the CIC from the City came from the development agreements with IDI and Smyjunis.

Mr. Hickman has a list of issues and would like to discuss with Council and felt it should be a City CIC.

Mr. Hickman reported that he received a complaint on the snow removal and the pre-emption on State Route 63. It caused a back up of traffic and thought it was for emergency vehicles and not the snow plows. Mr. Brock explained it was a GPS system and felt it was appropriate for the plow to go through and not have to stop. Mr. Brock will look into the traffic being stopped going both directions.

Mrs. Stillman complimented the City's representative of Cox Media, Ed Richter, for the coverage of Monroe.

Mr. Hickman asked Council if they thought we should have a chair or co-chair for the bicentennial celebration. He suggested having someone in the community chair the event rather than the Public Involvement Committee attending the meetings. Mr. Hickman didn't want anyone to think we are driving the entire event.

Mayor Routson thought that the group could get together and see if anyone would like to step forward and leave it up to the Public Involvement Committee.

Mrs. Hale noted that the Monroe Historical Society will be updating the book. Mrs. Rubin would like to see more people get involved. Mr. Hickman suggested we could bring this up at their next meeting.

Mrs. Stillman stated that the City of Mason created a committee of Council that is heading up their bicentennial and their chair would be more than happy to assist Monroe.

Adjournment

Mr. Clark moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, CMC
Clerk of Council