

**Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
May 10, 2016 - 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: Dan Clark, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, and Suzi Rubin.

Staff members present: City Manager/City Engineer William J. Brock
 Law Director K. Philip Callahan
 Chief of Police Robert Buchanan
 Director of Development Kevin Chesar
 Director of Finance Tina Williams
 Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk of Council Angela S. Wasson

Visitors: Kim Mullally

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Hale moved to approve the Finance Committee Minutes of April 26, 2016; Council Minutes of April 26, 2016; and Public Involvement Committee Minutes of April 28, 2016; seconded by Mr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Mayor Routson presented a Proclamation to the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Mayor Routson presented a Proclamation to Kohl's E-Commerce Fulfillment Center.

Kim Mullally introduced herself to City Council as the Branch Manager of the Mount Pleasant Branch of the MidPointe Library.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Administrative Reports

Management Plan

Mr. Brock referred to the Management Plan presented to Council in July of 2015. Internally, we are looking at the items we have plans for and those we do not. We continued to work on Capital Improvement Projects such as facilities and large infrastructure projects. All of these tie back to the vision plan of the City. We continue to work on the definition of an economic development plan. Work is continuing on development areas such as, capital planning prioritization, development in the planning process, streetscape design, trail and connectivity, Americana, and Main Street Sidewalk Improvement.

In Public Works, cost estimation and planning continues on a facility, park, and Butler Warren and Mason Roads.

Public Safety is working on facility planning.

Revenue generation needs to be determined with focus on industrial development, identify criteria for creation of future planned growth, and expand to commercial/retail/business park criteria, as well as a JEDD.

Mr. Brock stressed the need for conversations to take place related to an economic development plan.

TIF and RID Districts

Mrs. Waggaman reported that there are TIFs (commercial and industrial areas) and RIDs (residential areas) within the City. There are 14 TIF districts that expire in 2034 and one that expires in 2018. Eight of these generate revenue a portion of which is dedicated to debt service. There are 15 RID districts, 13 of which generate revenue.

The basic use for TIF and RID revenue is to promote economic development. The most common expenditures are public infrastructure, land acquisition, demolition, design fees, buildings for City services, parks, and debt service for eligible projects. These funds cannot be used for police or fire equipment or vehicles, maintenance of infrastructure, and operations. The project needs to benefit the district it is located in. Both the TIF and RID funds increase as the property values increase. In is in the foreseeable future that we will see an increase in the TIF revenue.

TIFs and RIDs do play a role in the development plan incentive package because it is a predictable revenue stream. Council still controls the use through appropriations and specific development agreements.

Street Light Utility

Mrs. Waggaman explained that street lighting is currently an assessment on the property taxes. It is based on the frontage of each parcel in the City and is time consuming for staff to put this information together. The revenue collected is one to one and one-half years in arrears. We are proposing a street light utility based on equal benefit and simplify the staff time and speed up the timing of receiving the revenue. It would be a charge on the monthly utility bills. With our current numbers it works out to approximately \$1.80 per month on each utility bill.

Chickens in Residentially Zoned Districts

As a follow up to a resident request to permit chickens in a residential district at the last Council meeting, Mr. Chesar presented some questions for Council's consideration. Currently, the code does not allow chickens in a residential district. Council should consider the number of chickens, permitting roosters, location/setbacks/minimum lot size, coop requirements, surrounding property owner consent, personal use only, privacy fence, and slaughtering. In addition, Mr. Chesar asked if Council would want to consider allowing ducks, mini pigs, mini ponies, pygmy goats, etc.

After considerable discussion, Council, at the suggestion of Mr. Callahan, referred this matter to the Planning Commission to return a recommendation to City Council.

Mr. Clark noted that he would like to see strict architectural standards for a chicken coop.

Mr. Hickman informed Council he was contacted by a resident asking why the City did not purchase the Plexiglas basketball goals. Mr. Brock advised that the Plexiglas is easily damaged, so he approved the metal. Mr. Clark and Mrs. Rubin preferred the metal.

Mr. Hickman asked about the fences required on State Route 63 going west from I-75 as it needs cleaned up. Mr. Brock replied that it is a State requirement as it is a controlled access area.

Adjournment

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

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, CMC
Clerk of Council