

City of Monroe
Special Meeting of Council
June 4, 2015 – 6:00 pm
6262 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Monroe, Ohio

This special meeting of Council was held with the Lemon Township Trustees and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:03 pm.

The following members of Council were present: Anna Hale, Robert Routson, Suzi Rubin, and Lora Stillman.

The following members of the Lemon Township Board of Trustees were present: Janet Majors, Kevin Majors, and Joe Routson.

Mrs. Rubin moved to excuse Mr. Black, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Hickman; seconded by Mrs. Stillman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Routson inquired as to the long-range plans of Lemon Township due to the majority of Lemon Township being part of the City of Monroe's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Routson stated that the Township isn't abundant with excess cash and have lost money over the past four years because of the lack of funds coming from the State and drop in property tax. The Township was recently approved for grants for the replacement of a portion of Main Street in the amount of \$700,000. We are also going to be replacing a portion of Hankins Road through another grant that should be approved by June 15th. We want to keep the Township fiscally solvent for many years and understand that the City has to look at all options.

Mrs. Majors advised they have learned that they are eligible for additional monies they can apply for as a township. Even if we get to a point of discussion to annex into Monroe or joining another township or the City of Middletown, by keeping it a township you can apply for funds that you cannot apply for as a city. We have had discussions with Liberty Township and they are concerned about this issue as well. As we understand it from the State level, if Monroe moves forward with a paper township it will no longer be able to annex any property from the township.

Mrs. Majors emphasized that over the years Lemon Township has had a great working relationship with the City of Monroe and would like to see that continue. There is a significant amount of money, property, and resources that were shared with Monroe. We were very happy with the police services that Monroe provided, but when the levy failed we had to negotiate those services because of money.

Mr. Brock reported that the Township would lose approximately \$148,000 in revenue in the event the City creates a paper township and asked how that would impact the Township.

Mr. Routson replied that a small portion of the money received from taxes goes to the Sheriff and the remainder almost entirely goes to the City. The money is put back into the fire and

streets. Some residents may or may not know or understand it, but the money goes back to Monroe.

Mrs. Stillman stated that for the last 11 ½ years she has been told that Lemon Township is about to dissolve. She asked if the Trustees felt they would still be in existence, not just 10 years from now, but 20 years from now. Mrs. Stillman's understanding of Mr. Hickman's concern is that Monroe is paying Lemon Township who then pays Monroe back.

Mr. Routson's opinion is that the future of the Township depends a lot on the City. Almost every dollar we take in is paid to the City of Monroe and the Sheriff. If we can continue with the same relationship it makes it viable for us to last a long time. We are hoping to put the police levy back on the ballot in November.

Mrs. Majors advised if Monroe moves forward with a paper township it can no longer grow because it would be prohibited to annex from Lemon, Turtlecreek, and Liberty Townships, which would seem detrimental to Monroe. She further advised that they have access to funds as a township that the City would not have access to. We have also been working with Butler County in getting some of the blighted buildings demolished.

Mayor Routson is a firm believer that we need to work with all of the surrounding communities. A lot of these roads the Township will be repairing are used by our residents. He looks at the future of Monroe and there are a lot of opportunities in 20 years. Monroe can expand and become a larger and better city than it is today.

Mr. Majors felt that we should all sit down and have more meetings together.

In response to Mr. Brock's inquiry, Mrs. Majors advised that Matt DeTemple at the State informed them of the prohibition to annex following the creation of a paper township.

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

The special meeting of Council adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, CMC
Clerk of Council