

**Monroe Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting of Council  
September 13, 2016 - 6:30 p.m.  
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio**

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***Pledge of Allegiance***

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

***Roll Call***

The following members of Council were present: Dan Clark, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, and Robert Routson.

Staff members present:           City Manager/City Engineer William J. Brock  
  Law Director K. Philip Callahan  
  Director of Public Works Daniel J. Arthur  
  Chief of Police Robert Buchanan  
  Fire Chief John P. Centers  
  Director of Finance Tina Williams

Mrs. Hale moved to excuse Mrs. Rubin; seconded by Mr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

***Approval of the Minutes***

None.

***Visitors***

Kerry Roe of Clark Schaefer Hackett gave a brief cap of the annual audit of the City of Monroe. There were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in the internal controls.

Joe Braden of the Auditor of State's Office presented the Auditor of State Award with Distinction to Tina Williams, Director of Finance.

Fire Chief John P. Centers recognized and presented awards to his staff for outstanding service.

Chief of Police Robert Buchanan recognized and presented awards to his staff for outstanding service.

***Committee Reports***

None.

### *Old Business*

**Ordinance No. 2016-12.** An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Development Agreement by and between the City of Monroe and Hillwood in connection with the development of 116 acres, more or less, located along Clark Boulevard. (Second Reading - Tabled July 12, 2016)

### *New Business*

**Consideration of Motion** increasing the City Manager's annual salary from \$109,051.53 to \$112,300.78 retroactive to March 1, 2016.

Mrs. Hale moved to increase the City Manager's annual salary from \$109,051.53 to \$112,300.78 retroactive to March 1, 2016; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

**Consideration of Motion** authorizing the expenditure of \$61,841.00 for an in car video system for the Department of Police.

Chief Buchanan reported this is for the purchase of 14 in car cameras and a cloud based system to store the data from these cameras.

Mrs. Hale moved to authorize the expenditure of \$61,841.00 for an in car video system for the Department of Police; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Voice vote. Motion carried.

### *Administrative Reports*

Mr. Brock reported that on the next agenda will be the agreement with the Butler County ESC for the IT services. We are looking at our needs in response to our growth, so there is an increase. However, in the upcoming years we believe that number will be brought back down due to the additional clients that the Butler County ESC has began servicing.

Mrs. Williams gave a presentation on the proposed increase in cemetery rates that will appear on the agenda for the next meeting of Council.

Mrs. Hale moved to adjourn into executive session for the purchase of property and specific business for economic development; seconded by Mr. Funk. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into executive session at 7:00 p.m.

Council reconvened back into regular session at 7:26 p.m.

Mayor Routson reported that Roger Reynolds, Butler County Auditor, will once again return money to the communities. This year the City will receive \$7,793.00 and Monroe Local School District will receive \$63,277.00.

Referring to the ordinance adopted by the City of Toledo on the decriminalization of marijuana distributed at the last meeting, Mr. Hickman asked for input from Council.

Mayor Routson asked what benefit it would be to the City of Monroe.

Mr. Hickman indicated it was a benefit to the people. There are states that actually legalize it. I am talking about decriminalizing small possessions.

Mr. Clark spoke about people with small possessions can lose their driver's license or lose their job. He does not believe that small amounts should be considered criminal conduct. We can't legalize anything, but we can decriminalize in our code and sends a message as to what we feel should be punished as far as small amounts of possession. It doesn't change the State of Ohio laws. Mr. Clark does not object to that.

Mayor Routson stated that it still does not change what the policies of these companies are going to be as you would still lose your job it is caught in your blood. We have sworn officers here that are sworn to uphold the State law and the laws of the City of Monroe.

Mr. Hickman advised they could still do that, but the issue would be the fines and the jail time wouldn't be there.

Mayor Routson felt it was too premature and sets the City up to litigation. It gives the City a black eye. Mayor Routson is opposed to that.

Mr. Clark pointed out only one portion of the Toledo law was subject to litigation and would be removed. He does not believe that a person caught with a small amount should lose their license or their job. It sends a message to other communities and to the State.

Mr. Funk understands the perception, but there are a lot of uncertainancies. That is why when they legalized medical marijuana it takes time. Someone is going to come in and distribute when they find out it is okay to do it.

Mr. Clark disagreed as he felt that people that are going to do it are already doing it.

Mr. Hickman advised they still get charged when they have a small amount, but there is no fine or jail time.

Mr. Callahan recommended doing some research to see what other communities have decriminalized this.

Mayor Routson felt that it is a false sense of security if you have a small amount in our community and you then travel to another community that doesn't have the same law as Monroe.

Mrs. Hale is against all illegal drugs, as well as, giving people Narcan when doing heroin.

Mr. Frentzel asked if Chief Buchanan has been spoken to.

Mr. Hickman replied that the Chief was aware of this from a previous Public Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Frentzel asked what would stop one of our police officers from charging them under State law or stopped by Ohio State Patrol.

Mr. Callahan advised that they would just site them under the State code.

***Adjournment***

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

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, CMC  
Clerk of Council