



**Monroe City Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
June 22, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio**

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Council members present – Tom Callahan, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, and Christina McElfresh

Mrs. Hale moved to excuse Mr. Routson; seconded by Mr. Funk. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Funk moved to approve the Technology Committee Minutes of May 24, 2021; Finance Committee Minutes of May 25, 2021; and Council Minutes of June 8, 2021; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Kate Wagner, Vice Chair of the 2021 Charter Review Commission, expressed her dissatisfaction of an article written by Reporter Rick McCrabb. While reviewing the Charter, the Commission simply changed the gender language to refer to they or the title of the positions.

Linda Tucker, 2021 Charter Review Commission Member, referred to past charters and sample charters. One of the glaring issues found in the Charter was the word “he.” The Commission felt that the Charter should represent all citizens of the community.

Council expressed their appreciation for the volunteers that served on the Charter Review Commission.

Paul Lane asked for a follow-up on the modification of the speed limit on Lebanon Street.

Mr. Brock advised of a need for review of similar streets for any changes rather that look at the situation street-by-street.

Pat Osborne thanked the City for the new signs and would appreciate an update on the truck traffic on Todhunter Road. She asked what culvert the company paid for.

Mr. Brock advised it was the first culvert west of Salzman Road.



Ms. Osborne would appreciate updates on this matter to be sent to her via email.

Mr. Brock noted that he has sent the geometric traffic proposal to Council if they would like to proceed.

Mr. Callahan did see a fence preventing the trucks from entering on Todhunter and there is improvement with the signage.

Mrs. McElfresh has noticed semis going in and coming out of that gated area.

Bob Speed asked what Council is doing to protect his right and his daughter's right to not be forced to receive the vaccine. Mayor Frentzel advised that the City of Monroe has never forced anyone to get the vaccine or the intends to do so.

Kelly Wright, GIS Analyst for the City of Monroe, explained the purposes and benefits of the Geographic Information System.

Committee Reports

None.

Old Business

Resolution No. 32-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an award agreement related to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock advised that he had previously reported that the City was estimated to receive \$2.5 million. With the changes being proposed to allocate funds to townships, the City's allocation has been reduced to \$1,460,000.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 32-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 32-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 32-2021; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 33-2021. A Resolution adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Monroe, Ohio, for the 2022 fiscal year. (Second Reading)

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 33-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.



The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 33-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 33-2021; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2021-19. An Ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter 1065 of the Codified Ordinances to change the reservation fees and rules and regulations related to the reservation of the Monroe Community Room and Small Conference Room located at 6 East Avenue. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock stated that this ordinance and the next, amend the rules for the Monroe Community Room and small conference room at 6 East Avenue, as well as the fee structure.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Ordinance No. 2021-19 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2021-19 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-19; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2021-20. An Ordinance supplementing Chapter 286 of the Codified Ordinances to establish the reservation fee for the Monroe Community Room and Small Conference Room at 6 East Avenue. (Second Reading)

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Ordinance No. 2021-20 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2021-20 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-20; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Emergency Resolution No. 34-2021. A Resolution approving a Then-and-Now Certificate in the amount of \$3,148.68 to Phoenix Safety Outfitters and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock noted that this avoids being charged a three percent fee for use of a credit card as they have accepted in the past.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 34-2021 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.



The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 34-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 34-2021; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 35-2021. A Resolution amending Emergency Resolution No. 53-2019 adopted by the City Council of the City of Monroe, Ohio on January 14, 2020 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock advised this will allow for an amendment to our Energy Special Improvement District to allow other jurisdictions to join that are not contiguous with our boundaries. Previously, State law required that a boundary be shared.

Mrs. McElfresh recalled a presentation on this subject and asked if there is a company that provides the service if someone wanted to have the work done.

Mrs. Patterson explained there is a third party that would come in and say you are doing over and above what the building code requires and there is an energy savings. The third party then gives an estimate of the energy savings. The Energy Special Improvement District (ESID) oversees this and the jurisdiction the project is located in handles placing the special assessment on the real estate taxes.

Mrs. McElfresh referred to the recent articles on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing and has concerns about them on the residential side, but the principles are the same. The fact that they are assessing the taxes and holding themselves as the first lienholder over and above the first mortgage and other debt.

Mrs. Patterson will look into this as it relates to industrial and commercial property.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 35-2021 on two separate days, authorize its adoption, and have it read by title only. *This motion died for lack of a second.*

Resolution No. 36-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Performance Food Group/Presto Foods related to the continuance of an existing Community Reinvestment Area Agreement.

Mr. Brock stated this authorizes a Memorandum of Understanding with Performance Food Group/Presto Foods related to the continuance of their Community Reinvestment Area Agreement. He pointed out there had been some discussion about this during the last couple of Council meetings.

Mr. Hickman asked if these two payments bring the company up-to-date for 2019 and 2020 and what happened to the fireworks payment. Mrs. Patterson replied that the same amount for the fireworks over the next three years is accelerated to a one-time payment.



Mr. Funk moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 36-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 36-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 36-2021; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 37-2021. A Resolution authorizing an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy as opposed to the existing surety bond to cover the positions of the City of Monroe rather than the individuals holding a position.

Mr. Brock informed Council that a recently passed House Bill allows municipalities to issue a faithful performance policy through their current insurance provider. Previously, we had individual bonds for those that handle money throughout the City. This will allow us to save money as we will be covered under one surety bond.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 37-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 37-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 37-2021; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2021-21. An Ordinance amending and supplementing Section 1064.03 of the Codified Ordinances to establish rules and regulations for park areas designated as Dog Parks.

Mr. Brock reported that the Park and Recreation Board recommended that Council amend the park rules to include rules for dog parks.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-21 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2021-21 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-21; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$30,000 to Burns General Contracting for unprocessed topsoil for Monroe Bicentennial Commons Park.



Mr. Brock reported that the Public Works Director is recommending the purchase of this topsoil that was stripped off of a project on Clark Boulevard to be used at Monroe Bicentennial Commons Park.

Mayor Frentzel asked if there was an estimate what it would normally cost if we were not taking advantage of this. Mr. Morton explained that when you purchase processed topsoil you pay \$25.00 per cubic yard and unprocessed is \$8.00 to \$9.00 per cubic yard. He noted that it is good topsoil as it has been used for farmland for years.

Mr. Morton confirmed Mr. Hickman's understanding that the City will be hauling this topsoil away from the existing site. Mr. Hickman asked if tried to get it cheaper as we are doing them a favor in removing it. Mr. Morton replied that the original price was \$7.00 and he negotiated it down to \$6.00 per cubic yard.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$30,000 to Burns General Contracting for unprocessed topsoil for Monroe Bicentennial Commons Park; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion and Discussion to amend the Rules of Council and place the adoption thereof on the July 13, 2021 agenda.

Mr. Hickman pointed out that some of the recommended changes in the Rules of Council were also included in the Charter Review Commission's recommendations. He would like to postpone review of the Rules of Council until the next Council meeting. It was the consensus of Council to move this item to the next meeting.

Consideration of Motion and/or Discussion of alterations, revisions, and amendments to the Charter.

Referring to the term limits proposed in Section 4.01, Mr. Funk pointed out he ran for Council six years ago because there weren't enough people running. His fear is after two terms there may not be the interest to run. If you have people that are ready, willing, and passionate those are the people you want in here. Mr. Funk was of the opinion that people can serve a lot more than eight years and be incredibly valuable to the City.

Mayor Frentzel noted that if there were not enough candidates running, City Council could make appointments to fill any vacancies.

Mr. Funk felt that if you have someone that has served two terms and would like to continue, but is unable to run because of this section, they probably would not be interested in being appointed to a vacancy. Mr. Funk has not seen an issue where this would be needed and would not support this change.

Proposed changes to Section 4.06 reduces the number of unexcused absences from four to three and requires members of Council to attend 66% of the regularly scheduled meetings in a



calendar year. Mr. Funk commented that he has worked with vendors that have been out for a period time due to COVID. Mr. Funk would not like to see someone removed from Council in a situation such as this as we need to be compassionate. Mrs. Hale stated that if the Clerk of Council is notified prior to the meeting that someone cannot attend a meeting it should be excused. If a Council member doesn't provide notification that they would not be attending it should be unexcused.

It was the consensus of Council to suggest changes to Section 4.06 that differs from the recommendation of the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Funk requested information on the number of days other municipalities have to hold public hearings on zoning amendments (Section 7.13 of the Charter).

Mayor Frentzel, as a result of Mr. Routson's resignation effective July 1, 2021, advised that it would create a vacancy on the Planning Commission as far as a representative of Council.

Mrs. Hale moved to appoint Christina McElfresh to the vacant Planning Commission position effective July 1, 2021; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Funk moved to direct the Clerk of Council to advertise for the vacant Council position beginning July 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2021; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Brock referred to the additional proposal for a speed study on State Route 63 and asked for direction from Council as to whether or not to proceed.

Mr. Funk preferred to have additional time to review the traffic study proposals for State Route 63 and Todhunter Road.

Mr. Brock advised that there is no requirement for local governments to recognize Juneteenth, recently declared a holiday by the Federal government and the Governor, as a paid holiday.

Referring to the speed study for State Route 63, Mr. Hickman noted it was \$7,125 and the proposal outlines what they are going to do for this. Mr. Hickman did not know why we did not proceed with the study. Mr. Brock added that the Ohio Department of Transportation requires this prior to their consideration in lowering the speed limit. Mr. Funk is not sure these studies are warranted.

Executive Session – to consider the purchase of property for public purposes and reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

Mr. Funk moved to adjourn into executive session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes and reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning



their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into executive session at 9:12 p.m.

Mr. Funk moved to reconvene into regular session; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Council reconvened into regular session at 10:01 p.m.

Emergency Resolution No. 38-2021. A Resolution to authorize the City Manager to enter into a collective bargaining agreement by and between the City of Monroe and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 38-2021 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 38-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 38-2021; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hickman asked what two events were cancelled due to police staffing issues. Mr. Brock replied it was the Touch-A-Truck and National Night Out events held in August. Mr. Brock advised we are in the hiring process for the Police Department.

Adjournment

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

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council