Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
November 13, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Members of Council present: Dan Clark, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, Christina McElfresh, and Robert Routson

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

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Clark moved to approve the Council Minutes of October 23 and October 27, 2018; Finance Committee Minutes of October 9, 2018; Technology Committee Minutes of October 30, 2018; Public Involvement Committee Minutes of October 3, October 11, and November 8, 2018; and Public Safety Committee Minutes of October 23, 2018; seconded by Mr. Funk. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Paula Smith with the Butler County Council on Aging gave an update on the elderly services program that served 90 Monroe seniors in 2017. It makes it possible for about 3,800 seniors in Butler County to stay in there home. Without the program many older adults might need to move to a nursing home. 92% of the funds for this program comes from the Butler County Senior Services Levy that was first approved by voters in 1996. Current cost is about $39 per year per 100,000 valuation on a home. To be eligible you must be a Butler County resident, 65 or older, and unable to perform certain activities without assistance.

The need shows that 19% of Butler County residents are 60 or older. Most have lower income, living alone, and a disability. Family care cannot handle the home care needed alone and this program helps fill in the gaps so sons and daughters can keep working and long-time married couples can remain together. For those without family near by this is their lifeline. It costs taxpayers about R260 per month compared to about $4,000 per month for those on Medicaid in a nursing home.

Seniors and their families are very pleased with the program. Ms. Smith encouraged Council to read the 2017 report.

Erica Daniels spoke about a resilience initiative she and Shelly Colp are trying to establish in Monroe. They both work with children that have experienced negative life events. We are invested in this City and committed to see a healthy, strong, and resilient community in Monroe. We wanted to hear from community leaders and hear how to build resilience in the community. So far the participants are on board and the school is on board with this. We volunteer our time to reach out to different sectors and educate people about childhood adversity. In the United States two thirds of children have experienced some sort of childhood adversity by the time they are 16. One in ten will have experienced sexual assault by the time they are 18. Fifty percent will see their married parents divorced by the age of 18. Approximately 1,600 children die every year because of child maltreatment. This is a public health crisis. In Ohio, we have the highest prevalence of children 0 to 5 witnessing violence. In southwest Ohio, we have the highest suicide rate of 10 to 19 years old, and the highest infant mortality rate. We have another meeting scheduled in January.

Committee Reports

Mr. Frentzel reported that the Finance Committee met this evening and began receiving reports showing checks written down to $1.00 and the purchase card statements. We will continue to receive this until the Open Checkbook is worked out. He welcomed questions, comments, or concerns from Council on the budget report from the last meeting Council meeting.

Mr. Frentzel announced that the Public Involvement Committee met and wrapped up the plans for the December 1st tree lighting event from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. We will have photos with Santa in the Chambers and different organizations with cookies and other surprises.

Mr. Frentzel stated that the Technology Committee reviewed the new website for the City and we hope to have it go live on or before January 1st.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2018-30. An Ordinance releasing, vacating, quitclaiming, and fully discharging all right, title and interest the City of Monroe holds in and to a portion of a certain utility easement fully described herein. (Second Reading)

Mr. Brock stated this is the release of an easement off of Senate Drive.

Mr. Clark moved to consider this the second reading of Ordinance No. 2018-30 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2018-30 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-30; seconded by Mr. Funk. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Emergency Resolution No. 64-2018. A Resolution approving a Then-and-Now Certificate in the amount of $9,345.29 to Middletown Transit and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock explained that the Then-and-Now Certificates are typically an emergency because the Purchasing Policy and audit standards require that they are approved within a certain period of time.

Mr. Clark moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 64-2018 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 64-2018 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 64-2018; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 65-2018. A Resolution approving a Then-and-Now Certificate in the amount of $20,000.00 to HNC Virtual Solutions and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock commented that this is for the paramedicine program where a grant was received.

Mr. Clark moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 65-2018 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 65-2018 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 65-2018; seconded by Mr. Funk. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 66-2018. A Resolution approving a Then-and-Now Certificate in the amount of $3,500.00 to Dinsmore and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Waggaman explained that we need to file an arbitrage calculations every year for the debt disclosure. This tells us if we are earning more interest than we are paying.

Mr. Clark moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 66-2018 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Funk. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 66-2018 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 66-2018; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 67-2018. A Resolution endorsing the filing of a Community Development Block Grant application for a sidewalk, multi-use path, and associated crosswalk infrastructure from the Reserves of Monroe Crossings to State Route 4 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock stated that we qualified for these grant funds to extend the existing sidewalk and multi-use path from the Reserves at Monroe Crossings to State Route 4.

Mr. Clark moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 67-2018 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. 67-2018 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 67-2018; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 68-2018. A Resolution accepting $5,000 in grant funds from the Duke Energy Foundation to assist with planning of future park amenities based on the City-wide Park Master Plan.

Mr. Brock noted this can be applied toward the City-wide Park Master Plan.

Mr. Clark moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 68-2018 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 68-2018 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 68-2018; seconded by Mr. Funk. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 69-2018. A Resolution accepting a $650,000 Transportation Alternatives Grant from the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments for the Great Miami Trail Monroe Section Project.

Mr. Brock announced that the City received a grant from OKI for the Great Miami Trail Monroe Section Project.

Mr. Clark moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 69-2018 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 69-2018 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 69-2018; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 70-2018. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to implement a Health Savings Account for calendar year 2019.

Mr. Brock is proposing that the City contribute the same amount to employees in 2019 as they did in 2018 noting that a zero percent increase was received for our health insurance.

Mr. Clark moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 70-2018 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 70-2018 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 70-2018; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2018-30. An Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 2018-24, otherwise known as the permanent appropriations ordinance, to meet current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Monroe, during fiscal year ending December 31, 2018.

Mr. Brock explained that most of the items amending the appropriation ordinance are clean up items and to reflect the grants that were received.

Mr. Clark moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 2018-30 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2018-30 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-30; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2018-31. An Ordinance amending Exhibit "1" of Ordinance No. 2018-03 to adjust the minimum and maximum wage/salary range for all non union employees by a three percent increase.

Mr. Brock is recommending a 3% increase for non union employees to match that being received by union employees.

Mr. Clark moved to consider this the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-31 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2018-31 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-31; seconded by Mr. Funk. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion to request a hearing on the issuance of a D1, D2, and Liquor Agency Permit to Kroger located at 3033 Heritage Green Drive.

Mr. Brock informed Council that Kroger is planning on installing a Growler Bar in the future.

Mr. Clark moved to request a hearing on the issuance of a D1, D2, and Liquor Agency Permit to Kroger located at 3033 Heritage Green Drive; seconded by Mr. Funk. Voice vote. Motion failed.

Consideration of Motion to cancel the December 25, 2018, Council meeting.

Mr. Clark moved to cancel the December 25, 2018, Council meeting; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion to establish a temporary committee of Council known as the Performance Committee for the creation of a new evaluation form for the City Manager.

Mr. Clark moved to establish a temporary committee of Council known as the Performance Committee for the creation of a new evaluation form for the City Manager; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mrs. Waggaman announced that emergency legislation will appear on the next meeting to refund the bonds on the Chelsea Mall Project. They are flipping it into the Port Authority's bond fund. They are closing both issues on December 3, 2018. This is part of the security backing on the bonds. She noted that the attorneys did not have the legislation prepared in time for this meeting.

Mr. Brock referred to the costs presented to Council for the new police facility either at the school location or in the front of Monroe Community Park. The cost comparison reflected that it was about $260,000 cheaper to place it at the park. Mr. Funk asked if the $260,000 included the road improvements. Mr. Brock replied that they considered all of the necessary site costs and the biggest cost was the extension of the sanitary sewer and water at the school location. Chief Buchanan preferred the park location, but would be happy with either location.

Mr. Clark moved to proceed with the design services at the park location; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Brock informed Council he has still not received paperwork on the MRAP and sought direction from Council. Mr. Clark stated that the Public Safety Committee members all have different opinions. Originally, it gives the police department somewhere to stand behind as it is bullet proof. We do not want our police department to be a military police. We will get two, one to be used for parts. The cost will be approximately $5,000 to move it and to get it operational is between $1,500 to $2,500. The annual maintenance costs is estimated about $2,500.

Chief Buchanan acknowledged that West Chester, Butler County, and Warren County have these, but the wait time for it to arrive is critical. Mr. Hickman asked about the modification of the inside and Chief Buchanan advised there is not much to be changed inside. Mr. Hickman is concerned that it is going to be a money pit and very large. He also questions the need. Mr. Clark noted that if this gets to be too much money it can be sent back regardless of what shape it is in. Mr. Clark felt that there should be quarterly reports to the Public Safety Committee on what it is costing. Mr. Funk felt it was worth a try. Mrs. McElfresh asked where it will be housed and Chief Buchanan advised that it will fit in a bay on the Public Works property.

Mr. Frentzel asked if we would be providing assistance to other departments with this. Chief Buchanan advised it would be part of the mutual aid.

Mr. Hickman asked if Warren County uses theirs for their tactical force. Chief Buchanan advised that they due, but it would be an approximate wait time of an hour for them to respond.

Chief Buchanan responded to Mrs. McElfresh's inquiry that those that have received them have no regrets on getting them.

Mr. Brock advised that Council will see legislation on this matter at a future meeting.

Consideration of Motion to adjourn into Executive Session to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, and personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance.

Mr. Clark moved to adjourn into Executive Session to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, and personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into Executive session at 7:35 p.m.

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

Council reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Adjournment

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

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council