



Monroe Council Work Session Agenda
September 8, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio
Administrative Conference Room

Call to Order

Roll Call

Discussion Topics

Restructure Work Sessions

Sponsor: Larry Lester

Strategic Priority: Communication and Interpersonal Connections

Background: A page from the Council Retreat Summary Report is included.

"Restructure Work Sessions"

The group surfaced several unresolved questions about how work sessions are currently being used, including whether they should be live-streamed, how they should be timed and scheduled, and how to better balance presentation-style updates against genuine council discussion. The group flagged this as a priority to resolve, and the City Manager and Mayor should work together to revisit the purpose, format, and logistics of work sessions and bring a proposal back to the council."

Adjournment

City Administration

Council members expressed a consistent need for earlier, more proactive communication from City administration, particularly around ongoing projects, road and park planning, and customer service issues that surface in the community. There was a clear desire to be better informed before decisions reach the council table, with several notes pointing to the importance of timing, context, and background information, especially for newer members who are still building institutional knowledge. Beyond information flow, council members want administration to do more to engage the public directly and to collaborate more intentionally with community groups and partner organizations. On their side, council members committed to giving grace, being available and responsive, and raising issues early rather than letting them build.

City Administration	
I Need...	I Will...
• Historical context • More collaboration with community groups/Trustees • More information, early & often re: ongoing projects and "customer service" issues • Listen to Council • More info earlier • Plans or budget for road repairs and park • Better utilize council update - more context • Better engagement with public • Better timing on big ticket items when brought to council • Better communication about construction or road projects or community service to residents • Grace • Responsiveness • Availability • New council info, acronyms	• Communicate issues early • Give grace • Be available • Be responsive

Action Items

Through the course of the conversation about governing roles and shared commitments, three specific, high-priority action items were identified by the group. The City Manager should work with the Mayor to develop a timeline and approach to address these three items promptly.

Restructure Work Sessions

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Revamp the Weekly Manager Update

The council agreed that the weekly manager update could be more useful. Specifically, the group wants it to stay out of operational detail, focus on bigger-picture and strategic issues, and serve as a vehicle for following up on constituent concerns. The City Manager should revamp the format within one month and solicit council feedback on the revised approach.