

**Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
November 12, 2019 – 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

Council members 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
Fire Chief John P. Centers
Director of Finance Karen Ervin
Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk of Council Angela S. Wasson

At the request of Chief Buchanan, there was a moment of silence for Detective Jorge DelRio. He was a Dayton detective that was killed in the line of duty a week ago and laid to rest today. Detective DelRio was also assigned to the DEA and his work impacted all up and down I-75. If you lived within 100 miles of I-75 he made a positive impact in your community taking a lot of narcotics off of the street.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Clark moved to approve the Council Minutes of October 22, 2019; Finance Committee Minutes of October 1 and October 8, 2019; Public Works Committee Minutes of October 10, 2019; and Public Involvement Committee Minutes of October 14, 2019; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

None.

Committee Reports

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Resolution No. 50-2019. A Resolution accepting a grant from CSX for adding a roof simulator to the training tower of the Department of Fire.

Mr. Brock stated that a grant was awarded for an addition to the training tower that goes on the lower portion.

Chief Centers stated it is a dual pitched roof with a height of approximately 12 feet and will be difficult to view as it is behind the building.

Mr. Funk asked what the typical useful life of the structure is. Chief Centers replied that most last around 18 to 20 years depending on how well they are maintained.

Mr. Clark moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 50-2019 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 50-2019 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 50-2019; seconded by Mr. Funk. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2019-32. An Ordinance supplementing Section 272.01 of the Administration Code of the Codified Ordinances to designate the Board of Zoning Appeals as the Code Enforcement Board referred to in Section 660.18 of the General Offenses Code.

Mr. Brock explained that this recognizes the Board of Zoning Appeals as the Code Enforcement Board related to the unsolicited material ordinance.

Mr. Clark moved to consider this the first reading of Ordinance No. 2019-32 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2019-32 by title only.

Mr. Clark moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2019-32; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$93,809.00 to purchase and outfit a 2020 Ford F-550 4 x 4 truck for the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Brock reported that it was included in the Capital Budget for the Public Works Department. This will be primarily used for residential plowing.

In response to Mrs. Hale's question, Mr. Parker advised that it should last 10 to 15 years.

Mr. Clark moved to authorize the expenditure of \$93,809.00 to purchase and outfit a 2020 Ford F-550 4 x 4 truck for the Department of Public Works; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$30,560.33 for the annual licensing, support, and maintenance fees for the computer aided dispatch and records management software for the Department of Police.

Chief Buchanan noted this the annual fees with a three percent increase.

Mr. Clark moved to authorize the expenditure of \$30,560.33 for the annual licensing support, and maintenance fees for the computer aided dispatch and records management software for the Department of Police; seconded by Mr. Funk. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion to reject all bids received for the 2019-06 Monroe Crossings Park Shelter Project.

Mr. Brock stated this is the second time bids were sought for this project. The playground equipment was taken out in the hope that we would receive bids in the budgeted amount of \$300,000; however, one bid was received in the amount of \$449,000. Our next step is to look at prefab buildings and since \$165,000 came from State Capital funding we will request an extension.

Mr. Clark moved to reject all bids received for the 2019-06 Monroe Crossings Park Shelter Project; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion cancelling the December 24, 2019 meeting of Council.

Mr. Clark moved to cancel the December 24, 2019 meeting of Council; seconded by Mr. Funk. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Brock as we look at the 2020 Budget the priorities, are parks and recreation, facilities, capital improvements, and personnel. Hopefully, by the end of the week we will have a draft of the budget book.

Parks and recreation we will continue with the design of Monroe Bicentennial Commons and Baker Park. Right now we are finalizing the utility portion of the first phase for the Monroe Bicentennial Commons as well as finalizing the plans for a dog park at Baker Park. There will be legislation on the next agenda for improvements to Old Street that will include making it a two-way street. Having a 501(3)(c) may assist with the improvements for the Monroe Bicentennial Commons.

We will continue to study staffing needs and the Finance Committee is reviewing the compensation study.

We will complete the new police facility transition by the end of 2020. We continue to look at identifying the needs of the Public Works facilities. We will also be looking at development plans for the lower level of the City Building.

For personnel we will look at trying to fill the vacancies that we have. We have built around the engineer position, but no new positions will be included in the budget. We will continue to look at how the departments want to grow. We need to put some budget towards development, engineering, and parks if we want to start putting programs together for the parks. The health care costs were reduced.

Mr. Brock sought Council's input on a cost of living increase for non union employees and recommended not exceeding 2.5%. Typically, we looked at what the unions were receiving and matching that. Currently, the Fire Department negotiations are in fact finding and has not been set. Mrs. McElfresh felt that it should fall in line with what we have done in the past and whatever suit we have been following should continue. Mr. Hickman was of the opinion that it should be discussed in executive session.

In the five-year forecast has a target fund balance of \$4 million and built into this includes a three percent increase in the cost of living.

In the General Fund Budget there is a 4.45% increase in general fund/special revenue accounts and 6.34% increase in the enterprise funds. The operating costs decrease in 1.68%.

Mrs. McElfresh asked when the comprehensive plan will be complete and Mr. Brock replied that it is estimated to be completed in June and may result in additional capital improvement plans.

Mayor Routson requested that the numbers be put together on the cost of living before they have further discussion.

Mrs. McElfresh was of the opinion that it should be the same across the board. Mr. Hickman requested it be discussed in executive session as there are items should be brought up that may not have been before.

Mr. Funk also requested the historical CPI's and COLA's.

Mayor Routson listened to the public forum that the Chamber put on for candidates and thought it was interesting with some of the questions and who was asking some of the questions. He made a request to the Chamber to get a list of what the questions were. He didn't really care what they asked some of the candidates, but some of the questions maybe we need to work on because they felt that there was something important. The majority of what he heard has pretty much been resolved and heard some pretty good answers, but the Chamber was not happy and really do not want to give up those questions. They were asked in a public forum. He didn't know why they do not want to give them to us. He followed up with one of their Board members and he did talk to Mr. Pearce, who called the Mayor this morning. He wanted to know why. Mayor Routson I explained he wanted to give a copy to each Council person and let them

look at and determine if it has been resolved or we need to look further into. Also, give a copy to Tom Callahan and let him see some of the things we are working on. Some candidates looked at the commentator and wondered if the questions were being asked for the Chamber or being asked for the commentator.

Mr. Frentzel agreed and we had asked for the questions beforehand and understood the Chamber's position at that time I not wanting to give someone an unfair advantage, but didn't understand the reasoning after the event.

Mayor Routson also talked to Mr. Brock about when we attend the ribbon cuttings and for the most part the Chamber puts them on and runs the entire ceremony. They take on the entire show and when a business comes to Monroe it is a Monroe business. If the Chamber can get them on as a new member that is okay, but it seems as if the City has been set aside and not really part of it. Mrs. McElfresh noted that sometimes the City is not even recognized. Mayor Routson asked Mr. Brock to look at that. Mrs. McElfresh asked what benefit the City receives from the Chamber. Mayor Routson explained it was networking for our businesses along with businesses in other communities.

Mr. Brock stated the Chamber is a business-to-business organization and not a government relations. We are a member just to participate in the events they do. It is a business oriented organization and not government.

Mayor Routson added that Mr. Pearce advised they sent some questions to some of the businesses in Monroe and there was not one business that replied back with questions they would have for City Council. Mr. Brock supplied some questions, but the questions asked were interesting.

Mrs. McElfresh felt there were a lot of things interesting that evening.

Mr. Hickman stated that the City's relationship with the Chamber is better than it used to be and when they do the ribbon cuttings, I feel like they don't want the City there because you are made to feel like a third wheel.

Mrs. Hale asked about establishing Monroe's own chamber and Mayor Routson replied that there were six members when Monroe had its own. Mrs. McElfresh pointed out that it is a different era and different Monroe now.

Mr. Frentzel brought up that over the past year we have had a few different zoning issues as far as changes that have been made. I have seen it more in townships than in cities, but when there is a property that is up for some type of review they put a sign on that lot alerting people to a pending issue. He has heard people talk about in the past how they didn't know about something until after it was adopted by Council. Mr. Frentzel asked if there is a way the City can alert people to possible zoning changes to specific parcels. He suggested a sign on the property maybe 30 days prior to it going to Planning Commission. Mayor Routson added that when it comes to a lot of those issues like the Comprehensive Plan, the last zoning issue we had really there were a couple of property owners. Mr. Frentzel thought there might be zoning changes

may affect more than just the neighboring property owners. Mrs. McElfresh requested that we explore how better to get the message out for these changes.

Adjournment

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

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council