CITY OF MONROE OHIO

Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 23, 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: Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Christina McElfresh, and Ben Wagner.

Mrs. Hale moved to excuse Mr. Callahan and Mr. Hickman; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Funk moved to approve the Council Minutes of November 9, 2021; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Committee Reports

Mrs. McElfresh announced that the tree lighting and Christmas on the Plaza will be held on December 4th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Emergency Resolution No. 55-2021. A Resolution approving a Then-and-Now Certificate in the amount of $9,712.00 to Ice Miller LLP and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock stated this expense is for right-of-way permit review and fiber optics.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 55-2021 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Wagner. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 55-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 55-2021; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 56-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to implement a Health Savings Account for calendar year 2022.

Mr. Brock explained this is an annual resolution approving the City's contribution to the employees health savings account. Mr. Brock pointed out that as part of the wellness program employees will receive an additional $500 for getting an annual biometric screening and wellness check.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 56-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 56-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 56-2021; seconded by Mr. Wagner. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 57-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Jones Warner Consultants, Inc. for the Todhunter Road Box Culvert Replacements Project.

Mr. Brock advised this is for the replacement of two box culverts on Todhunter Road.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 57-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 57-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 57-2021; seconded by Mr. Wagner. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-54. An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Personnel Policy Manual to include vacation buy back, increase in accrued leave received upon separation, carry over of vacation and personal hours, calculating accrual of vacation, and addition of holidays permitted to be swapped, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock stated that this changes the benefit package for employees as was discussed at a previous Council meeting.

Mrs. McElfresh noted the suggested change for carrying over personal leave doesn't apply to all employees and would like it removed.

Mrs. Waggaman explained this was added for more flexibility for new hires. The different bargaining units have different types of personal leave.

Mr. Funk asked if the union employees have a higher carryover of vacation leave and Mrs. Waggaman replied that is correct. Mr. Funk is okay with it and it doesn't build up a bank.

Mr. Brock pointed out that looking at the union contracts it is silent; therefor, it would revert back to the Personal Policy Manual. This would not apply to fire as they do not have personal leave they have earned days off.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-54 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Wagner. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-54 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-54; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2021-55. An Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 2021-44 to authorize a 3.5% cost of living to non union employees.

Mr. Brock noted this is the annual cost of living legislation for non-union employees.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-55 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Wagner. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2021-55 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-55; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing a change order in the amount of $8,295.50 to RA Miller Construction Company for the 2021 ADA Program.

Mr. Morton explained there were overages for concrete where we had to replace more than was anticipated.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize a change order in the amount of $8,295.50 to RA Miller Construction Company for the 2021 ADA Program; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of $20,800.00 to Atlantic Emergency Solutions for firefighting hose.

Mr. Leverage explained this will replace all of the 3/4 inch hose on our fire apparatus as the existing has reached its life expectancies.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of $20,800.00 to Atlantic Emergency Solutions for firefighting hose; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Brock gave the following presentation on projects for 2022.

Income Tax - Capital Fund

- Annual Fleet Leasing
- Annual Street Resurfacing
- Concrete Rehabilitation
- ADA Transition Program
- Training Simulator Annual Capital Lease

Park Improvement Fund

- Community Park – Playground Equipment Replacement
- Bicentennial Commons – Phase II
- Bicentennial Commons – Entryway Sign and Other Ancillary
- Great Miami River Trail

Capital Improvement Fund

- Tyler Cashiering
- GIS Base Mapping
- Dispatch Console
- Station #61 Concrete and Sidewalk Repair
- Station #62 Generator
- Cardiac Monitor Replacement
- State Route 63 and Main Intersection Improvements
- Crossings Boulevard ADA Accessibility Program
- Crossings Boulevard Deep Base Repair
- South Union Road Improvement Project (Navigator Way to Nickel Road)

Water Capital Improvement Fund

- Mason/Butler Warren Line Replacement/Extension
- East Avenue Line Replacement

Water Meter and Read System Replacement Fund

- Gateway/Meter Replacement

Stormwater Utility Fund

- Brittany Heights Catch Basin Replacement Program
- Brittany Heights Storm Water Construction
- Crossing Catch Basin Replacement Program

The grand total of all projects is $13,45,700, but the impact on the General Fund is only $1,465,816.

These will be rolled into the forecast and submitted to Council.

Mr. Brock presented some improvements to the parking area at the strip center where the Police Department is located and we are putting together estimates.

The Public Works facility is the biggest need. He presented a potential of moving the facility on a 14 acre site and continue to work with the developer, Cincinnati Commercial Contracting. We are looking at between $11 million to $15 million on a new site or on the existing site. These are rough numbers and we are looking at bonds to pay for this.

Mrs. McElfresh asked about rehabilitating the existing structures and Mr. Brock advised that the structure is in such bad shape and cannot be rehabilitated.

Mr. Brock proposed putting a sign on the awning at the back of the building as most of the public will be coming into that entrance.

Referring to Monroe Bicentennial Commons, Mrs. McElfresh asked if it could be open to the public. Mr. Brock advised that there is some work that is still going on. Mr. Morton explained that the restroom facilities will not be open and the contractor is still working there. He said it is fine to open it, but there is still heavy equipment near the walking trail and there are dangers with that. Mrs. McElfresh would like to allow people to see where their tax dollars are going and walk the path.

Mrs. McElfresh asked if we could have additional leaf pickup. Mr. Brock replied that Public Works does continue to go out and pick up the leaves provided that there is not snow accumulation. The same vehicles used for leaf pick up is used for snow removal and it would be difficult to remove the snow removal equipment and put it back on for the leaves. He noted a lot of communities are no longer providing leaf pick up service.

Mr. Funk moved to adjourn into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: five ayes. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into executive session at 7:34 p.m.

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

Council reconvened into regular session at 7:57 p.m.

Adjournment

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

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council