Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
May 8, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

The following members of Council were present: Dan Clark, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, and Christina McElfresh.

The following staff members were present:

City Manager William J. Brock
Law Director K. Philip Callahan
Assistant Finance Director Deborah Armitage
Director of Public Works Daniel J. Arthur
Chief of Police Robert Buchanan
Fire Chief John P. Centers
Director of Development Kevin Chesar
Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk of Council Angela S. Wasson

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

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Hale moved to approve the Council Minutes of April 24, 2018; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Kim Mullally of MidPointe Library presented City Council with the library's 2017 statistics.

Vice Mayor Clark presented a proclamation to Don Hershner, representative for the National Association of Letter Carrier's, for the annual food drive.

Pat Hoagland of Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. updated City Council on the recommendations for Baker Sports Complex, Monroe Bicentennial Commons, and the Monroe Community Park.

- **Monroe Bicentennial Commons**. Proposed to have an entrance plaza, active play area, bicycle focused area, visitors center, possible meeting space, recreation area with an amphitheater, nature oriented play area, safety town area, and kayaking/canoe launch ramp.

  The programming of this area and maintenance will be unique as it will require additional staff and equipment. If you want to rent canoes, kayaking, and paddle boats there are a lot of vendors that could assist with that. Volunteers will also be important in making this work. The goal is to get the area open as soon as we can but, it must be made safe first.

- **Monroe Community Park**. We wanted to have more ball fields and improved ball fields. There are drainage issues that need to be corrected and there is not enough parking. As you come into the park there will be a spray ground, playground, and additional parking.

- **Baker Sports Complex**. A community garden and dog park could be located here, as well as, a natural area for trails and another disk golf course.

The next step is Council reviewing the three plans and, once they are finalized by City Council, we can begin with phase one. Mr. Funk asked how many phases are anticipated. Mr. Hoagland advised that it depends on the funding. There are nine distinct areas in Monroe Bicentennial Commons. There are some grant opportunities out there and it would make sense to start at the beginning of the Commons and work towards the back of the area. Mr. Hoagland stated that if everything was completed in the master plan the cost for Monroe Bicentennial Commons is $9.17 million but, does not include demolition. Monroe Community Park is $6 million and Baker Sports Complex is $1.3 million. He emphasized that these costs are if everything in the plan was built.

Mr. Brock explained that legislation will be presented in the future. Mr. Clark recognized that it is expensive, but the taxpayers made their voices loud and clear on what they want and the sooner it is completed, the better.

Mrs. McElfresh agreed that this would enhance the community and in phases it is something that can happen.

Committee Reports

None.

Old Business

Resolution No. 24-2018. A Resolution authorizing Members of City Council who hold a valid concealed carry permit pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code to carry a concealed weapon during meetings of City Council and meetings of Council Committees at specific City-owned facilities. (Second Reading)

Mr. Clark suggested tabling this legislation until we receive the Butler County Prosecutor's opinion.

Rob Beglin, representing the City's insurance company, informed Council that the proposed legislation was discussed with the underwriters. We cannot tell you what laws you should or shouldn't pass. It would be approximately $400 per individual for concealed carry. In addition, you are impinging on other people's second amendment right if you limit it to only public officials. The public officials liability policy would need to be reviewed and possibly increased. You could have an employee that is not comfortable with this file suit for a hostile work environment. The concealed carry issue is being tested every day.

Mr. Hickman asked if Mr. Beglin insured school districts and Mr. Beglin replied that they do not and he does not have any clients that allow Council members to conceal carry. They do have firefighters that can conceal carry at the additional $400 per individual rate.

Mr. Hickman moved to table Resolution No. 24-2018; seconded by Mr. Clark. Roll call vote: three ayes; three nays (Funk, Hale, McElfresh nay). Motion failed.

Mr. Funk is not against gun ownership or conceal carry and stated that Council meetings, similar to court, are considered an open forum. These are times that can get intense and we want our residents to come before us and feel comfortable. He felt that police presence can be increased.

Mr. Clark is of the opinion that the purpose of the concealed carry is that nobody knows you have it. It is a situation where the seven people up here are all well vetted. It is a question of why not and not why. The crime rate for people that have concealed carry is far lower than those that do not have a concealed carry.

Mr. Funk is also a big supporter and could support everyone being able to carry and not just Council Members.

Mrs. McElfresh pointed out that our law enforcement in this same building is better are trained for this.

Mr. Hickman stated this was brought up because we had an experience with a resident a few meetings ago. It was also brought up when he had a situation where a person told a government agency that someone was going to kill him. That night, Mr. Hickman had to go to Council and there was no police officer here. Mr. Hickman referenced his proposal to ban confederate flags in the parks. After that he was getting a lot of contact from people from out of town. He stated that his relative was shot at Madison High School and there was sheriff right outside the cafeteria. Mr. Hickman advised it is not just because of a resident that was here it has to do with the option to carry if you feel the need and he should be able to carry when he feels the need.

Mr. Clark felt that there is a heightened level being a Council member more so that other people.

Mr. Frentzel commented that you would never be truly safe as someone could be sitting in the Brandy Wine parking lot across the street. If this does pass tonight we need to come up with additional training.

Mr. Funk stated that if this passes and it discourages any number of residents from coming in here, we have done Monroe a disservice.

Mr. Frentzel referenced some of the staff comments that some would not want to come to Council meetings if this passes.

Mrs. Hale moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 24-2018 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Funk. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 24-2018 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Resolution 24-2018; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: two ayes; four nays (Frentzel, Funk, Hale, McElfresh). Motion failed.

New Business

Emergency Resolution No. 25-2018. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. to perform professional topographic survey services related to the drainage of the area of Senate Drive and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock stated that there have been a lot of issues of flooding on Senate Drive. It is in a flood plain; however, the increase in flooding has grown over the years. We want to study the area to see if there are any improvements we can make.

Mrs. Hale moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 25-2018 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. 25-2018 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 25-2018; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 26-2018. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract by and between the City of Monroe and Barrett Paving Materials, Inc for the Butler-Warren Road Reconstruction and Overlay Project and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock explained this awards the contract for the reconstruction project of Butler-Warren Road which will include full depth reclamation and overlay. Mr. Frentzel asked if it included widening and Mr. Brock advised that it does not and that will happen when the road is realigned.

Mrs. Hale moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 26-2018 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. 26-2018 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 26-2018; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 27-2018. A Resolution expressing appreciation to Suzi Rubin for her years of service to the community of the City of Monroe and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Clark presented Mrs. Rubin with a framed copy of the resolution and members of Council expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Rubin. Mrs. Rubin thanked Council and said it was a pleasure to serve.

Mrs. Hale moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 27-2018 on two separate days and authorize its adoption on the first reading; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 27-2018 in its entirety.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 27-2018; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-06. An Ordinance accepting the donation of real property to be used for public right-of-way in connection with the construction of Jerry Couch Boulevard and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock noted that in the process of the development of Jerry Couch Boulevard we determined that additional right-of-way was needed.

Mrs. Hale moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-06 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. Elfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-06 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-06; seconded by Mr. Funk. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-07. An Ordinance amending Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-05A to authorize a net profits credit as opposed to a rebate to UGN, Inc. and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock advised that after review of the incentive agreement we looked at the rebate versus the credit and we need to switch that rebate to a credit as a rebate may put a strain on some of the line items in the future. He noted that it does not change the amount of the incentive.

Mrs. Hale moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-07 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 Ordinance No. 2018-07 by title only.

Mrs. Hale moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2018-07; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion to authorize the expenditure of $19,208 to Dodds Monuments, Inc. for a Bicentennial Monument.

Mr. Brock advised that this would be erected where the water tower used to stand on East Avenue to commemorate the Bicentennial. Mrs. Wasson distributed a sample of the color of the monument and the proposed wording. Mr. Brock pointed out that last year Council approved to move forward on this and the motion this evening is to approve the expenditure. It was the consensus of Council to have different options presented.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Brock informed Council that the developer and the contractor are offering May 23rd at 6 p.m. for the Amazon walk through.

Mr. Brock reported that Chief Buchanan has made three conditional officers to three dispatchers. Also, the City is currently in the process of testing for police officers, operator/laborers, and the promotion of a crew leader.

Mr. Brock announced that the basketball team with the police and fire personnel versus teachers is this Friday night.

Executive Session

> To consider confidential information related to specific business strategy for economic assistance, the purchase of property for public purposes, and a conference with an attorney concerning pending or imminent court action.

Mrs. Hale moved to adjourn into executive session to consider confidential information related to specific business strategy for economic assistance, the purchase of property for public purposes, and a conference with an attorney concerning pending or imminent court action; Mr. Frentzel. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Council adjourned into executive session at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Hale moved to reconvene into regular session; Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Council reconvened into regular session at 9:41 p.m.

Mr. Frentzel moved to waive the conflict with Frost Brown Todd, LLC concerning Project Ball; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Mrs. Hale moved to adjourn the regular meeting of Council; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson. CMC
Clerk of Council