

**Monroe Council Minutes
Regular Meeting of Council
July 13, 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. The Department of Fire Honor Guard led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Council members present: Tom Callahan, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Anna Hale, Todd Hickman, and Christina McElfresh

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Funk moved to approve the Council Minutes of June 22, 2021; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Visitors

Law Director Callahan performed a ceremonial swearing in for recently hired Firefighter/EMT/Paramedics: Erik Dow, Ben Lause, Brandin Baxtron, Brendan Dziegel, Drew Burch, Dan Leitz, and Todd Lohse.

State Representative Thomas Hall updated Council on the different issues the State Representatives have been working on.

Paul Lane asked Council for a status on the requested speed limit revision on Lebanon Street. Mr. Brock advised that speed limits fall under the Ohio Revised Code and recommended that the Safety Committee of Council meet to discuss this matter. Mrs. McElfresh requested that Mrs. Wasson schedule a Safety Committee meeting as soon as possible.

Kelly Clark, Chair of the 2021 Charter Review Commission, encouraged City Council to place the proposed changes related to term limits, attendance, and the selection of Mayor separate from the other proposed changes. Referring to the discussion at the last meeting of Council to place all of the proposed changes under one ballot question, Mrs. Clark felt that there are those divisive issues that risk none of the proposed changes being approved by the electorate.

Committee Reports

Mayor Frentzel reported that the Technology Committee did recommend Velecor for a new phone system. He noted that it is being presented as an emergency due to the fact that the current system is past its end of life.

Old Business

Resolution No. 36-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Performance Food Group/Presto Foods related to the continuance of an existing Community Reinvestment Area Agreement. (Second Reading)

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 36-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 36-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 36-2021; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 37-2021. A Resolution authorizing an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy as opposed to the existing surety bond to cover the positions of the City of Monroe rather than the individuals holding a position. (Second Reading)

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 37-2021 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 37-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Resolution No. 37-2021; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2021-21. An Ordinance amending and supplementing Section 1064.03 of the Codified Ordinances to establish rules and regulations for park areas designated as Dog Parks. (Second Reading)

Mr. Hickman asked when the dog park will open and Mr. Morton advised they have had a hard time with fencing contractors. The poles have been set for the fence and now we will pour the concrete. He hopes by mid to the end of August it will be open.

Mr. Funk moved to consider this the second reading of Ordinance No. 2021-21 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2021-21 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-21; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Emergency Resolution No. 39-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement by and between the City of Monroe and Velecor for a new telephone system and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock reiterated Mayor Frentzel's statement that the existing phone system is past its end of life and is failing.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 39-2021 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. 39-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 39-2021; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 40-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract by and between the City of Monroe and R.A. Miller Construction Co., Inc. for the 2021 ADA Compliance Program and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Morton explained this is for the 2021 ADA project and the bid came in at \$81,384.50. \$70,000 will be refunded through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

In response to Mrs. McElfresh's question, Mr. Morton advised that this will focus on Old Street, Lebanon Street, and East Avenue as there is no handicap access in this area.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 40-2021 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. 40-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 40-2021; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 41-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract by and between the City of Monroe and Ford Development Corporation for the State Route 63 and Lawton Avenue Reconstruction Project and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Morton reported this project is for the expansion of a third turn lane on State Route 63 between American Way and Lawton Avenue, rebuilding the first 1,000 feet of Lawton Avenue, and new traffic light poles at American Way. This project was bid out in mid-June with Ford Development being the low bidder at \$2,880,041.41. We have Ohio Public Works Commission funds in the amount of \$483,091 leaving the City \$1.6 million of this. This project came in over the original estimate, but back in May of 2020, he and Mr. Brock

realized there had been items that were missed, such as a large culvert that had been rusted out and a water line in excess of 50 years old.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 41-2021 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. 41-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 41-2021; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 42-2021. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract by and between the City of Monroe and Graybar Electric for the South Main Street Lighting and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Morton advised this is for the South Main Street Lighting Project for new lights going down Main Street to the Monroe Community Park, as well as the City Building Plaza and the road going around the City Building. He noted this is for material only and they are seeking quotes for the installation.

Mayor Frentzel asked if the lights are too close to the power lines going down to Monroe Community Park. Mr. Morton did not believe they are too close as they are four to five feet below the lines.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 42-2021 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. 42-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 42-2021; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Resolution No. 43-2021. 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 2021 Asphalt Paving Program and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Morton reported this is for the annual paving program with Barret Paving Materials coming in as the low bid in the amount of \$842,325.25. This is \$42,325.25 over what was budgeted; however, he met with the Finance Director and they reviewed the capital improvements for this year and she is confident that we could cover this.

Mr. Funk asked if any capital projects are being moved to next year to create room for some of these overages. Mr. Morton replied that these are the bulk of the projects for this year and one of the projects that is getting pushed to next year is the Butler-Warren/Mason water line project.

Mrs. McElfresh asked what funds the overages are coming from. Mrs. Ervin explained that last year the State Legislature passed Senate Bill 4 that allows us to use 25% of our TIF/RID Funding for various street projects, so the majority of that is actually coming from that as this is the last year of that program.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 43-2021 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Resolution No. 43-2021 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 43-2021; seconded by Mrs. McElfresh. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried

Ordinance No. 2021-22. An Ordinance amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 2021-13, 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, 2021.

Mrs. Ervin stated that they are trying to eliminate the amount of appropriation changes brought before Council and this is for the third quarter. Adoption of this Ordinance is dependent on the next piece of legislation for the allocation plan. We are talking about a transfer from the General Fund into the Park Improvement Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund. You will see an explanation in the packet.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Ordinance No. 2021-22 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2021-22 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-22; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-23. An Ordinance adopting an allocation plan for the distribution of certain personal services and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Ervin explained that positions are allocated across several funds. For example, the City Manager's office supports every single fund of the City. Previously, we had them paid across all of the funds. If positions change it becomes very complicated. This legislation removes everyone except for three of the positions in Public Works as their salaries come from the Public Works Department.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-23 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-23 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-23; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance 2021-24. An Ordinance establishing the American Rescue Plan Act Fund and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Ervin advised that the State Legislature requires a new fund for the American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Mr. Funk moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-24 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-24 by title only.

Mr. Funk moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2021-24; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll call vote: six ayes. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$71,317.07 to Service Supply Ltd., Inc. for new playground equipment at Monroe Crossings Park.

Mr. Brock stated that this motion and the next are for new playground equipment at Monroe Crossings Park and Monroe Community Park.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$71,317.07 to Service Supply Ltd., Inc. for new playground equipment at Monroe Crossings Park; seconded by Mr. Callahan. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$77,254.66 to Service Supply Ltd., Inc. for new playground equipment at Monroe Community Park.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$77,254.66 to Service Supply Ltd., Inc. for new playground equipment at Monroe Community Park; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. McElfresh asked what happens with the old equipment and Mr. Morton replied that they will dispose of it.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$8,275 to CT Consultants for professional engineering services related to truck traffic on Todhunter Road from Yankee/Salzman to State Route 4.

Mr. Brock explained this would be an independent review of limiting truck traffic in the subject area on Todhunter Road.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$8,275 to CT Consultants for professional engineering services related to truck traffic on Todhunter Road from Yankee/Salzman to State Route 4; seconded by Mrs. Hale. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion authorizing the expenditure of \$7,125 to CT Consultants for professional engineering services related to the speed limit on State Route 63 from I-75 to Yankee Road.

Mr. Brock stated this is a speed study at the request of Council. This study is required by the Ohio Department of Transportation to consider the reduction of speed on State Route 63. In response to Mr. Hickman's question, Mr. Brock advised that everything will be reviewed, not just the speed, and a report will be provided to Council.

Mr. Funk moved to authorize the expenditure of \$7,125 to CT Consultants for professional engineering services related to the speed limit on State Route 63 from I-75 to Yankee Road; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Consideration of Motion and Discussion to amend the Rules of Council and place the adoption thereof on the July 27, 2021 agenda.

No action taken.

Consideration of Motion and/or Discussion of alterations, revisions, and amendments to the Charter.

It was the consensus of Council to have four separate questions on the ballot being 1) term limits; 2) attendance; 3) selection of Mayor; and 4) everything else.

Brief discussion was held in response to Mr. Funk's concern from the previous meeting of Council about the changes in Section 4.06. Mr. Funk noted that he is concerned about including this in the Charter; however, if he is the only one objecting he is fine with moving forward as recommended by the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Funk moved to have the Charter recommendations put in legislation form by the Clerk of Council for the next meeting of Council; seconded by Mr. Hickman. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Hickman inquired about a date to interview the three applicants for the existing vacancy on City Council. It was the consensus of Council to schedule a special meeting for Wednesday, July 21st at 6 p.m. at the new police facility.

Adjournment

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

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council