



**Monroe Council Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
June 28, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.  
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio**

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***Pledge of Allegiance***

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

***Roll Call***

Council members present: Marc Bellapianta, Tom Callahan, Kelly Clark, Jason Frentzel, Keith Funk, Christina McElfresh, and Ben Wagner.

***Approval of the Minutes***

Mrs. McElfresh moved to approve the Council Minutes of June 14, 2022 and June 20, 2022; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Voice vote. Motion carried.

***Visitors***

Law Director Callahan performed a ceremonial swearing in of Matthew Adkins as Patrol Officer.

***Committee Reports***

Mr. Frentzel reported that the Finance Committee met and reviewed condensed reports for February and March. The Committee has requested that the reports be sent to Council for review and provide feedback to the Committee.

***Old Business***

**Resolution No. 24-2022.** A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Fishbeck for professional engineering services to perform a hydrology study at Monroe Bicentennial Commons. (Second Reading) (Tabled June 14, 2022)

Mr. Brock reported he met with the Director of the Metro Parks and they are not interested in taking over the project, but would be willing to assist with the planning efforts in the overall park development. They are also interested in a partnership with the trail.

Referring to the Strategic Plan, Mr. Brock expressed the importance of making sure there is a good operating budget for the maintenance of the parks to understand what the needs are. Mr. Brock advised there is overall parks planning and how to move forward as there is still a lot of effort to be put into any park either as set forth in the Parks Master Plans or reassess these plans.



Mayor Funk was of the opinion that the hydrology study and Monroe Bicentennial Commons is not high priority compared to other parks.

Law Director Callahan advised that if it remains on the table it will die or Council can remove it from the table and vote it down or pass it.

Mr. Bellapianta is not in favor of moving forward on this park at this time. There are some of the items in this hydrology study that could be completed in-house. According to the Master Plan, this is being created as regional park and Mr. Bellapianta felt that needed to be communicated to the taxpayers. There are so many other issues that the taxpayers are concerned about and he is not hearing Monroe Bicentennial Commons being one of them.

Dr. Clark agreed with Mr. Bellapianta as she is hearing more and more from citizens that the priority is not with Monroe Bicentennial Commons. She is hearing more of an emphasis on Monroe Community Park.

Mr. Callahan agreed and there are so many issues that could be looked at rather than put so much money into Monroe Bicentennial Commons.

Mr. Wagner stated that if a hydrology study isn't performed now there will be nothing that can be done with that park. He isn't saying that it is something that should be performed, but there may need to be a hydrology study performed at Monroe Community Park. Mr. Wagner would like to see the bike trail completed at Monroe Bicentennial Commons as that will be a great asset to Monroe.

Mrs. McElfresh likes the idea of a survey to determine what the community, as a whole, really wants.

Mr. Frentzel asked what impact the hydrology study would have on completing the trail and Mr. Brock replied that it would have no impact.

Mr. Frentzel asked Mr. Morton if there was anything necessary to maintain what has been built so far at Monroe Bicentennial Commons. Mr. Morton advised that it is necessary to look at some sort of drywell system to be able to drain the tree wells. Without this it would cause premature failure of the concrete. Mr. Morton emphasized it is not the ultimate fix and he didn't want to put something in that wasn't a permanent fix. The hydrology study and proper engineering will help determine what will correct the drainage problems that exist.

Mr. Bellapianta felt that performing a hydrology study on the entire 40 acres is a waste of money. Mr. Bellapianta reiterated the in-house capabilities such as the Lidar and did not understand why some of those services are not being utilized. Mr. Morton advised that in-house services could be utilized to some degree; however, our GIS Analyst is not a licensed surveyor or engineer so it would be just looking at the data. There still needs to be a design by a professional engineer and licensed surveyor so the City would have something to bid out. Mr. Bellapianta feels that when this was discussed and designed Council was not aware of these issues and had no idea what they were getting into.



Mr. Frentzel is in agreement with Mr. Wagner in that if we do not approve this it will be a lot to overcome for any future development. It would not be wise for additional progress until we know what is under that land. If this is voted down, Mr. Frentzel would like Council to consider maintaining what has already been built on this property.

Regarding a survey, Mr. Brock recommended that the Park and Recreation Board look at the questions asked when the Park Master Plans were put together to see if they are still appropriate.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to request city management deploy a survey on park priorities; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to remove Resolution No. 24-2022 from the table; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to consider this the second reading of Resolution No. 24-2022 and have it read by title only; seconded by Dr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 24-2022 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-2022; seconded by Mayor Funk. Roll call vote: one aye; six nays (Bellapianta, Callahan, Clark, Funk, McElfresh, and Wagner). Motion failed.

### *New Business*

**Emergency Resolution No. 27-2022.** A Resolution amending Emergency Resolution No. 59-2021 to increase the blanket purchase order for Public Entities Pool and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock reported this will increase the blanket purchase order for the change in bonds for the Finance Department.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Resolution No. 27-2022 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. 27-2022 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to adopt Emergency Resolution No. 27-2022; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Roll call vote: six ayes; one nay (Callahan). Motion carried.

**Resolution No. 28-2022.** A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for professional engineering services with Jones-Warner Consultants, Inc. for the Brittany Heights Subdivision Catch Basin Project.

Mr. Brock advised this will complete the last phase of replacing the last 30 catch basins in Brittany Heights. The cost of this service is \$30,000.



Mrs. McElfresh moved to consider this the first reading of Resolution No. 28-2022 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Resolution No. 28-2022 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to approve the first reading of Resolution No. 28-2022; seconded by Dr. Clark. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

**Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-12.** An Ordinance vacating a certain water line easement containing 2608.28 square feet no longer needed for municipal purposes and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brock explained this Ordinance and the one following are related to the development agreement for Thorntons. This will remove the easement for the water line and Thornton will then realign the easement for water and sewer. The next Ordinance removes a deed restriction related to well head protection for well heads that are no longer present.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-12 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. 2022-12 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-12; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

**Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-13.** An Ordinance releasing certain deed restrictions no longer needed for municipal purposes and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-13 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-13 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-13; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

**Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-14.** An Ordinance providing for the submission to the electorate of amendments to Section 4.01 and Section 4.06 of the Charter of the City of Monroe establishing term limits for members of City Council, to reduce excused absences from four to three, require the attendance of 66% of regularly scheduled meetings in a calendar year, and declaring an emergency.

Dr. Clark referred to Mayor Funk's comment during a special meeting of Council wherein he commented that he did not believe the City was ready for term limits. Dr. Clark explained that if the electors approve term limits and, hypothetically Mayor Funk, Mrs. McElfresh, Mr. Frentzel, and Mr.



Callahan decide to run again for Council in the 2023 election and were successful, their term limit could potentially end in 2031. In addition, 2031 is when the next Charter Review Commission would be appointed.

Following discussion with Law Director Callahan, the Clerk of Council noted that the effective date of this legislation should have been changed to January 1, 2024 as opposed to January 1, 2022. Law Director Callahan advised that this change has already been made and doesn't need Council action to change the date since the legislation has not been introduced.

Law Director Callahan noted this allows for those running for office to know that they are going to have term limits if this is passed by the electorate.

Mr. Frentzel brought up the possibility of having four vacant seats and only three members of Council would not be a quorum to make appointments to fill vacancies.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-14 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-14 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-14; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Roll call vote: six ayes; one nay (Callahan). Motion carried.

**Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-15.** An Ordinance providing for the submission to the electorate of amendments to the Charter of the City of Monroe, Ohio, to provide for gender neutral references; require Council proceedings on public media platforms; include additional duties of the City Manager; add or eliminate departments; and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-15 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Dr. Clark. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-15 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-15; seconded by Mr. Wagner. Roll call vote: six ayes; one nay (Callahan). Motion carried.

**Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-16.** An Ordinance providing for the submission to the electorate of amendments to the Charter of the City of Monroe, Ohio, to amend what is to be adopted by an ordinance; permit legislation to be read by title only unless otherwise indicated; all resolutions to become effective immediately; increase the time limit for zoning public hearings from 30 to 60 days; eliminate the requirement for Council to authorize obtaining bids; and declaring an emergency.



Mr. Brock reported that the bond amendment was removed from this Charter amendment due to the need for an additional discussion on how much of a levy would be needed should the bond amendment to go forward.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to suspend the rule requiring the reading of Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-16 on two separate days, authorize its adoption on the first reading, and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-16 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 2022-16; seconded by Mr. Frentzel. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

**Ordinance No. 2022-17.** An Ordinance accepting a 20 foot water main easement from the Monroe Local School District Board of Education.

Mr. Brock reported this is accepting an easement from the Monroe Local School District allowing the City to loop the line to the Trails of Todhunter Subdivision.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-17 and have it read by title only; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Clerk of Council read Ordinance No. 2022-17 by title only.

Mrs. McElfresh moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-17; seconded by Dr. Clark. Roll call vote: seven ayes. Motion carried.

### ***Administrative Reports***

#### **- Strategic Plan Update**

Mr. Brock provided a quarterly update on the Strategic Plan:

- **Revisit Charter Review Recommendations** – Completed this evening.
- **Personnel Policy Manual Modernization and Union Contract Review** – the HR Manager is going to present to Council condensing the Personnel Policy Manual.
- **Plan a Budget Retreat for Prioritization of Program Areas and Planning of Future Expenses** – We have asked the department heads to begin putting their budget requests in the system by the end of July. Mr. Brock requested input from Council on what they would like to see during the retreat.
- **Identify and Prioritize Uses for ARPA Funds** – We are getting recommendations from department heads and then we will prioritize those recommendations during the retreat.
- **Public Works Facility Planning. Review Needs and Identify Property Needed for Future Facilities** – A Public Works Committee meeting will be held this week to help move this project forward.



- **Expand City Fiber Network to Provide Backbone that will Encourage Carriers to Provide Fiber to the Home of all City Residents and Encourage Economic Development** – We have talked about that at Technology Committee and will be providing them with additional information. Mr. Brock has a meeting with Cincinnati Bell next week.
- **Plan and Budget for Increase Need of Public Safety Dispatching** – Mr. Brock has reviewed recommendations from staff. This will be brought to the Public Safety Committee.
- **Addition of Battalion Chief Positions in the Fire Department** – Council has approved these positions.
- **Succession Planning and Executive Compensation** – This will be a discussion at the first Council meeting of every month.
- **Update Zoning Code, Map and Other Ordinances to Reflect the Priorities of the Comprehensive Plan** – Mr. Smith has advertised for a request for qualifications to move forward with this.
- **Implement the Bicentennial Commons Master Plan** – This was discussed this evening and staff has direction.
- **Economic Development Plan that Identifies Strategic Growth Opportunities and Provides and Incentive Matrix** – Mrs. Patterson is working to pull the CIC together to have discussions over the next two months.
- **Engage Community in “Big Ticket” Items from Comprehensive Plan** – We want to re-evaluate those items and will have a separate survey on that.
- **Conduct Community Surveys to Gauge Public Opinions on Services Provided** – Mrs. Patterson is compiling survey questions.

Mr. Bellapianta asked Mr. Brock if he has heard anything additional in working with the School Board. Mr. Brock replied that he met with the Superintendent and expect to have a joint meeting in the fall.

### *Adjournment*

Mr. Frentzel moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Bellapianta. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The regular meeting of Council adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC  
Clerk of Council