

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, March 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members Beneteau, Clark, Conner, McGhee, Molenda, Paisley and Mayor Worrell.

Mark Farris, 419 East Second Street, called for Point of Order stating that Roberts Rules of Order are not applicable in church and that prayer does not belong at City Council meetings.

Tom Ready, City Attorney, stated that prayer at the Council meeting has been a long standing tradition in the City of Monroe.

Charles Evans, City Clerk gave the invocation.

Mayor Worrell led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Proclamations.

42 Month of the Young Child – April 2008.

Presentations.

Presentation by Scott Davidson, Director of DPS, regarding snow removal and winter maintenance costs.

Presentation by Ryan Solomon, Assistant City Manager, regarding cable television issues.

Consent Agenda. (All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Mayor and Council and may be approved by one motion. Any item may be removed for separate discussion by a Councilperson or citizen.)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday, March 3, 2008 and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Monday, March 3, 2008.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$462,871.13.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

43 Water Department Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Cross Connection Inspection Program.

1. Communication from the Director of Water and Utilities, reporting back on a bid received on March 3, 2008 for the Water Department Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Cross Connection Control/Backflow Prevention Program, and recommending that a purchase order in the amount of \$12,600.00 for consulting services be awarded to Hydro Designs, Inc. according to their proposal dated March 3, 2008.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

- 44 North Telegraph Road Pump Station Upgrade Bid Opening.
1. Communication from the Director of Engineering and Planning, reporting back on bids received on March 3, 2008 for the North Telegraph Road Pump Station Upgrade, and recommending that the City Council award the contract to Triangle Excavating Company in the amount of \$119,067.00, conditioned on submittal of required labor harmony documentation by the Contractor, and further recommending that the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the contracts on behalf of the City of Monroe.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 45 Proposed "Academy Preserve" Resolution of Support.
1. Communication from the Director of Engineering and Planning, submitting a proposed resolution of support for any and all applications for funding the proposed Academy Preserve Project, and recommending that the resolution be adopted.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 46 AT & T Above Ground Utility Structure – Request for Permit Approval – Location #20.
1. Communication from the Director of Engineering and Planning, submitting a request for approval of AT & T Above Ground Utility Structure Location #20, in the east terrace of North Roessler Street, 120 feet north of West Elm Avenue, and recommending that the cabinet at location #20 be approved contingent upon no objections from the reviewing departments, and that the Engineering Department be authorized to issue a right-of-way permit for the work, subject to minor relocation to ensure full conformance with the intent of the City's policy.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 47 Harbor Avenue Water Main – Change Order to South County Connections Contract..
1. Communication from the Director of Engineering and Planning, submitting a change order to the South County Water Connections Contract for the replacement of the Harbor Avenue Water Main, and recommending that Council award a Change Order to the South County Water Connections Contract to Anderzack-Pitzen Construction for the replacement of the Harbor Avenue Water Main in the amount of \$115,494.40, and that a total of \$133,000 be encumbered to include a 15% project contingency, and further recommending that the City Engineer be authorized to sign the change order on behalf of the City of Monroe.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

- 48 Annual Root Treatment Program.
1. Communication from the Director of Wastewater, reporting back on a bid received for the annual root treatment program, and recommending that the award be made to Dukes Sales & Service for the bid price of \$15,049.54.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 49 Annual Weed Cutting Date.
1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer, submitting a proposed resolution setting May 5, 2008, as the annual date that all weeds and grasses and other items subject to Ordinance No. 05-004 must be cut, and recommending that the resolution be adopted.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 50 Appointment to Commission on Environment and Water Quality.
1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a proposed resolution appointing Felicity Baker to the Commission on Environment and Water Quality, and recommending that the resolution be adopted.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 51 Eagles Nest Community Church Request.
1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Eagle's Nest Community Church to use St. Mary's Park on May 25, 2008 to hold their annual "Honor Our Heroes" service, use of the bandshell and pavilion and that the fees be waived or reduced, and recommending that Council approve the request to waive the fees contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, that all necessary park deposits are paid, and that the City Manager be granted the authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 52 Monroe County Fair Association Parade Request.
1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Fair Association for permission to hold their annual parade on July 27, 2008 at 1:00 p.m., to close the affected streets and for assistance from the City Police Department, and recommending that Council approve this request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration and that the City Manager be granted the authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

53 Tomorrow's Child/Michigan SIDS and the 2008 Monroe Baby Walk.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Tomorrow's Child/Michigan SIDS and the 2008 Monroe Baby Walk steering committee to hold the 3rd annual Monroe Baby Walk on September 6, 2008, use of Munson Park's walking trails and shelter #2 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and that the fees be waived, and recommending that the request be approved contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, that all necessary park deposits are paid, and that the City Manager be granted the authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

54 Authorization for Sale of Various Snow Plow Parts.

1. Communication from the Director of Public Services, submitting a request to solicit quotations for various snow plow parts from DPS Stores and Equipment inventory and to sell them for the best price obtained, and recommending that Council authorize the sale of the parts.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

55 Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Festival Request.

1. Communication from the Director of Public Services, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce to conduct a community festival June 12 through 15, 2008 at the Lauer-Finzel parking lot, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent on meeting the conditions identified by City staff.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

56 Library Service Advisory Team Tenders Recommendations for Library Service.

1. Communication from the Assistant City Manager, submitting a report of recommendations for library service in the City of Monroe prepared and submitted by the Library Service Advisory Team (L-SAT), and recommending that Council approve the report of recommendations to optimize library service available to Monroe residents.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman McGhee that items 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55 be approved as indicated and that items 45 and 56 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0.

Motion carried.

45 The communication from the Director of Engineering and Planning was presented, submitting a proposed resolution of support for any and all applications for funding the proposed Academy Preserve Project, and recommending that the resolution be adopted.

Councilwoman Conner stated that this is a unique project.

Robert Peven, Assistant Planning Director, County of Monroe, stated that this grant would acquire about 125 acres of property owned by the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the purpose of a public open space and land preserve. He explained that the grant would cover up to 75% of the cost of the land acquisition and the other required 25% matching funds will be raised by the Friends of the Academy, a private citizens group.

Adam Yeager, 1833 South Custer Road, asked if this money would come out of the Social Security Trust Fund.

Robert Peven, County Planning, explained that the source of funds for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant is revenue that the state receives from leases for oil and gas wells on publicly owned land. He further stated that the money goes into a fund and is then distributed to local communities for parks and recreation.

It was moved by Councilwoman Conner and seconded by Councilman Clark that item 45 be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passed.

56 The communication from the Assistant City Manager was presented, submitting a report of recommendations for library service in the City of Monroe prepared and submitted by the Library Service Advisory Team (L-SAT), and recommending that Council approve the report of recommendations to optimize library service available to Monroe residents.

Councilman Clark stated there are three options listed in the report and asked if Council would be accepting the options by approving this item.

George Brown, City Manager, stated he does not believe the committee adopted specific recommendations in regard to options for expanded library facilities, but they did examine the three that are included in the report. He felt their specific finding was that the City of Monroe appeared to be underserved in regard to facility space and circulation materials. He stated the committee is recommending that Council consider going into a deeper professional study analysis and feasibility to determine how the citizens of Monroe could best be served.

Councilman Clark stated that he had concerns with data and information and the volume of items that were identified in the feasibility study of the United Furniture Building. He asked if there were costs for the additional determinations or the use of professional objective assistance.

George Brown, City Manager, stated the cost could range anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000 depending on the scope of the request for proposals.

Councilman Molenda stated it is his opinion that Monroe probably is underserved and needs to have a little bit more of a library presence. He felt strongly that the library should have not only a significant presence in the community but specifically in the downtown area in whatever form it should happen to take in the future.

Councilman Beneteau said he appreciated the effort that went into the study, but pointed out one of the recommendations stated that the specific purpose of the Dorsch Branch would be determined by a needs assessment conducted by the Monroe County Library System. He asked why the City would pay for the study and also asked if other public space was ever considered to be used for additional library space. He stated he was not in favor of spending three to four million dollars to expand an old building if they could get a larger new building for the same cost as Bedford. He was in favor of letting the voters decide on a millage increase.

Joe Lark, Chairman, LSAT, introduced the committee members and stated that the committee quickly came to the conclusion that the city was grossly underserved by library services in comparison to other municipalities not only throughout Michigan but other states as well. He stated that the committee considered many options.

Councilwoman Conner questioned the need for professional fact finding.

Joe Lark, Chairman, LSAT, stated there are services out there much more capable of pinpointing and determining the needs. He explained the needs assessment that the Monroe County Library System is capable of doing would fall short of the scope that would be necessary to make a solid recommendation here.

Councilman Paisley asked how much time the committee spent looking at Navarre Library since earlier statistics showed that it was underutilized.

Joe Lark, Chairman, LSAT, stated that the committee did identify the needs of Navarre Library and found that they don't have the space requirements for the number of people who are using it. He stated they are very cognizant the something needs to be done there also.

Councilman McGhee stated he is not in favor of the city spending three million dollars on renovating an old building and also asked if the committee considered expansion or renovation of Navarre Library.

Joe Lark, Chairman, LSAT, stated it was considered and they recommended that it be expanded at some point in time.

Mayor Worrell stated that the ideal situation would be to have the headquarters of the library downtown. He suggested that maybe it could be something joint with the city/county/library with parking incorporated into the same place. He stated he would like to see this item accepted and a work session scheduled.

Nancy Bellaire, Assistant Director, Monroe County Library System, thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that a consultant could give the city a survey of their own to find out how the citizens feel about it.

It was moved by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Molenda that item 56 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Adam Yeager, 1833 South Custer Road, felt that the citizens should be asked before any money is spent on a project.

Mayor Worrell explained that the motion does not approve any designation of money to be spent.

Linda Compura, 411 Bentley, felt that the city needs to continue to reinvest in the community, pointing out that a library is not a luxury; it is a basic service that needs to be offered. She feels Council needs to consider that the United Furniture Building was purchased expressly for the expansion of the library.

Mark Farris, 419 E. Second Street, stated he can't think of anything better than a library for children, but agreed that the public should have input.

A vote was then taken on the motion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Worrell stated that he is improving from his surgery.

Council Comments.

Councilman McGhee commented on his attendance at the National League of Cities conference in Washington D.C. this past week, stating that it was extremely informative and Monroe is not alone when it comes to economic problems in this country.

Councilman Molenda also commented on the National League of Cities conference stating that it was a good conference and he looks forward to sharing what he learned with Council and the public in the weeks ahead.

Councilwoman Conner stated that she also attended the conference and the work sessions were wonderful.

Councilman Beneteau announced that Jack's Bicycle Shop has moved to the corner of Second and Monroe Streets. He stated he has received inquiries regarding the city's bicycle policy and would like to get information regarding the policy from the City Manager.

Councilman Clark commended the LSAT committee and stated that he does not understand how anyone can say they were uninformed when the meetings were posted and advertised in the newspaper and there were many opportunities to be involved.

Councilman Paisley also thanked the LSAT committee.

Charles Evans, City Clerk stated that he is still struggling with the downsizing of city hall which he thinks has been carried too far. He does not feel that everyone is sharing in this equally and his office has been hit very hard.

Councilman Molenda stated that during the budget work sessions three things might be useful and informative: 1) the dollar amount of the budget for the last two years, 2) the percentage of the budget that the dollar amount was, and 3) staffing levels of departments that have had positions eliminated.

City Manager Comments.

George Brown, City Manager, stated that yard waste pick up will begin the week of March 31st and continue through December.

Citizen's Comments.

Dave Roberts, 706 Broadway, asked about the elimination of stop lights in the city.

George Brown, City Manager, explained that the Engineering staff examines signalization and traffic control on a fairly regular basis and the traffic lights that have been removed now were done by a traffic control order. He stated that there is an engineering science to this and those that have been removed are well under the warrants.

Mark Farris, 419 East Second Street, asked for a transcript of the closed door discussion regarding Ford Motor Company, stating he is concerned that the city is making a multi-million dollar decision behind closed doors to the detriment of every citizen in town.

Mayor Worrell stated that the city dealt with ACH, not Ford, but he offered to set up a meeting with Mr. Farris and the city assessor to discuss the topic.

Tom Ready, City Attorney, explained the conditions of the Open Meetings Act authorizing closed sessions and pointed out that minutes of closed sessions are sealed and no transcripts are kept.

Louis Randazzo, 1241 East Elm, stated that he lives next to the battlefield property and asked that something be done in regard to the truck traffic, dirt and road conditions.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilwoman Conner and seconded by Councilman Paisley that the meeting adjourn at 9:01 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Charles D. Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor