

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2008

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, August 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Presentations.

Presentation by John Patterson, Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau, regarding the Jazz Festival.

Presentation by Tim Wagner, SBW Architectural Firm and Monroe Housing Commission regarding the new phases for Greenwood expansion.

Council Action.

226 It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that Proposed Ordinance No. 08-013, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 296, Municipal Employees' Retirement System to revise Section 296.48(b)(2)A, Hybrid Pension retirement window, be placed on its first reading and that the public hearing be set for Monday August 4, 2008.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0
Motion Carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 08-013 was then presented for the first time and laid over for its second reading and public hearing for Monday, August 25, 2008.

Consent Agenda. (All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Mayor and Council and will be approved by one motion, unless a Council member or citizen requests that an item be removed and acted on as a separate agenda item)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Monday, August 4, 2008, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting.
- B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$ 1,096,209.54.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

218 Accumed Ambulance Service Fee Increase

1. Communication from the Director of Finance, reporting back on service and fee changes in the current contract with Accumed Ambulance Service, that Blue Cross Blue Shield and Medicare has increased or will increase the services and fees that they will reimburse and in order to take advantage of these reimbursement rates it is recommended that Council approve the attached ambulance service fee schedule to be effective September 1. 2008.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

219 Large Water User Agreement

1. Communication from the Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities submitting a proposed Large Water User Agreement between Mr. Phillip Bruck, the City of Monroe and Exeter Township, to require a 2" water service and 2" water meter for both residential use at 5675 Scofield Road and water hauling uses and that a System Development Fee will be required from LWU in accordance with the City Codified Ordinance such that this fee will not be used to reduce the Township Buy-in Cost for additional capacity as outlined in the Amendment to the Existing Water agreement between the City of Monroe and Exeter Township, and that the Township and the LWU such that both are concurrently executing the agreement, and recommending that the attached agreement be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk/Treasurer be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Monroe.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

220 Curb Replacement and Resurfacing Bids.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering, Public Services and Planning, reporting back on bids received for 2008 Curb Replacement and Resurfacing Program, and recommending that Council award the contract to Cadillac Asphalt, LLC in the amount of \$250,753.65, and that a total of \$288,000 be encumbered to include a 15% project contingency, conditioned on submission of appropriate Labor Harmony documentation. It is further recommended that the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the contracts on behalf of the City of Monroe and that the Finance Director be authorized to transfer funds as needed from the 2008 Concrete Paving Program streets where surplus funding is available.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

221 Monroe Family YMCA Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Managers Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe Family YMCA for permission to display a banner across Monroe Street from September 9 – 21, 2008, announcing the Corporate Cup, and recommending approval of the request.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and that the recommendation be carried out.

222 First Presbyterian Church Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Managers Office, reporting back on a request from the First Presbyterian Church for permission to display a banner across Monroe Street from September 1 – 21, 2008, announcing the church's charity bed race and recommends approval of the request.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

223 Resolution No. 4 – East Eighth Street – New Public Water Main.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering, Public Services, and Planning, submitting Resolution No. 4 in the special assessment process declaring the installation of a new water main on East Eighth Street between Washington and Custer a public necessity, and recommending that the attached Resolution No. 4 be adopted and that a public hearing on the distribution of the assessment roll be scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

224 Cultural & Economic Development Office request for Resolution of Support.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering, Public Services, and Planning, submitting a proposed resolution of support from the Monroe County Cultural and Economic Development Task Force to participate in the Governor's Centers for Regional Excellence Program with the cities of Luna Pier, the Village of Dundee, Bedford Township and various non-profit originations located within the county of Monroe, to apply for a \$25,000 grant, and recommending the proposed resolution be adopted.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

225 Employment Agreements – Temporary Help.

1. Communication from the Director of Human Resources, submitting a request to re-employ City of Monroe retirees, Thomas Smith and Steve Schilling on a temporary basis until permanent replacements can be hired, and recommending that the agreement be approved.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Mayor Worrell informed council that item 223 had been revised.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman McGhee that item's 219, 220, 221, 222, 223 and 226, be approved as indicated and that items 218, 224 and 225 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

218 The communication from the Director of Finance, reporting back on service and fee changes in the current contract with Accumed Ambulance Service, that Blue Cross Blue Shield and Medicare has increased or will increase the services and fees that they will reimburse and in order to take advantage of these reimbursement rates and recommended that Council approve the attached ambulance service fee schedule to be effective September 1, 2008.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street, asked if there is an annual recording of services absorbed by the taxpayer that could now be covered under the new agreement with Accumed.

Ed Sell, Director of Finance, stated that this last fiscal year the city billed about 1 million dollars in ambulance services, but collected about 60% of that amount. He stated that if the insurance carrier will only pay a certain amount then that is considered a contractual right-off and that is not something we collect. He further stated that he did not have any data that indicates how much was billed to a person without insurance that just could not pay the bill.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman Clark that item 218 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

224 The communication from the Director of Engineering, Public Services, and Planning, submitting a proposed resolution of support from the Monroe County Cultural and Economic Development Task Force to participate in the Governor's Centers for Regional Excellence Program with the cities of Luna Pier, the Village of Dundee, Bedford Township and various non-profit originations located within the county of Monroe, to apply for a \$25, 000 grant, and recommending the proposed resolution be adopted.

Councilman Paisley said he has received several comments with concerns regarding this issue and asked that Bill Saul give some insight about the grant process.

Bill Saul, Monroe County Steering Committee for the War of 1812, spoke about the need for a regional marketing plan to help market the Battlefield and other cultural assets of Monroe County and that eligibility for the grant requires regional efforts. He further stated that the money will be used specifically for research.

Tracy Noler, lead researcher, gave a brief history of her qualifications and connections and stated that her office will be in with the Main Street Office at 118 Front Street.

Josh Meyer, Congressman Dingell's Office, spoke about the benefits of a National Park, Battlefield and thinking strategically about how to identify our cultural assets.

It was moved by Councilwoman Conner and seconded by Councilman Paisley that item 224 be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

225 Communication from the Director of Human Resources, submitting a request to re-employ City of Monroe retirees, Thomas Smith and Steve Schilling on a temporary basis until permanent replacements can be hired, and recommending that the agreement be approved.

Councilman Beneteau asked what the time frame is for the temporary workers who fill the vacant positions from the retired workers.

George Brown, City Manager said the vacancies have been posted but not filled and the city would like to settle the union contracts before looking outside for qualified persons.

John Timko, 1034 Bentley Drive spoke against filling the positions with contracted employees.

It was moved by Councilman Beneteau and seconded by Councilman Clark that item 225 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mayor Comments.

Mayor Worrell spoke about the invitation he received from Congressman Dingell to testify before the House Senate Committee regarding the National Park, Battlefield, the Mayor's Conference and about issues discussed with the City Manager and Council Members.

Josh Meyers, Representative for Congressman Dingell, spoke briefly about Congressman Dingell's Bill.

Council Comments.

Councilman Paisley commented on the testimony that the Mayor will be giving at the House Senate Committee meeting, the Jazz Festival and Fine Arts Fair, and Custer Week.

Councilman McGhee informed everyone about former Councilwoman Dorothy Edwards illness and asked for prayers for her and further requested that the public give suggestions and solutions regarding issues in the city rather than complaints.

Councilman Molenda commented on community ownership, charting items of business for council and the Flowering Rush.

Councilwoman Conner commented on the Library issues, the Greenwood project and the grant.

Councilman Beneteau expanded on the issue of charting items that come before Mayor and Council and spoke about a suspense calendar that will track the issues, and said it is something that the Port of Monroe uses to track progress of their items. In addition he commented about the weed problem in the Sixth Precinct.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering, Public Services and Planning, gave a brief explanation for the weeds in the area where there has been work done and said he plans to have them taken care of soon.

Councilman Clark spoke about community events, volunteerism, the Flowering Rush, and upcoming events. He further commented on grants, student internships, Habitat for Humanity and thanked Patrick Lewis for all the street projects being completed.

Citizen's Comments.

Adam Yeager, 1833 S. Custer Road spoke about various issues surrounding governmental housing, taxes, utilities and socialism.

Jenny Black, 1737 Oak Street, complained that the dumping and weeds from city property that has spilled onto her mothers property and she thinks it should be cleaned up by the city.

George Brown, City Manager stated that it is the property owner's responsibility to clear anything that would be on their side of the fence. He also stated that the foliage grown into the fence is a natural privacy barrier.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilwoman Conner and seconded by Councilman Paisley that the meeting adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Charles D. Evans
Clerk, City Clerk's Office

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor