

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Charles D. Evans, City Clerk-Treasurer gave the invocation.

Mayor Worrell led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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 Regular Meeting held on Monday, January 5, 2009 and the Minutes of the Joint Work Session held on Monday, January 12, 2009.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$635,813.60.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

12 Emergency Repairs to Pump Station – Wastewater Department.

1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, reporting back on emergency repairs needed for the replacement of the pump station service panel for the Bates Lane pump station from Romanoff Electric Company, LLC., and recommending that Council confirm the administrative decision for the necessary repairs on the Bates Lane Pump Station in the amount of \$11,300.00, and that the repair activities be allowed to proceed as scheduled.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

13 Parking Ticket Administration.

1. Communication from the Clerk Treasurers Office, submitting a request to implement a new process for handling parking tickets, and recommending that since this is a single source item using state of the art technology, the bid process be waived and the attached three year contract with TekCollect be approved, and further recommending that the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer be authorized to sign the agreement.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

14 Appointments.

1. Communication from the Mayor's Office, submitting a proposed resolution for appointments to various City Boards and commissions, and recommending that the proposed Resolution be adopted.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

15 Request for Rezone 1042 Maple Boulevard.

1. Communication from the Interim Director of Planning and Recreation, reporting back on the application from the Estate of Ruby Keck to rezone 1042 Maple Boulevard and recommending that Council accept the recommendation of the determination from the Citizens Planning Commission to deny the request to rezone 1042 Maple Boulevard from R-1C, Single-Family Residential, to R-2, Two-family Residential.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

16 Memorial Place Flower Purchase for 2009 Season.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering and Public Services, reporting back on the purchase of flowers to be used to form the traditional block "MONROE" arrangement at Memorial Park for the 2009 season, and recommending that a purchase order be issued as detailed above to North Monroe Greenhouse for a total amount of \$5,350.32 and that the Director of Engineering and Public Services be authorized to process it on behalf of the City of Monroe.
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 12, and 14 be approved as indicated and that items 13, 15, and 16 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0.

Motion carried.

13 The communication from the Clerk Treasurers Office was presented, submitting a request to implement a new process for handling parking tickets, and recommending that since this is a single source item using state of the art technology, the bid process be waived and the attached three year contract with TekCollect be approved, and further recommending that the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer be authorized to sign the agreement.

Councilwoman Conner asked why the city would sign a three year contract now since there is a two month trial period.

Charles Evans, Clerk Treasurer stated that the 60 day trial is in the contract specifically to give the city time to test the new program and if for any reason during that first 60 days the city deems it does not fill the needs we are looking for we can revert back to the original program. He further explained some of the benefits of the new program.

Tom Ready, City Attorney suggested that the city request an extended trial period, but that if a longer extension is not an option he would request that the Clerk and Chief of Police get back with council within the 60 day period with a report to allow the city to cancel during the 60 day window and that a request of the aforementioned suggestion be presented to TekCollect.

Adam Yeager, 1833 S. Custer Road asked if the process could be done in-house as lesser expense or if private free-enterprise is more efficient than government.

Charles Evans, Clerk-Treasurer explained that the city does not have the capability of accessing the data we needed from other areas of the country but that TekCollect has that capability.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street suggested council try another process, a pre-paid parking card, used by other municipalities.

John Michrina, Chief of Police stated that newer meters have the capability of taking credit cards but that would not affect this system because we are discussing the other side of the process. He explained that there are two sides to the process, the payment side and the enforcement side.

Sheri Hudson, 2128 Doty Road asked if the Treasurer's Office would continue to collect for parking violations.

Charles Evans, Clerk-Treasurer stated that the Treasurer's Office would collect current fees and that TekCollect would collect the delinquent fees.

It was moved by Councilwoman Conner and seconded by Councilman Paisley that item 13 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out with the proviso that the Clerk request that TekCollect extend the trial period an additional 30-60 days.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passed.

15 The communication from the Interim Director of Planning and Recreation was presented, reporting back on the application from the Estate of Ruby Keck to rezone 1042 Maple Boulevard and recommending that Council accept the recommendation of the determination from the Citizens Planning Commission to deny the request to rezone 1042 Maple Boulevard from R-1C, Single-Family Residential, to R-2, Two-family Residential.

Jill Lavoy, 2 E. First Street, Attorney for the Estate of Ruby Keck, stated that despite the recommendation from the CPC to deny the request to rezone the property, she asked that council approve the Estate's request. She explained that in 1962, Mr. & Mrs. Keck submitted the permit as a two-family residential duplex; it was approved, and built as a two-family residential dwelling. She continued that Ruby Keck and her family lived in the house until Ruby passed away, and that the other side of the dwelling was always rented. She continued citing other issues surrounding the request to rezone the property and why she thinks the city should approve the request.

Councilman Paisley stated that the property owner applied for a homestead which changed the zoning from R-2, Two-family Residential to R-1C, Single-Family Residential which saved the homeowner money on their taxes and also was the reason the property was rezoned to R-C1, Single-Family.

Joe Lehmann, Building Official stated that this case was prior to the time when rental housing was taken over by the Building Department so the record would not be in the department files, but stated that the Fire Department would have the file on the property.

It was moved by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Molenda that item 15, recommendation from the CPC, be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

16 The communication from the Director of Engineering and Public Services was presented, reporting back on the purchase of flowers to be used to form the traditional block "MONROE" arrangement at Memorial Park for the 2009 season, and recommending that a purchase order be issued as detailed above to North Monroe

Greenhouse for a total amount of \$5,350.32 and that the Director of Engineering and Public Services be authorized to process it on behalf of the City of Monroe.

Councilman Clark expressed his disappointed that this item is back before Council with no change in cost from the last time it was presented, and that it is not an issue with the current vendor but moreover there are no options for alternate vendors.

Councilman Beneteau asked what it would cost in labor to plant the flowers.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering and Public Services explained that he did not do his job of providing timely information for alternates to Council and continued by reiterating the information he had presented to Council eight months ago. He further summarized that labor costs would be roughly estimated at \$10,000 per year to plant and maintain the flowers.

Jeanne Micka, 47 E. Elm Street encouraged council to continue with a floral display.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street stated that this would be money well spent and encourages council to go forward with the purchase.

It was moved by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Molenda that item 16 be tabled until the next regular council meeting scheduled February 2, 2009.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mayor Comments.

Mayor Worrell commented on President Obama, refuse pick up, he summarized council's goals and accomplishments from 2008 and some of the surprises they faced. He continued with comments on the challenges ahead for council with the budget and investments issues and the economic issues of our State and Country.

Council Comments.

Councilman Clark commented on the Mayors statement with concern of the shortfall debt for this budget year at state level and read a quote by President of the Auto Workers. He reminded everyone that this weekend, January 24 is the 196th anniversary of the Battle of the River Raisin and of the events surrounding that anniversary.

Councilman Paisley recognized that there are many people going through tough times; losing their homes, their jobs, filing bankruptcy, everybody seems to be in the same situation. He further stated that council has taken a proactive stance ahead of the game by making cutbacks and council needs to look for more opportunities to enhance revenues and cut costs.

Councilman McGhee commented on the inauguration of President Obama and how to incorporate his ideas to better our city and to acknowledge that change is coming and we must unite, communicate our thoughts and be responsible for our actions.

Councilman Molenda commented on the shortfalls at the state level and that matching expenditures to revenue being the smartest approach.

Councilwoman Conner commented on President Obama's statement regarding elected public officials are the caretakers of public funds, and likened it to the discussion about item 16, Flower Purchase, and also his statement that it is time for us to unclench our fists and put a hand out to work with each other. She further commented on the festivities surrounding the Battle of 1812 this weekend.

Councilman Beneteau expressed his appreciation to Mayor Worrell for his passion and commitment to rightsizing and bringing financial stability to the city and also for the efforts of Council members. He further stated that an employee suggestion box would be a good way to give employees a chance to suggest cost cutting ideas.

Charles Evans, Clerk Treasurer wished President Obama and the City of Monroe the very best.

Citizen's Comments.

Andrea Jones, DDA Director commented on the Winter Clearance Sale at downtown businesses beginning Friday, January 23. She informed council that the DDA 2009-2010 Goals and Objectives meeting is Wednesday morning, January 21 and spoke about the snowfall removal issues. She also reminded everyone about the Façade Grant application due date is March 27, 2009.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street commended council for holding to the game plan of the Operational Assessment.

Paul Bussell, 810 E. Noble Avenue commented on the planned demolition of his property and asked council to give an extension for repairs.

Mayor Worrell stated that a decision has already been made and that a change could not be made tonight but that Mr. Bussell could work with Joe Lehmann, Building Official and Tom Ready, City Attorney and then bring the issue back to Council to approve the change.

Adam Yeager 1833 S. Custer Road complained about the way the snow is plowed, and about taxes and water rates going up.

Paul Livernois, 1005 Wolverine Avenue complimented the city on snow removal and said they did a great job.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman McGhee that the meeting adjourn at 9:44 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Charles D. Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor