

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

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

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

Charles Evans, City Clerk gave the invocation.

Mayor Worrell led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Proclamations.

76 Silver Star Banner Day – May 1, 2009.

Public Hearings.

57 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on Proposed Ordinance No. 09-003, an Ordinance to adopt the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget for the City of Monroe, there being one comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

Charles Evans, Clerk-Treasurer read a letter from Tom Myers, Monroe County Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Worrell commented on the past and current economy and the affect the economy has had on the budget.

Councilman Molenda spoke about the organizational and spending changes that council has made for cost savings to rightsize the City and stated that more changes are needed to support this budget.

Councilwoman Conner stated that by adopting the budget, it doesn't mean there can not be any changes in it; it just nails down the amount of the budget.

Councilman Paisley commented on the purpose of the budget and aspects of settling the union contracts.

Councilman Clark spoke about the feedback he has received about the current budget proposal and that he is encouraged about the dialog he has had with the unions, the City and the residents.

Councilman Beneteau commented on the areas of the budget that he has a problem with, and stated that the Council is looking for every possible option available to keep from cutting employees positions, especially public safety.

George Brown, City Manager commented on the proposed budget and stated that it is not the preferred budget but is the necessary budget due to the extraordinary economic conditions. He commented on staffing changes already implemented and future proposed staffing and operational plans.

William Morris, President of the Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation, 102 E. First Street commented on the economy of our country, communities and families and the avenues we are forced to take in order to make ends meet but to keep public services adequate. He spoke about negative impact of the signs by the Firefighters and that these tactics deter new developers.

Joe Mominee, Fire Chief read the mission statement of the Monroe Fire Department and commented on the signs placed around the city by the firefighters, the current budget proposal and available options through collective

bargaining which was reentered this past weekend. He further stated that if the Fire Department could maintain a seven person minimum staffing level there would be enough support for three fire stations.

Janie Black, 1730 Oak Street spoke against cutting the ambulance service and closing the east side Fire Station.

Mayor Worrell stated that based on the information from Chief Mominee, closing of a Fire Station is not in the budget.

Aaron Lavender, 428 Almyra Avenue questioned the discrepancy of information on the distributed flyer, in particular, the closing of the Fire Station and expressed his disappointment of the way things have been handled.

Councilman McGhee explained that the closing of the Fire Station was a recommendation based on the proposed personnel cuts.

Derek Whitaker, Firefighter's Union Local 326 commented on the statement by Chief Mominee, the flyers that were distributed by the union, the current negotiation meetings with the City and the proposal from the Firefighters to the City. He asked if the City and Firefighters were able to come up with a fair and equitable solution and a proposal to agree on, would council amend the budget to keep ambulances and manpower levels up.

Mayor Worrell explained that when the budget is passed it sets a millage rate of 15.5 x SEV which generates the revenue that will be within the budget, so we have movement in the budget itself.

George Brown, City Manager stated that council is required by charter to adopt a budget April 30th and council has the prerogative to amend budgets throughout the fiscal year.

Lorrie Clark, 724 Michigan Avenue commented on the instability of the economy and the budget crisis within the City and expressed her concern with Fire Department cuts.

Councilman McGhee commented on the Orchard East Awareness Group, the budget process, and proposals from the Fire Chief.

Ronald Niesz, 938 Waterloo Avenue commented on the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex, (MMSC) and the financial burden it has created and suggested to close it and keep the Fire Department.

Paul Perlaky, 935 Donnalee Drive spoke in favor and in defense of the MMSC and asked for the opportunity to be able to present money making ideas to council.

April Ellison, 450 John Rolfe Drive commented on the proposed cuts of Fire Department personnel.

Stuert Lada, 711 W. Fourth Street, IAFF Local 326 commented on the City's financial situation and the prospect of cutting the ambulance service.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street commented on insurance agencies numeric coding of municipalities for fire protection classification and gave the coding for all townships surrounding the City, and stated that they are comparable to the City's numeric coding.

Jamie Karrick, 1008 N. Monroe Street spoke against the proposed cuts of the ambulance service.

Dan McNamara, IAFF Representative stated that there are many options to be considered in looking at the financial state and public safety within the city and options that can be negotiated with the unions to address those issues.

Janis Jackson, 411 Railroad Street asked about the scrap metal yard in her neighborhood.

Linda Compura, 411 Bentley Drive commented on the ambulance service cuts and her concerns about the budget proposal.

Bill Cornett, 317 Armitage Drive commented on the MMSC and the opportunities it gives the residents.

Steve Pisanni, Monroe Hockey Association spoke in favor of the MMSC.

Dave Sprayberry, 2104 Tahoe, IAFF Local 326 commented on the residency requirements for City employees.

Derek Whitaker, IAFF Local 326 urged the Mayor and Council to sit down and talk about the proposed cuts with the Firefighters Union and to delay the vote on the budget another week.

Tom Ready, City Attorney stated the City Charter, Section 51 states the Mayor and Council set policy and that the City Manager himself and, as delegated by him, carries out policy. He further stated it would be, in his opinion, inappropriate for individual Council Members to attend bargaining sessions.

Ed Sell, Finance Director stated that the current budget has eliminated the ambulance service and if there is an agreement to reestablish the ambulance service there would be a need for an amendment to the budget because there would be an increase to the budget on both the revenue and the expenditure side. He further stated that if there is an agreement with the proposal the Fire Chief presented tonight, the budget can handle being amended to that and still keep a balanced budget.

Donald Truesdell, IAFF Local 326 expressed confusion with the contradiction of information that has been presented.

George Brown, City Manager explained that the budget is a financial funding plan that anticipates operational plans; it does not dictate operational plans. He stated that the current budget was presented without ambulance revenue anticipated because the collective bargaining agreement that is currently in place gives council limited staffing options, but that if negotiations with the Firefighters Union result in a mutual agreement the revenue and the expenses associated with providing that service could be put back into the budget.

There being 29 persons present commenting and one comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

58 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on Proposed Ordinance No. 09-004, an Ordinance to amend Section 658.07 Minor's Curfew of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Monroe, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

Mayor Worrell thanked the Chief of Police as this ordinance addresses a curfew issue that has been in the works for some time and that the timing of it, being in April, sets the stage for summer as well.

There being one person present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

59 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on Proposed Ordinance No. 09-005, an Ordinance to amend various sections of the Codified Ordinance of Monroe, Michigan relating to the elimination of the Fire Marshal designation and the regulations for Open Burning, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

Councilman Clark pointed out that discussion of who would be the point of contact for making decision's regarding burning request's, was addressed at the last Council meeting and asked if it was decided that the City Manager and the Fire Chief would be the point of contact.

Tom Ready, City Attorney stated that the Fire Chief and Council would be the point of contact.

Councilman Clark expressed his concern about the change in the regulations for open burning because it allows open burning which opens the door for conflict and the way the ordinance was written before it eliminated the opportunity for open burning.

Joe Mominee, Fire Chief explained that the restrictions were very tight on open burning within the City of Monroe and that the change came as a result of a request to do a prescribed burn under the Department of Natural Resources regulations, to burn what is considered prairie land at the IHM on Elm Avenue. He continued that during discussion between him, Mr. Ready and Mr. Brown it was decided that the ordinance could be amended if the proper burn prescription was followed and that the requirements are very tight.

Adam Yeager, 1833 S. Custer Road asked if he could burn his tomato plants with a propane burner.

Tom Ready, City Attorney stated that as of now open burning is not permitted in the City.

There being four person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

67 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the special assessment roll for the expenses of demolition where the owners have failed to pay for the same, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

There being no person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

68 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the special assessment roll for the expenses of sidewalk repair where the owners have failed to pay for same, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

There being no person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

69 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the special assessment roll for the expenses of snow removal where the owners have failed to pay for same, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

There being no person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

70 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the special assessment roll for the expenses of blight removal where the owners have failed to pay for same, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

There being no person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

71 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the special assessment roll for the expenses of unpaid rental property inspection fees where the owners have failed to pay for same, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

There being no person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

Tom Ready, City Attorney stated that he was approached by a representative of the property owner of Monroe Apartments, LLC and that there were or may have been some issues regarding notice to the proper person or entity and an issue to an assessment of late fees or penalties. He continued that since it was just brought up prior to the meeting, he will pull the agenda item and ask that council not pass the assessment on this particular property until he and the Clerks Office has an opportunity to review it.

Bernard Alfred, Washtenaw County stated that he was here initially to represent Monroe Apartments, LLC but is now here to comment as a citizen of his county. He commended Mayor, Council and the Firefighters for their civilized and rationalized actions.

There being two person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

72 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the special assessment roll for the expenses of weed and grass cutting where the owners have failed to pay for same, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

Tom Ready, City Attorney stated that he was approached by the property owner at 1015 E. Third Street after a tax sale happened and questioned if this matter should be assessed to the Real Estate and stated that he intends to request to take this property out of consideration until he and the Clerk's Office has an opportunity to research the owners position

There being one person present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

85 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Plan for Site No. 21, Kenneth Wickenheiser, Sterling Hotel Phase 2, located at 111 West Front Street, there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

There being no person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

87 This being the date set for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the HOME Downtown Rental Rehab Program administered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

Omar Ferdin, 213 Conant commented on the actions and decisions of U.S. citizens during a public hearing.

Adam Yeager, 1833 S. Custer Road commented on the money distributed from the HOME Downtown Rental Rehab Program.

Councilman Paisley asked for comments from Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation.

Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation explained that the HOME Downtown Rental Rehab Program provides up to 75%, to a maximum of \$15,000.00, of a rehab for qualified apartments within the downtown area. He further stated that the City is looking at a \$150,000.00 grant, which allows for about 10 projects or 10 units specific to downtown.

Councilwoman Conner asked what Mr. Green considers the parameters of downtown to be.

Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation explained that downtown is the central business district; Third Street on the south side, the river on the north side, Adam Street on the west side and Scott Street on the east side.

There being five person's present commenting and no comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

Council Action

57 It was moved by Councilman Paisley and supported by Councilman Molenda that Proposed Ordinance No. 09-003, an ordinance to approve the budget Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget for the City of Monroe, be placed on its final reading.

Mayor Worrell opened the floor for discussion on the motion.

Councilman Paisley commented on the request from Derek Whitaker to delay the vote on the Budget Ordinance and stated that he does not think that a delayed vote would serve any objective.

Following discussion a vote was then taken on the motion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 09-003 was then presented for the second time after which the Mayor asked, "Shall this ordinance pass?"

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

58 It was moved by Councilman Paisley and supported by Councilman Clark that Proposed Ordinance No. 09-004, an Ordinance to amend Section 658.07 Minor's Curfew of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Monroe, be placed on its final reading.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 09-004 was then presented for the second time after which the Mayor asked, "Shall this ordinance pass?"

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

59 It was moved by Councilman Paisley and supported by Councilman McGhee that Proposed Ordinance No. 09-005, an Ordinance to amend various sections of the Codified Ordinance of Monroe, Michigan relating to the elimination of the Fire Marshal designation and the regulations for Open Burning, be placed on its final reading.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 09-005 was then presented for the second time after which the Mayor asked, "Shall this ordinance pass?"

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

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 Work Session's held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, Monday, March 30, 2009, Thursday, April 2, 2009, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Monday, April 13, 2009.
 - B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$ 610,322.95.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.
- 77 Identify Theft Prevention Program.
- 1. Communication from the Director of Finance, reporting back on the Federal Trade Commission's Red Flag establishing an Identity Theft Program for prevention of identity theft, and recommending that the attached resolution be adopted and placed on file.
 - 2. Supporting documents.
 - 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 78 Wastewater System Phase II Plant Improvements Engineering Services.
- 1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, reporting back on proposals received from the URS Corporation to provide engineering services associated with completing the plans and specifications for the Wastewater System – Phase II, and recommending that a purchase order be awarded to the URS Corporation for Engineering Services in the amount of \$960,000.00 for completing the plans and specifications of the Wastewater System – Phase II Plant Improvements as outlined in the attached proposal.
 - 2. Supporting documents.
 - 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 79 Assessment Roll – Weeds and Grasses.
- 1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of cutting weeds and grasses on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the Summer 2009 Tax Roll.
 - 2. Supporting documents.
 - 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 80 Assessment Roll – Sidewalk Repair.
- 1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of sidewalk repair on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the Summer 2009 Tax Roll.
 - 2. Supporting documents.
 - 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 81 Assessment Roll – Rental Property.
- 1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of rental property inspection fees on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the Summer 2009 Tax Roll.
 - 2. Supporting documents.
 - 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

82 Assessment Roll – Demolition Fees.

1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of demolition fees on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the Summer 2009 Tax Roll.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

83 Assessment Roll - Blight Removal.

1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of blight removal on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the Summer 2009 Tax Roll.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

84 Assessment Roll – Snow Removal.

1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of snow removal on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the Summer 2009 Tax Roll.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

85 Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Site No. 21, Sterling Hotel Phase 2 – Proposed Resolution.

1. Communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation, submitting the BRA, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Plan for Site No. 21, Sterling Hotel Phase 2, and recommending that the Plan be approved and that the attached resolution be adopted.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

86 Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NPS) Funds - Application.

1. Communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation, submitting an application to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program in the amount of \$750,000.00 to carry out NSP activities, (demolition, rehab and purchasing homes), and recommending that council authorize application to the NSP program, approve the attached resolution, and authorize the Mayor and/or his designee to sign all necessary documents related to the application.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

87 HOME Downtown Rental Rehab Program

1. Communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation, reporting back on the intent to submit a grant application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to obtain funds in the amount of \$150,000 to start a Rental Rehab Program downtown, and recommending that council approve the grant application, approve the attached resolution, and authorize the Mayor and/or designee to sign all necessary documents relating to the application.

2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

88 COMEA Unit I Ratification.

1. Communication from the Human Resources Department, submitting the tentative agreement between the City of Monroe and COMEA Unit I, and recommending that council formally approve the COMEA Unit I 2008 – 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement.
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 Beneteau that items, 77, 78, 80, 82, 84, and 85 be approved as indicated and that items 79, 81, 83, 86, 87 and 88 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0.

Motion carried.

79 The communication from the Clerk-Treasurer was presented, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of cutting weeds and grasses on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the Summer 2009 Tax Roll.

Mayor Worrell asked for Tom Ready, City Attorney to give the wording for this motion to Mayor Pro-Tem Paisley.

Tom Ready, City Attorney requested that the proposed assessment for Kenneth Rigdon be removed from this item on the agenda and that the balance of the item be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman McGhee that the proposed assessment for Kenneth A. Rigdon be removed from item 79 on the agenda and that the balance of item 79 be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passed.

81 The communication from the Clerk-Treasurer was presented, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of rental property inspection fees on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the summer 2009 Tax Roll.

Tom Ready, City Attorney requested that the proposed assessment for Monroe Apartments, LLC be removed from this item on the agenda and that the balance of the item be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman Clark that the proposed assessment for Monroe Apartments, LLC be removed from item 81 on the agenda and that the balance of item 81 be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

83 The communication from the Clerk-Treasurer was presented, submitting a proposed resolution authorizing the City Assessor to spread the special assessment roll for the expenses of blight removal on the 2009 summer tax roll, and recommending that the resolution be adopted and the charges be placed on the summer 2009 Tax Roll.

Councilman McGhee expressed his disappointment with the cut of the Blight Inspector's position. He continued that the current inspector has done an excellent job and that he is not happy that this position will be divvied up between

three or four individuals. He further stated that one of Councils goals was to focus on revitalization of community, community involvement and blight.

Councilwoman Conner stated that, as already discussed this evening about amending the budget, she hopes that this position will be added back into the budget.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street commented on the uncollected blight fines and suggested that if the fees could be collected the Blight Inspector's position would not have to be eliminated.

After discussion, it was moved by Councilman McGhee and seconded by Councilman Paisley that item 83 be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 7 Ayes: 0

Motion carried.

86 The communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation was presented, submitting an application to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program in the amount of \$750,000.00 to carry out NSP activities, (demolition, rehab and purchasing homes), and recommending that council authorize application to the NSP program, approve the attached resolution, and authorize the Mayor and/or his designee to sign all necessary documents related to the application.

Councilman Clark asked who will manage the program, who will decide on the project locations, who will decide to rehab versus demolition and will there be an open process for the type of homes that may get developed if there is a demolition.

Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation explained that the NPS program is new and as of the time of the work session with the State, about two months ago, a lot of the rules and regulations had not yet been developed. He continued by explaining that he had proposed bringing together a steering committee that would include representatives from Monroe County Opportunity Program, the City, and Habitat for Humanity, with the idea that a committee could come in with a much stronger grant application. He continued to explain there is a criterion that constitutes a home that is foreclosed and what rehabilitation means, but that we will work with MCOP, Habitat for Humanity and the Building Department to determine which properties will cost more to rehabilitate than to demolish.

After discussion, it was moved by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman McGhee that item 86 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Ayes: 0

Motion carried.

87 The communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation was presented, reporting back on the intent to submit a grant application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to obtain funds in the amount of \$150,000 to start a Rental Rehab Program downtown, and recommending that council approve the grant application, approve the attached resolution, and authorize the Mayor and/or designee to sign all necessary documents relating to the application.

Adam Yeager, 1833 S. Custer Road commented on the grant money and stated that he thought it should go into the neighborhoods and not just downtown.

Mayor Worrell explained that this grant was specific and that the City can not just move the funds around.

George Brown, City Manager explained that this is just one of many housing/rental housing rehab programs that we occasionally have the opportunity to participate in. He further explained that there are other home and rental rehab programs that are available for targeted neighborhoods and eligible applicants but that this is a program that targets downtown rental rehabs.

After discussion, it was moved by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that item 87 be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 7 Ayes: 0

Motion carried.

88 The communication from the Human Resources Department was presented; submitting the tentative agreement between the City of Monroe and COMEA Unit I, and recommending that council formally approve the COMEA Unit I 2008 – 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Paula Smith, COMEA I President gave a brief statement regarding the ratification of the COMEA I Agreement, the necessary concessions made within the union and the additional loss of 4 more union positions being cut from the proposed budget.

Councilman Paisley stated that he is very pleased that this has occurred and appreciative that the members of the union sat through all of the budget work sessions and he thinks that is what helped bring the vote to ratification.

After discussion, it was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman Clark that item 88 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Ayes: 0

Motion carried.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Worrell stated that at some point he would like to discuss the big picture of things about cities in general especially urban core cities, decentralization, segregation and retention of the upper and middle class within cities. He further stated that we always have to think in the big picture; where are we and where are we going and along the way it is essential to retain services. He continued by comparing the City's legacy costs to the automobile industry and stated that it is a huge financial burden on GM, Chrysler, older urban core cities as in Michigan, and these are issues that have to be faced and dealt with.

Council Comments.

Councilman Molenda explained the process and significance of budget allocation. He also commented on residency requirements, the proposed layoffs of personnel and the grant opportunities discussed this evening.

Councilwoman Conner commented on the budget, collective bargaining issues and said she is willing to give up 10% of her salary and she thinks management should do the same. She commented on the 154 foreclosures in the city and announced the Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 25 in Loranger Square.

Councilman Clark commented on discussion and comments about the budget, issues in the budget of concern to him and the issue of residency.

Councilman Paisley commented on the budget and employee cuts.

Councilman McGhee commented on budget issues and employee cuts.

City Manager Comments.

George Brown, City Manager stated that he appreciates the closing of the COMEA I Agreement this evening and that he also appreciates that the Firefighters have agreed to sit down in mid-contract for discussions.

Citizen's Comments.

Polly Austin, 411 Railroad Street expressed concern about the scrap yard across the street from her because she sees movement in and around the area and asked for an update on it.

George Brown, City Manager explained that this matter is under litigation, that there have been no approvals to occupy the property and that legal dialog is ongoing with legal representatives of both parties under federal district court.

Derek Whitaker, President of IAFF Local 326 apologized for the high emotions during discussion tonight, issue of residency, the budget issues and cuts passed with it, negotiations/collective bargaining, his ideas on saving money to help balance the budget and explained why the Firefighters put the information out to the public with the signs and flyers.

Councilman McGhee stated that the flyer distributed had incorrect phone information for him and sited the correct information is; cell 734-625-6770, home 734-457-0828.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman McGhee that the meeting adjourn at 10:30 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, May 4th, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Charles D. Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor