

**CITY OF MONROE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009**

Work Session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, September 28, 2009 at 8:19 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Excused: Council Member Paisley.

Also Present: George Brown, City Manager
Tom Ready, City Attorney
Joe Mominee, Fire Chief
Jeff Mead, Monroe Evening News

George Brown, City Manager explained that this meeting is being held to discuss the fee schedule for public utility and emergency response cost recovery.

Joe Mominee, Fire Chief briefly explained the different options available for changing the fee schedule and asked for input from Council.

Councilman Beneteau expressed concern about charging a fee for a minimal involvement of fire department personnel during level 1 or level 2 responses and said that taxpayers should reserve some sort of response from the fire department without being charged.

Councilman Molenda is also concerned about fee charges for level 1 responses but is not opposed to fees at the other levels of service.

Councilman Clark asked for a list of services and/or duties in a response that will not be subject to a fee.

Joe Mominee, Fire Chief said, there are probably none.

Councilwoman Conner stated that she considers her tax dollars as payment for the firefighter's education and skill, and that a response to a call should constitute payment again.

Councilman McGhee said the fees schedule is too ambiguous and that the more he learns about the fee schedule the less supportive he is of it.

Tom Ready, City Attorney stated that an act of God, i.e. a bolt of lightning that may cause a fire, or a fire that was unintentional, i.e. dropping of a frying pan or a downed power line, electrical malfunction or something of that nature, would not be subject to cost recovery.

Mayor Worrell said that he is inclined to throw out level 1 and level 2 and keep level 3.

George Brown, City Manager said that Councilwoman Conner and Councilman Clark touched the range of views on this topic.

Councilwoman Conner said she would support the fee schedule if level 1 was removed.

Councilman Molenda said he could support something fairly close. He continued that level 1 and 2 are the most frequent charges and that we would lose a lot of revenue if we didn't have them. He suggested that residents be excluded from levels 1 and 2, and non-residents are liable in those levels, and that would increase our revenue.

Councilman Beneteau said he does not support level 1 and has a problem with the fee amount for level 2.

Councilman McGhee said that he thinks level 1 and 2 are already being paid for by the citizen through their taxes and he does not support them.

Councilman Clark also expressed a problem with level 1 and 2 and said he can not support them and said that level 3 is unclear so he would like to know exactly what it means before he can make a decision on it.

Mayor Worrell said that his perspective would coincide with Councilman McGhee.

It was moved by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that the meeting adjourn at 9:21 p.m.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion passed.

Charles D. Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor