

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Charles D. Evans, City Clerk gave the invocation.

The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Presentation.

Presentation by Councilwoman Conner to Joe Rodziewicz and Ron Wickenheiser for the recycle center that they created for the senior citizens at the River Park Plaza.

Andrea Jones, Downtown Development Authority Executive Director announced that there are two commercials airing this week on Channel 50, Detroit and Channel 13, Toledo, and running through the month of December. She also announced the Holiday kick-off events scheduled this weekend beginning, Friday, November 20th through 6:30 p.m. Sunday, November 22nd, and noted that the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade will be at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 22nd.

Council Action.

269 It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman Molenda that the communication from the Director of Planning & Recreation, submitting Proposed Ordinance No. 09-013, an ordinance to amend § 720-19, Enforcement and § 720-20, Municipal Civil Infractions of Chapter 720, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Monroe, be placed on its first reading and the public hearing be set for Monday, December 7, 2009.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Proposed Ordinance No, 09-012, was then presented for the first time and laid over for its second reading and the public hearing be set for Monday, December 7, 2009.

Charles D. Evans, Clerk-Treasurer explained that number 273 of the Consent Agenda has been amended.

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 held on, Monday, November 2, 2009, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on, Monday, November 2, 2009, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on, Thursday, November 5, 2009.
- B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$1,535,398.13.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

- 270 City Policies and Procedures.
1. Communication from the Director of Human Resources, submitting a policy for all non-union employees and appointed officials addressing leaves of absence, and recommending that Council approve Policy Number 012 and direct City administration to proceed with implementation.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 271 Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau – 2010 Events Request.
1. Communication from the City Managers Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to approve dates for their upcoming events in 2010, and recommending that Council approve only the dates of the events with full approval of the events, being subject to timely submission of event planning details, staff reviews, street closure action by Council and approvals of city financial and logistical support.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 272 Appointments – Proposed Resolution.
1. Communication from the Mayor's Office, submitting a proposed resolution for appointments to various board, commissions and committees, and recommending that the resolution be adopted.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 273 River Raisin Battlefield Property Acquisition.
1. Communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation, reporting back on an application for the acquisition of a 3.52 acre wooded parcel on the northwest corner of Detroit and Elm Avenues, and recommending that Council authorize the Port of Monroe to enter into negotiations with the Monroe County Historical society for the property located on the northwest corner of the intersection at Detroit and Elm avenues, further described as Parcel ID #59-01892-004, and further authorize the Port of Monroe to expend the grant funds necessary to acquire the property on behalf of the city, and that the purchase price should reflect the value of the land and reimbursement for fees and costs incurred by the Monroe County Historical society to acquire the parcel.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 274 City Policies and Procedures.
1. Communication from the Human Resource Director, submitting a policy for all non-union employees and appointed officials addressing employee safety, and recommending that Council approve Policy Number 014 and direct City administration to proceed with implementation.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and recommendation be carried out.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman Clark that items 272, 273 and 274, be approved as indicated and that items 270 and 271 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

270 Communication from the Director of Human Resources was presented, submitting a policy for all non-union employees and appointed officials addressing leaves of absence, and recommending that Council approve Policy Number 012 and direct City administration to proceed with implementation.

Councilman Molenda recognized that in the policy, under item 2 (b), the words "work duties" may have been omitted at the end of the sentence.

Councilwoman Conner asked if the policy is new.

Peggy Howard, Director of Human Resources explained that these are not new policies; that most of them have been in place for many years and it is just a matter of cleaning up the language and adding language from the union contracts as well.

Councilwoman Conner asked that a copy of the old policy be provided for comparison.

Peggy Howard, Director of Human Resources said that she would see that Council will be provided with that information.

George Brown, City Manager explained that the policies that were in place previously were succinct and summarized and in some cases weren't completely drafted. He furtherer explained that with the half dozen previously brought to Council, the two on this agenda and more coming, the City is trying to build a full comprehensive policy manual. He further explained that this was one of the things that Ms. Howard, Director of Human Resources was asked to undertake when she was hired.

Councilman Paisley stated that when he originally read the policy he was under the assumption that the policy had been in place for at least 10 years except for the sentence that was added in Section 2.3, that being reason the sentence is in bold print.

Peggy Howard, Director of Human Resources said that the sentence is in bold because she thought it was a major change and it would stand out to the appointed group. She further explained that all of the language is new but the basic provisions are pretty standard.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Paisley that item 270 be **amended** in section 2.1(b); "As used in this Section, the term "sick leave" refers to the absence of the employee due to sickness or non-occupational illness or injury to such an extent that he/she is unable to perform his/her scheduled **work duties**."

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Clark that item 270, be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out, as amended.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

271 Communication from the City Managers Office was presented, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to approve dates for their upcoming events in 2010, and recommending that Council approve only the dates of the events with full approval of the events, being subject to timely submission of event planning details, staff reviews, street closure action by Council and approvals of city financial and logistical support.

Councilman Molenda said that this item is unclear; that there are no forms filled out or submitted and he is not sure what Council is suppose to do with this item.

George Brown, City Manager explained that the Director of Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau, MCCTB, has requested to hold specified dates for upcoming events but that this submission does not include the level of details needed to approve such events. He continued that the recommendation is worded so as to allow Council to approve holding these dates but that full approval of each event will be addressed when disclosure of details is submitted.

Councilman Molenda said he is not sure what that means, "to hold the date" and expressed concern that certain sites can not be used during those times. He also asked about the level of obligation resulting from approving the dates.

George Brown, City Manager explained that it really is an acknowledgement only, that if Council approves this, they are saying it is fine for those events to be held on those days but it does not approve the events in detail.

Councilman Clark asked if that would prevent another organization from coming in on that date to hold an event.

George Brown, City Manager said that the only event that would require a large facility would be the Jazz Festival and the facility would be St. Mary's Park, and that other events would be mainly on streets and sidewalks. He further reiterated that this is just an acknowledgement that the Director of MCCTB plans to hold events on these dates in the city.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that item 271, acknowledgement of dates only, be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Mayor Comments.

Mayor Worrell introduced the two new Council Member Elects, Mr. Christopher Bica and Mr. Jeffrey Hensley and welcomed them. He commented on the Homeless Awareness Week kick-off event held at Café Classics on Sunday, November 22nd.

Bonnie Finzel-Doster, 718 E. Elm Avenue thanked Mayor Worrell and Mayor-Elect Clark for coming to the Homeless Awareness event at Café Classics.

Mayor Worrell commented on water line policies from the 1960's, infrastructure problems, urban core Michigan cities, economic segregation, and the economy. He further commented on ways for the city to survive, prosper and grow.

Council Comments.

Councilman Clark commented on the election, the candidate's campaigns and thanked everyone for their support. He reminded everyone about the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade on Sunday November 22nd, the Holiday kick-off weekend beginning Friday, November 20th through Sunday, November 22nd. He also commented on the Walk for Warmth Walk-a-thon and the route taken during the walk.

Councilman Paisley thanked the voters and congratulated those who won.

Councilman McGhee thanked the voters that did and did not vote for him. He also gave advice to the new Council Members in attendance and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

City Manager Comments.

George Brown, City Manager commented on the policy discussions with Mayor Worrell and the focus and depth of knowledge that the Mayor has developed and provided him.

Citizens Comments.

David Smith, 530 Hollywood Drive commented on simplifying government.

Richard Micka, 47 E. Elm Avenue commented on the National Park Service, economic tourism, destination and education.

Jeannie Micka, 47 E. Elm Avenue commented on holiday decorations at the Sawyer Homestead and the Historical Museum.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilman Paisley that the meeting adjourn at 8:25 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Charles D. Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor