

CITY OF MONROE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Tuesday, March 1, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members Bica, Molenda, Conner, Beneteau, Hensley, Paisley, and Mayor Clark.

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

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Presentation.

Presentation by Harold Herta, Michigan DNRE, Recreation Division, regarding open hunting around Sterling State Park.

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 Tuesday, February 16, 2010 and the Minutes of the Work Session held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Charles D. Evans, Clerk-Treasurer explained that the Minutes of the Work Session should be revised to reflect that Mr. Ready, Attorney was not at the meeting.

- B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$802,762.06.  
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

Charles D. Evans, Clerk-Treasurer explained that item 33 has been revised.

29 National Agricultural Week Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Farm Bureau for permission to display a banner across East Front Street from March 14 – 26, 2010 announcing *National Agriculture Week*, and recommending that the request be approved.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

30 Earth Day Banner Requests.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Jamie Dean on behalf of The Earth Day 2010 Committee for permission to display vertical pole banners on Monroe Street and an overhead banner across Monroe Street from April 5 – 26, 2010 announcing *Earth Day*, and recommending that the request be approved.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

31 Bed Race for M.C. Kids Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Kenneth Miller on behalf of The Bed Race for M.C. Kids for permission to display a banner across East Front Street from October 11 – 18, 2010 and across Monroe Street from September 7 – 24, 2010 announcing *The Bed Race for M.C. Kids*, and recommending that the request be approved.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 32 Request for burn permit in accordance with Ordinance 09-005.
1. Communication from the Chief of Fire, submitting a request from The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for a burn permit in accordance with Ordinance 09-005 to perform the prescribed burn of a specified area on their property, and recommending that Council grant the request for a burn permit in accordance with Ordinance 09-005.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 33 Urban Revitalization Grant.
1. Communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation, submitting an application for The Urban Revitalization Grant for façade improvements at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts, and recommending that Council approve the submission of an application by the Planning Office for an Urban Revitalization Grant, due March 5<sup>th</sup>, and authorize the Mayor or Manager to sign all necessary documents related to the application, and the amount of the request will be determined by the overall cost of the project, but is not to exceed the amount pledged by the City of Monroe Main Street/DDA through its Façade Improvement Program.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 34 Incline Screw Conveyor Bids.
1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, reporting back on bids received for replacement of an Incline Screw Conveyor, and recommending that a purchase order in the amount of \$66,103.40 be awarded to Applied Industrial Technologies out of Toledo, Ohio for the purchase of one replacement Incline Screw Conveyor as part of the fiscal year 2009-2010 CIP project in accordance with the bid specifications.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 35 Annual Earth Day Activities Street Closure Request.
1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a request from Jamie Dean on behalf of the Earth Day 2010 Committee for permission to use Loranger Square for Earth Day activities and to close East First Street between Monroe and Macomb Streets and Washing Street between East Second and East Front Streets on April 24, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for *Earth Day*, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to no additional overtime or other costs to the city, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

36 Voluntary Early Retirement Program Extension.

1. Communication from the Director Human Resources submitting a request to re-open the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program that was bargained for with the Command Officers union (COAM), and recommending that Council approve the extension to the Voluntary Early Retirement Program for employees of the Police Department who are members of the Command Officers Defined Benefit Pension Program as described above and in the attached proposed "Attachment D, LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING" which will be included as an attachment to the Police Command Officers' collective bargaining agreement.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Paisley that agenda item A be approved as amended, that items 29, 30, 34 and 35 be approved as indicated and that items 31, 32, 33, and 36 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

31 The communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Kenneth Miller on behalf of The Bed Race for M.C. Kids for permission to display a banner across East Front Street from October 11 – 18, 2010 and across Monroe Street from September 7 – 24, 2010 announcing *The Bed Race for M.C. Kids*, and recommending that the request be approved.

Councilman Molenda state that this application for the banner display did not include a sketch of the content of the banner and he is not comfortable with approving things that he does not know the content, and it is required as part of the submission of the form.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that item 31 be postponed pending the sketch of the banner.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

32 The communication from the Chief of Fire, submitting a request from The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for a burn permit in accordance with Ordinance 09-005 to perform the prescribed burn of a specified area on their property, and recommending that Council grant the request for a burn permit in accordance with Ordinance 09-005.

Councilman Hensley asked if the neighborhood notification that is specified in the information is significant for that area, how they intend to notify the property owner and will it be in a timely fashion.

Joe Mominee, Fire Chief stated that the notification will be done at least a day in advance by the IHM.

Danielle Conrad, Project Director for the IHM Sisters stated that in the past they have notified residents by a personal hand delivered letter with a phone number for contact purposes and that they also publish notification in the newspaper. She explained that they give an approved window of time for the burn because the burn is contingent on weather conditions and that is also stated in the letter. She said that the window is March 15 – April 30, 2010 but that they do not know until the day before the burn and if any resident has requested to know the exact day they will notify them with a phone call.

John Timko, 1034 Bentley Drive asked who is paying for the burn.

Joe Mominee, Fire Chief stated that each time the burn has occurred the Fire Department has been present but that there is no overtime charged and if there would be another call that would require them to answer, they would leave the burn and go to the other call.

It was moved by Councilman Hensley and seconded by Councilman Molenda that item 32 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

33 The communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation, submitting an application for The Urban Revitalization Grant for façade improvements at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts, and recommending that Council approve the submission of an application by the Planning Office for an Urban Revitalization Grant, due March 5<sup>th</sup>, and authorize the Mayor or Manager to sign all necessary documents related to the application, and the amount of the request will be determined by the overall cost of the project, but is not to exceed the amount pledged by the City of Monroe Main Street/DDA through its Façade Improvement Program.

Councilwoman Conner asked if there is a timeline that this project will be completed.

Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation stated that if approved, the announcement of the grant is April 1, 2010 and said that Jim Jacobs would be the person who would project a completion date.

It was moved by Councilwoman Conner and seconded by Councilman Molenda that item 33 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

36 The communication from the Director Human Resources submitting a request to re-open the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program that was bargained for with the Command Officers union (COAM), and recommending that Council approve the extension to the Voluntary Early Retirement Program for employees of the Police Department who are members of the Command Officers Defined Benefit Pension Program as described above and in the attached proposed "Attachment D, "LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING" which will be included as an attachment to the Police Command Officers' collective bargaining agreement.

Councilwoman Conner asked how long the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program will be open and how much this program will cost the City and how does it get paid back.

Peggy Howard, Director of Human Resources explained that if approved by Council tonight the timeline for the program would be March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

George Brown, City Manager explained that this is the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> retirement window approved by Council and that there is usually costs involved in letting employees retire early with some incentives. He further explained that the reason to consider a retirement window is if it meets the objectives of the organization, and that the City's objectives, outlined by Council, are to reduce the fixed overhead quickly and on a long term basis.

Councilman Molenda expressed concern about the language "on or after" used in the Letter of Understanding in line 4 of the first paragraph, and said that seems to go beyond the window allowed.

George Brown, City Manager said that by replacing that phrase with the word "between" would clarify the intent of the paragraph.

It was moved by Councilwoman Conner and seconded by Councilman Hensley that item 36, with the amended wording in Appendix D, Letter of Understanding, be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Comments.

Councilman Bica commented on the 2010 US Census Bus Tour event on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and the importance of participating in the Census by filling out the form and returning it to be counted.

Councilman Molenda commented on the water main work on Lincoln Avenue.

Councilwoman Conner announced that the city has 144 foreclosures this month and reminded everyone about Earth Day on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Citizen's Comments.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig commented on the Voluntary Early Retirement Program Extension.

Dave Roberts, 716 Broadway thanked Mayor and Council for appointing him to the Planning Commission and commented on the banking service recommendation that was on the last meeting's agenda.

John Timko, 1034 Bentley commented on the poor job of snow removal during the past snowfalls.

Adam Yeager, 1833 S. Custer commented on John Dingell's plea for progress.

Closed Executive Session.

**It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that the Council go into Closed Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation and Collective Bargaining**

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 10:30 p.m.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilman Beneteau and seconded by Councilman Bica that Council adjourn until the next regular meeting on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

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Charles D. Evans  
City Clerk-Treasurer

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Robert E. Clark  
Mayor