

CITY OF MONROE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Excused: Council Member Conner.

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

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Presentation.

Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation played a short video as an introduction to the United States 2010 Census.

Presentation by Willie Hall regarding the United States 2010 Census.

Andrea Jones, DDA Main Street Executive Director updated Council on the status of the Way-Finding Signage, and said that the MSM/DDA is interested in creating a plan for the United Way, Stepping Stone, Lauer-Finzel properties. She commented on the hanging of the summer flowers and the downtown parking permits. She also commented on the production of "Untold Stories" by the Socks Dance Company at the River Raisin Center for the Arts on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. She continued that the Monroe County Earth Day Celebration will take place on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and said for more information; go to the Main Street website at, [www.monroemainstreet.com](http://www.monroemainstreet.com)

Council Action.

31 This item was tabled at the March 1, 2010 meeting.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that 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*, be removed from the table and placed on the floor for discussion.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

Councilman Molenda said that he had asked to have item 31 postponed because of the omission of the sketch of the banner, which should have accompanied the application form, but that now the sketch has been provided so he has no further issues.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that the revised request, Item 31, be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

37 It was moved by Councilman Molenda and second by Councilman Hensley that the communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting Proposed Ordinance No. 10-001, an ordinance to amend §492-1, Disturbances; disorderly conduct, of the Code of the City of Monroe, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Monroe, be placed on its first reading and the public hearing be set for Monday, April 5, 2010.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 10-001, was then presented for the first time and laid over for its second reading and public hearing.

38 It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Paisley that the communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting Proposed Ordinance No. 10-002, an ordinance to amend §160-1, Definitions and §160-7, Expiration and renewal of license, of Chapter 160, Adult Entertainment Businesses, of the Code of the City of Monroe and the public hearing be set for Monday, April 5, 2010.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion Carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 10-002, was then presented for the first time and laid over for its second reading and public hearing.

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, March 1, 2010 and the Minutes of the Work Session held on Monday, March 1, 2010.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$983,308.33.

Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

39 LaPlaisance Road Reconstruction – MDOT Funding Contract.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a resolution delineating the terms of the agreement with MDOT, for the reconstruction of LaPlaisance Road from Jones Avenue to Scott Street/East Sixth Street, and recommending that Council approve the attached resolution and further recommending that the Finance Director be authorized to appropriate funding as necessary to provide for the local share of contractual costs, inspection costs, and contingencies from the Major Street Fund Balance in the amount of up to \$223,000.

2. Supporting documents.

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

40 Records Retention.

1. Communication from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, submitting a resolution to formally adopt the current state record retention schedule as well as future amendments, and recommending that Council adopt the attached Records Retention Resolution.

2. Supporting documents.

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

41 Monroe County Fair Parade Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Fair

Association to hold the 2010 Fair Parade on August 1, 2010 at 1:00 p.m., to close the affected streets and for assistance from the City and the Police Department, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to potential budget and policy changes regarding staff availability and cost recovery, 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.

42      Fiberglass Enclosure Project Bids.

1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, reporting back on bids received for a Fiberglass Enclosure to be installed as part of the Carrington Pump Station Rehabilitation project, and recommending that Council award a purchase order for the Fiberglass Enclosure Purchase to be installed as part of the Carrington Pump Station Rehabilitation project in accordance with the bid plans and specifications to McDonald Modular Solutions in the amount of \$8,924.00.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

43      Water Department Neptune Radio Reading Device Water Meter Purchase.

1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, submitting a request to purchase two hundred fifty (250) 5/8"x3/4" E-Coder I inside water meters and fifty (50) 5/8x5/8" straight E-Coder I inside water meters from RIO Supply Michigan Meter, Inc., and recommending that purchase orders be issued, based on the available space within our facilities, totaling \$51,300.00 for providing the Water Department Neptune water meters to RIO Supply Michigan Meter, Inc.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

44      Sewer System Evaluation Study – Engineering Services.

1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, reporting back on proposals for Engineering Services for design of the Wastewater System – Phase II and to complete the 2010 SSES which includes the remaining portion of the collection system, and recommending that a purchase order be awarded to the URS Corporation for Engineering Services in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the completion of the 2010 SSES as outlined in the attached proposals.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

45      Picnic Table Purchase Bids.

1. Communication from the Interim Recreation Superintendent, reporting back on bids received for the purchase of new picnic tables to be placed in various City parks, and recommending that Council award purchase orders in the amount of \$10,575.00 to Jamestown Advanced Products and \$9,425 to Preeminence for the purchase of picnic tables as described above.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

46      Appointment of City Attorney.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a proposal from Ready, Heller & Ready, PLLC for the continuation of routine, general legal services for another two year term and appointment, and

recommending that Council strongly consider accepting Mr. Ready's legal services proposal and re-appoint him as City Attorney for the term of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012.

2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

47 Requested Street Closures for Filming by Jinn Productions, LLC.

1. Communication from the Interim Director of Planning & Recreation, submitting a request from Jinn Productions, LLC for street closures in Monroe's historic downtown, as follows;
  - East Front Street from Monroe Street to Macomb Street
  - Washington Street from East Second Street to East Front Street
  - First Street from Monroe Street to Washington Street
  - The alley (between Monroe & Washington) From East Second Street to East Front Street,and recommending that the City of Monroe approve street closures for the evening of March 31, 2010 starting at 6:00 p.m. to the morning of April 1, 2010 ending at 6:00 a.m. (a total of 12 hours).
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

48 Spring 2010 Water Main Replacement Project – Change Order.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a request for a change order to the 2009 City-Funded Water Main Program, and recommending that a Change order in the amount of \$907,499.53 be issued to C & D Hughes Inc., and that a total of \$1,045,000 be encumbered to include a 15% project contingency, for the Scott Street, Custer Drive / West Elm Avenue , and Almyra Avenue Water Main Replacement Projects, and further recommending that a Change Order in the amount of \$41,127.78 be issued to Insituform Technologies, and that a total of \$47,500 be encumbered to include a 15% project contingency for relining certain sections of water main for the Custer Drive / West Elm Avenue Water Main project.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

49 Appointment of the Labor Attorney.

1. Communication from the from the City Manager's Office, submitting a proposal from James Greene of Dykema Gossett, PLLC for the continuation of providing legal services for labor matters on a three year retainer, and recommending that Council strongly consider accepting Mr. Greene's legal services proposal and engage him as Labor Attorney for the term of April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013.
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 Beneteau that items 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 be approved as indicated and that item 45 and 49 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

45 The communication from the Interim Recreation Superintendent, reporting back on bids received for the purchase of new picnic tables to be placed in various City parks, and recommending that Council award purchase orders in the amount of \$10,575.00 to Jamestown Advanced Products and \$9,425 to Preeminence for the purchase of picnic tables as described above.

Charles D. Evans, Clerk-Treasurer read an email communication from Councilwoman Conner stating that while she supports the concept of the Recreation Department she finds the timing unfortunate and that until the final budget is passed and all of the cuts are made, she cannot justify this expenditure and would urge Council to either table the item until after the budget is final or vote it down.

Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation explained that the grant money had been set aside in 2007 by the former Recreation Superintendent and that the grant had languished and had never been acted on. He continued that they were notified that the grant was being closed out so to take advantage of the 50% match they had to get the application in. He further explained that with the grant funds it will help bring the city parks to be in ADA compliance.

Councilman Molenda asked if we open ourselves up to any type of lawsuit by not being fully ADA compliant.

Jeff Green, Interim Director of Planning & Recreation explained that from a legal stand point, he would defer that answer to Tom Ready, City Attorney, but that by going forward with the application, we are making the parks more accessible and providing opportunities that are not there right now.

Tom Ready, City Attorney stated that as with a number of items, we do the best we can with what we have and that is what we are attempting to do with these picnic tables, therefore litigation is highly unlikely.

Mayor Clark explained that as he was reading through the fact sheet, he considered the timeline, the design and types of the tables and realizing that this was thoroughly thought out by the previous Council, he thinks that there is a need in the community at the parks and they don't require a lot of follow-up maintenance or care and it expands our parks system to serve the disabled as well as others that may use them.

George Brown, City Manager stated that because this project was planned in the previous budget year it would be his understanding that we've carried over the matching funds for at least a couple of years in the budget so this is not new funds being spent.

Councilman Molenda asked about the condition of the current picnic tables.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services said that they are in fair condition but does not think any of the current tables are at ADA standards.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that item 45 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 (Councilman Bica)

Motion carried.

49 The communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a proposal from James Greene of Dykema Gossett, PLLC for the continuation of providing legal services for labor matters on a three year retainer, and recommending that Council strongly consider accepting Mr. Greene's legal services proposal and engage him as Labor Attorney for the term of April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013.

Charles D. Evans, Clerk-Treasurer read an email communication from Councilwoman Conner stating that she is opposed to giving Mr. Greene and his firm a 3 year contract because after employing him for hundreds of hours in the past year, she would like to think he has educated the Human Resources Director and the City Manager to do the job they were hired to do. Her email also stated that she is not opposed to having Mr. Greene on a retainer since he does hold a lot of background information.

Charlie Abel, President of the Command Officers Union stated that he is not in favor of this item for a couple of reasons. He explained that he has negotiated several contracts in the past and the last negotiation was the first time there has been an attorney present at every meeting. He said that for the month of June, Mr. Greene had billed the City \$64,000 which works out to be roughly 284 hours, at \$225 per hour, which is about a 71 hour work week. He continued that according to the ordinance the Human Resources Director is in charge of Principal Management Negotiator developing contract with employee organizations and acting as the agent for the Civil Service Commission. He asked that while Dykema Gossett has presented that Mr. Greene will be chief negotiator and labor counsel for the City, and also counsel for the other bargaining units, does that mean that the City Ordinance will be changed. He continued that Mr. Greene has been with the City for about two years as well as with Ms. Howard while she was with the County negotiating their contracts. He said in that amount of time she must have gleaned some knowledge of negotiating contracts so that Mr. Greene should not have to be present at every meeting.

Ron Tuttle, Chief Steward Representative from the Teamsters Union and a city taxpayer stated that he has been negotiating contracts with the city for about 20 years and has always dealt with the Human Resources Director and/or the City Manager. He continued that he also has some past experience with the hiring of the City Manager, in viewing of the prerequisites and applications and said that maybe things have changed but one of the prerequisites at that time was that the City Manager and the Human Resources Director must be able to negotiate contracts with all city bargaining units. He questioned, with the possibility of layoffs looming around city employees, if it's necessary that we spend another \$80,000 a year on another contracted employee when we have people already in place who are capable of doing the job.

Paula Smith, President of COMEA I Union and a taxpayer reminded Council that at a budget work session she attended one year ago, Councilman Beneteau asked and was assured that once the contracts were settled that were being negotiated at that time, the need to retain the services of a labor attorney would subside. She continued that all of the contracts being negotiated at that time have been settled and rewritten in their entirety from the first page to the last. She stated that she is in no way suggesting that a labor attorney is not needed but to the extent that a labor attorney has been used since October 2007 is excessive and inexcusable. She asked how, after spending in excess of over \$300,000 since October 2007 to negotiate the contracts, that are now in place, can this Council justify to the taxpayers the need to enter into a contract with Mr. Greene and Dykema Gossett for nearly a quarter of a million dollars for another three years. She also stated that the City's labor contracts will continue to expire and be negotiated which is what the City pays two people to do and requested that this contract and the amount it is written for be reconsidered.

Mayor Clark asked the City Manager to answer the questions that were asked and also asked if the contracts have been rewritten in their entirety.

George Brown, City Manager stated that he wished he could promise Council and the community that in the next few years that things are going to go smoothly in regards to the economy, the city's financial matters and labor relation matters but he cannot promise that. He continued that he thinks that Council has done a good job and the employee unions, for the most part, somewhat keeping behind the scenes, the very difficult work that was undertaken over the last three years with labor negotiations, reopening contracts and handling the financial challenges we've all faced. He further stated that the length of the negotiations, the contentiousness of them, the grievances, if they go to arbitration, the venue and so on; those decisions are not made by management alone or City Council alone, our partners or fellow employees have a part to plan in that. He continued that our hope over the next 2-3 years is that we do not need to spend that amount of money or the amount of time to work our way through these very difficult times and some of the more obvious changes that are occurring to this state and to the public sector in regards to labor costs and services. He explained that the engagement proposal that Council has under consideration is a retainer proposal with a figure of \$80,000 which is the cap, and the most that the City will spend in a year over the term of the agreement of three years but there is a billable provision that if the hours result in less payment over the term of the agreement, the amount that's less will be credited or reimbursed, whichever works out at that time and that there will be reconciliation and the hours used will be tracked. He further explained that the thought is that we

should experience a period of time here where we use the labor attorney a lot less, with one major contract that will open up at the end of this fiscal year and that contract has not been rewritten, it is about a generation or older and is a patchwork of letters of understanding and so on. He stated that the other five contracts have been extensively rewritten through the hard work of our Unions leadership, the City Management team and Council. He continued that this agreement could range from zero dollars to \$240,000 over the three year period, but there is a cap and those decisions will be made as we proceed along and determined by the need of using the labor counsel or not but also those decisions will be made and connected with the cooperation we have from our partners in all of this, our city employees and their union leadership. He continued that as a reminder, we do go to the table in negotiations and we do face hired professional negotiators and each union brings representation from their statewide unions into negotiations, grievances, and arbitration, and he doesn't know that it is out of line for any community to engage a professional who has a great deal of depth in labor relations matters, negotiations and the law, especially with Public Act 312 which is very complex and very costly. He further explained that the agreement also has a provision in addition to a reconciliation that would enable the City to pay less than \$80,000 a year overall and also a provision that allows either party, this or any future Council in the three year term, to withdraw from the agreement with a 90 day notice. He said that these times today have a different flavor and nature, and that he has been a chief negotiator in at least two communities that he has managed and has been a participant on negotiation teams in every community he's managed but the complexity of these times and the complexity of the contracts here, the sophistication of the unions and their representation, he thinks calls for quick, focused, very professionally deep assistance in the work that has been done over the past two – three years and probably the work over the next couple of years. He explained that in the thirty years he has been in local government he has never experienced a time when he's had to move so decisively and so quickly to avoid the financial ruin that many communities have dug themselves into. He said he thinks there has been a lot accomplished with the \$300,000 plus investment, the investment of Mayor and Council's time, the investment of staff time and the taxpayers of this city will avoid millions and millions of dollars of current and future costs as a result of doing those negotiations professionally, with a lot of homework and very focused and relatively quickly for the challenges that we faced and how much was accomplished.

Mayor Clark reiterated Mr. Tuttle's question regarding if there has been a change in the prerequisites for hiring of the City Manager's position.

George Brown, City Manager explained that he was very involved with all aspects of union negotiations since he came in 2006 but that he has not been at the table to lead the negotiations because on his recommendation Council hired a professional to be involved with that. He further stated that the results are telling and quite frankly he would have had a great deal of difficulty in all of the hours involved both at the table and for every hour at the table, another two hours behind the scenes preparing, wrapping up and follow up. He continued that he would have had a very difficult time covering the rest of the realm that he is required to cover, but his professional background experience as a negotiator, as a broad City Manager was instrumental in the process but not at the table face to face.

Mayor Clark asked if the negotiation process was part of his retention here.

George Brown, City Manager explained that he cannot recall details of the interview, but that he carries negotiating experience on his resume.

Councilman Molenda asked Mr. Ready, City Attorney if there is anything in the ordinance that would preclude the City Manager from negotiating contracts with assistance from others inside or outside the organization.

Tom Ready, City Attorney said that he doesn't have the ordinance with him but that he has no reason to doubt Lt. Abel's assertion of what it says as far as the duties of the Human Resources Director. He further stated that in paragraph 3 of Mr. Greene's letter it mentions that he would be representing the city as chief negotiator and labor counsel for the city with police and fire negotiations, so that does, on its face conflict, but he is sure it will not be a

problem because there is nothing in the ordinance which precludes the city from bringing along any help that management or Council might feel as necessary or desirable for negotiations.

Councilman Molenda asked if there has been another time in the history of this government where such cost savings have been achieved in the realm of millions of dollars.

George Brown, City Manager stated that through his experiences in local government he does not recall a period when the challenges that we are facing now were ever present.

Councilman Molenda asked if it would be Mr. Brown's opinion that the city would have realized the restructuring and resulting costs savings without the professional assistance of Mr. Greene as part of the bargaining team.

George Brown, City Manager stated that our analysis indicates that we've carved about 3.5 million dollars of fixed overhead from our general fund activities and that will be an annual reduction, ongoing. He further stated that it was done through a number of actions, with the participation of a number of people, but what was accomplished at the table with labor negotiations played a big part.

Councilman Paisley spoke in favor of having the contract with Mr. Greene.

Charlie Abel, President of the Command Officers Union pointed out that on the proposed engagement letter on page two under compensation, the second sentence states that matters outside the retainer will continue to be billed at \$225 per hour, and that the City will also be billed for expenses incurred in the course of our providing legal services to it, and further details as to how we charge for services and expenses is set forth in the enclosure. He asked if the cap that has been talked about, of \$80,000 per year, would include the matters outside the retainer and the expenses incurred in the course of providing legal services to the City.

Tom Ready, City Attorney explained that his understanding in reading the letter is that it would not include expenses, and not being certain of what expenses would be involved or be incurred, whether it is copies or a witness at arbitration, etc., those would be appropriate expenses.

Brian Wolf, Executive Board Member of Firefighters Local 326 stated that last summer the fire department had an unfair labor practice for tuition reimbursement, and those in attendance were Mr. Brown, Ms. Howard, Mr. Greene, the Fire Chief, one executive board Member and the participant that was involved. He explained that the Firefighters Union did not have an attorney present, as it had been stated by Mr. Brown as one reason for having Mr. Greene's services, but that the Firefighters won that case. He further stated that the first meeting he attended as an executive board member; Mr. Greene pulled the unions' attorney aside and suggested that negotiation be done between the attorneys only, of which our attorney said no to that request. He said that their union does not bring their attorney to every negotiation and that until recently they never did take an attorney until just before settlement to make sure everything was complete and legal.

Paula Smith, President of COMEA I Union and taxpayer at 901 Winston Drive stated that from day one of negotiations, Mr. Greene was at every meeting so we will never know if the city would have realized the restructuring and resulting cost savings without the professional assistance of Mr. Greene. She further stated that given the intelligence of the employees and understanding of the economic condition of the City, she believes that the Unions would have given most of the concessions that they gave during negotiations with or without Mr. Greens influence. She also added that when COMEA I went to the negotiating table, there was a union representative present but that they did not have an attorney present. She asked if it is realistic for Council to approve Mr. Greene's contract for three years considering that there is a possibility that some of Council may not be here for the full three years, and that new members of Council will be forced to work with someone they may not want to work with.

Derek Whitaker, President of the Firefighters Local 326 asked why this service was not put out for bid like other services.

George Brown, City Manager stated that Council certainly has a prerogative to bid out for proposals but with professional services where there is a relationship developed, with a back ground, history and the track record of the actions previously. He explained that it's pretty common but not required that bidding be done for professional services, but that Council also passed the City Attorney proposal this evening, which was a one source proposal and it is also done with other professional service providers.

Mayor Clark explained that when this proposal was first presented to him, he sent it back for a couple of reasons; the first was the issue with the three year term, but with the caveat in place to allow either party to terminate the agreement with a ninety day notice, there is a way for this Council or the next Council to terminate the agreement if they feel the need to do so. The second item was the amount that was proposed, what amount is acceptable, what can be lived with, and what are the expectations of the work that is going to be done. He stated that he was concerned about the amount as just being "a given" regardless of the action or the amount of work that was done, but that it was presented back to him with the understanding that there is a provision for an end-of-term reconciliation, with credit or reimbursement to the City if the billable hours are lower than the retainer payments. He continued that the letter stated that Mr. Green will provide direct labor representation and serve as Chief Negotiator and Labor Counsel for the City in all police and fire negotiations, including all Act 312 arbitrations, and that he will provide labor counsel and support for the City's bargaining committees in all other labor negotiations.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Beneteau that item 49 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 (Councilman Bica)

Motion carried.

#### Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Clark commented on the reductions in property values within the city, the current financial state of city, the direction of the City Manager as it pertains to budget reductions from each department, the recommendations coming in from department managers and the upcoming budget work sessions. He stated that the City Manager must present a balanced budget to Council by April 1, 2010 and Council must adopt a balanced budget by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

#### City Manager's Comments.

George Brown, City Manager announced that the annual yard waste collection starts on Monday, March 29, 2010 and said that April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Winchester Street Bridge project is scheduled to begin with an estimated completion and reopening date of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

#### Council Comments.

Councilman Bica commented on the strong and important decisions he was faced with today and the concessions expected from everyone from the US government, to the state and the local government.

Councilman Molenda announced the Funds for Furry Friends Dinner and Auction on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at LaRoy Hall, hosted by the Humane Society of Monroe County and that for more information he has a flyer with him to hand out or the Humane Society can be reached at 734-240-0562.

Citizen's Comments.

Jim Sabo, former Council Member explained that he was in attendance tonight with his spouse, Dr. Joanna Sabo, a professor at MCCC and a group of state and local government students, who are getting an outstanding lesson tonight. He congratulated the Mayor, Councilman Bica and Councilman Hensley for winning the election.

Sheridan Hudson, Secretary and Negotiator for COMEA I, said that she is confused about Mr. Brown's statement which claimed that as a result of Mr. Greene's negotiations, the city could see a 3.5 million dollar reduction from the general fund each year and she said if we are 1.5 million dollars in the red for this upcoming budget year, then we should be 2.0 million ahead as a result.

George Brown, City Manager said that what he had referred to is the 2005-2006 fiscal year or the 2004-2005, somewhere in there is the start, and if nothing had been changed, our budget structure would have stayed the same with the same number of employees, services, operating and fixed overhead, then we would be spending approximately 3.5 million dollars more a year than we do right now.

Sheridan Hudson, Secretary and Negotiator for COMEA I, said that as a negotiator, it is her opinion that there was not one concession that COMEA I took that was as a result of Mr. Green being at the negotiating table and that COMEA I would have worked with the City without him being there, so in her opinion it was a \$300,000 waste of taxpayer's money.

Darrell Tamsen, Patrolmen's Association Vice-President, Negotiator and a taxpayer in the City of Monroe, stated that he is confused about the concessions and cut backs that the employees are going to have to give to save money but then Council agrees to set aside \$80,000 a year for an attorney that you do not need. He stated that it was his understanding that Mr. Greene's services were brought in to rewrite the contracts but that they've all been rewritten except for one. He continued that during the 18 years he has negotiated contracts, no attorney was ever present during the negotiation process and now the City is going to pay an attorney \$80,000 a year to do the job for the City Manager and Human Resources Director and at the same time lay off employees and cut services to the citizens of the community.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilman Molenda and seconded by Councilman Hensley that meeting adjourn until the next regular meeting on Monday, April 5, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

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Charles D. Evans  
City Clerk-Treasurer

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Robert E. Clark  
Mayor