

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

Excused: Council Member Bica

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

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Presentations.

Presentation by Mark Jagodzinski, General Manager of Lake Erie Transit, regarding the L.E.T. Millage Proposal.

Presentation by Barry LaRoy, Director of Utilities, regarding an update & information on issues related to recent rains/torms.

Presentation by Plante Moran of the 2011 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit.

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, November 21, 2011 and minutes of the Work Session held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$744,272.45.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

242 Wastewater Department Centrifuge Ventilation System Bids.

1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, reporting back on bids received for the furnishing and installing of the Centrifuge Ventilation System located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), and recommending that a purchase order in the amount of \$40,500 be awarded to Monroe Plumbing & Heating out of Monroe, MI and a total amount of \$44,500 be encumbered to include a 10% contingency, for the furnishing and installing of the Centrifuge Ventilation System within the sludge handling area in accordance with the bid specifications.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

243 Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau – Banner Request

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to display three over head banners across East Front Street, West First Street and Monroe Street from July 30 – August 13, 2012, announcing the 11th Annual River Raisin Jazz Festival on August 11 & 12, 2012, and recommending approval of the request.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

244 Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau – Banner Request

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to display three over head banners across East Front Street, West First Street and Monroe Street from August 20 – September 2, 2012, announcing the Annual River Raisin Labor Day Barbeque Festival on September 1, 2012, and recommending approval of the request.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

245 United Way of Monroe County Banner Request

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the United Way of Monroe County for permission to display a banner across Monroe Street from September 10 – October 1, 2012, announcing their annual campaign, and recommending approval of the request.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

246 Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau – Banner Request

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to display three over head banners across East Front Street, West First Street and Monroe Street from September 24 – October 8, 2012, announcing Custer Week on October 1-7, 2012, and recommending approval of the request for banner placement across East Front and West First Streets because Monroe Street is not available for the time requested.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

247 6th Annual River Raisin Labor Day Festival.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to hold the 6th Annual River Raisin Labor Day BBQ Festival on September 1, 2012, and to close East Front Street between Monroe & Macomb Street, West Front Street between Cass & Monroe Street, and Washington Street between East Front and East First Street on September 1, 2012 from 12 noon – 11:00 p.m., and recommending that Council approve the request for Saturday, September 1st, contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

248 Port of Monroe Dock and Industrial Park Rail Line Grant Agreement Approval.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a Federal grant agreement from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to re-establish rail service to the Gerdau MacSteel property located on East Front Street to provide for new access to the VenTower property located on Borchert Park Drive and recommending that Council accept the attached FRA Grant Agreement and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services or his designee be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Monroe, and execute any additional documentation necessary during the course of the grant term to fulfill our reporting requirements.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

249 North Dixie Highway Guardrail Installation Change Order.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a change order to the North Dixie Highway guardrail installation near Spaulding Road, and recommending that Council award a change order to the 2010-11 Water Main Replacement Program, Group 1 to Salenbien Trucking & Excavating for the installation of 180 feet of guardrail with end terminals on North Dixie Highway in the amount of \$14,796, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to execute the change order on behalf of the City of Monroe.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

250 LETC Bus Service Proposal Millage Request.

1. Communication from the City Clerk/Treasurer, submitting a request from LETC to approve ballot language for a millage election, and recommending that the attached proposed ballot language be approved by Council and submitted to the Monroe County Election Commission for their approval and placement on the ballot at the August Presidential Primary to be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

251 Non-Union Employee Compensation.

1. Communication from the City Manager, submitting a request for Non-Union Employee Compensation, that in order to recognize the overall excellent performance, productivity and self-initiative of the division heads, department heads and the administrative assistant named on the list attached, to promote reasonable compensation-adjustment equity and to better ensure the retention of highly skilled professional and support staff, it is recommended and requested that Council approve a 2% wage increase for the personnel listed, effective January 1, 2012.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Beneteau that item 242, 243, 244, 245, 246 and 247 of the Consent Agenda be approved as presented and that item 248, 249, 250 and 251 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

248 The communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services was presented, submitting a Federal grant agreement from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to re-establish rail service to the Gerdau MacSteel property located on East Front Street to provide for new access to the VenTower property located on Borchert Park Drive and recommending that Council accept the attached FRA Grant Agreement and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services or his designee be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Monroe, and execute any additional documentation necessary during the course of the grant term to fulfill our reporting requirements.

Council Member Molenda commented on the Code of Ethics Ordinance and the flood insurance for this item.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by council Member Beneteau that item 248 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

249 The communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services was presented, submitting a change order to the North Dixie Highway guardrail installation near Spaulding Road, and recommending that Council award a change order to the 2010-11 Water Main Replacement Program, Group 1 to Salenbien Trucking & Excavating for the installation of 180 feet of guardrail with end terminals on North Dixie Highway in the amount of \$14,796, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to execute the change order on behalf of the City of Monroe.

Council Member Molenda commented on the two proposals for this project.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Beneteau be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

250 The communication from the City Clerk/Treasurer was presented, submitting a request from LETC to approve ballot language for a millage election, and recommending that the attached proposed ballot language be approved by Council and submitted to the Monroe County Election Commission for their approval and placement on the ballot at the August Presidential Primary to be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street commented on the small amount of people who ride the buses and he thinks it is a waste and ill placed. He questioned the use of the buses, the fare and who funds this service.

Mark Jagodzinski, General Manager of Lake Erie Transit addressed the concerns of Mr. McElligott.

David Smith, 530 Hollywood Drive commented on transferring from one bus to another.

Mark Jagodzinski, General Manager of Lake Erie Transit explained how transfers work.

Council Member Paisley reported back on the SEMCOG meeting and said that information can be found on their website that may be helpful to Mr. McElligott.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Paisley that item 250, amended to have the ballot proposal worded as a question, be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation placed on file.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

251 The communication from the City Manager was presented, submitting a request for Non-Union Employee Compensation, that in order to recognize the overall excellent performance, productivity and self-initiative of the division heads, department heads and the administrative assistant named on the list attached, to promote reasonable compensation-adjustment equity and to better ensure the retention of highly skilled professional and support staff, it is recommended and requested that Council approve a 2% wage increase for the personnel listed, effective January 1, 2012.

Council Member Hensley commented on his support of the wage increase and asked that the item be amended to include the same increase for the City Manager.

Council Member Conner asked if the wage increases would be comparable to positions of the same in other municipalities.

George Brown explained that there was a mini review done of the MML data on the listed position and noted that with the increase the wages would be slightly below the average.

Council Member Beneteau said he supports the wage increase.

Council Member Molenda noted that some of the same concessions that the bargaining units have taken were also imposed on the non-union employees.

Council Member Conner said that these employees have gone above and beyond their call of duty.

Mayor Clark said that it is about performance and commented on contributions and raises with bargaining units and non-union employees and said he would support this wage increase.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street noted that it is a modest increase in wage but that it is ill-timed.

Council Member Paisley commented that these positions are doing more with less and he supports the increase.

Dave Roberts, 706 Broadway said that he supports the wage increase for the listed employees.

David Smith, 530 Hollywood Drive is in support of the wage increase.

It was moved by Council Member Hensley and seconded by Council Member Beneteau that item 251, revised to include the City Manager in the wage increase, be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation placed on file.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 (Council Member Conner)

Motion carried.

Council Comments.

Council Member Hensley commented on the Monroe Evening News article about Nora Young, who was in attendance at the meeting, and thanked her for all that she does for the community.

Mayor Clark said that volunteerism is the heart of the community and also thanked Nora Young for her part in that.

Council Member Paisley commented on the State of the City Financial Position for the Chamber of Commerce on December 13th, the audit report given by Plante Moran, the Pension System and the Post Health Care Retirement System. He also commented on the Operational Assessment Study and the financial state of this community.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Clark also commented on the audit presentation by Plante Moran, and thanked everyone for their efforts in achieving our goals. He also commented on the recent water event and the efforts that the City is making to mitigate the issues and he thanked those in the community for helping others.

Citizen Comments.

Albert Gallan, 1311 McCormick commented on the flooding, sewage issues and backflow problems.

Joe Lavelline, 1523 Dixie Drive commented on the sewer backup on Harbor.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services addressed the flooding, sewage and backflow issues.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street commented on Nora Young's service to the community, the flooding on Harbor Avenue, insurance claims, helping out in your neighborhood and clean up on North Custer near and around Veterans Park.

Dave Roberts, 706 Broadway commented on sewer backups and a possible solution to the problem.

Quarterly Closed Executive Session to Discuss Pending Litigation.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Beneteau that Council go into the Quarterly Closed Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation at 9:44 p.m.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Hensley that Council reconvene to open session at 10:14 p.m.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Conner that the meeting adjourn at 10:15 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting on December 19, 2011.

Charles D. Evans
Clerk-Treasurer

Robert E. Clark
Mayor