

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members Hensley, Iacoangeli, Vining, Molenda, Rafko, Sisk and Mayor Clark.

Michelle J. LaVoy, City Clerk-Treasurer gave the invocation.

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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 Council Member or citizen.)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, January 6, 2014, Minutes of the First Meeting of the New Council held on Monday, January 6, 2014 and Minutes of the Work Session held on January 13, 2014.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$578,955.04.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

4 Appointments Resolution.

1. Communication from the Mayor's Office, submitting a proposed resolution for appointments to various boards, commissions and committees, and recommending that the resolution be adopted.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

5 16th Annual Custer Week – Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to display three overhead banners from September 29 – October 12, 2014 announcing the 16th Annual Custer Week on October 6 – 12, 2014, and recommending the request be approved.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

6 Earth Day Committee – Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Earth Day Committee for permission to display an overhead banner from March 31 – April 21, 2014, announcing Earth Day, and recommending approval of the request.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

7 13th Annual River Raisin Jazz Festival – Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to display three overhead banners from July 28 – August 10, 2014,

- announcing the 13th Annual River Raisin Jazz Festival on August 7 – 10, 2014, and recommending the request be approved.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 8 River Raisin Labor Day Barbeque Festival – Banner Request.
1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to display three overhead banners from August 18 – 30, 2014, announcing the River Raisin Labor Day Barbeque Festival on August 30, 2014, and recommending the request be approved.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 9 Michigan State Bowling Association Tournament – Banner Request.
1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to display an overhead banner from March 4 – 30, 2014 announcing the Michigan State Bowling Association Tournament, and recommending the request be approved.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 10 Recommendation for Approval of Land Division at 1751 E. Front Street.
1. Communication from the Department of Economic & Community Development, submitting the Land Division for Parcel 49-01485-000, property located at 1751 E. Front Street, and given the recommendations of the Planning Office and the findings of the Citizens Planning Commission (CPC), the Department of Economic & Community Development recommends that Council approve the land division, as requested in CPC Case #S 13-003, for 1751 E. Front Street.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 11 Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a Mayor Pro Tem.
1. Communication from the Mayor's Office, submitting a proposed resolution that designates City Council Member Jeremy J. Molenda to serve as Mayor Pro Tem during the Mayor's absence, and recommending that Council adopt the proposed Resolution.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 12 Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau – Special Event Request.
1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to reserve dates in 2014 for upcoming Events / Festivals, and recommending that Council approve only the dates of the events with full approval of the events, being subject to policy, timely submission of event planning details, staff reviews, street closure action by Council and approvals of the city financial and logistical support.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Sisk that item 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 be approved as presented and that item A, B, 4, 8 and 12 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Work Session held on January 13, 2014.

Council Member Iacoangeli noted that he was not present at the Work Session held on January 13, 2014 but the minutes reflect that he was.

Council Member Molenda noted that the Work Session ran longer than 2 hours but that the minutes do not reflect the decision of Council to continue the meeting beyond Charter two (2) hour limitation.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that the minutes of the Work Session held on January 13, 2014, item A, be approved as amended.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$578,955.04.

Council Member Iacoangeli explained that he is a partner and owner of Beckett & Raeder Inc who is listed on the invoice approval report as having done the five (5) year Recreation Master Plan and said that he will abstain from the vote on this item.

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

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 (Council Member Iacoangeli)

Motion carried.

4 The communication from the Mayor's Office was presented, submitting a proposed resolution for appointments to various boards, commissions and committees, and recommending that the resolution be adopted.

Council Member Molenda explained that he is related to someone who is being recommended to fill an appointment so he will abstain from the vote on this item.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that the Appointments Resolution, item 4 be accepted, placed on file and the resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 (Council Member Molenda)

Motion carried.

8 The communication from the City Manager's Office was presented, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to display three overhead banners from August 18 – 30, 2014, announcing the River Raisin Labor Day Barbeque Festival on August 30, 2014, and recommending the request be approved.

Council Member Rafko noted that she would like to see the River Raisin Labor Day Barbeque Festival become a larger event than in previous years. She pointed out ways that she thought would increase the entertainment and suggested that City Council become part of the planning stage.

Mayor Clark explained that the event is coordinated through the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau and said that some of the city staff is involved with the set up and clean-up.

Following discussion, it was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that item 8 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

12 The communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to reserve dates in 2014 for upcoming Events / Festivals, and recommending that Council approve only the dates of the events with full approval of the events, being subject to policy, timely submission of event planning details, staff reviews, street closure action by Council and approvals of the city financial and logistical support.

Council Member Molenda asked what it means to "save a date" and what would staff do if another party reserved and paid for an event on one of the dates of this request.

Council Member Iacoangeli said he likes that the Tourism Bureau has given an advanced calendar of events and said that since these events are recurring events it would be appropriate to list them on the City's website on the calendar of community events.

Mayor Clark suggested that a policy may be in order to secure these dates so that there is no question why someone else will not be approved to use the same dates.

George Brown, City Manager explained that to get preliminary approval to hold future events resulted from concerns expressed by staff because application for some of the big events were coming in late and creating some time and resource crunches.

Following discussion, it was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Rafko that item 12 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Comments.

Council Member Hensley thanked those who accepted appointments to the various boards and commissions and reminded everyone that while the temperatures are at dangerously low, there is a warming shelter open on East Second Street in the old Salvation Army Center, and asked people to direct those who are homeless or in need of a warm place to be, to that shelter.

Council Member Iacoangeli recognized and complemented Michelle J. LaVoy, Clerk-Treasurer for her very nice prayer and the reference to Martin Luther King Day that she offered at the beginning of the meeting. He noted that before he continues with his comments he would like to make a motion regarding a policy for item 12.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk to direct City Administration to develop a policy regarding an official event calendar program.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Member Iacoangeli expressed concern about the number of rental properties within the city and asked for a report from staff on the number of units that are registered in the rental inspection program and how they are categorized. He expressed concern about the status of the River Raisin Corridor East Master Plan, the Memorial

Park flower bed and the possibility of re-establishing on street parking to the west side of Monroe Street for the business district on the that side of town.

Mayor Clark noted that staff will be directed to compile information that will address concerns/questions about rental units and inspections, and subsequently will present the information at a Council Meeting.

Council Member Vining thanked Michelle J. LaVoy, Clerk-Treasurer for her acknowledgement of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She said that the Arthur Lesow Community Center had their annual community brunch in honor of Dr. King on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Monroe County Community College had a Diversity Fair and discussion time of topics related to diversity. She thanked those who attended those events.

Council Member Rafko commented on the event at the Arthur Lesow Community Center and said that Council Member Vining was the organizer of the event and thanked her for the invitation.

Council Member Sisk recognized former County Commissioner Board Chairman, Lamar Fredrick and commented on the event at Arthur Lesow Community Center and recognized Council Member Vining for a successful event.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Clark commented on the appointments to the various boards and commissions and said there are many positions that are still vacant. He explained that if someone is interested in being on one of the boards, they can go to his office and fill out an application. He said that he attended Father William Fisher's retirement celebration and presented him with a Proclamation from City Council to thank him for his community service. He said that Father Fisher served at St. Joseph Parish and St. Johns Parish.

Citizen's Comments.

Adam Yeager, 1833 South Custer Road commented on the condition of the railroad tracks on West Front Street and said that the railroad should be notified to repair them.

Lamar Fredrick, Bedford told Council that many of the things they do reach far beyond the borders of the city and as those things are noticed, people will come to this city as a destination.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Rafko that the meeting adjourn at 8:26 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Michelle J. LaVoy
City Clerk-Treasurer

Robert E. Clark
Mayor