

CITY OF MONROE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

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

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Clark asked for a moment of silence in honor of one of the community leaders, Arden Westover who passed away this week.

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 Tuesday, January 21, 2014, and Minutes of the Work Session held on January 21, 2014.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$755,681.83.  
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

13 Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget – Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

1. Communication from the Director of Economic & Community Development, submitting the Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, and recommending that Council accept and place on file the recommendations of the Capital Improvements Program Budget Team and the Citizens Planning Commission; and schedule the public hearing to review and consider the FY 2014-2015 Capital Improvements Program Budget for the February 18, 2014 regular meeting.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

14 Monroe Family YMCA Banner Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe YMCA for permission to display an overhead banner across East Front Street from February 24 – March 15, 2014 announcing their Annual Campaign, and recommending the request be approved.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

15 Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe/Lenawee County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and the United Way of Monroe County for permission to hold the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Munson Park on April 12, 2014, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to costs recovery &

fee waivers in accordance with City Council adopted policy, 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.

16 VFW Memorial Day Parade Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the VFW Memorial Day Parade Committee to hold the Annual Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2014, beginning at 2:00 p.m., to close the affected streets, hold a brief ceremony on the bridge and to waive all permits and fees, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to insurance requirements being met, parade permit, 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.

17 Water Department Neptune Meter Reading Device and Meter Purchase.

1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, submitting a request to purchase thirty (30) 5/8"x5/8" Straight Neptune E-Coder I Inside Water Meters, one hundred seventy (170) 5/8"x3/4" Neptune E-Coder I Inside Water Meters, fifty (50) 5/8"x3/4" Neptune E-Coder I Pit Water Meters, three (3) 1-1/2" Neptune E-Coder I Pit Water Meters, three (3) 2" Neptune E-Coder I Pit Water Meters, one (1) six 6" Neptune Fire Service Meter with E-Coder I, one (1) 8" Neptune Fire Service Meter with E-Coder I, and recommending that several purchase orders be issued to Michigan Meter Technology Group out of Madison Heights, MI based on the available space within the Water Department facilities totaling \$74,935 to provide the Water Department Neptune radio reading devices and meters and that the bid process be waived.
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 Iacoangeli that item 14, 15, 16 and 17 be approved as presented and that item B and 13 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion carried.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$755,681.83.

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

Council Member Iacoangeli noted that he would abstain from the vote on this item because it would be a conflict of interest as he is a partner and owner of Becket and Raider, a vendor listed on the invoice report.

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

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

13 The communication from the Director of Economic & Community Development was presented, submitting the Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, and recommending that Council accept and place on file the recommendations of the Capital Improvements Program Budget Team and the Citizens Planning Commission; and schedule the public hearing to review and consider the FY 2014-2015 Capital Improvements Program Budget for the February 18, 2014 regular meeting.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley to accept the communication from the Director of Economic & Community Development and to approve a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 for the Capital Improvements Program.

Council Member Iacoangeli noted that the Michigan Planning Enabling Act states that if the Planning Commission has an unfavorable recommendation regarding a project, Council can approve that project with a majority vote of 5-2 vote. He said that based on the communication from the Director of Economic & Community Development he is not clear if the Planning Commission gave an unfavorable recommendation or if they just set it aside for additional information and asked for clarification.

Dan Swallow, Director of Economic & Community Development noted that the Planning Commission looked at the Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget during their January 27<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and decided it was not appropriate to include it in their recommendation because it was not complete at that time. He said they set it aside with the understanding that with additional information, they may choose to include it at a separate meeting.

Council Member Iacoangeli asked why the street projects on East Third Street and North Macomb Street cannot be done at one time as opposed to two (2) separate construction seasons where the City pays mobilization costs twice. He cited other areas that are lacking, others that he would like to see expanded upon and said that he plans to bring this and other questions to the public hearing.

Council Member Rafko explained that during discussion at the Work Session held on the Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget, she understood that window replacement at the Navarre Library would be on the schedule this year, but in the budget narrative it notes that replacement will be in the 2015-2016 budget year.

George Brown, City Manager noted the funding was shifted; that originally the windows were listed in the general fund and that the project is block grant eligible, so the project was moved to allow for items that hadn't originally been recommended.

Council Member Molenda commented on the neglected, aging infrastructure due to government that was not mindful. He said he is disappointed to see money come out of parks and services but said if we plan to spend more on a park, we need to determine what street project that will come out of.

Council Member Iacoangeli said that capital improvements are supposed to be a reflection of what is in the master plan, parks and recreation plan, and the DDA plan. He said that he does not see an alignment being allocated against the individual plans that are referenced in the CIP program.

Following discussion, a vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

#### Council Comments.

Council Member Iacoangeli expressed concern about the number of violations in the rental inspection program and he spoke of ways to enforce regulations and how to make the program more efficient. He suggested posting pictures of properties that are in violation on the City's Website as a way to educate the community and enlist their help. He spoke of Senate Bill 313 which is presently in legislature and gave a brief synopsis of the

bill. He said he would like Mayor and Council to write a letter to Senator Richardville to express Council's displeasure with the bill.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that a letter is written to Senator Richardville regarding Council's displeasure with Senate Bill 313.

Mayor Clark noted that he and Council Member Iacoangeli have discussed the fact that he has had contact with Senator Richardville regarding Senate Bill 313 as well as the House bill that addresses Assessing. He also noted that he has sent correspondence to the Senator as well as State Representatives. He said that if Council Member Iacoangeli would like him to send follow-up correspondence, he will do that.

Council Member Molenda clarified how the letter would be drafted and executed.

George Brown, City Manager said that another option is to prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

Following discussion, a vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Member Molenda commented on the tree planting projects listed in the CIP Budget and noted that he was not given a project sheet and asked that Council be given one before the public hearing.

Council Member Rafko thanked Jeff Green, City Planner/Historic Preservation Officer/Architectural Historian for his help this past week with a problem she had been presented with by a resident in her district and she thanked DPS personnel for their efforts to keep the streets clear this week.

#### Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Clark also commended DPS staff for their efforts to keep the roadways clear and said that he has had multiple complements from residents and non-residents regarding their work. He announced that February is Black History Month and that on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>; Dorsch Library Branch will host an appearance from Robert B. Jones, at 7:00 p.m. He also announced The Big Gig, a Blues Concert at the La-Z-Boy Center, MCCC on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. He recognized the students from MCCC.

#### City Manager's Comments

George Brown, City Manager requested that Council add an item to the Closed Executive Session, to consider an Attorney's Opinion.

#### Citizen's Comments.

Linda Compura, 411 Bentley Drive commented on the dangerous railroad crossings and said last year she contacted CSX regarding safety issues. She also commented on tax abatements and would like the abatements to be reviewed to ensure the terms of the abatement's are being upheld.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services updated Council about his communication with MDOT Rail Safety Group and said that on February 24<sup>th</sup> there will be (3) three diagnostic reviews of (3) three separate railroad crossings; West Elm Avenue/CSX, West Front Street/CSX and East First Street/Canadian National Crossing. He said he hopes to have a resolution to those issues by mid-summer.

Pat White, 1437 Peters Street said she lives in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and asked if there has been a class action lawsuit regarding drainage in her area.

Mayor Clark said there was a sewer litigation that concluded last year but he doesn't know of anything that is pending currently. He advised Mrs. White to touch base with Mr. Brown, City Manager at the end of the meeting.

Bill LaVoy, State Representative said he has a meeting with the Railroad Association in Lansing and has had contact with MDOT regarding the railroad crossings and the parking issue on M125. He said he is always willing to work with City Council on issues of the like.

Closed Executive Session.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Rafko that Council convene to Closed Executive Session to discuss Potential Real Estate Acquisition and Attorney's Opinion, at 8:20 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that Council reconvene to Open Session at 9:18 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that the meeting adjourn at 9:18 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

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Michelle J. LaVoy  
City Clerk-Treasurer

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Robert E. Clark  
Mayor