

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

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

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Presentation.

Presentation by Colleen Hill-Stramsack of Hubbell, Roth, and Clark regarding the traffic study of Monroe Street between Third Street and Elm Avenue.

Council Action.

51 The 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 (2) year term and appointment, and recommending that Council strongly consider accepting Mr. Ready's legal services proposal and re-appointing him as City Attorney for the term of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016. It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Vining that item 51 be postponed until the Jun 2, 2014 Regular Council Meeting.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Molenda that item 51 be placed on the floor for discussion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

It was moved by Council Member Sisk and seconded by Council Member Iacoangeli that item 51 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

104 It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Rafko that Proposed Ordinance No.14-003, an ordinance to add Chapter 528, Property Tax exemptions, to provide a service charge in lieu of taxes for a proposed multiple family dwelling project, of the Code of the City of Monroe be placed on the floor for its first reading and set for the public hearing on June 16, 2014.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 14-003, was then presented for the first time and laid over for its second reading and public hearing on Monday, June 16, 2014.

105 Communication from the City Manager, submitting a response with staff recommendation related to a "petition" received from Toll Street residents and recommending that the attached letter be sent to each of the Toll Street residents who signed the April 28, 2014 petition, which was previously provided to the Mayor and City Council, and if residents express a subsequent interest in exploring the possibility of having a public storm water improvement installed to help improve the drainage from their properties, City staff can meet with them to discuss the Charter prescribed process and the potential costs of a project in greater detail.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that item 105 be accepted and placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Council Member Rafko noted that in the fourth paragraph of the letter it states that public monies of a municipal corporation cannot be lawfully used for the particular benefit of private individuals. She explained that item 107, on the consent agenda, meets the same issue.

Mayor Clark said that item 107 is a Special Assessment District and there will be assessments to the residents for those services.

Council Member Rafko clarified that all residents will be assessed.

Following brief discussion a vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mayor Clark reminded everyone of the Rules of the Chamber when addressing City Council during citizen comment time, specifically to state their name and address clearly so that information can be entered into the record. He also noted that Administration wishes to pull item 109 and item 110 from the Consent Agenda to be considered at a later date.

It was moved by council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Rafko that the revision to the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried

Consent Agenda. (Revised)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, May 19, 2014.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$851,756.35.

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

106 East Noble Avenue Water Main Replacement Bids.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, reporting back on bids received for the East Noble Avenue Water Main Replacement, and recommending that Council award a contract for the East Noble Avenue Water Main Replacement project to Salenbien Properties, LLC in the amount of \$381,783.70, that a total of \$439,000 be encumbered to include a 15% contingency, and that the Finance Director be authorized to allocate the necessary funding to the appropriate fiscal year as needed from the Water Fund reserves, and further recommending that the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the contracts on behalf of the City of Monroe.

2. Supporting documents.

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

107 Installation of New Public Sanitary Sewer – West Fourth Street Between Hubble and Harrison Streets – Special Assessment Resolution Number 4 – Sewer SAD #232.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting Resolution No. 4, which schedules the final public hearing on the assessment roll, and recommending that the attached Resolution No. 4 be adopted and that the public hearing on the assessment roll be scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

2. Supporting documents.

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

108 Public Safety Paramedic Vehicle Purchase – Ford Explorer.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a contract to purchase a Ford Explorer to be used as a Public Safety Paramedic vehicle, and recommending that Council award a contract to purchase one (1) 2015 Utility Interceptor All Wheel Vehicle for a total price of \$26,615 from Signature Ford of Owosso, Michigan, and further recommending that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to prepare a purchase order for the above amount.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

109 This item pulled from the Consent Agenda to be considered at a later date.

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111 Traffic Committee Minutes of May 28, 2014 Meeting, Traffic Control Orders.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting the minutes of the Mayor's Traffic Committee meeting held on May 28, 2014 and a proposed resolution of support for the lane reconfiguration of Monroe Street, and recommending that Council place on file the minutes from the May 28, 2014 Mayor's Traffic Committee meeting, and approve the two (2) Traffic Control Orders 067-008 and 134-004, and further recommending that the attached resolution of support for the lane reconfiguration of Monroe Street be adopted, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to forward this to the appropriate personnel at the Michigan Department of Transportation.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

112 Upgrade to Laserfiche software.

1. Communication from the Finance Director, submitting an agreement to upgrade Laserfiche software for document imaging purposes, and recommending that Council approve entering into the agreement with General Code for the Laserfiche software upgrade, installation, and training in the amount of \$65,865.94 and that a total of \$71,00 be encumbered to allow for contingencies and GIS integration work, that the City Manager be authorized to sign any necessary agreements to execute the proposal and that the agreements not be executed until after the City Attorney has reviewed and approved them
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

113 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.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Hensley that items 106, 107, 108, 112 and 113 of the Consent Agenda be approved as presented and that item 111 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

111 The communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services was presented, submitting the minutes of the Mayor's Traffic Committee meeting held on May 28, 2014 and a proposed resolution of support for the lane reconfiguration of Monroe Street, and recommending that Council place on file the minutes from the May 28, 2014 Mayor's

Traffic Committee meeting, and approve the two (2) Traffic Control Orders 067-008 and 134-004, and further recommending that the attached resolution of support for the lane reconfiguration of Monroe Street be adopted, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to forward this to the appropriate personnel at the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Michelle J. LaVoy, Clerk-Treasurer read two (2) letters to read into the record from Janet Berns, 42 S. Monroe Street, Monroe and Stephen Buhl, 904 Bentley Drive, Monroe.

Council Member Iacoangeli commented on statistics quoted by Colleen Hill-Stramsak during her presentation and cited history of past and current traffic flow in the City. He spoke in positive regard to the proposed lane reconfiguration on Monroe Street, pedestrian safety and the change that will occur in traffic flow as a result of the lane reconfiguration.

Council Member Hensley said that he does not see that the proposed lane reconfiguration on Monroe Street will support safety to pedestrian traffic and he does not see the benefit of addition parallel parking spaces.

Council Member Vining spoke in support of the proposed lane configuration and said that if it does not work it can be reversed.

Council Member Rafko spoke in favor of a more vibrant downtown, and said that with the proposed changes it will lend to a more walkable town and the additional parking will help bring in businesses. She noted that if she thought there was a safety issue she would not be in favor of the reconfiguration but she does not see safety as a factor.

Council Member Molenda cited all of the parking lots that are available within the City limits and does not consider lack of parking as a valid point. He said there is a great amount of speculation surrounding this project and does not think it will solve any downtown issues.

Mayor Clark thanked staff and Colleen for their presentation and their effort. He said that this project is not about the additional parking spaces, that there are currently 1300 parking spaces in the downtown area. He said the reconfiguration of the lanes is about improved pedestrian movement and safety, downtown development, traffic flow, etc. He expressed concern about diverting of the current traffic flow and what areas will ultimately bare the load.

Council Member Hensley asked how hard it would be to get approval from MDOT and what will the cost be to the City to reverse the lane configuration if Council should decide to do so.

Colleen Hill-Stramsack of Hubbell, Roth, and Clark said that if Council should request to revert back to five (5) lanes and will pay for the process, she does not see that MDOT will have an issue with it.

Mayor Clark asked if Mr. Lewis had an estimate for restriping.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services said that if MDOT chooses to charge us the total number will be around \$10,000 for reconfiguration of the parking spaces, maybe \$1,000 for signage and striping, and about \$10,000 per intersection if signal modifications are necessary.

The following residents and non-residents spoke regarding the item:

Frank Grzywacki, 116 Hollywood Drive, Monroe
Adam Yeager, 1833 South Custer Road, Monroe
John Timko, 1034 Bentley Drive, Monroe
Alena Henessey 111 South Monroe Street, Monroe – Business
Harry Reisig, 418 West Fifth Street, Monroe
Mike Trapp, Director of River Raisin Center for the Arts, 114 South Monroe Street, Monroe
Diane Langford, 48 South Monroe Street, Monroe – Business
Mike Miller, 617 Cass Street, Monroe
Cheri Weakly, 44 West Front Street, Monroe

John Sieb, 105 Stockton Drive, Monroe
Karen Kinsey, 2nd Chance Boutique, Monroe Street, Monroe – Business

Following lengthy discussion, it was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Rafko that item 111 be accepted, the minutes of the Traffic Committee be placed on file, the two traffic orders be approved and the resolution be adopted and forwarded to MDOT.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 3 (Council Member Hensley, Molenda and Mayor Clark)

Motion carried.

Mayor Clark announced that the closed session scheduled at the end of the meeting to discuss pending litigation will be discussed in open session.

Tom Ready, Attorney explained that on the first meeting of each quarter Council has a quarterly review of pending litigation, generally discussed in closed session because of the confidential nature of the matter. He said that he is pleased to report that there is only one pending matter in litigation at this time and it does not require confidentiality. The case of Gaglio against the City of Monroe which has been in litigation for years, delayed mainly by a bankruptcy filing by the Gaglio Company and Mr. & Mrs. Gaglio. He said the matter is still pending and there has been no activity to report. He cited other matters that have been completed since his last report is the matter of the Dog Pound against the City of Monroe has been dismissed. He said the blight clean up case is completed and that he has nothing further to report.

Council Comments.

Council Member Iacoangeli noted that he has received many calls from parents who have kids in our ball program in reference to the poor condition of the ball diamonds.

Council Member Rafko commented on the Memorial Day Parade.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Clark announced the DDA Downtown Garage Sale on Saturday, June 14, 2014 beginning at 9:00 a.m. He said that he appreciates the comments and dialog this evening from Council and those in attendance.

Citizen's Comments.

John Timko, 1034 Bentley Drive said that because of an accident while leaving a parallel parking space, he received a ticket and that is part of his concern with parallel parking.

Mayor Clark recognized the students who were in attendance from Monroe County Community College.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that the meeting adjourn at 9:15 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Michelle J. LaVoy
City Clerk-Treasurer

Robert E. Clark
Mayor