

**CITY OF MONROE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, September 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

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

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Presentation.**

Presentation by the Monroe Conservation District.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that the City Manager be directed to develop a professional service agreement with the Monroe Conservation District.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Mayor Clark noted that in light of the recent storms and water events the Agenda will be amend to add a presentation from staff to update Council and offer information to residents who were affected.

Presentation by Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services, to update Council and to explain how city residents can dispose of their flood damage debris. He said if residents have questions about disposal of flood items to contact the Department of Public Services at 241-6800.

Presentation by Barry LaRoy, Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, to explain that the water sewer plant has a normal flow capacity of 10-14 million gallons per day that depends on the time of the day and that on the day of the storms the flow was at about 12 million gallons. He noted that within five hours of the onset of the flood event it peaked out at 59 million gallons. He noted that in addition to that, they diverted 21 million gallons into the equalization basin.

**Proclamations.**

176 Manuel Hoskins Day – September 15, 2014.

The Mayor presented a Proclamation from City Council to Manuel Hoskins, recently retired Fire Chief, in honor of his services as a firefighter and as the Fire Chief, proclaiming September 15, 2014 as Manuel Hoskins Day.

Manuel Hoskins, former Fire Chief said that it has been an honor and a pleasure to be the Fire Chief and an employee of the City of Monroe.

177 October 31, 2014 – Halloween Trick-or-Treat Night.

**Communications.**

178 A letter on file from Mrs. Sauro, 321 West Fourth Street regarding the East Fourth Sanitary Sewer Assessment.

The letter was referred to staff for consideration.

### Public Hearing.

167 This being the date set to hear public comments on proposed Ordinance No. 14-005, an ordinance to amend Chapter 353, Flood Plain Management of the Code of the City of Monroe, and there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

Council Member Iacoangeli clarified the amendment to the ordinance.

There being one (1) person present commenting and no comments on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

### Council Action.

167 It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Rafko that proposed Ordinance No. 14-005, an ordinance to amend Chapter 353, Flood Plain Management of the Code of the City of Monroe, be placed on its final reading and that the attached resolution be adopted.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 14-005 was then presented for the second time after which the Mayor asked, "Shall this ordinance pass?"

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

### Consent Agenda.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Work Session held on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 and the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 2, 2014.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$ 758,485.29.

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

179 Geographic Information System Tree Layer Development - Professional Services Award.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a request for additional Geographic Information System (GIS) Tree Layer Development, and recommending that a professional services award be made to the Remote Sensing and GIS Research and Outreach Services at Michigan State University for Phase One of the above work in the amount of up to \$50,000, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to execute any necessary agreement documents on behalf of the City.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

180 Paving Special Assessment District 332 – Alley East of North Monroe Street, South of East Noble Avenue – Special Assessment Resolution Number 1.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting Resolution No. 1 in the special assessment process declaring the installation of paving special assessment district 322, for the alley east of North Monroe Street and south of East Noble Avenue, and recommending that the attached Resolution 1 be adopted, which directs the Engineering department to prepare plans, specifications, and cost estimates for this project.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

181 Play Equipment Components Purchase – Various Parks.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a request to purchase play equipment components at various City-owned parks, and recommending that Council award the purchase of various play equipment components and hardware as shown on the attached quotation form in the amount of \$11,315.96 from Playworld Midstates, that the competitive bidding process be waived and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services or his designee be authorized to issue a purchase order on behalf of the City.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

182 Sunset & Detroit Beach Pump Station Electric Meter Replacements Bid – Wastewater Department.

1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, reporting back on bids received for the Sunset & Detroit Beach Pump Station Electric Meter Replacements, and recommending that a purchase order in the amount of \$29,328 and a total amount of \$33,700 be encumbered to include a 15% contingency, be awarded to Romanoff Electric Company, LLC for the Sunset & Detroit Beach Pump Station Electric Meter Replacements project as part of an approved FY 2014-2015 CIP project in accordance with the bid specifications.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

183 Monroe High School Annual Homecoming Parade Request

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Monroe High School for permission to hold their annual Homecoming Parade on October 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., to close the affected streets and additionally for a police escort, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to insurance requirements being met, a parade permit, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reason.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

184 Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools PTO School Event.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a request from the Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools PTO for permission to use St. Mary's parking lot for a private school event on October 24, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to no additional overtime or other costs to the city, 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.

185 Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Parade.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce for permission to hold the annual Holiday Parade in conjunction with the DDA's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 4:00 p.m., specifically to close the affected streets along the parade route (the corner of Jones Avenue/Monroe Street, Monroe Street between Jones Avenue and Elm Avenue and West Front Street from Monroe to the Laurel-Finzel parking lot, where the parade will disband), and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to insurance requirements being met, a parade permit, emergency vehicle access being maintained, 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.

186 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Season Kick-Off and Christmas Tree Lighting.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Downtown Development Authority for permission to hold the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Holiday Season Kick-Off and Christmas Tree Lighting in conjunction with the Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., specifically for electrical access for the pavilion and all electrical needs for the entertainment and tree lighting, assistance in decorating and permission to light the tree in front of the County Courthouse, free horse carriage/wagon rides around the central business district, reserved parking spaces for loading/unloading passengers on the west side of Washington Street to East First Street, and trash pick-up prior to the event, and to close East First Street between South Monroe and South Macomb Street to vehicular traffic, as well as Washington Street between East Second and West Front Street due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic and reduce lighting in the area, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to insurance requirements being met, emergency vehicle access being maintained, 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.

187 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 Sisk that items 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186 and 187 of the Consent Agenda be approved as presented and that item 179 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

179 The communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services was presented, submitting a request for additional Geographic Information System (GIS) Tree Layer Development, and recommending that a professional services award be made to the Remote Sensing and GIS Research and Outreach Services at Michigan State University for Phase One of the above work in the amount of up to \$50,000, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to execute any necessary agreement documents on behalf of the City.

Council Member Rafko asked if Council could delay the vote on this item for a couple of weeks because she would like to talk to Mr. Lewis about it.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services explained the reasons for the GIS Tree Layer Development and the time line of three (3) weeks.

Council Member Rafko said that she doesn't understand why Michigan State is the only one who can bring out the signs.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services explained there was another firm who offered the service but it was approximately double the cost. He noted that Michigan State has the benefit of the added value, a very talented forestry group and GIS capabilities.

Council Member Iacoangeli asked Mr. Lewis to explain what LIDAR is.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services explained that LIDAR is an acronym and that Light Detection and Ranging is the term. It is a process that shoots a light beam down to a surface and back up and which is how flood maps are developed. He noted that the beam can also be directed horizontally.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Molenda that item 179 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

### **Council Comments.**

Council Member Vining thanked Manuel Hoskins, former Fire Chief for his Service to the City and community. She noted that he is an asset to the City of Monroe but especially to the Orchard East Community.

Council Member Molenda thanked the staff who handled calls during the flooding event and gave guidance and direction to residents who were understandably frustrated.

Council Member Rafko also thanked staff for their part in addressing flooding issues. She also commented on the Hero's Parade that was held on Saturday and thanked all who were involved in it.

Council Member Sisk said this evenings presentation by Mr. Lewis and Mr. LaRoy was outstanding. He said that he received a lot of phone calls from people who complained about flooding in their basements and he is glad to see that the City is on top of the issue.

Council Member Hensley also thanked staff for their part in addressing flooding issues and asked Mr. Lewis to update everyone on the West Fourth Street paving work.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services said that the contractors had some difficulty with the sanitary sewer phase which delayed pouring of the cement. He said the contractors expect to have the roadways completed by month's end.

Council Member Iacoangeli thanked the City Manager for the timely messages to keep Council informed during the storms and water emergencies. He also reminded Mr. Swallow and Mr. Woodcock of the update to Council in October regarding the NEZ. He commented about property owners who post "no trespassing" signs on their property and asked the City Manager and/or the Attorney to address that issue.

### **Mayor's Comments.**

Mayor Clark recognized a student from the Monroe County Community College and thanked her for being at the meeting. He noted that he has received several comments and questions regarding the restoration of the Sawyer House and said that Council will get an update at the next meeting.

### **Clerk-Treasurer's Comments.**

Michelle J. LaVoy, Clerk-Treasurer noted that the Clerk's Office is taking applications from MCCC students to work as election inspectors at the General Election in November and said if anyone else in the community is interested in becoming an election inspector, we have a training opportunity on September 25, 2014. She said to call her at 384-9137.

**Citizen's Comments.**

Jason Matthews, 1445 Maple Blvd, AFL CIO, Labor Museum Representative, said that they had partnered with the Monroe County Tourism Bureau on the Labor Day Parade this year and thanked Council for the opportunity to have the parade.

Robert Jett, 645 Maple Blvd said that he had 7 inches of water in his basement and said that the information received from the city did not help him because it didn't work. He said that he came home from work and within an hour the water coved the street up to the curb. He said he paid a bill to clean the Mason Run Drain but this flood made him wonder if the drain was in working order.

Discussion continued with a Lavender Street resident who did not give his name or address.

George Brown, City Manager confirmed that the residents in the Lavender subdivision participated in a special assessment for a new storm main that leads to the property lines into the terrace so that residents could hook up their storm water drainage devices to it. He also noted that it was done in conjunction with a road resurfacing project. He explained that the amount assessed was only for the leads and that the storm water main was paid for with the money that was used for the road reconstruction project. He explained how resident could have connected into the storm water main through the leads and noted it would have helped in this case but more steps need to be taken to connect and benefit from the storm sewer.

Discussion continued with the Lavender Street resident who did not give his name or address.

Bonnie Finzel-Doster, 715 E. Elm Avenue said that she is a lifetime member of the Sawyer Homestead and was a volunteer for the Historical Museum when it was in the Sawyer Homestead. She said she was 13 years old when her campfire group visited Jenny Sawyer in the homestead and that Jenny was blind and so wonderful. She said that Jenny told them about her childhood in the homestead. She doesn't think that Jenny Sawyer left the Sawyer Homestead to the City to be given away to the National Park System and said when you give something away in Monroe you're never assured what's going to happen with it. She said she knows how Jenny wanted the Homestead to be used and doesn't think it was to be used as a National Park Office building. She urged Council to consider Jenny Sawyers wishes and to investigate and to consider her Last Will and Testament because she does not think it was willed to the City to give away.

**Adjournment.**

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that the meeting adjourn at 8:30 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, October 6, 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