

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Council Member Hensley, Iacoangeli, Vining, Rafko, Sisk and Mayor Pro-Tem Molenda.

Excused: Mayor Clark.

Mayor Pro-Tem Molenda noted that Mayor Clark received an invitation to attend the State of the Union Address in Washington, D.C. so he is filling in for him this evening. He asked the guests from Manor Elementary School to step to the podium to lead the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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

Manor Elementary School students led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Pro-Tem Molenda asked the Principle of Manor Elementary School to step to the podium.

Terry Joseph, Principal of Manor Elementary School noted that the group of students represents members of the Student Lighthouse Team which is similar to a Student Council. She said that grades 1 – 6 serve in this capacity and there are 23 members of the group. She said the team makes a lot of the decisions in the school, puts together fundraisers and other activities. She said it was an honor to be at the meeting to lead the pledge and thanked Council for the opportunity.

Mayor Pro-Tem Molenda asked each student to introduce themselves.

Proclamation.

10. St. Mary Catholic Central High School Volleyball Team Day – January 20, 2015.
11. Coach Diane Tuller Day – January 20, 2015.

Mayor Pro-Tem Molenda presented Proclamations to SMCC High School Volleyball Team, Kestrels and to their Coach, Diane Tuller.

Diane Tuller, Coach introduced the girls who were in attendance at the meeting.

Presentation.

Presentation by Mark Jagodzinski, General Manager, Lake Erie Transit – Bus Service Millage.

Mark Jagodzinski, General Manager, Lake Erie Transit introduced Joseph Lybik, City of Monroe Representative and Chairman of the Lake Erie Transit Commission. He provided information to Council regarding the millage request and discussed the information with them.

Council Action.

12. It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Rafko that Proposed Ordinance No. 15-001, an ordinance to amend several sections of Chapter 22, Boards, Commissions, Authorities and Committees, Article VI. Recreation Advisory Commission, of the Code of the City of Monroe, be placed on the floor for its first reading and set for the public hearing on February 2, 2015.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 15-001, was then presented for the first time and laid over for its second reading and public hearing on Monday, February 2, 2015.

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 Meeting held on Monday, January 5, 2015, the Minutes of the Work Session held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 and the Minutes of the Work Session held on Monday, January 12, 2015.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$502,536.93.

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

13. 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.

14. 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 March 28, 2015, 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.

15. Monroe County Detachment Marine Corps League Men's Softball Tournament Request.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Steve Fernandez on behalf of the Monroe County Detachment Marine Corps League #147 for permission to hold a men's softball tournament / fundraiser for wounded veterans at Munson Park on April 24-26, 2015, and recommending that Council approve this request contingent upon items being met as outlined

by the administration, subject to costs recovery & fee reductions 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. City of Monroe's Flexible Benefit Plan (Section 125 Cafeteria Plan).

1. Communication from the Human Resources Director, submitting an amended agreement to the City's Flexible Spending Account to update eligibility and waiting periods for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as implement the carryover provision for the 2014-15 plan year, and recommending that Council adopt and approve the amended and restated Adoption Agreement for the City's Flexible Benefit Plan.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

17. Navarre Library Window Replacement Change Order.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a change order for additional work to the Navarre Library, and recommending that Council authorize up to an additional \$4,000 in construction costs to Envision Builders for the above items subject to a corresponding transfer from previously-allocated architectural costs, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to issue any necessary change orders to carry out the work.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

18. Police Patrol Vehicle Purchase – Ford Explorer.

1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a contract to purchase a 2015 Ford explorer to replace the 2011 Crown Victoria Police patrol vehicle, and recommending that Council award a contract to purchase one (1) 2015 Utility Interceptor All Wheel Vehicle for a total price of \$27,595 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.

19. CDBG Sub-recipient Agreement with Oaks of Righteousness for Warming Shelter.

1. Communication from the Director of Economic and Community Development, submitting a CDBG Sub-recipient Agreement with Oaks of Righteousness for assistance in funding its Warming Shelter, and recommending that Council approve the proposed CDBG sub-recipient agreement with the Oaks of Righteousness and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

It was moved by Council Member Sisk and seconded by Council Member Hensley that item 13, 16 and 19 be approved as presented and that item 14, 15, 17 and 18 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

14. The 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 March 28, 2015, 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.

Council Member Iacoangeli listed the fees that are being charged for the event and said that he does not have an issue with \$150 special event fee because that is standard, but to charge them \$640 for police services when the event is to provide an opportunity for kids to have an Easter Egg Hunt, as well as to hand out food packages to 380 families, he finds it non-productive.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that item 14 be approved with the exception that Council waive the \$640 fee for police services.

Following discussion on the item, a vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 2 (Council Member Hensley and Molenda)

Motion carried.

15. The communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from Steve Fernandez on behalf of the Monroe County Detachment Marine Corps League #147 for permission to hold a men's softball tournament / fundraiser for wounded veterans at Munson Park on April 24-26, 2015, and recommending that Council approve this request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to costs recovery & fee reductions 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.

Council Member Iacoangeli said he has similar concerns about the fees that are being charged to the Monroe County Detachment Marine Corps for a softball tournament to raise funds that will be given to the wounded veterans program for those who were wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan war. He said that we are charging them \$150 special event fee but we are also charging \$750 to use our softball diamonds.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that item 15 be approved with the exception that Council waive the \$750 fee to use the softball diamonds.

Following lengthy discussion on the item, a vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 2 (Council Member Hensley and Molenda)

Motion carried.

17. The communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a change order for additional work to the Navarre Library, and recommending that Council authorize up to an additional \$4,000 in construction costs to Envision Builders for the above items subject to a corresponding transfer from

previously-allocated architectural costs, and that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to issue any necessary change orders to carry out the work.

Adam Yeager, 1833 South Custer Road noted that the agenda lists additional cost amounts but not the initial cost to replace the windows or the number of windows that are being replaced.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services noted that this fact sheet is upping the contractual cost of a project that was previously bid for original construction to add window blinds to the windows.

Council Member Hensley noted that the original cost of the project was \$65,300.

It was moved by Council Member Hensley and seconded by Council Member Vining that item 17 be approved.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

18. The communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a contract to purchase a 2015 Ford explorer to replace the 2011 Crown Victoria Police patrol vehicle, and recommending that Council award a contract to purchase one (1) 2015 Utility Interceptor All Wheel Vehicle for a total price of \$27,595 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.

Council Member Rafko said the fact sheet states that this purchase would replace a damaged vehicle and asked if the insurance covered the damage.

Ed Sell, Finance Director said the deductible on City vehicles is \$1,000 and this vehicle was totaled. He said the payout was about \$6,000 for the 2009 vehicle and that the vehicle was scheduled to be replaced next year anyway.

Council Member Rafko asked how the damage occurred.

George Brown, City Manager said that he isn't sure how the damaged occurred but that they would get the information to Council Member Rafko.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that item 18 be approved.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Comments.

Council Member Iacoangeli said that he would like to see Citizen Comments added to the start of the agenda between Proclamations and Presentations to allow Citizens the opportunity to comment about something that is not on the agenda so they don't have to wait until the end of the meeting.

Tom Ready, Attorney said that he will review the Charter as well as Ordinances related to Council proceedings but that it is his impression and experience that a number of municipalities invite comments at the onset of the meeting and sometimes at the end of the meeting as well.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk to instruct the City Attorney to explore the option of placing Citizen Comments at the onset and at the end of the agenda.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Member Iacoangeli made comments regarding the history of St. Joseph Church and said he would like to suggest that a committee be formed of himself, Council Member Hensley and that Council Member Vining serve as Chairman to work with interested organizations that could use the facility and open a dialog with the archdiocese to make sure that the facility is used productively for the community and return to City Council with appropriate recommendations.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that Council form a subcommittee to research the potential usage of St. Joseph and come back to Council with recommendations.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Member Molenda commented on the loss of Lincoln and Christiancy Schools and how the City had worked with the school system to try and save them. He gave an update regarding the process made by the committee to explore various ways to use the Sawyer Homestead.

Council Member Rafko commented on being a member of the committee to explore uses of the Sawyer Homestead and also commented on caring for others in the community.

Council Member Sisk asked if other Council Members would consider changing the February 17 Council meeting to February 23 because he will be out of town that day. He asked Peggy Howard, Director of Human Resources to give an update on where the City stands in filling the three firefighter positions.

Peggy Howard, Director of Human Resources said that two of the three positions have been filled, that the eligibility list has been exhausted and the City will need to advertise again to form another list.

Council Member Sisk asked when the list was formed.

Peggy Howard, Director of Human Resources said she did not have that information with her.

Council Member Sisk expressed concern about how slow the process has been to hire three firefighters. He said Council asked for three firefighters last May and there are only two of the three positions filled. He explained that both Fire Chiefs have said that 15 traditional firefighters would be the desired number to staff each station with two firefighters on every shift and that we have a total of 9. He said he has had complaints from citizens about fire hydrants not being operational.

George Brown, City Manager noted that they're working to accelerate the hiring process, explained what steps have been taken to date and said they are making every effort to fill the position with a high quality candidate as soon as possible.

Council Member Sisk asked if someone could address the issue with the fire hydrants.

Robert Wight, Fire Chief said that the Hagan Street fire hydrant was difficult to open but it was operational. He said there is a fire hydrant inspection program in place which provides rotation inspection of the fire hydrants. He said they inspect the west side one year and the east side the following year and they flow a third of each side every year. He explained that process and how it affects the surrounding neighbors.

Citizen Comments.

Matt Bunklemen, 1148 Maple Blvd. spoke in favor of having public comment at the beginning of the meeting. He said he is here on behalf of Monroe Public Schools Board of Education and would like to have dialog between the MPS Board of Education, City Council and the Mayor's Office to create a working relationship between the two. He noted that there is a School Board meeting next Tuesday, January 27, and urged Council to attend the meeting.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Council Member Sisk and seconded by Council Member Rafko that the meeting adjourn at 10:03 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Michelle J. LaVoy
City Clerk-Treasurer

Robert E. Clark
Mayor