

On Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:00pm Mayor Fries-Seip opened the Council meeting in the MMC Council Chambers with a word of prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was then recited by those present. Social distancing was maintained.

The regular meeting of the Council for the Village of Monroeville was then called to order.

Present at roll call:	Bob Whitacre	And:	Melissa Fries-Seip, Mayor
	Craig Franklin		Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer
	Chris Raftery		Tom Gray, Administrator
	Sam Wiley		Jim Barney, Solicitor
	Mark Rupp		
	Sue Rogers		

Also attending: Heather Alicea, Ann Beck, Lt. Troy Kimball, Officer Jordan Eggleston and family, and Chief Gary Lyons.

The November financial reports and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to Council via email.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to approve the minutes of the November 10th regular meeting as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the November 2020 financial reports as presented.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORTS

Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the November credit card reports as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Ann Beck addressed Council asking as a follow up with members of the Finance Committee where they were with looking into the wage structure and where we stood compared to our peers as far as employee positions and wages. She said she realizes it's never a fun thing to do when considering wages, but it is appreciated for any consideration they can give. Chris replied that this is on the Finance Committee's plate for a 2021 analysis.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator - Tom reported that we have an employee who just tested COVID positive. He has been on vacation so there has been no direct exposure, and he is on his 14-day quarantine now. Tom said he spoke with Ashley from NCEMS, who reported that we had 109 ambulance runs to the village in 2020. The township is currently negotiating with NCEMS to establish an agreement at a proposed \$14,000 annual fee. Tom has asked Jim to look further into this to see if the township has any obligation to the village. Jim commented that he and Tom have discussed the village's options, but they need to see the agreement before they can make a recommendation to Council. Bob asked if this will affect our agreement with NCEMS, and Tom said they don't know yet. Mayor Fries-Seip stated that Tom's action items will be addressed later in the meeting. She then turned the meeting over to the Police Chief. He stated that the effects of COVID were making itself known to the public safety people. One part-time officer has tested positive, but no contact had been made with the other officers. He said he can't wait for the vaccine to come out. The meeting he and Jim had with Judge Weisenburger was postponed for health reasons, and Jim noted that the Judge was in quarantine. The Chief stated that **Nick Meyer** successfully completed a semester of college courses (related to law enforcement) with A's in the three classes he's taking. He asked for Council's approval to reimburse Nick \$500 of his college expenses, pursuant to our wage ordinance. He also asked for Council to approve Nick's attendance for the next semester. Sam made the motion to approve both requests, seconded by Craig Franklin. Motion carried with no discussion. The Chief introduced Officer Jordan Eggleston, in whom he saw good things right away and is glad to have him. Mayor Fries-Seip then read the commendation for Eggleston and presented an award to him for his life saving efforts. Eggleston offered his thanks and said he felt he was just doing his job. Eggleston and his family then left the meeting. Fiscal Officer - Bonnie stated that Council had previously approved waiving the utility late fees and shut off fees due to the COVID pandemic through December, and asked for their consideration to extend that period of time, and if so, for how long. Chris suggested that Council review this quarterly. Craig Franklin then made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to extend the waiver of **utility late fees** and shut off fees through April 1, 2021. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie

then asked for Council's approval to excuse \$79.80 of sewer fees from account #05*1592*2. The customer's neighbor found that someone had turned on his outside spigot, and turned it off for him. The water department personnel recommended the sewer excusal. Chris Raftery made the motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to excuse the sewer fees as presented. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie noted that as of today only three customers have asked for the \$100 CARES Act utility credit. This credit is still available until 12-31-2020. **Dave Mahl's letter of resignation** and his interest in being re-hired was then discussed. Chris commented that we would have a tough time getting another zoning inspector who knows the job like Dave does. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to accept Dave's resignation effective December 31, 2020, and re-hire him as our Zoning Inspector effective January 1, 2021. Bonnie had informed Council that Dave's rate of pay is \$225 a month, which hasn't been increased since 2017. After a short discussion, Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve a \$25/month pay increase for Dave Mahl effective 1-1-2021. Motion carried with no further discussion. Our **2019 audit** is almost completed, and Bonnie explained that all 2019 audits are required to be completed by year's end. With the CARES Act funding being part of municipal budgets for 2020, she was informed that our 2020 audit will most likely not start until well into 2021. That being said, she asked if Council wanted to hold an exit conference for the 2019 audit. Discussion. The Mayor suggested that unless there is a flagrant finding that we would need to meet about, we could waive the exit conference. Discussion. Council agreed with the Mayor's suggestion, so Bonnie will inform the audit team. **Mayor** – The Mayor presented Tom's action items for approval. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to hire **Alexandria (Alex) Carper** as a full-time entry level apprentice line worker at \$12.00/hr effective 1-1-2021. Motion carried with no discussion. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to promote **Dustin Crabtree** to the position of Superintendent of the Street Department effective 1-1-2021 at \$17.50/hr. Motion carried with no discussion. Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to extend 4 (four) days of unused vacation for **Bonnie Beck** from 2020 to 2021. Motion carried with no discussion. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the closure of all departments across the board on **December 24th and December 31st, 2020** and designate those days as **holidays** for all full-time employees. This request is in recognition of the outstanding work provided by the employees throughout this difficult year. Motion carried with no discussion. The Chief said he would like Council approval for the policy amendment regarding chokeholds. Jim Barney said that he did not have the opportunity to review this amendment, so it can be approved at the next meeting. The Mayor referred to the concerns of a community person from a couple meetings ago regarding the hoarding issue and patrol issues, and she asked the Chief if he would call her with an update on these issues. Tom remarked that the Chief was diligent with his contact with Don Rahrig, so Jim created a waiver that Mr. Rahrig has signed that gives permission for village employees to enter his property to remove the items on the exterior of his property. Tom said they would try to get this taken care of next week with an armada of trucks and employees, and take the items to the county transfer station. The Mayor stated that there will be a work session in January to discuss budget items and whatever other items are presented.

BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS

Bob reported that the HRJFD met on December 2nd. There were 11 calls in November. They have received 5 bids for the tankers, which were narrowed down to 2. Both are very close to the grant amount. They will be looking at different trucks to make sure they're getting the best one. They're still looking for a chief. **Utilities Committee** – Chris reported that the Utilities Committee met on December 1st and held a teleconference with John Courtney. Chris thanked everyone who attended, and noted that John Courtney did a good presentation with the background on Berry. The Committee is recommending the approval of an amended LP electric rate, which is being presented in legislation on tonight's agenda. This amended rate will serve as an incentive to other large power users to increase their load with no negative effect for the village.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to suspend the rules for the following legislation. Motion carried with no discussion.

ORDINANCE 2020-20

EMPLOYEE WAGES

An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 2020-04 and establishing wages or salaries for employees of Monroeville, Ohio, and declaring an emergency was presented for passage. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to pass Ordinance 2020-20 by title only. Motion passed with no discussion.

ORDINANCE 2020-21

LP LARGE POWER ELECTRIC RATES

An Ordinance amending Section 933.03 of Monroeville's Codified Ordinances establishing schedule "LP" large power service rate of the Village of Monroeville's Electric Department, and declaring an emergency was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to pass Ordinance 2020-21 by title only. Motion passed with no discussion.

ORDINANCE 2020-22**ADOPT RITA RULES AND REGULATIONS**

An Ordinance adopting the rules and regulations of the Regional Income Tax Agency for the purpose of supporting the income tax rules and regulations for the Village of Monroeville, Ohio, and declaring an emergency was presented for passage. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2020-22 by title only. Motion passed with no discussion.

ORDINANCE 2020- 23**AMEND APPROPRIATIONS**

An Ordinance amending, reducing or supplementing certain funds for Appropriations Ordinance No 2020-06, and declaring an emergency was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to pass Ordinance 2020-23 by title only. Motion passed with no discussion.

RESOLUTION 2020-44**REPAY BROAD ST SEWER ADVANCE**

A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to repay the General Fund for the advancement of funds to the Broad Street Sanitary Sewer Project, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Resolution 2020-44 by title only. Motion passed with no discussion.

RESOLUTION 2020-45**REPAY WATER METER ADVANCE**

A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to repay the General Fund for the advancement of funds to the Water Meter Replacement Project, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to pass Resolution 2020-45 by title only. Motion passed with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the bill summary as presented. The summary included memo expenses and check #42653 to 42656 and #42670 to #42754, for a total of \$643,189.34. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Bonnie had asked for consideration on the pay increases for part-time employees. Council had agreed to approve a 25 cent per hour pay increase for all full-time employees, and Bonnie questioned that same rate being applicable to the part-time employees since their annual hours are significantly fewer than full-time hours. She used the example of 2080 annual full-time hours compared to 19 annual part-time hours. Mark said that all employees should get the same increase. The Chief said that part-time wages are not comparable, and he needs to keep the pay up there in order to keep those officers, but he's good with whatever is decided. He remarked that New London gave all of their employees a \$200 bonus for hazard pay. Discussion. Mark Rupp made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the 25 cent per hour increase for all part-time employees. Motion carried with no further discussion. This does not change the Ordinance that was just approved, as the individual wages are noted on the addendum to the Ordinance. The Mayor complimented the employees who did such a great job cleaning the streets from the recent snow event, noting how nice everything is looking. Bob commented that we have the best Christmas decorations in the state. Mayor Fries-Seip said that she gets a lot of compliments on how the village looks. She also stated that Twist & Shout gave gift cards to all of the employees to show their appreciation. Craig remarked that it's nice to have employees who take care of power outages so quickly. The Mayor said there are times when we're not even having power outages while other communities are. She also noted that she was tickled to see the Christmas decorations in the MMC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before them, Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adjourn. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:50PM.

Bonnie Beck, MMC, Fiscal Officer

Melissa M. Fries-Seip, Mayor

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