

On Tuesday, May 11, 2021 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.

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  
                                 Sue Rogers    Jim Barney, Solicitor  
                                 Mark Rupp (present at 6:10pm)

Also attending: Dave Beck, Sandy Lonz, Heather Alicea, and Chief Gary Lyons.

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

#### **EXCUSAL OF COUNCIL MEMBER**

Sam Wiley had notified the office that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to excuse Sam from the meeting. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **DISPOSITION OF MINUTES**

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF APRIL FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the April 2021 financial reports as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORTS**

Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve the April credit card reports as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Sandy Lonz said she was here as President of the Friends of the Library, who are seeking to do a book walk or story walk as a community project. Yesterday she attended the one in Bellevue, and provided a picture of what the stations looks like. She noted that Norwalk and New London have this project, too. The project would require 15-20 stands, and each book would be 17-18 pages. The books will be interchangeable. Their first choice for a location is Commons Park, with the stations around the park or down the center sidewalk. Their second choice would be Rails to Trails. They are asking for permission to put the posts in the ground with concrete. They will be asking local businesses to sponsor a station, and individuals may sponsor one as well. The sponsorship will be displayed on the stations. Chris asked about the cost, and Ms. Lonz said New London posted 20 signs that resemble a realty sign for \$546, so it's not a major expense. (Mark present at 6:10pm) The Mayor said she thinks this is a great idea, and we'll do anything we can to help promote this project. Ms. Lonz was asked about the maintenance, and she said it would be the library's responsibility. The Mayor said the Village Flea was still planning their event, and asked if the Friends had considered having a booth there. Ms. Lonz said the library board is having a booth, and the object for the Friends is to get people into the library. The Mayor thanked Ms. Lonz and said Council would discuss this. Dave Beck then introduced himself, and stated that he and his wife are lifelong residents of Monroeville and feel blessed to be part of this community. He stated that he works part-time for Don Tester Ford, so he goes through the Village several times a week on his trips to Michigan. He and one of his co-workers are both seeing the same thing, that both of the patrol cars are always here, and not out and about. At least the presence of a cruiser has the tendency to slow traffic down. He stated that he would like to see the current mileage compared to 2018. Most importantly, he said, was the lack of patrolling during the school zone times. He wanted to know what would they say to a parent whose child was injured in a school zone that lacked police presence. In one day he passed through 4 different school zones, and patrol cars were seen in all of them except Monroeville, where both patrol cars were at the station. Mr. Beck stated that he was aware that Ms. Lonz was at the October 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to express her concerns about the lack of school zone patrolling and was told that the police department was busy with moving. He asked if we were prioritizing moving over our children's safety, adding that he thinks the safety of our kids and the community is a real concern. Mr. Beck asked Ms. Lonz if she was seeing anything different when she took her grandchild to school, and she replied that she hasn't seen anything different. Mr. Beck reiterated that he passes through the Village about 4 times a week and never sees a patrol car on duty. He thanked everyone for allowing him to speak. The Mayor asked the Chief if he wanted to speak. The Chief stated that yes, they were moving when Ms. Lonz first brought this up at a Council meeting. He stated that this police department was one of the most active ones in Huron County, and one of the leading municipalities in fines. He said he would stack up his department officer to officer against any other police departments. The school zones have been tougher, but not because of prioritizing. He stated that he resents the comment about the safety of the children. He has children, too, and he said he is at the school talking to the Superintendent, but maybe he's not seen. That's why he's pushing for an SRO Officer. He said he doesn't like it that Mr. Beck tried to ambush him, and that he should have come to him with his concerns.

As far as mileage, it's down because of COVID. He told his officers to limit their response and public contact due to COVID, including traffic stops. Lately lots of warrants have been served. He stated that they also do a lot of paperwork, noting that it may take one-half hour to do a report for a five minutes call. They do what they can to stay as active as they can. The Chief said that maybe it's not good enough for Mr. Beck, but they are staying on top of things. The Mayor asked about two people being on a shift, and the Chief stated that just the first shift has two officers on duty. They have to deliver their reports to the court, and they are running traffic due to the construction. He stated that If Council isn't happy with his performance, then he'll resign. They are ramping things up, and he believes his officers are doing an outstanding job. Chris interjected that she believes that visibility is the concern here when both cruisers are at the station. Maybe at least they should be out in the traffic. She understands that paperwork can be consuming, but obviously it's a visibility issue. Mr. Beck stated that "ambush" is a strong word. He's a resident and he pays taxes here, and this is his concern. He asked if all police departments worked less due to COVID, and the Chief replied yes. The Chief reiterated that Mr. Beck should have taken up his concern with him, and Mr. Beck responded that this was his concern and that of others, and this is the right place to address it. Ms. Alicea thanked the officers for the work they've done in serving the warrants for the Village's income tax cases. She said she agreed with Mr. Beck that his concern was not an ambush, and she'd like to see more of a police presence, too. She noted that it's especially bad at the traffic light in the mornings and afternoons, and she cited an example where both she and Ann Beck were nearly broadsided because a truck driver did not even slow down through a red light. She stated that this isn't personal, it's business. They just want to see more patrol cars out and about. Ms. Lonz stated that she believes there is no such thing as a coincidence. She had called last week to be placed on the agenda, and then Mr. Beck called her today. She said it has to mean there's that much importance to this matter, and she believes God's hand is on this. Ms. Lonz and Mr. Beck left the meeting at 6:30pm.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**Administrator** Tom reported that legislation had been prepared for the **auction sale** of items valued at over \$1000, but - he would ask for Council's approval of all of the auction items listed on his report that are valued at less than \$1000. Council will notice some grass shagging due to the amount of rain we've had and the loss of manpower. The Mayor asked if Tom was aware if there would be any in-house interest in the two open positions. Tom said there isn't any interest in-house. She asked about not posting internally and going right for the outside advertising. Jim Barney said our policy (employee handbook) states that the internal posting has to be done first, but Council can waive that. Craig asked about the status of the Milan Rd bridge. Tom said the second set of guard rails has to be done yet, as well as the stenciling for the bike path and the pedestrian symbols. Bob asked about the ADA compliancy for the MMC sidewalks, and Tom said the sidewalk sections and panels have already been replaced and are now compliant. Studer-Obringer was pressed for a quick resolution for this due to the Rt 20 construction. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Huron County auction sale of the items valued at less than \$1000. Craig Franklin made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no discussion. The Mayor asked for a motion to waive the policy for a 5-day internal posting and immediately advertise for the two open positions (Street Dept and Water/WW). Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Craig Franklin. Motion carried with no discussion. **Fiscal Officer** - Bonnie asked for Council's acceptance of the 11.17% increase in the Village's health insurance package for the next year. Mark Rupp made a motion to accept the new rates, seconded by Craig Franklin. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie then briefly reviewed the current practice of waiving **utility late fees** and shut off fees, which Council voted earlier to continue through the end of June. She asked if Council wanted to continue doing this, or reinstate our utility rules and regulations with the lifting of COVID-related issues. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to reinstate our utility rules and regulations effective July 1, 2021. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie reported that the **sale of 2 S. Main St.** was scheduled to close tomorrow. The funds will be deposited directly into our account. Yesterday she printed 151 pages of the guidelines for the **American Rescue Plan Act**, and suggested that the Finance Committee meet to start planning how best to allocate these funds for the recommended purposes. The Mayor asked for discussion on the American Red Cross donation. Chris noted that this organization functions with all volunteers. The purchase of a vehicle would assist with the movement of blood and to respond to emergencies. The ARC also serves multiple municipalities. Bob asked what we would do if other organizations started asking for donations. Jim explained the Attorney General's opinion on the expenditure of public funds, noting that this request would meet the two-pronged criteria of being for the general good of all inhabitants and furthering a public purpose. Discussion. The Chief stated that this outreach fund was set up by the PD to do community outreach and to pay for DARE officer training. Donations may dry up if the donors found out the fund was used for other purposes. He thought it could be used for community outreach for the library though, as the Bores' said their donation was to help the kids. He doesn't want to cut off the funding, as there are lots of things the PD couldn't do without the help of these funds. Mark asked what they would do if responding to a request from a group like Planned Parenthood asking for donations. He said he was not comfortable with this because it might open the door to requests from other organizations. **Police** - The Chief stated that last year there was no Officer of the Year award due to COVID. This year he asked the officers to vote, and they nominated Lt. Troy Kimball. He stated that Lt. Kimball does an outstanding job, and lots of things are done due to him. He has worked our big cases, and he helps the other officers grow as an officer. There will be no Hooked on Fishing this year, but they are hoping to do Safety Town in August. They hope to include those who couldn't attend last year and do 2 classes. Which will be for 5 and 6 year olds. The department is ramping up activity. They recently won a forfeiture case for \$255, with 80% of that coming to the Village. The forfeiture included a gun. They now have 12 guns, and they plan

on replacing ours with the forfeited ones. Officer Hanuscin has been busy serving warrants. Some of the people are rough to find because of moving from the area. Our serious crimes are increasing, so it will be a busy summer. A prosecutor dropped the ball on one of our cases for over \$30,000 in which we lost mandatory fine and a \$40,000 pick-up truck. The truck went back to the defendant. This was very frustrating. Bob asked about the traffic cameras. The Chief said that he and Jim have been working on ordinance changes, and will now be issuing citations and not notices of liability. Jim said he thinks we're getting really close to finalizing this, and has an appointment Friday with the judge. It was noted that the software and hardware have been updated, and the downtown cameras have been optimized. **Mayor** - The Mayor stated that at the end of April it was Administrative Assistant Day, and she recognized all of the administration, and wanted to publicly thank them. April 29<sup>th</sup> was Arbor Day, and a proclamation was read and a tree was planted on North Ridge St. This week is National Police Week, so she wanted to recognize our police officers and encourage them to continue with the good things and pay attention to the things that were brought up today. She noted that an e-mail had been sent to see if Council wanted to join in on purchasing something in memory of Don Wangler. Some members said they had already personally reached out. The Mayor acknowledged the document confirming Officer Meyer's passing grades for his college courses, and asked if Bonnie would send her the job notices for the 2 open positions so she can post them on her Facebook page. The Memorial Day parade is scheduled to start at 10:00am on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **BOARD/COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Shade Tree**- Craig reported that the Shade Tree Commission met on April 15<sup>th</sup> and appointed Dawn Franklin as Chair and Sue Long as Secretary. The Arbor Day tree was planted at 129 N Ridge St. Fall planting decisions will be made after all of the construction is completed. **HRJFD** - Bob reported that the HRJFD met on May 5<sup>th</sup>. There were 8 calls in April, and they are moving along with the new tanker. They are still looking into pumpers, the cost of which will be assisted by the levy. They sold out at the chicken barbeque, selling 671 chicken dinners. **Planning Commission** - Chris reported that the PC did not have a quorum. Bonnie asked if they had re-scheduled the meeting, and Chris said that will be determined.

#### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING**

##### **RESOLUTION 2021-13 PUCO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to make application for financial assistance from the State of Ohio, acting by and through the railroad staff at the PUCO, for the S. Ridge St., S. Main St., and W. Monroe St. railroad safety enhancements, and for the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with said agency upon approval was presented for second reading. No discussion.

##### **ORDINANCE 2021-08 ODOT HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

An Ordinance approving and granting consent to the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation authority to maintain certain pavements markings and signage to remove snow and ice on State Highways, and to maintain and repair State highways inside the Village corporation was presented for second reading. No discussion.

#### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING**

##### **RES 2021-08 OBWC GRANT FOR BODY ARMOR VESTS**

A Resolution authorizing the preparation and submission of an application for funding assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the purchase of body armor vests for Monroeville Police Department officers was presented for third and final reading. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to adopt Resolution 2021-08 on third and final reading. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE**

The Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the following legislation. Craig Franklin made the motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

##### **RESOLUTION 2021-15 AMERICAN RED CROSS DONATION**

A Resolution approving a nominal expenditure for the purpose of a monetary contribution to the American Red Cross North Central Ohio chapter, and declaring an emergency. The Mayor stated that this be stricken due to lack of support.

##### **RESOLUTION 2021-17 REPEAL/REPAY RT 20 ADVANCE**

A Resolution repealing Resolution 2021-12 and authorizing the Fiscal Officer to repay a portion of the advanced funds for the Rt 20 Waterline Project, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to adopt Resolution 2021-17 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

##### **RESOLUTION 2021-18 REPAY RT 20 ADVANCE FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES**

A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advance back to the General Fund a portion of the advancement of funds for the Rt 20 Waterline Project, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Bob Whitacre made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to adopt Resolution 2021-18 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**ORDINANCE 2021-10**

**CONTRACTS FOR SALE OF AUCTION ITEMS**

An Ordinance authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the successful bidders for the sale of property no longer needed for municipal purposes, and declaring an emergency was presented for passage. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to pass Ordinance 2021-10 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**ORDINANCE 2021-11**

**AMEND./SUPPLEMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

An Ordinance amending or supplementing certain funds for Appropriations Ordinance No 2021-06, and declaring an emergency was presented for passage. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to pass Ordinance 2021-11 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY**

Bob Whitacre made a motion, seconded by Criag Franklin, to approve the bill summary as presented. The summary was for memo expenses and check #043144 to #043205 for a total of \$502,362.40. Motion carried with no discussion.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

The Mayor said she appreciated the efforts of Tom and the Chief in taking care of neighbor complaints. Mark asked Tom if our river was too small for hydro. Tom said the constant flow needed is missing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before them, Bob Whitacre made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to adjourn. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

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Bonnie Beck, MMC, Fiscal Officer

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Melissa M. Fries-Seip, Mayor

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