

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:00 PM, Mayor Joseph Galea opened the Council meeting with a word of prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited by those present.

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

Present at roll call:

Chris Raftery	and	Joseph Galea, Mayor
Mark Miller		Tom Gray, Village Administrator
Sue Rogers		Eunice Collene, Fiscal Officer
Tammy Schachter		Jim Barney, Solicitor
Bob Whitacre		
Jim Ehrman		

Also attending: Ann Beck; John Bockert; Mason Bockert; Paul DeMarco; Greg Schafer; Andy Homan; Paul & Georgia Brooks; Tom & Tammy Vitaz; Ashley Koch; Terry Burton; Ken Underwood; Andrew Brown; Josh Braucher; and Tom Hedrick.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

John Bockert asked for clarification on the language of "declaring an emergency" in the proposed legislation for the data center moratorium. Mayor Galea explained that it moved the legislation into immediate effect instead of waiting 30 days. Ken Underwood stated he was neither for nor against the data centers. He cited the average cost per kilowatt in Monroeville is 11.7¢ with the state being 16.9¢, and the national average also being over 16¢. He asked if data centers are being quoted the average. The mayor replied they pay wholesale. Mr. Underwood asked that council practice due diligence with this matter and be well informed. Efficient methods need to be used and look for other water sources to ease the burden on the village. Greg Schafer, President of Underground Utilities and President of the Monroeville School Board is concerned of the apprehension regarding the data centers. As a business owner, it makes him wonder if he could be the next business to be banned. He feels zoning is for a reason and the Industrial Park is zoned industrial. He feels that is a place for a data center. He said zoning needs to be enforced and reviewed on a regular basis. He supports the 12-month moratorium if that is what it takes to get policies updated. He expressed concern of the village opening itself to a lawsuit. Mr. Schafer spoke of his personal and individual opinion regarding location in relation to the school. He noted the financial gain this could be for the school that has been struggling. He asked Treasurer Paul DeMarco to give some rough projections that may benefit the school. At the current property tax rates, this type of project could generate approximately \$900,000 per year for the school. If the project goes up to a 230-acre site, it could take the revenue to 4.3 million annually. He realizes they will most likely request a tax abatement. He echoed Mr. Underwood's request and that council do their homework. Ashley Koch asked if zoning permits were obtained for the site with the foundation work that was done. The mayor stated he does not know the status of the permits. Ms. Koch stated her concerns with enforcement issues. There has been a vacancy on the Planning Commission for some time and the zoning is currently under review. She stated she understands the financial benefits to the school but she is concerned with the health impact on the students. Eric Bischoff stated he is in favor of the moratorium to give more time to gather information. He is concerned with electric rates and noted reports showing increasing trends. Mr. Underwood asked to note municipal rates are not PUCO regulated. If the data center pays for the

increased transmission line, there should not be an increase to residents. Andrew Brown commented on his concern with the emergency measure being used frequently and not pausing to research all matters that come before them. Mayor Galea asked if anyone else wanted to speak and noted that once council went into consideration of the legislation, there would be no further public comment. There was no response.

#### **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE**

The Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the following legislation. Jim Ehrman made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Resolution 2026-01** *A Resolution imposing a temporary moratorium on the establishment, conversion of other structures or buildings into a data center, including the development and construction of any building, structure, use or change of use that would allow data centers for a period of twelve (12) months from the effective date of this resolution in order to allow the village administration and village council time to review applicable federal codes, Ohio statutes, codes and regulations along with the village's codified ordinances relative to such activity, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Chris Raftery, to pass Resolution 2026-01 by title only. Mayor Galea asked Jim Barney if he had any comments. Mr. Barney said while it may not be clearly understood, he felt the legislation was all inclusive of what council asked him to prepare. Mark Miller asked if the time period could be extended after the 12 months if more time was needed to have the policy in place. Jim Barney said yes it could. Bob Whitacre asked about the amount of time we extend for. Mr. Barney said the maximum he has seen for a moratorium was 42 months. He stressed that it needs to be reasonable. Sue Rogers noted there are pros and cons from increased revenue to the strain on water and electric along with air pollution. Jim Ehrman said that while they may pay to create the grid, we will have to maintain it. Bob noted the environmental, electric and noise issues. Jim said the village will make money, but at what cost. The health of our children and property taxes need to be a focus. Motion carried with no further discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before them, the Mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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Eunice A. Collene, Fiscal Officer

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Joseph Galea, Mayor

*The minutes of this meeting were recorded by Fiscal Officer Eunice A. Collene, who examined them for both form and content, subsequently approving them as transcribed.*

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