

On Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at 6:00 PM, Mayor Joseph Galea opened the Council meeting with a word of prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited by those present.

The regular 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	Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer
Tammy Schlachter	Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist
Bob Whitacre	Jim Barney, Solicitor
	Jon Earl, Chief of Police

Also attending: James Ehrman, Mike Sitterly, Phil Wheeler from the Attica Hub, and MPD Officers Joseph Brass & Erik Reinhart (present from 6:04 pm-6:15 pm).

The January 2025 financial reports, bank statements, balance sheets, check reports, and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to Council via e-mail.

EXCUSAL OF COUNCIL MEMBER

Council member Sam Wiley had previously notified the Mayor that he would be unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to excuse Sam Wiley from tonight's meeting. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting on 1/14/25. Tammy Schlachter made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the January 2025 financial reports. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the January 2025 credit card report. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no further discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mike Sitterly addressed Council in regards to an event that occurred in his basement on Friday, 1/17/25. His main drain plugged, which caused toilet paper and human waste to back-up into his basement. Mike said he had to hire someone to come in and clean the drain out, which cost \$300. Mike asked Council to reimburse him the \$300. Mike had the Village employees check the line in front of his house and there was no problem. Before the last month's January 2025 Council meeting, Mike said the Village employees were doing work in the Village and it pushed water into his basement, which caused his line to be plugged on 1/17/25. Mike said that Tom Gray advised him there is no pump that's being turned on that would cause back-up into his basement. Mike said somehow, toilet paper and human waste is being pushed from Brooklyn Heights down to his house and into his basement. The Mayor asked Tom if the situation had been investigated. Tom said that Village employee Rick Whiteside was on-call when the back-up occurred 1/17/25. Rick spoke with Mike and was able to verify what Mike had experienced. Subsequent to that, Tom had previously shared with Council that Village staff had done some work, starting on Monroe Street, coming down to the center of town at Monroe Street and Route 20, and vac and jetted the line all the way to Broad Street and Route 20, and then down Broad Street towards the Wastewater Treatment Plant. At Broad Street and Route 20, they discovered a significant quantity of plastic and debris in the line. It wasn't completely blocking the line, but it was significant enough to have impacted the flow during a high-flow event. Tom can't attest to the water flows, as they aren't monitored in the sanitary sewer system. The debris was cleared, and a potential problem that could have been prevalent back on the 17th, maybe even prior, was eliminated. Tom said to answer Mike's question as to how the sewage flows, it comes down Monroe Street, turns and goes west on Route 20 to Broad Street, flows down Broad Street to Hamilton Street and into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. In 2016, a massive sanitary sewer line replacement was done on Monroe Street. The lift station down on Williams Street comes up and pumps

into the line on Brooklyn Heights. The hours of run time on that lift station are very small. Tom doesn't believe that is contributing to the problem with back-up into Mike's basement, there's just not enough flow to the lift station. Tom can't say for sure if the blockage they recently discovered was the cause for back-up into Mike's basement. Tom said similar events have happened on Manchester Street and on West Street, where debris infiltrates the sanitary sewer system and causes a plug. A number of homes in the community that flush the non-flushable wipes are the biggest contributors to this. Village employees recently removed two vehicle starters, a 30-foot wiring harness and lots of plastic bottles that were impeding the flow. The Mayor asked if freezing weather would've been an issue. Tom advised Rick checked the pipes and there was no impact to the pipes. The Mayor informed Mike he has the option of waiting until later in the meeting to see what decision Council is going to make in regards to Mike's request.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Police – Chief Earl presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Chief introduced the Village's newest Police Officer, Joseph Brass. Officer Brass grew up in Vermilion and attended school there and at EHOVE, where he studied criminal justice. Right out of high school, Joseph joined the Army National Guard, which he is still a part of today. He is employed full-time with the Erie County Jail and is working part-time for the Village. (Officer Brass and Officer Reinhart exited the meeting at 6:15 pm.) Chief said his current goal is to target aggressive drivers in the Village, which has been a major complaint. Chief is pleased that there's been a significant increase in traffic stops & citations compared to this time last year. There's also been an uptick in school zone violations. Overall, traffic stop numbers are good and the PD will continue to target aggressive drivers. Nick Meyer has returned from medical leave and Chief is glad to have him back. Chief pointed out that per his staff targeting aggressive driving behavior, Monroeville led all Huron County Departments in traffic fines and Chief appreciates his staff for their hard work and being pro-active. Bob asked for an update on the body-worn cameras. Chief said in researching the PD's current body-worn cameras, he feels it's extremely necessary that the cameras be turned each entire shift. Per experience with his prior employer, having the body camera record the entire time an officer is on shift has come back to save officer's more than Chief can describe. If Chief initiates his camera, it goes back 15 seconds with audio and video, in order to capture something that happened 15 seconds before. The problem is, if an officer gets into a shooting event or gets ambushed, they don't have the option to go back 15 seconds to record what actually happened from the officer's standpoint. This really comes into play with officer complaints and major events. Chief said his department has turned the camera feature on and he just needed to get a policy in place in his policies & procedures, so that his officers know what to do should that happen. It's basically taking the camera off, docking it and leaving it. This will increase transparency should any questions come up as to what the officer's are doing or should any accusations be made. The Mayor said this is not for the sake of seeing what the officers are doing on a daily basis, the information will only be pulled when there is an incident. Chief explained that once the camera is placed on the docking station and then it's pulled off to be used again, it overrides what has occurred before, so the data is only good for 24 hrs. This isn't something where Chief can go back 30 days and view an officer's entire shift. Mark asked if events can be saved once recorded, if there's an incident. Chief verified they have that ability. Chief also updated the policy to show that the cameras are to be turned on during any interactions with citizens.

Administrator - Tom presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom touched on solar generation with the current solar field and the future floating solar. The Mayor asked Tom to talk about the discussion the Village would like to have with Monroeville Local Schools (MLS) about the school taking responsibility for what is inside the fence at Marsh field, per the recent improvements that the school has been making. Tom said without an agreement between the Village and MLS, and with the Village as owners of the property, (for both what is inside and outside of the fence at Marsh Field), and with the construction work that is going on now, and specifically the volunteer work, it's a large liability issue for the Village. The volunteers are not covered in any way, shape or form, which makes the Village exposed. A new agreement needs to be brought to fruition quickly, perhaps a property transfer, in order to lessen the Village's liability. Chris said a survey needs to be done. The Mayor said he spoke with Athletic Director Ben Paul and it appears the school wouldn't be able to get insurance coverage if the property was transferred to them because of ADA issues and code issues that haven't been remedied yet. The scope of the project the school is working on right now doesn't include addressing those issues; therefore, they can't accept a transfer. Discussion. Tom asked if Jim can contact the school's attorney to engage in further discussion. Jim said he needs to research the ADA issues and get that information to the Mayor, prior to reaching out to the school's attorney.

Fiscal Officer - Bonnie presented her report that was previously submitted to Council. Bonnie asked for Council's approval for two requisitions for the Electric Department, for \$16,898 for a motor operator at the Herbert Substation and \$8513 for steel poles. Chris Raftery made a motion to approve the requisitions, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie said there is a Resolution on tonight's agenda for the \$50,000 transfer that the Sidewalk Committee is recommending for this year's program. Bonnie advised that she and Heather will be meeting with Jim to discuss the income tax ordinance that

was supposed to take effect this year. RITA wants the Village to add two more sections to the current Ordinance, which prevented the credit change from going into effect this year, and an amended ordinance will need to be brought forth. Bonnie asked Council if they have any changes they would like to make to Council rules. Council said no. Bonnie advised that the Administrative Office has been receiving monthly invoices of \$510 for dispatching services from the Huron County Sheriff's Department. The prior levy was supposed to carry us through until 2025. Bonnie sent a letter to the sheriff to inquire, along with a copy of the Board of Election levy results. Bonnie filed the tax exemption forms with the Huron County Auditor for the downtown parking lot. Bonnie asked the auditor about the tax duplicate she had received for the 0 Hamilton Street property that the Village co-owns with the school. The tax duplicate only has the Village's name on it as the owner. Bonnie spoke with the school and sent them a copy of the invoice, and they paid their half. Bonnie said the auditor's office suggested trying get that property tax exempt as well, while it's still in the Village's name only. Bonnie isn't sure if that's going to be approved, as it has to go through the State. The deed has the Village's and the school's name on it. Bonnie submitted the tax exemption form to see if it can be approved. Jim said he may have dropped the ball on this issue. He remembers trying to go through this process before and the school board has to cooperate. He remembers sending the forms to the school board's attorney. That attorney then left and someone else was supposed to take over, but Jim never heard back. Bonnie said she will wait and see what the response is.

Solicitor – Jim had no information to report.

Mayor – The Mayor had no information to report. The Mayor noted that the deadline to get on the November ballot for Council is August 6th or 7th, so if anyone currently on Council wants to retain their seat, please take care of it by the August deadline.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Sidewalk Committee: Chris Raftery reported that the Sidewalk Committee met on 1/28/25. Chris said it was decided to set up legislation for a \$50,000 transfer for the program. Parameters were reviewed and it was determined what streets they need to start with. Tom is going to provide the committee with address information after the Street Department has a chance to do an inventory of the locations.

Huron River Joint Fire District (H.R.J.F.D.): Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. met on 2/5/25. There were 13 calls in January, 3 of which were in the Village. They received a grant for \$1200 from the EMS, which has to be used for related services.

BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals): Sue Rogers reported that the BZA met on 1/30/25. Ken Honigford was voted as Chairperson and Mike Raftery is the Vice Chairperson. The 2nd Wednesday of every month was decided upon for future meetings. There is a variance request pending for a home on Eagle View Drive, and a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, 2/12/25.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

Ordinance 2025-02 *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 2021-05 and re-creating an Ordinance establishing salaries for the legislative authority of Monroeville, Ohio* was presented for second reading. No discussion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

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

Resolution 2025-03 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds from the General Fund to the Sidewalk Capital Project Fund for the purpose of the 2025 Sidewalk Project Construction or Repairs, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to adopt Resolution 2025-03 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the bill summary. Tammy Schlachter made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 046671 to check # 046743, for a total of \$1,127,545.14. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Discussion regarding Mr. Sitterly's request for reimbursement. Sue said this seems to be an ongoing problem. Mike said this is the fourth time back-up in his basement has occurred. Sue asked why the Village hasn't been able to find the cause of the problem. Mike said his brother purchased the property in 1963. There was a major rainfall event in 1969 and no water collected in the basement. Mike purchased the property from his brother in the early 70's. Mike never had a problem in the basement until work was done in front of his property. Mike said the last time he brought this issue to Council, Tom was supposed to investigate, but Mike never heard from him. Tonight is the first he has heard about stuff collecting in

the sewer. Mike doesn't know why it's backing up in his basement, if the problem was clear down at the other end of the street. Mike said his main drain comes down to the center of his basement. The drain that the backup is occurring in is surrounded by an 8-inch wall. The drain is overflowing and coming up over that wall and onto the basement floor. The main drain was plugged as well. Bob asked if anyone has run a camera down the drain. Mike said Bob Gillespie ran a camera down the drain two years ago and couldn't find any issues. Bob asked if any of his neighbors are having this problem. Mike said no one around him has basements. Bob asked if the Hess Building has a basement and Mike said not that he is aware of. Mark asked Tom if this has anything to do with stuff being pumped past Mike's house. Tom said no, the force main dumps into the Monroe Street side, so it's gravity all the rest of the way down. There's nothing that shows that there's not an impediment or blockage in the line right now. The Village doesn't jet and clean sanitary/storm sewers or storm basin's daily; it's done on a cycling basis. The reference Tom made to a partial blockage is what was discovered at Broad Street and US Route 20. The cause and the effect as to why Mike continues to have problems is unknown and the Village doesn't have an answer. Sue made a motion to reimburse Mike Sitterly the \$300 he paid to have his drain cleaned out, once he provides the Village with a copy of his invoice, seconded by Chris Raftery. Bob said it would be nice to get this issue figured out and Mike agreed. Discussion. Heather advised that during a rainfall event last year, Jess Wasserman had said there is a basement in the Hess building. Joe said that was his recollection also. Motion carried with no further discussion. The Mayor asked Mike to please turn in a copy of the invoice to the Village Administrative Office.

Mike asked if any street maintenance is going to be done this year, as Herrick Alley outside of the drive-thru is very torn up. The area has been filled with cold-patch, which then gets dug up by the plows and lands in Mike's driveway. The Mayor said Hamilton Street is in the pipeline, and an inventory of the other streets is under review per a discussion that occurred last year. The Mayor said he isn't sure if Herrick Alley is on that list. Bob asked what would happen if the pavement were to be ground down and paved later. Mike said he doesn't think that would work. Discussion. Tom advised the Mayor that last year, a partial inventory of the streets took place, with at least a dozen streets being classified as needing work. The Mayor said Herrick Alley is a ways out from being fixed. In the meantime, perhaps the Village can talk to the drive-thru owner about truck delivery on Herrick Alley.

Tom asked Council if a special meeting could be scheduled for 2/25/25, at 6pm, for the purpose of taking action on a new electric service agreement for a proposed data center at the Industrial Park. Not bitcoin, but a proposed data center that would be similar to a Google or Amazon facility. It would be up to 100 megawatts, and would be a keystone going forward for the Village to undertake an electric service agreement with a company called Decimal Digital. Tomorrow, the Mayor, Chris, Bonnie and Tom will be on a team's meeting with Jim, John Coyle and John Courtney, to review the particulars of the electric service agreement with the proposed Decimal Digital Liability Corporation. Mark asked if it's going to be as loud as the other bitcoin place. Tom said no, as this will be an AI/Data Center. The Village would be on the cusp of having this grow beyond the 30, 60, 100-megawatt range into a 200-300-megawatt range in the coming years, which would be big for the Village. The difference between the service agreement for the data center/AI and the existing bitcoin/crypto is that there are financial guarantees built into the electric service agreement and the delivery service rate. The Village would have monies coming in to make the agreement solvent from the very first step. Based upon tomorrow's meeting, Tom would like to have a special meeting on the 25th, at which time John Courtney, Jim Barney, the Mayor and Chris Raftery will present the electric service agreement, the company profiles, the site layout and all of the necessary attributes to Council, in order to make a solid review of the proposal.

A special meeting will be scheduled in March to pass the 2025 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, the Mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Joseph Galea, Mayor

THIS IS NOT A RATIFIED OR APPROVED COPY