

On Tuesday, August 12th, 2025, 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 regular meeting for the Council of the Village of Monroeville was then called to order.

Present at roll call:

Mark Miller	and	Joseph Galea, Mayor
Sue Rogers		Tom Gray, Village Administrator
Tammy Schlachter		Eunice Collene, Fiscal Officer
Bob Whitacre		Jim Barney, Solicitor
Sam Wiley		Chief Jon Earl, MPD

Also attending: Jim Ehrman, Ashley Koch, and Ken Underwood.

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

#### **EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to excuse Chris Raftery from the meeting. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, 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 7/8/2025 and the Special Council meeting on 7/31/2025. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion.

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

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the July 2025 financial reports. Tammy Schlachter made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT**

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

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

Jim Ehrman addressed the rapid growth of the Eagle View subdivision. Currently, there are nine children under the age of 12 residing in the area, which results in kids playing and riding their bikes. The traffic has increased, including the presence of construction vehicles. An adult walking along the curb was nearly struck by a distracted driver. Jim proposed the addition of more speed limit signs and 'children at play' signs, if feasible. Furthermore, Jim discussed the zoning violation issues that have been raised by Eagle View residents concerning the business owner of Wade's Truck & Trailer Repair. Both Nick Wade and Fred Leber attended the July Council meeting, during which Fred addressed the zoning concerns. Ashley Koch was also present and had raised issues regarding the lack of compliance. Fred inquired about the possibility of posing a question to Ashley Koch, but the Mayor denied this request. Subsequently, Nick and Fred stormed out of the meeting. At that moment, Ken Schaffer offered to escort Ashley to her vehicle, which she accepted. Jim noted that Mr. Schaffer was correct in recognizing that Nick and Fred would be waiting outside to confront Ashley after the meeting, as he later spoke with Ashley that evening. Ashley recounted that Nick and Fred confronted her in the parking lot. Mr. Schaffer informed Nick and Fred that he and Ashley would not engage with them, leading to their departure. Jim expressed his concern, as the situation regarding the zoning violation issues for the Sandusky Street property has now escalated due to the actions of Nick Wade and Fred Leber. Jim proposed that a Police Officer be present at upcoming Council meetings, both within the Council Chambers and outside the building, until these matters are resolved. Jim urged Council to take a proactive stance regarding this situation, rather than a reactive one. Jim inquired about Council's perspective on how to tackle the zoning issues, as it appears progress has stalled. Jim also questioned whether Council is aware that the 30-day extension granted to Nick Wade is deemed null and void, given that it was provided verbally. The extension should have been documented in writing. Jim expressed uncertainty about who authorized the verbal extension as well. Jim asked Council what actions could be taken to resolve these issues. The residents of Eagle View have made significant arrangements and renovations to their properties to alleviate problems.

Jim believes that Council is either unaware or uncertain about its responsibilities. He stated that Council is accountable for compliance and must follow local, state, and federal regulations. On July 28, 2025, Jim sent an email to Council, the Mayor, the Village Administrator, and Jim Barney, intending for all recipients to receive the same information simultaneously. However, several Council members indicated that they had not received his email. Jim noted that Council is scheduled to enter an executive session this evening to deliberate on pending or imminent legal actions. He possesses a copy of a letter addressed to Zoning Inspector Dave Mahl, which states the Ordinances of Sandusky Street and identifies multiple zoning violations. Despite this, Dave Mahl opted to cite only one violation rather than the three to four that were documented. Furthermore, Dave Mahel did not address the complete situation. Jim urged Council to approach the executive session with an open mind, emphasizing the importance of compliance and accountability. The Mayor expressed his gratitude for Jim's remarks this evening, acknowledging that while Fred may have become overly enthusiastic, he believes Fred does not harbor any ill intentions. The Mayor will contemplate the presence of police at future meetings.

Chief Earl addressed Jim's concerns regarding speeding in the Eagle View subdivision and the North Street area. He believes that the officers overly depend on the traffic cameras in that area. Should any residents feel that the situation is becoming unmanageable, they are encouraged to contact him, and he will ensure that an officer is dispatched for patrol.

Mark inquired of Ashley whether she felt anxious after leaving the July meeting, to which she responded that she did not. A conversation ensued concerning the zoning violations mentioned in Jim's letter, but no notable issues were identified. Ashley noted that Nick Wade received a written notice of zoning violations on June 2nd, 2025, which was set to expire on July 2nd, 2025. Nevertheless, Nick Wade was verbally granted an extension, although it remains unclear who authorized this verbal extension. According to a public records request, there is no documentation confirming that an extension was provided. Even if such an extension had been granted, it would have lapsed on August 2nd, 2025. No actions have been taken or enforced. As Council enters into executive session, Ashley wishes to inform Council that the Village solicitor is tasked with initiating enforcement proceedings when there is non-compliance with zoning violation corrections. Ashley inquired whether Council possesses any information regarding the corrections of zoning violations or a strategy for ensuring compliance through enforcement. Sam questioned the Mayor about whether this topic would be addressed later in the meeting. The Mayor indicated that it is at the discretion of Council to determine when and how to discuss this information, and confirmed that an executive session is planned for tonight. Ashley emphasized that 30 days have elapsed without any action taken by the Village solicitor concerning the zoning violations. Council is not required to make a decision; they have already established that the Village solicitor must adhere to the ordinances previously enacted by Council. The Mayor expressed gratitude to Ashley for her remarks. Jim Ehrman requested that his email be shared with Council members who have not yet received it. The Mayor responded that he would send copies as requested.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Administrator** – Tom presented his report that had been previously submitted to the Council. Monroeville resident Billie Welter has submitted a request for reimbursement of \$407.41 for two tires plus labor, following tire damage sustained on two vehicles. This damage occurred before the repaving of a section of Monroe Street, which was necessitated by a water line dig. Tom requested that Council approve the reimbursement, contingent upon the submission of further supporting documentation, as well as the signing of a release that supports the repair. Additionally, Tom sought Council's approval for the following matters: the promotion of Colton Ott to a Grade 3, Year 4 Apprentice Line Worker (Journeyman Line Worker in training), which includes an increase in his hourly wage of \$1.22, effective from 8/4/2025; the approval of a \$1.00 per hour pay raise for Rick Whiteside, retroactive to 7/14/2025, as he has recently fulfilled all licensing requirements for an Ohio EPA Water Supply Class 3 operator; and the approval of a \$1.00 per hour pay increase for Alex Hoyt, retroactive to 7/31/2025, as he has recently completed all licensing requirements for an Ohio EPA Water Reclamation Class 1 Operator.

Sam inquired whether the reimbursement for Billie Welter is warranted. Tom confirmed, noting that the pavement was uneven prior to the completion of the repaving. The Mayor suggested that, in the future, complainants might be required to sign an affidavit to verify any damages. Eunice asked if such language could also be incorporated into the release that they intend to have Billie sign. Both the Mayor and Tom agreed, indicating that Jim could explore the possibility of adding that provision.

The Mayor inquired about the timeline for Kiley's Tree Service to return and eliminate the stumps from the trees that were removed. Tom acknowledged that we are currently behind schedule on this year's program, and the stumps will likely be removed during the final session as we approach fall, which will also include the trunk located on Fulton Street.

The Mayor requested Council address motions concerning Tom's action items. Sam Wiley proposed a motion, which was seconded by Sue Rogers, to authorize a pay increase of \$1.22 per hour for Colton Ott, effective 8/4/2025. The motion was approved without any discussion. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to grant a pay increase of \$1.00 per hour for Rick Whiteside Jr., effective 7/14/2025. This motion carried without any discussion. Tammy Schlachter proposed a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve a pay increase of \$1 per hour for Alex Hoyt, effective from 7/31/2025. The motion was carried without any discussion. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to conditionally approve reimbursement to Billie Welter of \$407.41 for tire damage incurred to two vehicles on Monroe Street, subject to the discretion of the Village Administrator, upon receipt of proper documentation and contingent upon Billie signing a release. This motion was carried without any discussion.

**Fiscal Officer** – Eunice presented her report that had been previously submitted to Council. The state auditors have reached out to Eunice, and the technical and financial audit will be conducted simultaneously. Eunice also requested to discuss wage increases for the Administrative staff, as they have informed her of certifications they have obtained, particularly regarding Heather Alicea. Ann Beck is just .13 cents short of the highest pay grade for her range, and she has been employed by the Village for twenty-nine years. Ann consistently exceeds her job responsibilities, and Eunice proposed that Ann receive a pay increase of .13 cents per hour, to elevate her to the top of the pay scale within her range according to the current wage ordinance.

Heather Alicea is presently classified as an Administrative Specialist 2 and has obtained several municipal clerk certifications that qualify her for promotion to Administrative Specialist 3. Eunice requested that Heather receive a pay increase of \$1.23 per hour.

Ashley Hankins is presently designated as an Office Assistant, a position that is not mentioned in the existing wage ordinance. Eunice understands that Ashley was brought on board with the plan to succeed Ann Beck following her retirement, which corresponds with the responsibilities she is currently undertaking. These responsibilities are more in line with those of an entry-level administrative assistant. Eunice requested a pay raise of \$3.00 per hour for Ashley, along with a change in her job title to Administrative Assistant Entry Level.

The Mayor inquired whether Eunice had researched any matters concerning the potential impact on the payroll budget. The Mayor thinks that a .13 cent per hour increase for Ann Beck will not significantly influence the payroll budget. Eunice clarified that these increases will not substantially affect the payroll budget. During the special Council meeting that took place in July 2025, Eunice informed the Council that she encountered several issues where funds were not allocated. Eunice prefers to approach the budget by considering the end of the year, and in doing so, she focuses on any funds that may be insufficient. Instead of adding additional money, she would rather reallocate funds from underutilized areas. Furthermore, any wage increase for employees also impacts OPERS and Workers' Compensation, as these line items are contingent upon wages. With the implementation of these wage increases, Heather has obtained the necessary certifications outlined in the current wage ordinance, while Ashley has been fulfilling required duties and has taken on additional responsibilities. Eunice is adhering to the existing wage ordinance and is actually requesting an increase that is less than what Ann, Heather, and Ashley have asked for. Eunice considers this to be more than fair. The Mayor also asked about the number of hours Ashley works each week. Eunice said 24 hours of work each week, give or take. The Mayor indicated that a salary increase for Ashley would result in an additional cost of about \$3,700 annually in payroll expenses. Eunice also noted that Ashley's working hours may vary to accommodate office coverage when another employee is on leave. The Mayor mentioned that a salary increase for Heather would be approximately \$2,500 per year, assuming she works full-time, while Ann's increase would be around \$266, excluding OPERS or Workers' Compensation. Sam stated that, similar to any other employee who has fulfilled the requirements for a pay raise, Ann, Heather, and Ashley should also receive appropriate compensation. The Mayor inquired about the effective date for these increases. Eunice confirmed that the increases would take effect at the beginning of the next payroll period, on 8/18/2025. Furthermore, in addition to Ashley's pay raise, her probation period will conclude before the next Council meeting.

Tammy Schlachter proposed a motion, which was seconded by Sam Wiley, to approve a pay increase for Ann Beck of .13 cents per hour, effective 8/18/2025. The motion was passed without any discussion. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to approve a pay increase for Heather Alicea of \$1.23 per hour, effective 8/18/2025. This motion carried without any discussion. Sue Rogers proposed a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to promote Ashley Hankins from her position as an Office Assistant to that of an Administrative Assistant Entry Level. The motion was approved without any discussion. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to authorize a pay increase for Ashley Hankins of \$3.00 per hour, effective from 8/18/2025. Bob inquired whether Ashley would be off probation, to which Eunice

confirmed. The motion was carried without any further discussion. The Mayor questioned the wage Ashley would receive following this increase, as he suspected her pay was equivalent to that of seasonal employees. Eunice clarified that before this raise, Ashley's salary was lower than that of the seasonal mowers who had been employed by the Village for over a year. This increase will elevate Ashley's hourly wage to \$18.00.

Tammy Schlachter inquired about the lease for Marsh Field and asked whether Monroeville Local Schools has finalized the lease. Eunice responded that the lease was signed today and that she has the files related to insurance and other pertinent information, should Council wish to review them after the meeting. Tammy further inquired if the lease is set at \$2 per year for a duration of three years, to which Eunice affirmed. The Mayor indicated that the school will assume the liability insurance as well. Additionally, the Mayor expressed a desire to conduct a Council work session concerning the costs associated with the school taking over this property, which includes considerations for a lot split, title work, and a potential land swap involving the land at 0 Hamilton Street.

**Police** – Chief presented his report that had been previously submitted to Council. The overall activity numbers for July show an increase compared to July 2024. In response to a request made earlier tonight, the North Street area will receive more frequent patrols. Officer Meyer recently stopped a highly intoxicated female driver during the night. She was so inebriated that she believed she was in the Columbus area. This individual had a prior murder conviction and declined to take any sobriety tests. Chief mentioned that he is nearing his first anniversary with the Village. During his job interview last year, he had proposed the implementation of Flock cameras for the Village, which he believes would be a beneficial investment. He had utilized these cameras in his previous role in Columbus. Chief envisions having a camera installed at each end of the town. These cameras are designed to capture images of every vehicle and its license plate, subsequently cross-referencing this information with NCIC and LEADS databases. This system promptly identifies stolen vehicles, checks for outstanding warrants, protection orders, and registered sexual offenders, among other things. An alert is generated and sent to the Police Officers via text message in real-time, including a photograph of the vehicle, its license plate, the direction it is heading, and details regarding whether the alert pertains to a stolen vehicle, etc. There has been a noticeable increase in thefts, including a trailer that was recently stolen and subsequently listed for sale on Facebook Marketplace. If the Flock cameras had been operational at the time of the theft, an alert would have been triggered, indicating the involvement of a white truck, and the license plate would have been captured, allowing for the crime to be resolved in seconds. Chief has been collaborating with Flock to negotiate a reduction in costs, and after several months of discussions, Flock Safety has agreed to eliminate all installation fees. Subsequently, Flock would impose a flat fee of \$3,000 for each camera annually. Fortunately, the Village can utilize seized law enforcement trust funds for this acquisition, which currently has approximately \$9,000 available. Chief believes this will greatly benefit the Village. The municipalities of Norwalk and Willard have installed two Flock cameras, and Chief has observed them on Route 2 and Route 4 in Erie County. A drawback, however, is the public perception of these cameras. The data captured is retained for only 30 days before being erased. Tammy inquired about the implementation timeline should the Council give its approval. Chief mentioned that he does not have a precise timeline at this moment. One of the challenges is the electrical hook-up, which he has already discussed with Tom, and this is not our primary concern. The installation of the cameras can take several months. Nevertheless, payment is not required until the cameras are fully operational. Chief indicated that the database could also be utilized for conducting searches. Sam inquired whether State Route 99 could be included as well. Chief affirmed that it could, provided the Council is prepared to acquire more than two cameras. Chief expressed a desire to begin cautiously by positioning two cameras at each end of Route 20 and assessing the outcomes. Bob questioned whether a contract must be established for a specific duration. Chief said no. The Mayor mentioned that there is a contract concerning the utilization of the cameras; however, it does not specify a duration.

Chief said that recently, New London Schools approved an agreement for a School Resource Officer, negotiating a 25/75 deal, which aligns with what the Village had initially offered Monroeville Local Schools when discussing an SRO. Chief has not received any updates from MLS regarding an SRO.

Chief said that a total of 32 children graduated from the Safety Town program, marking a significant success.

Chief will complete his year-long probation with the Village tomorrow, and he has 40 hours of unused vacation time that he wishes to carry over. If Council approves his request, Chief is planning to utilize 24 hours of vacation time in the next few days. Chief believes he is making substantial progress in the Village, and is eager to continue. Additionally, he is collaborating with Jim Barney to address complaints regarding individuals who feed feral cats in the Village, as this is a recurring issue he encounters. Tammy Schlachter

proposed a motion, which was seconded by Mark Miller, to permit the Chief to carry over 40 hours of unused vacation time. The motion was approved without any discussion.

**Solicitor** – Jim had no information to report.

**Mayor** – The Mayor expresses his satisfaction regarding the achievements of Safety Town. Officer Jonah Mersereau, along with Lt. Kimball and his family, did a wonderful job. The Mayor extended his gratitude to Tom, Eunice, and the Chief for their diligent efforts. Football season is preparing to commence, and should make for an exciting time in the Village.

## **BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **HRJFD**

Huron River Joint Fire District convened on August 6th: Bob reported that there were eleven calls in July, two of which took place within the Village. They will be attending the Huron County Fair tomorrow to provide their services. They have secured a safety grant totaling \$7,800 from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the purchase of a hose roller, with a grant match of 25%. The parking lot was recently sealed. The Mayor mentioned that he had a recent conversation with the CEO of Fisher-Titus Medical Center concerning the formation of an ambulance district. The Mayor expressed uncertainty regarding the Village's potential involvement in this. Previously, the Village had an agreement with North Central EMS, which was not renewed due to insufficient response times. The Mayor inquired whether this matter had been discussed during the HRJFD meetings. Bob indicated that he was unaware of any discussions, noting that they currently rely on North Central EMS. The Mayor suggested that perhaps the district would then engage North Central EMS under contract. Tom stated that he is aware of ongoing discussions behind the scenes involving the Huron County Commissioners and Fisher-Titus regarding the establishment of an ambulance district. Tom mentioned that he understands they are preparing a presentation package for all townships, cities, and Villages, detailing the rationale for the proposed formation of the district. He noted that the Village is included in the Ridgefield Township ambulance levy, which generates about \$15,000 annually. Tom recommended obtaining last year's figures to evaluate the funds allocated based on their payments for ambulance services, both within the Village and Ridgefield Township. This will enable us to review the expenditures and the available carryover funds, as well as the advantages gained from having the levy.

### **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING**

**Ordinance 2025-10** *An Ordinance creating water rates and services for Monroeville, Ohio, and repealing Ordinance 2023-07, thereby amending section 929.02 of Monroeville's codified ordinances*, was presented for third reading. Sam Wiley made a motion seconded by Bob Whitacre to pass Ordinance 2025-10. Motion carried with no discussion.

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

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

**Resolution 2025-13** *Consent legislation for PID NO. 124023 to perform an asphalt concrete overlay with repairs on SR 99 in Huron County from SLM 14.951 to 17.831 and to perform full-depth concrete repairs on SR 113 in Erie County from SLM 6.629 to 6.849. SR 99 from SLM 14.951 to SLM 14.959 is within the Village of Monroeville Corporation Limit, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers proposed a motion, which was seconded by Sam Wiley, to adopt Resolution 2025-13 by title only. Bob inquired whether this pertained to full-depth repair and requested an approximate location. Tom responded that the work is occurring north of the Village, and the repaving involves a mill and fill process, extending from the point where the project halted last year to the corporation limit. The motion was approved without any additional discussion.

### **APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY**

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the bill summary. Bob Whitacre made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 047111 to check # 047179, for a total of \$791,110.78. Motion carried with no discussion.

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

There was no council business discussed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss pending or imminent court action or litigation. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. The public was excused

from the meeting. Chief Earl left as well. Mayor Galea reconvened from Executive Session to Regular Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before them, the Mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

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Eunice A. Collene, Fiscal Officer

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Joseph Galea, Mayor

*A portion of the minutes of this meeting was recorded by Administrative Specialist Heather Alicea. Fiscal Officer Eunice Collene examined them for both form and content, subsequently approving them as transcribed.*

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