

On Tuesday, December 10th, 2024, 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
Sue Rogers	Tom Gray, Village Administrator
Tammy Schlachter	Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer
Bob Whitacre	Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist
Sam Wiley	Jim Barney, Solicitor
	Lt. Troy Kimball

Also attending: Mr. and Mrs. James Ehrman, Cindy Wilson, and Phil Wheeler from the Attica Hub.

The November 2024 financial reports, bank statements, balance sheets, check reports, and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to Council via e-mail.

EXCUSAL OF A COUNCIL MEMBER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda with an amendment, which is to move Resolution 2024-36 from a second reading to emergency passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie asked the Mayor if he received the second amendment to the agenda that was put on his desk before the meeting, which is to include Ordinance 2024-27 for emergency passage. The Mayor asked Council for a second motion to amend tonight's agenda, in order to include Ordinance 2024-27 for emergency passage. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. 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 11/12/24. 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 November 2024 financial reports. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CARD REPORT

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the November 2024 credit card report. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre. Motion carried with no further discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Cindy Wilson addressed Council about the sidewalk repair that was completed in front of her mother's house. In regards to the company that the Village hired to complete the repairs, Cindy recommended to Council that the Village not use the same company in the future. Cindy said the company didn't fix the sidewalk, they only patched it. The tree roots weren't cut and the sidewalk is now crooked. Cindy asked if the repair comes with a warranty, and if so, how long does the warranty last. The Mayor deferred to Tom. Tom said he will check on that with the contractor. Cindy said since the tree roots weren't taken care of, they are going to grow and raise the sidewalk again. Discussion. The Mayor said he and Tom will review the situation, make sure the repairs were done correctly and clarify the warranty issue. Cindy said she knows that other residents were notified they needed their sidewalks repaired this year and asked when their 60-day response time expires. Bonnie advised Cindy that all of the locations that were on this year's list for repair have been repaired and completed. Cindy asked if the remaining customers will be repaired in 2025, and if so, in what order will they be repaired, and asked how that order is determined. Tom said it will be dependent on available funds in the budget. Cindy said Council doesn't pay for the repairs. Tom advised that the Village has to fund the project up front for repairs. Bonnie explained that some residents chose to have their taxes assessed, therefore the Village has to pay for those repairs up front. Cindy expressed interest in serving on the Sidewalk Committee. Chris said that committee is on hold until 2025. Cindy asked Sam Wiley if and when he is leaving Council, as Cindy is interested in serving on Council. Sam

said he doesn't have that information at this time. The Mayor reminded Cindy that there may be Council seats opening in the 2025 election. Cindy exited the meeting at 6:13 PM.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator - Tom presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom recommended that going into 2025, Council and the Village need to address the agreement between the Village and Monroeville Local Schools regarding Marsh Field. The current agreement has expired and with the value of the improvements that are being made at Marsh Field, it's going to impact the Village insurance coverage. It's a \$750,000 approximate expenditure for the work that's being done, according to Greg Schafer, and that burden is going to fall on the Village. Tom said we need to isolate the park from the field. Tom is aware we are currently in negotiations with the school for an SRO, so this agreement will need to run parallel to that discussion to bring everything to stability. Discussions regarding the cost of a survey. Tom said currently, there's been some insistence by the school regarding the green space where the clarifiers and control building are located. The school is insisting that location be part of the transition. The Village can't give that up should we need to have a clarifier or make changes. Tom said there hasn't been much progress. The Mayor asked Tom about the property that the Village jointly owns with the school on Hamilton Street, and if the Village has a maintenance agreement for the property. Tom said the Village and the school have been alternating years for the maintenance of the property. This year the school maintained it and the Village will maintain the property next year. There is no agreement, it's just a shared responsibility. Tom said the property can be brought into the Marsh Field discussion to help negotiate.

Fiscal Officer - Bonnie presented her report that was previously submitted to Council. Bonnie asked Council if they want to go out for bid this year for the Village medical insurance and the liability/casualty insurance. Discussion. Council agreed not to go out for bid. Bonnie asked if Council wants to keep the standing Council committees as is. Council agreed to do so. In regards to the Sidewalk Committee, Bonnie suggested going out for bid for sidewalk repair since we will be getting into the actual installation of sidewalks rather than just leveling.

Police - Lt. Kimball presented Chief Earl's report that was previously submitted to Council. Lt. Kimball asked for Council's approval to hire Joseph Brass as a part-time police officer, pending a successful drug test and physical. Troy also asked for Council's approval to carry over his unused vacation time of 49 hrs., as his anniversary date is approaching, on 12/17/24. Lt. Kimball said Chief sent Council a proposal for an SRO (school resource officer), which suggests a 50/50 cost split between the Village and Monroeville Local Schools. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to hire Joseph Brass as a part-time police officer, pending successful completion of a drug screen & physical, and completion of his pre-employment paperwork. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve Lt. Kimball in carrying over his 49 hrs. of unused vacation time. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Sam Wiley. Motion carried with no discussion. Discussion regarding the SRO proposal. Chris asked for further discussion to take place at a Finance Committee meeting.

Solicitor - Jim Barney had no information to present.

Mayor - The Mayor asked if Council needs to formally approve Wes Brewer's resignation from the Water/Wastewater Department. Tom advised that Wes may be able to work floating hours for the Village in order to contribute to the operator of record, per EPA requirement. Bonnie verified if that is the case, Wes will stay on payroll. The Mayor clarified and advised that Council doesn't need to accept Wes's resignation, since he may be working floating/part-time hours. The Mayor asked if Wes's full-time position has been advertised. Bonnie confirmed, but said advertising hasn't been successful as of yet. The Mayor thanked everyone's contributions for Christmas in the Park, and thanked the Village employees for the installation of the downtown Christmas lights. The Mayor said a resident has come forward with concerns about stray and feral cats that are being fed and provided shelter by other residents. Jim said there is an Ordinance in Oak Harbor that discourages feeding and providing shelter for the stray cat population. Jim advised that once Oak Harbor passed their Ordinance, their Police Chief was able to better enforce the issue with the residents who were feeding and sheltering stray cats. Ohio law states it's a felony to injure or kill stray and feral cats. Discussion. The Mayor asked Council about setting up an ad-hoc Sidewalk Committee. Tammy and Chris both volunteered to serve on the committee. The Mayor said Cindy Wilson stated she would like to be on it as well. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to set up an ad-hoc committee for the sidewalk program, with Council members Tammy Schlachter and Chris Raftery serving on the committee, along with Village resident Cindy Wilson. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion. The Mayor plans on being present for any January meetings that are scheduled. The Mayor will provide the State of the Village address at the regular meeting in January. A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled in January. Chris Raftery, Bob Whitacre and Sam Wiley currently serve on the Finance Committee.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Huron River Joint Fire District (H.R.J.F.D.): Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. met on 12/4/24. There were nine calls in November, three of which were in the Village. The firemen were given an increase in pay, from \$30 to \$35. The pumper and yellow equipment truck were put on GovDeals.com, but no finalizations have been made yet.

Planning Commission: Chris Raftery reported that the Planning Commission met on 11/18/24. Plans were submitted for new bleachers at Marsh Field. Approval was given, however, Chris added that the school needs to present their plans before starting work on future projects from here on out. The school was well into the work on the bleachers before their plans were presented to the Planning Commission.

Handbook Committee: Chris Raftery reported that a Handbook Committee meeting was held 11/25/24. The committee continues to work towards bringing the handbook to where it needs to be. Bonnie asked if chapters 5, 6 and 7 can be presented for approval tonight. Chris verified. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the revisions made to chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the Employee Personnel Handbook for the Village of Monroeville. Tammy Schlachter made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

Ordinance 2024-24 *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 04-33 and Chapter 1511.06 of Monroeville's codified ordinances regarding the placement and use of outdoor wood burning heating units was presented for second reading. No discussion.*

Ordinance 2024-25 *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 65-8 that established a Recreation Board for the Village of Monroeville, and granting authority to Council for the conduct of business for the Village park systems was presented for second reading. No discussion.*

Ordinance 2024-26 *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2006-32 regarding rules and regulations for the use of Monroeville's parks and recreation facilities, and re-creating the rules and regulations under the authority of Monroeville's Council 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. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-36 *A Resolution authorizing the execution of the Energy Sales Schedule with American Municipal Power, Inc. ("AMP"), and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to adopt Resolution 2024-36 by title only. The Mayor added clarification, and advised this was the Resolution that went from second reading to emergency measure, per advisement from John Courtney. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-38 *A Resolution to increase the AMP R.I.C.E. peaking project share, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Chris Raftery, to adopt Resolution 2024-38 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-39 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to repay the General Fund for the advancement of funds used for Monroeville's Downtown Parking Lot Project and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to adopt Resolution 2024-39 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-40 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal officer to repay the General Fund the advancement of funds for the EPA H2Ohio Equipment Grant Fund, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Chris Raftery, to adopt Resolution 2024-40 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-41 *A Resolution levying sidewalk assessments upon certain lots within the Village of Monroeville, Ohio, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to adopt Resolution 2024-41 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-42 *A Resolution authorizing the expenditures utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds for specific permissible uses of the program, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to adopt Resolution 2024-42 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-43 A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer the monthly interest accrued for the Star Ohio SSPL account from the General Fund into the fund accounts established for the sidewalks, streets, and parking lot projects, and declaring an emergency was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to adopt Resolution 2024-43 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Ordinance 2024-27 An Ordinance amending or supplementing certain funds for appropriations Ordinance No. 2024-02, and declaring an emergency was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2024-27 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the bill summary. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 046518 to check # 046591, for a total of \$1,225,489.06. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Tammy asked if there's been any update regarding the downtown mural. The Mayor asked Tom if he had any updates. Tom advised he has no new information to provide. The Mayor said he is guessing that the mural most likely won't be installed until the spring. Tom said he will reach out to Jason Ott, at Janotta & Herner, to see if there are any updates. Sue Rogers asked if the Monroeville Model Railroad Group gave their approval for the mural to be placed on their building. The Mayor said an alternate location by the new downtown parking lot is currently being explored, but no final decision has been made yet.

The Mayor said he will be organizing a memorial contribution for Chief Earl's father, who passed away earlier this week. If anyone would like to contribute, please see the Mayor.

Bonnie said she received information from the Ohio Department of Development today. Several years ago, the Village applied and was accepted for a grant, while working on the Route 20 Waterline Project. It was supposed to be a principal forgiveness grant. The language in the grant was misconstrued. Even though the Village was approved for \$333,459, the grant fell through. The Ohio Department of Development advised Bonnie that because the Village still has the grant agreement in place and the money is still there, the Village can still use the money, as long as it's for a public water system project. Bonnie and Tom discussed options. Bonnie said per information from the EPA, the water line to and from the reservoir is an option. Tom added the North Street waterline replacement is an option as well. Bonnie was advised to compose a letter on Village letterhead, stating the Village has these projects pending and showing what the estimated costs are going to be. If the cost goes beyond the \$333,459 grant, the Village will be responsible for the difference. Once that's done, Tom and Bonnie will put everything in motion and see if they can make this work on the Village's behalf. Bonnie already sent a letter to request an extension. The Village has to spend the money by the end of 2026. Council agreed this is good news.

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 Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Joseph Galea, Mayor

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