

On Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 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: Ann Beck, Mr. and Mrs. James Ehrman, and Phil Wheeler, from the Attica Hub (present at 6:04 PM).

The December 2024 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 notified the Mayor that he would be unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a family emergency. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to excuse Sam Wiley from tonight's meeting. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda. Sue Rogers 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 12/10/24. Chris Raftery 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 December 2024 financial reports. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre. Motion carried with no discussion.

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

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the December 2024 credit card report and the 4th quarter 2024 credit card report. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no further discussion.

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

None.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Administrator** - Tom presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom asked for Council approval for formal advertisement for the open position of a licensed Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, in selected area newspapers and other publications. Mark Miller made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Fiscal Officer** - Bonnie presented her report that was previously submitted to Council. Per a request received from Dollar General, Bonnie asked for Council approval for C1 and C2 liquor licenses for retail carryout of beer and wine/mixed beverages, as the response has to be given to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control by 1/24/25. Council can either request a hearing on the advisability of issuing said permits or approve the request. Chris Raftery made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Sue Rogers. Mark asked Bonnie if they have a license open already. Bonnie advised no. The Mayor asked Chief Earl if he is required to sign off on this. Chief said he received a letter as well, to request a hearing and/or object to the request, and he doesn't have any concerns. Motion carried with no further discussion. Bonnie asked for Council approval of sewer charge excusals, in the amount of \$135.76, for utility account 03.810.2 and \$215.97, for utility account 04.1158.5. Mark Miller made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Mark asked if all of the charges are being excused. Bonnie advised that a formula is used to ask Council for a portion of the charges to be excused. Motion carried with no further discussion. Bonnie previously provided Council a list of 2025 requisitions that are over \$5000, which will need Council approval. Bonnie received two more requisitions from the Electric Department today that she would like to add to that list.

One requisition is for the amount of \$18,000, for a motor operator and the other is for the amount of \$8000, for #2 underground wiring. Tammy Schlachter made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve the list of requisitions over \$5000. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie advised the Finance Committee met on 1/8/25 and the minutes from that meeting were sent to Council. Chris said the Finance Committee discussed the following: the potential hiring of a School Resource Officer; the possible purchase of a police cruiser; wage increases for Village employees; and Council & the Mayor receiving a pay increase during the next election cycle, in year 2026. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the Finance meeting minutes from 1/8/25. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Roll call was taken. Jim Barney asked if the Council members that are present are on the Finance Committee. Bonnie advised that Chris Raftery, Bob Whitacre and Sam Wiley are on the Finance Committee. Jim said that only members of the Finance Committee should approve the Finance meeting minutes. The motion was then rescinded. Chris Raftery made a new motion to approve the Finance meeting minutes from 1/8/25, seconded by Bob Whitacre. Chris Raftery and Bob Whitacre voted yea. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Police** – Chief Earl presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Activity is up and officers are hitting their roof lights more. Chris advised she witnessed a semi driver at high speed earlier this afternoon on North Street. Chief said he’s witnessed more semi’s traveling on North Street as well, so he will keep an eye on the situation. Chief advised he doesn’t want to rely on the GATSO cameras to catch violators, so Council will see his officers out and about more often. New Officer Joseph Brass was sworn in during the month of December 2024. Chief thanked everyone for assisting with the police cruiser donation that occurred immediately preceding tonight’s meeting.

**Solicitor** – Jim Barney had no information to present.

**Mayor** – The Mayor recommended appointing Scott Summerlin to the BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals) for a 3 yr. term, from 1/1/25-12/31/27. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no discussion. The Mayor asked Council to elect a President pro-tempore for year 2025. Sue Rogers nominated Chris Raftery to continue in her role as President pro-tempore. Chris Raftery accepted the nomination. Tammy Schlachter made a motion to appoint Chris Raftery as President pro-tempore for year 2025, seconded by Bob Whitacre. Roll call was taken from Tammy Schlachter, Bob Whitacre, Mark Miller and Sue Rogers, with Chris Raftery abstaining. Motion carried with no discussion.

The Mayor then presented his State of the Village address. ([A copy of the Mayor’s State of the Village address is on file with the Village Administrative Office.](#))

Mark Miller asked where things stand with the downtown mural. Tom said during his last conversation with Jason Ott, from Janotta & Herner, J&H was still working on creating the frame design that will hold the mural. Mark asked what the status is with possibly hanging the mural on the MMRG’s (Monroeville Model Railroad Group) building. Tom said he is unaware. The Mayor said there’s no further update on whether or not the MMRG has any interest going forward. The consensus was that it may be better to try and hang the mural on the old Leis building that overlooks the new downtown parking lot. Just today, the Mayor heard that Dave Luna (current owner of the Leis building) has welcomed the idea of hanging the mural on his building, free of charge. Tom asked if the mural has arrived in Ohio. The Mayor said he believes the mural is currently at J&H, and they are working on fabricating a frame design, but he will check on that and get back with everyone.

#### **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 1/7/25. At year end, there were 115 calls for year 2024. There were fifteen calls in December 2024, five of which were in the Village. Dan Martin is the new Chairman. There are two renewal levies coming in the fall. Breathing apparatuses were purchased with a grant.

#### **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST 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 first reading. No discussion.

#### **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD 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 third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to pass Ordinance 2024-24 by title only. Motion carried with 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 third and final reading. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to pass Ordinance 2024-25 by title only. Motion carried with 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 third and final reading. Bob Whitacre made a motion, seconded by Chris Raftery, to pass Ordinance 2024-26 by title only. Mark asked if this Ordinance is in regards to the park rules & regulations for when last year's solar eclipse occurred. The Mayor explained that this is the overall rules & regulations set by Council, since the Recreation Board no longer exists. Motion carried with no further 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.

**Ordinance 2025-01** *An Ordinance amending the definition section of Ordinance 2023-12 to increase wages for Monroeville employees, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to pass Ordinance 2025-01 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Resolution 2025-01** *A Resolution declaring a real and present emergency and authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts for necessary expenditures to the North Street Water Line Project without formal advertising and bidding, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to adopt Resolution 2025-01 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Resolution 2025-02** *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advance funds from the General Fund to the State Energy and Water CDS Fund for the Grid Resilience and Advanced Metering Project Fund, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to adopt Resolution 2025-02 by title only. Motion carried with no 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 # 046592 to check # 046670, for a total of \$1,076,013.29. Motion carried with no discussion.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Bonnie asked Council to schedule a Sidewalk Committee meeting for later this month, after tonight's meeting. (\*Note\* [A Sidewalk Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 1/28/25, at 6pm.](#))

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before them, the Mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Tammy Schlachter made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

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Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

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Joseph Galea, Mayor

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