

On Tuesday, May 14th, 2024, at 6:02 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
Sam Wiley	Gary Lyons, Chief of Police

Also attending: Phil Wheeler from The Hub, Brenda Buchanan, Cindy Wilson and Andy Betschman.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda as presented. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the agenda as presented. 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 4/9/24. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the April 2024 financial reports as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to approve the April 2024 credit card report. Motion carried with no further discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Brenda Buchanan spoke and said she is running for the State House of Representatives for District 54, which includes the Village of Monroeville. Brenda is from Columbia Station. She served on her local school board for 8 years, 4 of them in which she was President. She was also on the Lorain County JVS Board for 4 years. Brenda is trying to visit every village, township and city that she can in District 54. The Mayor thanked her for coming.

Cindy Wilson spoke and said she is a lifelong resident of Monroeville. Her Father, Bud Wilson, was a former Village Mayor and worked for the Village for many years. Cindy said that her mother contacted the Village Administrative Office about a week ago. She had concerns about the trees that the Village planted which are now upheaving the sidewalk. After her mother reported the complaint, someone from the Village came down and laid asphalt on the sidewalk and it looks terrible. The asphalt has now been tracked everywhere and it looks pitiful. Cindy said she works hard to keep her mother's yard looking nice. Cindy expects someone from the Village to go back and take the asphalt crap off the sidewalk and fix it correctly. The Village is the one who planted the trees and those trees are now uprooting the sidewalk. Cindy realizes the community doesn't have a say in things, because two trees were cut down last year. Cindy expects the sidewalks to be fixed in a professional manner. Cindy brought pictures of the sidewalk if anyone would like to view them. Two of the Council members reported having already viewed the pictures. Cindy said this issue is at 126 W Broad Street, across from Trinity Lutheran Church. Cindy also wanted to talk about high grass and trash, as she knows Council has discussed these issues before. Cindy said Baker Street looks terrible. The back alley behind Baker Street that goes into her back lot at 155 Sandusky Street is very bad. There are 3 houses in that location that have tall grass, vehicles with no plates and trailers filled up. It's been an ongoing issue for at least two years. Cindy has seen several critters in the alley at night and asked that the Village address these issues.

Andy Betschman spoke in regards to the downtown sidewalk planters. Going back to August of 2023, Council voted to allow the planters to be left out during the winter months. Andy said he wasn't contacted about it and personally, he is 100% against it for one reason and one reason only, and that's snow removal. The planters make it tough to shovel. Andy said issue # 2 is the flowers. When he was on the Village Flea Committee, he was all for the flowers in the planters being uniform. In March of 2024, he was told that

he could plant his own choice of flowers. He then planted in April. Subsequently, this past week, he had to remove the flowers he planted. Andy understands that some Council members and police put money towards new flowers since the Flea Committee didn't have the funds to purchase flowers. Bonnie said that is not true. The Mayor explained that \$385 of the funding for the flower purchase was contributed by the Village of Monroeville's Shade Tree Committee. The Mayor and his wife contributed \$100, and Kurt & Lindsey Leber contributed the rest of the balance due. Bonnie Beck said she contributed as well. The Mayor said Lindsey picked up the flowers and planted them. As far as the Mayor knows, no other contributions were made. The Mayor said he knows there was some miscommunication as Tom had told Andy that it was okay for him to plant his own choice of flowers, when it really wasn't okay. The Mayor asked Andy if anyone from the Village asked him to remove his flowers. Andy said no, that it was members of the Flea Committee who asked him to remove his flowers. The Mayor said again, he knows there was some miscommunication and there was a desire to keep the planters uniform. The Mayor said he thinks that Council needs to set some guidelines for next year and going forward. The Mayor apologized that a dispute has arisen. The Mayor said the Village can mediate any dispute that has arisen in regards to the planters and he thanked Andy for bringing it to his attention. The Mayor asked Tom if this is the last year for these specific planters. Tom said it's as long as the planters survive. Andy asked the Mayor if guidelines can be put together for the planters by the 1st of the next year so that the Monroeville Model Railroad Group (MMRG) knows how to move forward. The Mayor confirmed. The Mayor said he isn't sure what a policy would look like and it would need to be discussed at a work session. The Mayor said another issue that came up during all of this was the train sign that Andy put in the planter in front of the MMRG building. Signage being put in the planters would need to be discussed and decided upon. Andy said that putting the train sign in the planter greatly benefitted the MMRG, as they had their highest attendance and highest donations ever at a recent open house. Bonnie asked Tom to correct her if she is wrong, but wasn't keeping the planters out this past winter supposed to be on a trial basis. Tom verified and said that request came from the downtown committee. Tom said Andy brings up a good point. The Village tries to maintain the sidewalks when opportunity and time permit. It's up to the merchants to do the shoveling. The planters have been somewhat of an obstruction, but not impactful. The planters were decorated for the winter and went through the winter with no problems. The planter in front of the MMRG was moved several times because of window replacement next door. The planters are in their last stages. They are about 400-500 lbs. apiece and can't be moved without the digger derrick. Had we done this differently when the planters were originally purchased, Styrofoam would have been placed at the bottom and soil on top. The planters are now tipped and warped. If it's the desire of Council and the merchants, we can have the planters out again in the fall and make sure they are holiday ready. Bonnie said the Shade Tree Commission is looking into purchasing new planters for next year. They are looking into something more lightweight and adding Styrofoam in the bottom. The Mayor said if the Shade Tree Commission is purchasing the planters, then he would defer to that commission for what policies they would prefer to see. Everyone shares the goal of trying to make the downtown look nicer.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator - Tom presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom asked for Council's approval to hire Madi Clark and Isaac Clingman as seasonal employees. Heather verified that Madi's start date is Monday, 5/20/24 and Isaac will start after his 6/2/24 graduation date. Isaac will be in the Electric Division starting out, in order to help complete pole numbering and he will also work across the Village and be responsible for mowing. Madi will be primarily responsible for mowing and completing parks activities. Tom also asked for Council's approval to remove Chadd Nutter from his probational employment period to an Operator Grade 1, with a \$1 per hour increase, which would be \$23.31 per hour, effective 5/12/24. Chadd is getting ready to sit for his Water I license exam. The Mayor asked Tom to share the discussion that he had with Tom in regards to Cindy Wilson's sidewalk complaint. Tom said the challenge with roots, trees and cracks is across the entire Village. Tom and Bonnie have talked about rejuvenating the sidewalk replacement program. In this case, such a program would allow the Village to go in and remove a section of sidewalk, restore it and in turn, distribute those costs with the Village paying and the property owner assuming the liability to be taxed or pay upfront. The sidewalk program is not budgeted for this year, but since it's becoming more prevalent, we need to secure funding and kick it off next year. Dustin Crabtree keeps a list of sidewalk panels that need repair and the sidewalk in front of Cindy's mother's house is on that list. The cold patch is a temporary fix to prevent tripping. Tom said the Village will be going back tomorrow to fix the cold patch, as it appears it was hit with something and then scattered down the sidewalk. Tom said the Baker Street and Church Alley issues have always been a problem in regards to high grass. We've door knocked and spoken to the property owners. It's the Village's responsibility to clean the alley right-of-way and it's on the to-do list. There's been conversations with Jim Barney and the Chief about vehicles, debris, etc., across the Village. Council will see some activity in those areas as the Village attempts to move forward in the legal sense. Tammy asked if there are any updates to the Rahrig property on Horseshoe Drive. Tom said litigation is still pending in the court system. The other Rahrig property at the west end of the Village is headed towards abandonment as the family has walked away from it. The EPA hasn't been contacted yet to investigate. Chris Raftery made a motion to

approve Tom's request to hire seasonal workers Madi Clark and Isaac Clingman, seconded by Sam Wiley. Motion carried with no discussion. Sam Wiley made a motion to approve Tom's request to remove Chadd Nutter from his probationary status and make him an Operator Grade 1, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

Fiscal Officer – Bonnie presented her report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom had previously advised Bonnie that prior Council member Craig Franklin can remain as our contact person who attends the EMA (Emergency Management Agency) Board meetings on the Village's behalf. Craig Franklin is in agreement to do this. Bonnie needs a motion from Council to officially list Craig Franklin in our EMA contract. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion. The Huron County EMA has provided documents regarding the Huron County 911 Program's Final Plan to be submitted to the 911 Board. They are required to send a copy of the Plan to each Huron County municipal corporation, who then must approve or disapprove the Plan. The Ohio 911 Board requires this in order for each county 911 center to receive wireless funds from the State. Bonnie said she has to have a consensus of Council regarding this as she is required to notify the Huron County Commissioner's office. Sam asked what happens with the 911 system if there is no consensus. Bonnie said the Village would be stuck at that point. The 911 portion is currently being paid with a levy. Bonnie has a phone call into Art Mead at the EMA to see when the 5-year levy is up for renewal. Chris Raftery made a motion to approve the Huron County 911 Program's Final Plan, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no further discussion. Bonnie asked for Council's approval for the following requisitions: \$3790 for AMARC, for repair of the William Street lift station; and \$2921 for R.A. Bores, for catch basin repair & curb replacement at the Industrial Park. Bonnie also asked for approval of a requisition for a contractor in regards to our grant request approval of \$64,100 for a new 3-bay salt storage building. Sam Wiley made a motion to approve all three of those requisitions, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie asked Council for ideas in regards to setting up a deposit amount for when people request keys in order to access Clark Park and Marsh Field. Bonnie had proposed a deposit amount of \$10 per key and asked Council for their thoughts. Over the years, several keys have been signed out and not returned. Discussion. Mark Miller made a motion to approve a \$20 key deposit, seconded by Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no further discussion.

Police – Chief presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Chief would like to promote Erik Reinhart to a Level II Police Officer, with an increase to \$25 per hour, as he successfully completed his probationary period and is doing an excellent job. As Council is aware, police cruiser # 20 was damaged by a drunk driver and Angie's Auto is waiting on parts in order to make the repair. Last week, cruiser # 18 was damaged. During an incident at a Monroeville residence, Officer Logan Gale was assaulted. One of the suspects that were apprehended damaged the cruiser door by kicking it from the inside. The door will need to be replaced and estimates for repairs are currently being sought. The landlord of the residence at which this occurred is in the process of evicting the residents. The Chief reminded Council that landlords and property owners have the option of doing background checks on prospective tenants. Cruiser # 12 was recently repaired by Caranfa Ford. When Caranfa put it up on a rack, they had to quickly take it down because the frame was bending due to rust. Chief doesn't think it would be a good idea to keep the cruiser in the fleet much longer. Chief didn't prepare anything for tonight but he would like Council to consider donating the cruiser or selling it with the caveat of "buyer beware". Hooked on Fishing is scheduled for Monday, May 27th, after the parade and American Legion event. Anyone is free to stop by and/or volunteer. Tammy Schlachter asked Chief for an update regarding a school resource officer (SRO). Chief said he doesn't have any updates and due to his limited time left with the Village, someone else may have to pick it up. Chief thinks it's a needed position, but it all comes down to money. Mark Miller asked the Mayor if this would be worth discussing at a work session. The Mayor said he would prefer to have a conversation with the school's superintendent before discussing this at a work session and he doesn't think that is where we are at right now. It's less about what is on our end and more about what the school is willing to commit to. The Mayor asked Council for a motion in regards to Chief's request concerning Officer Erik Reinhart. Sam Wiley made a motion to approve removing Officer Erik Reinhart from probationary status and moving him to a Level II Police Officer, seconded by Mark Miller. Heather asked for the effective date of the pay increase for Erik Reinhart. Chief advised he is requesting the increase be retroactive to 4/13/24. Roll call was then taken with all voting yay and none voting nay. Motion carried with no further discussion.

Solicitor – Jim Barney had no information to present.

Mayor – The Mayor enjoyed recently planting flowers at Clark Park with the local schools first graders. Memorial Day celebrations are scheduled for Monday, May 27th. We have the parade and celebration afterwards at Commons Park. Following that will be a luncheon for veterans at the American Legion and Hooked on Fishing at Clark Park. The Mayor thanked Bonnie for her contribution towards flowers for the planters and also thanked Kurt & Lindsey Leber for their contribution and for planting the flowers. The Mayor said that Tyler & Jess Wasserman have offered to pay for and place bunting on the planters during the summer season. The bunting is eyelets that can hook into the planters. Andy asked that the fabric be waterproof so that it doesn't get damaged. The Mayor said he is fairly sure the bunting is weather-proof but will reach out to Jess to make sure. Sam asked if the memorial banners for the poles are coming along.

The Mayor verified and said we have the brackets and are waiting on the banners themselves. A sample banner has been placed in front of the MMC building. One of the things that Scott Sparks is trying to figure out is in regards to service members who were killed or died during WW1. Scott has a list of names on Facebook and is looking for information about those folks in order to add them to the banners. The Mayor asked everyone to take a look at the list and see if they know anyone. Bonnie added that there are forms for the banners in the Administrative Office if anyone is interested in a banner. The Mayor said he thinks the banners will be rotated out. Tom said that portion is yet to be determined, regarding if the banner location this year will then rotate to something different next year. Pictures of each location will be taken this year and then viewed next year to determine if they should be shifted. The Mayor said there is a Resolution up for second reading tonight in regards to the United States semiquincentennial, which is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The Mayor hopes that is a prelude to having some kind of celebration here in the Village. Perhaps that are some resources that could help us plan that. A committee would be required to set up and plan the events, which the Mayor would like to see Council members as well as community members be a part of. There is an emergency Resolution tonight in regards to the cleaning of the monuments that was done at Commons Park. The monuments look wonderful and the Mayor would like to express his gratitude to the group that completed the cleaning and give them documentation via a Resolution, so that the group can be in good standing with the State of Ohio about the charitable funds that were used to help pay for that.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Sue Rogers reported on a Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting that was held 4/16/24. There were two requests for variances: Donovan Karnehm requested a variance in order to build a barn on his property; and Elisa Brown requested a continued variance for 7 S Main Street. Both variance requests were approved.

Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. held a meeting on 5/1/24. There were 3 calls in April, all of which were in the Village. The self-breathing apparatuses have been purchased and are in the process of being inventoried. The chicken BBQ was a success. A pancake breakfast is scheduled for this Sunday, 5/19/24, and all proceeds go to the Roth ID Tag Identification System.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

Resolution 2024-14 *A Resolution in the matter of determining emergency management service for the political subdivision of the Village/City of Monroeville* was presented for first reading. No discussion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

Resolution 2024-11 *A resolution of the Village of Monroeville, State of Ohio, supporting the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America 250-OH)* was presented for second reading. No discussion.

Ordinance 2024-09 *An Ordinance prohibiting adult use cannabis operators* was presented for second reading. No discussion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

Ordinance 2024-05 *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2022-02 and creating an Ordinance for the allocation of revenue received from cable franchise fees into specific community funds* was presented for third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to pass Ordinance 2024-05 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Ordinance 2024-06 *An Ordinance authorizing the Fiscal Officer to establish special revenue funds for the various Village departments for the purpose of accumulating resources for the payment of accrued sick time and unused vacation leave upon the retirement of Village employees, and to transfer those funds from the appropriate funds to the specific special revenue funds* was presented for third and final reading. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2024-06 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-09 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to establish a new Star Ohio account and transfer monies from the General Fund to the new Star Ohio account for the purpose of accumulating interest on the transferred funds for the sidewalks, streets and parking lot projects for Monroeville, OH.* was presented for third and final reading. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Chris Raftery, to adopt Resolution 2024-09 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-10 *A Resolution establishing special revenue funds for the accounting of funds transferred for the accumulation of resources for vacation and sick leave payments upon retirement of Village*

employees was presented for third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adopt Resolution 2024-10 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

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

Ordinance 2024-11 *An Ordinance authorizing the execution of participating member schedule with American Municipal Power, Inc. (“AMP”) to enroll in the AMP-CPowerDemand Response Program, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to pass Ordinance 2024-11 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Ordinance 2024-12 *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 Mark Miller, to pass Ordinance 2024-12 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-13 *A Resolution formally accepting the in-kind contribution from the American Legion for the cleaning and restoration of memorial monuments in Monroeville’s Commons Park, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adopt Resolution 2024-13 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-15 *A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the H2Ohio Rivers Initiative: Chloride Reduction Grant Award, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to adopt Resolution 2024-15 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 045972 to check # 046067, for a total of \$1,395,894.21. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Mayor said he will be absent for next month’s June Council meeting because of a scheduled vacation and that Bob Whitacre will be absent as well. Chris Raftery will preside over the June Council meeting. The Mayor asked Chris what is up for discussion at the next work session. Chris stated that income tax reciprocity needs to be discussed and perhaps they could discuss what to do with police cruiser # 12 as well. A work session will be held on Tuesday, May 28th, at 6pm.

Tammy asked if any improvements can be done to Herrick Alley, per the new parking lot that is going to be put in nearby. Tom said unfortunately not. Tom predicated that statement on the basis of what the parking lot costs will ultimately be and if there are a surplus of funds beyond the project costs that could be put towards Herrick Alley improvements. It will probably not be the case though. Heather advised Mellow Yellow food truck will be in the Village this Sunday, 5/19/24, and they will be here once a month through September 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adjourn. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Joseph Galea, Mayor

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