

The Council for the Village of Monroeville met on Tuesday, April 2nd, at 6:00 PM, for a special meeting for the purpose of passing legislation in regards to dry camping and overnight parking in the parks during the solar eclipse weekend.

Mayor Joseph Galea opened the meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited by those present.

Present at roll call:

Chris Raftery	and: Joseph Galea, Mayor
Mark Miller	Tom Gray, Village Administrator
Sue Rogers	Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist
Tammy Schlachter	Gabby Toscano, Solicitor
Bob Whitacre	
Sam Wiley	

Also attending: Lt. Troy Kimball and Chad Stang

Chad Stang spoke on behalf of the Baseball Alumni Association and said they are concerned about overnight camping at the parks. Obviously, Clark Park is locked up so that is less concerning. The fields at Marsh are not blocked and one has an opening that isn't gated off. He understands there is risk of vandalism every other day of the week, but bringing people in without having the ability to keep them out is a concern, especially with how much money the alumni spend on the fields each year. Mark and Bob said they see his point.

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

The Mayor said it's not on the agenda but he would like to point out that since it's an emergency Ordinance that is up for discussion, we will need to suspend the rules and asked Gabby to verify. Gabby stated yes. The Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the proposed legislation. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Heather started to take roll call and then Mark asked what this motion is for. The Mayor said the motion is for suspending the rules and asked if there is any discussion before moving forward. Bob asked what is being discussed. The Mayor said this is in regards to suspending the rules, it's not to pass the Ordinance, it's just suspending the rules to pass the Ordinance as an emergency. Sam said it's because this is being presented as an emergency instead of doing three readings. Mark said to Bob this motion isn't for passing the Ordinance. The Mayor explained the rules are suspended in order to discuss the Ordinance for emergency measure. Heather took roll call. Chris Raftery, Mark Miller, Sue Rogers, Tammy Schlachter and Sam Wiley all said yea. Bob Whitacre asked the Mayor to explain it to him again. The Mayor explained to Bob that if the Ordinance is going to be passed as an emergency, we need to first suspend the rules. Sam said this motion is to suspend the rules, it's a motion to be able to pass the Ordinance as an emergency tonight, instead of doing three separate readings. Bob said he is all for discussion and voted yea on suspending the rules. Motion carried with no further discussion.

**ORDINANCE 2024-07** *An Ordinance amending Exhibit 1 in Section 1 of Ordinance 2006-32 regarding rules and regulations for Monroeville's recreation facilities, and Section 1(b) of Ordinance 2011-22 regarding parking restrictions in a Village owned park, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. The Mayor asked Council if they would like to make a motion to pass the Ordinance and then it can be discussed further. Chris Raftery made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-07 by title only. Mark asked if we can discuss it first. The Mayor explained we have to have a motion and a second before discussion. The motion was then seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2024-07 by title only. The Mayor said we can now have discussion. Mark asked Lt. Kimball how much of a burden it will be on the MPD to watch the parks. Lt. Kimball said the MPD will complete their routines throughout the Village and address any issues that may come up. Mark asked if it will be a hindrance to the MPD or not. Lt. Kimball said it is part of their duties. The Mayor said that the parks are pretty wet right now and asked Tom what the weather outlook is between now and this weekend. Tom said this weekend is calling for scattered showers and Monday is supposed to be clear, with a 57–64-degree day and cloud cover anywhere between 40%-60%. Tom said the Village will have signs posted that state no parking on the grass. We can also add chain or

some type of barrier to the oval section at Marsh Park to prohibit vehicular traffic. Right now, the restrooms at both parks are only open during events. We typically do that through the first part of April and then we choose a day to open them 24/7 in the summer. We live with whatever end result there is for vandalism that takes place over the course of spring and summer. We will be opening the restrooms the morning of 4/5/24 and then from that point forward, they will stay open, unless we have vandalism that takes them out of service. As far as any barriers or barricades, we are ready to support the Police Department, should they deem it necessary to block off one of the parks or secure one or both. As far as the maintenance and operations of the restrooms, we will treat that just as we do any other weekend in the Village. Dustin Crabtree or another Village employee will check the restrooms on Saturday and Sunday morning and go back into a regular routine Monday. The restrooms will also be checked at the end of the day. If the Police Department sees something out of the ordinary, we will address it. If the trash barrels are full, they will be dumped and put back. Tom said he isn't seeing any insurmountable challenges associated with whatever Council determines for park operations. It's an exciting time, somewhat unsettling, but a historic event that we want to be successful. Mellow Yellow Pizzeria's food truck will be here on Friday. Tom said we will cone off their parking area Thursday evening so that the space is available and ready to go. It's a step in the right direction to have a food truck here. Tammy asked if there are any baseball games coming up at Clark or Marsh this weekend. Tom said he is unaware but he will check. Chad Stang said there won't be any games at Marsh Field. Chris asked if we've heard from Jackie Schaffer about running the concession stand at Marsh Field. The Mayor said he spoke to Jackie last night and she said no, but if a lot of people are gathered Monday, she will run some food down. Mark said the parking at Marsh Field is all gravel. Bob said no, there's a lot of grass down there. Chris said the parking lot itself is gravel. Bob said there is a lot of grass outside of the parking lot. The Mayor said we get a lot of grass parkers during football games, it's not marked parking, but it happens. Bob told Chad Stang he appreciates everything the Alumni Association does and he knows they've spent a lot of money, hard work and time. Bob said he agrees with everything Chad said earlier and hopes others feel that way, too. Bob said the first thing we need to do is take care of our own local citizens and ball teams. Bob said another problem with letting people in the parks is things happening and then the people leave and we have no idea who would be going down there. Other places are offering camping and are charging money. Mark asked if we've thought about charging people. The Mayor said he doesn't know that we have and he doesn't know if we'd be able to have the capacity to do so. Chris said she thinks that the locations who are charging are independents. Bob said Norwalk is closing their biggest park, Memorial Park, at the reservoir, in order to stop illegal camping and to prevent people from getting stuck in the mud. Bob said he has no problem with people coming to our parks during the daylight hours, but he doesn't see a reason to let them stay overnight. Bob said if he didn't love Monroeville, he wouldn't be on Council and he is all for the betterment of the community. It might be fine, but there is potential for something to happen. Sam said the parking locations in Bellevue are going for \$75. The Mayor said Lyme Village is asking \$50. Sam said he believes Lyme Village is also having an event. Bob asked if that's per day and Sam said he believes so. Mark said the campground is charging \$400 for Friday through Monday. Heather said she thinks it's a little late in the game to talk about charging people being that today is April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we're talking about charging people more to park than it costs to rent it for the day. Bob interrupted and said nobody here mentioned any dollar figures. Heather said a \$50 figure was just being discussed and that is what she is referring to. Bob said they were talking about another city charging \$50. Heather said if we are talking about a figure, \$50 would be a little high and it's late in the game to talk about charging. Chad Stang said he is all for a single day of parking and Council could talk to the Athletic Boosters to see if they could collect money and set up as a fundraiser. Bob asked if the school is closing their new track parking lot and Sam said yes. Bob said that should tell everyone something and there is potential for a lot of trash. Sam said there may be a lot of human waste as well. Bob agreed, and said that is correct with having a lot of people and no restrooms. Mark said Tom stated the restrooms will be open. Sam said people who stay at campgrounds don't always like to walk to the restroom and we don't have 24hr. surveillance in our parks right now. The Mayor asked if anyone else who hasn't weighed in yet would like to speak. Chris said she thinks that we need to be welcoming to the community and that people aren't necessarily out to do damage. Bob interrupted and said that's not what he meant about people coming here to do damage. Chris spoke again and Sam interrupted and said this is about incidental damage. Sam wants to be welcoming but is concerned about how these things can go. Heather asked Bob and Sam to please

let Chris finish speaking before speaking again. Sam apologized to Chris. Chris said as she was saying, we stand out as a community within Huron County to be welcoming and have faith in our fellow man. It's an event that we may not see again in our lifetime and other communities are doing what they can to bring in an atmosphere of good will and celebration. Chris thinks it's important to be part of that measure. Roll call on the motion was then taken. Heather asked Sue Rogers for her vote and Sue said to please save her for last as she is still thinking. Heather continued with roll call. Chris Raftery, Tammy Schlachter, Mark Miller and Sam Wiley voted yea, and Sam added that his yea vote is because this is a one-time event. Bob Whitacre voted nay. Sue Rogers voted yea. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Mark asked if Council can still ask questions. Heather said a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The Mayor asked if Council wants to withdraw the motion. Council confirmed and the Mayor said the motion to adjourn the meeting is withdrawn. Mark said all he wants to know is if the Ordinance passed, does the park rules go back to the old way on Monday. Gabby said they would go back into effect on Tuesday. Mark asked if people can dry camp Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evening into Tuesday. Gabby confirmed. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adjourn. Motion carried with no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

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Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

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Joseph Galea, Mayor

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