

The Council for the Village of Monroeville held a work session on Tuesday, 9/26/23, at 6:00 PM, in Council Chambers. The purpose of the work session was to discuss trail signage, downtown banners and any other business that might come before them.

Present were: Mayor Fries-Seip, Council Members Bob Whitacre, Craig Franklin, Joe Galea, Chris Raftery, and Sue Rogers; Fiscal Officer Bonnie Beck, Administrator Tom Gray, Chief Lyons, Jessica Wasserman, Scott Sparks, and Molly Doss (present at 6:45 PM).

Chris asked Scott Sparks to speak in regards to downtown military banners. Scott said he is just now getting the banner project underway. He had hoped to have brackets to show to Council, but they are still in the process of being shipped. Scott had a sample banner holder to show Council. Scott said he had a good turnout for military night at the football game this past Friday and was able to raise \$1700. The whole point of the fundraising is to purchase the banner holders. Scott would like to try and get the purchase price lowered on the banners themselves, as they are pricy, \$85-\$90. Scott said that Lisa Hivnor, from the city of Norwalk, shared her plan and documents for Norwalk's banners with Scott, and Scott would like to go in the same direction. Norwalk's banners are hung from Memorial Day to Veterans Day, which is a great idea for Monroeville. Scott is looking for a way to clean and preserve the banners. The Mayor said she believes Norwalk gives the banners back to the purchasers at the end of the season, and then the process begins again. Scott said that is correct, and the purchaser pays \$25 to have the banner rehung. Scott doesn't agree with charging the purchaser again to have the banner rehung. The Mayor asked Tom how many poles are downtown and Tom stated there are thirty-one poles available, in the downtown area, down Monroe Street and to the corner of Prentiss Street. Joe asked how eligibility is determined. Scott said Norwalk's guidelines include military members who have been honorably discharged, are currently active in the military, are deceased, and/or are a resident of the city. Scott doesn't want to just make this a "Monroeville graduate" thing, as there are veterans who live here that didn't go to Monroeville local schools. A picture of the military member isn't required, as insignia or an eagle could be used in place of a picture. Scott said the Legion can be responsible for verifying the applicant's military information. The Mayor asked Tom if there will be employees and equipment available in order to hang and take down the banners at the start and end of the banner season. Tom verified availability isn't a problem. Scott asked Tom if the flags will interfere if two banner holders are put on the pole. Tom said we will have to test the real estate on the pole to see about the fit. The current brackets that we have for the larger banners are 30" wide and then whatever length it needs to be for the banner. Those will be too large for the military banners. Tom is glad Scott has a sample bracket coming. Scott said the bracket is 24". Tom said after Scott gets the sample, the Village has twenty-two sets of brackets existing that can go back on the poles. They are 30", but they can be made to fit whatever width of the banner or flag that is there. Chris said it would be a good idea to expand this into Ridgefield Township as well. Scott asked Tom if the holders are taken down off the pole. Tom said no, they are banded to the pole, and they can be shifted around. Scott said that is good, as he thought the intent was for Jessica to be able to hang her flags the other half of the year as part of her beautify Monroeville idea. Jessica said she had put her welcome to Monroeville flag idea on hold, as she thought it was more important to address the military banners first. She said if the Village is going to hang the military banners part of the year, and the poles are also used to hang holiday decorations and the celebrate Monroeville flags during other times of the year, perhaps it would be better for her to shift focus and spend funds in a different area. Chris asked Jess if she is interested in creating a different idea to present to Council later. Jess said yes, and that she wanted to be here tonight to support Scott with his request for the military banners. Scott said he thinks it would be good for the Village and the community to do this as an entire project, as

band pole holders are being purchased and if they show the holders are going to be utilized November 12th through May to perk up the town, that is something everyone can get behind. The Mayor asked Tom if flags/banners would interfere with Christmas decorations. Tom said yes, he had it noted banners would be from Memorial Day to Veterans Day, but if it's going to be Veterans Day to Memorial Day, then that would compromise Christmas decorations. Discussion on different ideas. The Mayor would like Council to be able to see flags or banners before the order is placed in order to make sure they are appropriate for how the Village should look. Scott said Norwalk didn't initially recognize military personnel with a purple heart or gold star. Scott would like to make sure those individuals are recognized on the Monroeville banners. Jessica said she has a group that is very excited about the planter boxes that are currently out. They are looking a little shabby now, so the group is going to spruce them up for fall. Council said the group did a wonderful job on the planters this year. Jessica said Lindsey Leber designed everything and the students from the school helped her and were able to count that time towards their volunteer service hours. Chris asked for the condition of the planters. Jessica said they are in ok condition. The group would love to add evergreens for winter and spruce them up for Christmas, but Jess wasn't sure if the planters were able to be kept out since the Village usually stores them in winter. Tom said the planters are typically stored in the winter due to sidewalk snow removal, but we can work around that with certain pieces of equipment in order to keep the planters out this year. Jess said she would love to see a mural on the side of the Monroeville Model Railroad Group building. She knows there are some logistics with that in regards to who owns the building and whatnot. Jess had asked the Administrative Office for information and was provided the name of Douglas Brown, but didn't have a phone number. Chris said she can get Jess a phone number for Douglas. Scott would like to move forward with the military banners by spring. Jess and Scott exited the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Chris said the next topic of discussion is trail signage and asked if signs had been ordered. Bonnie said no, as the only signs we know for sure that we are getting are the US bike Route 30 trail signs. The installation is supposed to start sometime between December and June, which will be on the South Main Street trailhead. Discussion. Bob asked who completes installation and Bonnie advised the Village does. Discussion regarding putting QR codes on the signs.

Molly Doss present at 6:45 PM. Molly said she is attending the meeting on behalf of Dick Palmer for the American Legion. The Mayor advised the military banners were already discussed. Molly said Dick must've given her the wrong meeting time of 7pm. Molly asked if Council can give her info on what was discussed earlier in the meeting as the Legion would like to help with banners. The Mayor said Scott Sparks is undertaking the planning and eventually placing the order. The Village is very willing to help assemble and hang, but as far as the logistics, Molly is free to speak with Scott for more details. Molly asked about donations. The Mayor said those would go through Scott's organization. Molly thanked Mayor and Council for the information and exited the meeting at 6:50 PM.

It was decided to order the following trail signs: one for Halfway Road that shows Village of Monroeville ahead, and police/parks/food/shops; one for South Main Street that says welcome to the Village of Monroeville with police/parks/food/shops; one on State Route 99 that shows the same. One arrow will point accordingly.

Prior to tonight's work session, Tom had provided a report to Council in regards to Mike Sitterly's property. Mike has an illegal floor drain connection to the sanitary sewer system. Even his kitchen sink water has a drain that runs across a groove cut into the basement floor and empties into the floor drain. Mike has known about this condition for years. The Mayor thanked Tom for the update and asked if Mr. Sitterly is

aware of everything. Tom said yes, and that Mike said it's always been that way. Tom said Mike's floor drains are tied into the sanitary sewer system. Whoever lived there before was part of the I & I study and smoke tests would have validated it was an illegal connection. Tom said Mike is still waiting for Council to say yay or nay on his reimbursement request from the last Council meeting. Chris asked if Jim needs to compose a letter. Bonnie said she believes if Council agrees on what needs to happen, the letter denying the request for reimbursement can come from the Village Administrative office. Bonnie said she doesn't understand why changes weren't made previously after the I & I study results came out. Tom said it got skirted somehow. Tom said the downspouts were re-routed by the prior owner of the home and still go into the sanitary sewer system. Tom said when Mike claimed he had inches of water in the basement, it was only covering the floor surface. The Mayor asked that a letter be sent to Mike explaining that the Village won't be reimbursing him for the costs he requested.

The Mayor said she received a text message from Andy Betschman on behalf of the Monroeville Model Railroad Group wanting to know when he can meet with Council about Christmas, as the MMRG is hosting their open house on Sunday, 12/10/23, from 11am-3pm. The Mayor isn't sure why Andy thinks Council needs to meet and she asked if anyone knows of a reason Council would need to meet to discuss this. The Mayor said she had Heather Alicea look up the minutes from the March 2023 Council meeting, which verifies that the Village businesses are doing their thing on Saturday, 12/9 and the Village is doing Christmas in the park on Sunday, 12/10. Joe and Bob wondered if Andy is pushing to have everything on the same day. The Mayor verified it was already decided to make it a weekend event, for 12/09/23-12/10/23.

Joe said he had a prior conversation with Tom about State Route 99 with the induction loop and asked if we are waiting to repair it because ODOT will be resurfacing soon. Tom said that is correct, it was discussed and the money was not put in the budget this year because we became aware of the fact that ODOT was going to be digging the intersection up. We would've spent between \$15,000-\$18,000 for a new loop and then in 2024, it will be torn out of the ground and replaced again at ODOT's expense. It's still going to be at ODOT's expense when they redo the intersection and the approach with repaving State Route 99. Tom verified that's scheduled for 2024. Joe said recent talk is if the induction loop isn't working, then the light isn't working and therefore the traffic camera should be shut off. Tom said the timing sequence hasn't changed.

The Mayor showed everyone the proof for the MMC plaque. Discussion regarding the wording on the plaque.

Discussion regarding the mural for the MMC Council chambers. Design mock-ups were reviewed and discussed. Design #1 was agreed upon. Joe asked if Council is providing materials. The Mayor said not initially. The designer, Brandy Goodwin, is going to use what she has and will let the Mayor know if she needs more.

The Mayor asked Chief to update everyone in regards to the conversation he had with the school. The Chief said he received a reply from the school superintendent about a school resource officer (SRO). The school board is interested in creating a partnership with the MPD. Chief said it needs to be determined if there is funding available and if there is a revenue stream available. The guidelines for an SRO strongly recommend that the officer be certified and have 2yrs. of experience. Right now, in-house, that would only be Chief, Lt. Kimball and Nick Meyer. Chief said he is too told to be an SRO. Jonah Mersereau expressed interest. He would probably qualify for the 2024-2025 school year, unless someone is hired from the outside. All of this is very preliminary, as they would have to find the funding and the right

candidate. Chief is shooting for the 2024-2025 school year. Last Thursday, GATSO hearings were held. All were found in our favor except for one. Chief will be reaching out to Jim Barney for clarification in regards to the gentleman that was found not liable, as it's the same gentleman who spoke with Fox 8 News.

Bonnie said the 2022 audit starts next week. The auditors will be working in Council chambers.

Bob said he received a call from a concerned citizen about the conditions of some of the streets in the Village. Bob said he can't disagree with that, because the streets are in need of repair. Discussion in regards to how repairs were addressed in the past. Tom said it's an issue that's been discussed before, and Hamilton Street is a \$500,000 repair. Chad and Dustin recently applied a topcoat to troublesome areas. Herrick Alley and Hamilton Street need to be revisited. Bonnie asked if we qualify for an OPWC loan for that. Tom said not for 2023-2024, but we can reapply.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer