

On Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 6:00 PM, Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip 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: Melissa Fries-Seip, Mayor
Craig Franklin	Tom Gray, Village Administrator
Joe Galea (present at 6:04 PM)	Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer
Sue Rogers	Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist
Bob Whitacre	Gabby Toscano, Esq.
	Gary Lyons, Chief of Police

Also attending: Mike Sitterly (present at 7:12 PM).

The September 2023 financial reports, bank statements, balance sheets, check reports, and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to Council via e-mail.

EXCUSAL OF COUNCIL MEMBER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Fries-Seip asked for Council's approval of the agenda with one amendment, and that was to add executive session in order to address imminent litigation. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried with no discussion.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Chris Raftery, to approve the minutes as presented from the 9/12/23 regular Council meeting. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve the September 2023 financial reports as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT AND 3RD QUARTER 2023 CREDIT CARD REPORT

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the September 2023 credit card report and the 3rd quarter 2023 credit card report. Motion carried with no discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator - Tom presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom reminded Council of the solar eclipse set to occur in April 2024. Discussion regarding preparation & planning, as well as contacting the area merchants for a meeting to discuss. It was decided a Council work session will be held on Tuesday, 10/24/23, at 6pm, for that purpose.

Fiscal Officer - Bonnie presented her report that was previously submitted to Council. The 2022 audit has begun. There was a major waterline leak at a residential address, in between the house and the meter. The resident lost 41,000 gallons of water. Tom added the leak was in a galvanized line right up against the foundation of the house. The homeowner had the line replaced and the issue repaired. Bonnie asked Council for a sewer excusal in the amount of \$386.80, for utility account 02.690.3. Sue Rogers made a motion to approve the sewer excusal in the amount of \$386.80 for utility account 02.690.3, seconded by Bob Whitacre. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie advised Colton Ott passed his drug test, so he is all set for his CDL training in November and will take the CDL test on the last day of training. Issues with Authority Utility are still being addressed. Heather spoke with a CMI account manager last Friday and relayed all of the frustrations the Administrative Office has been dealing with in regards to Authority Utility. Heather and Ann are working on a list of unresolved issues and will send the list to CMI this week.

Chief - Chief presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. All of the MPD officers successfully qualified at the Izaak Walton range on 9/25/23. Logan Gale went to his eye doctor and tested out okay for his glasses, but the form that they sent him was the wrong form, so the eye doctor couldn't sign it. Logan now has to do another appointment with the agency. Bonnie asked who advised Logan that he had to do another appointment. Chief said FTMC. Bonnie said she will reach out to FTMC tomorrow to

see what the issue is. Chief is prepping the part-time officers and should have them ready to go in a couple of weeks. Chief had a very positive conversation with the school superintendent about a school resource officer (SRO). It looks like funding may not be an issue depending on what kind of state funding the school can get. Whatever is decided upon, the contract will be short, 2 yrs. max, to see how everything works out. Chief would like Council's approval to purchase 3 traffic-calming devices at a cost of \$9000, plus shipping charges, using GATSO funds. He would like to put two on North Street going both directions and one on Monroe Street. Sue congratulated Chief on saving a life. Bob asked what happened. Chief said he was crossing Route 20 on a Friday morning in front of LynMarie's. When he was crossing, some people standing in front of Croghan bank yelled his name and motioned towards Route 20. A toddler had gotten out of a van parked in front of LynMarie's and was standing in the middle of Route 20. Chief picked him up, took him inside and found his parent. Chief said the mother of the child was very embarrassed and the Mayor said she should be. Chief said children shouldn't be left alone in a vehicle, especially in one that is running.

Solicitor – Gabby Toscano was presenting on behalf of Village Solicitor Jim Barney and said she would save her presentation for executive session.

Mayor – The Mayor verified with Sue and Bonnie that the next handbook committee meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, 10/17/23, at 6pm. The rendition for the MMC plaque has been submitted to Franklin Monument. The Mayor doesn't have a timeline for completion yet. The Mayor thanked the ladies in the office for their work on the newsletter. The Mayor said she would post info on her Facebook page and reminds residents to contact the Admin. Office if they still want to receive a paper copy of the newsletter. The Mayor congratulated Tom on his re-election to the AMP Peaking Participants Committee. Trick-or-treat is on 10/29/23, from 1:00-2:30, with the parade following at 3pm. The Mayor said she would be at the MMC to pass out candy and welcomed Council members to join her. The Mayor said that in years past, work sessions for November and December were cancelled because of the holiday season, and she would like to stick that, unless something calls for a meeting to be scheduled.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. met on 10/4/23. There were 12 calls in the month of September, 6 that were in the Village. Fire prevention week is this week. The turkey shoot is being brought back and is scheduled for 10/22/23 at the Rod & Gun Club.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

Ordinance 2023-16 *An Ordinance rescinding Ordinance No. 01-21, and authorizing and directing the Fiscal Officer to transfer a portion of the funds generated by the implementation of the kilowatt-hour distribution tax from the General Fund to the Electric Enterprise Fund* was presented for third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2023-16 by title only on third reading. Motion carried with no discussion.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

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

ORDINANCE 2023-18 *An Ordinance amending or supplementing certain funds for appropriations Ordinance No 2023-05, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Joe Galea made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2023-18 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

RESOLUTION 2023-22 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advance monies from the General Fund to the Waterline Improvement Project Fund, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to adopt Resolution 2023-22 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

RESOLUTION 2023-23 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to repay the General Fund a portion of the advancement of funds for the Water System Improvement Project's construction costs, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Chris Raftery, to adopt Resolution 2023-23 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 045429 to check # 045507, for a total of \$640,759.02. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Chris Raftery made a motion to approve Chief's request to purchase 3 traffic-calming devices at \$9000, plus shipping charges, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion. In regards to Tom's report that he previously submitted to Council, needles and syringes have been found in the parks. Sue asked if this is in both Marsh and Clark parks. Tom said they have been found in both parks. Chief said they've also been found at 7-Eleven. Craig asked Tom for an update regarding complaints about the condition of 7-Eleven. Tom said Jim Barney and Bonnie spoke today in regards to the liquor license and the local residency of the CEO/owner-operator of 7-Eleven. Jim and Tom also had a conversation about doing a nuisance filing through the courts. The Huron Co. Public Health Agency already has something pending with the Huron County Prosecutor. Tom is going to check with HCPH tomorrow and see how far along their action is with the Prosecutor, in order to determine whether the Prosecutor is going to handle the issue with 7-Eleven or if the Village needs to file an action through court. Some of the trash bags are gone, but the dumpsters at that property are still over-flowing. Craig asked for a status of the Rahrig property on Horseshoe Drive. Tom said Chris Carroll and Ted Caldwell are both interested in the property. The property still isn't free and clear to Mr. Rahrig's son, Daniel Rahrig, as of two weeks ago. Tom isn't sure where it's at in the court process. Bonnie said she doesn't think it's pending in court, as she couldn't find any record of it. Tom said he's been unable to reach Daniel to see what his intent is, but Tom is going to reach out to him via regular mail. Chris asked Chief if something could be put in with the newspaper in regards to the needles and syringes found in the parks. Chris said she sees a lot of the same kids walking down to Marsh Field every evening and wonders if the parents are aware of what is going on. Chief said he can reach out to the newspaper editor to see what they can come up with. Chief said typically when people are parked at the park after hours, the police officers check it out. However, there is a lot of pedestrian traffic and it's hard for those people to be spotted inside the park at night. The Mayor asked if an alert could be posted on next month's utility bill. The Chief said he can post something on the MPD Facebook page as well. Heather asked if Council has given any more consideration to putting cameras in the park, as the restrooms are vandalized every year. Bonnie asked if the vandalism has reduced at all with the new lights. Tom said there is more vandalism at Marsh Park, especially with brackets, plugs and covers, everything in the shelter and restroom gets torn off. Chris said could we do an experiment with Marsh Park and the cameras, and see if anyone could be caught vandalizing and/or stymie the vandalism. Heather asked Chris if she means advertising that surveillance is in use or doing it quietly to see if anyone can be caught in the act. Chris isn't sure if we can do it without advertisement of the cameras. Heather asked Gabby if that could be looked into. Chief said he can probably get a temporary loan on a camera that the drug taskforce uses for surveillance. It's camouflaged and we may be able to use it on a temporary basis. Tom said any number of trail cams would work as well that utilize cellular. They aren't extremely expensive and are transportable. The Mayor said they are motion detected as well. Tom said the police can have it set up to queue up on their laptop when motion is detected. Chief said to segue, we could also use the cameras during the 2024 solar eclipse. Joe asked what the criminal penalties for vandalism are. Chief said it's typically what the ORC states, plus what our ordinance says about criminal mischief. The Mayor asked if a sign stating "surveillance cameras in use" would have to be posted. Gabby said she will look into it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing impending litigation. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 6:37 PM and reconvened at 7:11 PM.

Village resident Mike Sitterly joined the meeting immediately following the executive session, at 7:12 PM. The Mayor advised him that the portion of the meeting for public to address Council has already passed, therefore Mike may have a three-minute session now since he wasn't present earlier. Mike said he received a letter from the Village that he has an illegal floor drain in his basement. Mike asked how is that illegal. Tom said it's connected to the sanitary sewer system and floor drains are not allowed to be connected to the sanitary sewer system. Mike interrupted Tom, and said it drains the sink, the hot water tank and the washer. Mike asked if he is supposed to run that in the storm sewer. Tom advised the floor drain has to be tied into the storm sewer system and everything else has to be through the sanitary sewer system. Mike said the drain was put there when the house was built and he isn't going to tear the house apart to replace it. Mike said he wants a copy of the ordinance that says his drain is illegal, as he has a lawyer that wants to look into it. Joe said to Mike that he asked Council for reimbursement and asked Mike if the Village directed Mike to personally remove the drainage system. Tom said no, we did not, we only pointed it out in the letter. Mike said he just wants to get this straightened out, as he has storm water infiltrating the storm sewer and it seems there is a pump somewhere, whether it's at Brooklyn Heights or at the other end of town. When the pump kicks on, his basement fills with water. There shouldn't be a pump kicking on in the sanitary sewer during a storm. Mike said Tom told him he would do some investigating and he knows the guys came over and did a dye test in the sewer and found it went to the sanitary sewer. Mike asked if a camera was run to find out where the infiltration is coming from, as Tom

told him he was going to do that. Tom said that can't be done until the next rain event, it's on the agenda and it's scheduled to be done. Mike said all he has to say is he isn't going to let this rest until a lawyer looks at it. Mike said he knows that 80% of the houses in Monroeville have floor drains going into the sanitary sewer. Mike said he imagines some of the Council members have their drains tied into the sanitary sewer as well. The Mayor asked Mike if he understands the letter from the Village in regards to his request for reimbursement and Mike said yes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to adjourn. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Melissa Fries-Seip, Mayor

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