On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 6:00 PM, President pro-tem Chris Raftery 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: Tom Gray, Village Administrator

Craig Franklin Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Joe Galea Jim Barney, Village Solicitor

Sue Rogers Gary Lyons, Chief of Police

Bob Whitacre

Also attending: Ann Beck, and Troy Kimball.

Absent: Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chris Raftery asked for Council’s approval of the agenda as presented. Joe Galea made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the agenda. Motion carried with no discussion.

**DISPOSITION OF MINUTES**

Joe Galea made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the minutes as presented from the March 14 and March 28, 2023, regular Council meetings. Motion carried with no discussion.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve the March 2023 financial reports as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

**APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT**

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Joe Galea, to approve the March 2023 credit card report and the 1st 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 provided updates on the tree trimming and stump removal completed by Kiley’s Tree, and advised that ditch work still needs to be completed. There was a Pepsi truck today that struck the guy wire by Dollar General, which caused a momentary loss of power. In order to safely facilitate repairs, power was temporarily interrupted, which effected Monroeville Local Schools, St. Joe’s School and customers on Sandusky Street. Dollar General was without power for about 4.5 hours. Dave was out of town for training. Main Lite was brought in to facilitate the repair. Colton also assisted while being provided tutorial by Tom. The Lieutenant advised that the driver is insured.

**Fiscal Officer** - Heather presented on Fiscal Officer Bonnie Beck’s behalf. There are two requisition requests that need approval, neither of which were part of the original budget. One is for the additional work done by Kiley’s Tree, for $6800. The other is for today’s pole accident with assistance provided by Main Lite, for $7500. Chris asked for a motion in regards to these requests. Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to retroactively approve the requisition requests for Kiley’s Tree in the amount of $6800 and for Main Lite in the amount of $7500. Motion carried with no discussion. Heather advised that Bonnie recently received a legislative notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control (ODLC). The liquor permit name for 22 N Main Street is requesting to be changed from DBA Cold as Ice Drive Thru to Jasbir of Ohio LLC DBA Cold as Ice Drive Thru. The notice from ODLC allows the Village to request a hearing, or decline. Council agreed to decline requesting a hearing. Joe Galea made a motion to approve signing off on the liquor permit name change from DBA Cold as Ice Drive Thru to Jasbir of Ohio LLC DBA Cold as Ice Drive Thru, without requesting a hearing with ODLC, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion. Chris advised a motion is needed in regards to Jonah Mersereau’s full-time status. Heather advised the motion needs to address hiring Jonah Mersereau as a full-time employee, retroactive to 3/20/23, at $18.80 per hour. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Craig Franklin. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Police** – Chief presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Chief advised the month of March was slow, but there has been an uptick in GATSO traffic camera citations. We are close to installing and operating a second camera on North Street. The number of complaints has fallen off quite a bit on his side of things, maybe two or three a day. There have been eight to nine hearing requests per month on average. Chief advised he is working with Jim on a process that makes it easier for customers to understand their citations. There’s been no interest from anyone wanting to apply for the full-time police officer position. Chief said he knows there are meetings coming up to address the wage scale. He can’t emphasize enough the need for urgency. Everyone is losing workers, we’re not alone in this. It takes 3-4 months to train an officer. He may be losing an officer, maybe two, and if that happens, it is going to be a major loss for their department. He said he would appreciate if Council can speed up the wage discussion if possible.

**Solicitor** – No information.

**Mayor** – Absent.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. met on 4/5/23. There were eight calls in March. The chicken BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, 4/30/23, drive-thru only.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE**

Chris Raftery asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the following legislation. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Craig Franklin. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Resolution 2023-09** *A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator and the Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for participation in their winter contract (018-24) for road salt, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Bob asked if we have been getting salt from the county. Tom advised we did the year before last, because the state contract wasn’t available to us. The county is our fallback. Since everyone, including the county, has an overabundance of salt, we’re behind the curve. Delivery is delayed due to a trucking shortage. Bob Whitacre made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adopt Resolution 2023-09 by title only. Motion carried with no further discussion.

**Resolution 2023-10** *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advance monies from the General Fund to the ARPA/Ohio EPA Grant Fund to cover expenses until the ARPA/Ohio EPA funds are received for a generator, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to adopt Resolution 2023-10 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Resolution 2023-11** *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. Joe Galea made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adopt Resolution 2023-11 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY**

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and checks # 044907 to # 044979, for a total of $533,050.21. Motion carried with no discussion.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Bob asked how Council goes about Chief’s request in regards to the pay they can offer. Chris said she asked Bonnie to run some numbers and give Council the impact on what that increase would be on the budget. Chris said she understands we can’t wait and a decision needs to be made very soon. Heather advised Bonnie had previously stressed the important of addressing the wage ranges as well, with advancing from one step to the next, as that will also affect the budget and it needs to be discussed. Heather recommended having a finance meeting soon to address this. Chris agreed, as she is concerned with addressing the steps, and she would like to have the input from Bonnie before discussing wages. Bob would like to do it as quickly as need be. Craig asked Chief how many officers we have. Chief said 4 full-time, 4 part-time with a possibility of losing another part-timer. Chief said he understands it’s a nationwide crisis.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before them, Joe Galea made a motion, seconded by Craig Franklin, to adjourn. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.

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Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

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Chris Raftery, President pro-tem

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