On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 6:00 PM, Mayor 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 Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer

Sue Rogers Jim Barney, Solicitor

Bob Whitacre

Sam Wiley

Also attending: Chief Gary Lyons, Elisa Brown and sons, and Andy Betschman.

The May 2022 financial reports and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to Council via e-mail.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Fries-Seip asked for Council’s approval to approve the new agenda that includes the changes Bonnie e-mailed earlier to Council. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the agenda. Motion carried with no discussion.

**DISPOSITION OF MINUTES**

Craig Franklin made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to approve the minutes as presented from the May 10, 2022 Council meeting. Motion carried with no discussion.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Joe Galea made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the May 2022 financial reports as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

**APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT**

Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to approve the May 2022 credit card report as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Elisa Brown wanted to update Council on the Mini Main Street plans. This will be created on the back side of the former Leis building. She made an open invitation for tomorrow’s meeting at 10:00 AM, and they expect another full house, including the attendance by one of our commissioners. They are happy with the fantastic community support they’ve been receiving. FTMC, Croghan Bank, Summit Park, and others are behind the project. She saw the work session notes about the food trucks, and she appreciates Council’s diligence in going through with that. They had a food truck lined up to come here if the program was approved, but unfortunately, the owner was in a horrific car accident and was left paralyzed. It’s still important to them that they bring food to the Village. Mrs. Brown wanted Council to know that she was in contact with the Girl Scout troop that used to manage the planter box in front of her business. Because it really wasn’t a passion for the Scouts, she is now taking responsibility for that planter. Mrs. Brown then asked about the sidewalk and parking lot update. The second part to that question is: does it fall upon the property owner or Council if someone falls on a sidewalk. Tom Gray stated that the engineering site work has bene completed. With that being said both the downtown streetscape and the elevations have been established, and the design is underway. Also, the parking lot survey work has been completed, and that design is underway as well. These elements are coming together, but there’s nothing at this point to bring to Council for their consideration. Jim Barney stated that the great thing about being a lawyer is that he can aways say it depends on the situation. He would have to look at the location of the sidewalk, who owns the property, and is there a right-of-way in order to make a determination. Also, just because a person falls on a raised area doesn’t necessarily mean there’s any liability. Mrs. Brown asked specifically about the property owner’s responsibility for four feet of the sidewalk, and if someone would fall on a crumbled portion of sidewalk onto those four feet of sidewalk, who would be responsible. Jim Barney said that a professor in law school would always ask about the preponderance of facts – could one get sued for something like that. Yes, you could get sued, but they might not win. His point is that the person who’s liable is the person on whose property the hazard exists. So, there would be no liability on the sidewalk owner if someone tripped on a hazard on someone else’s property, but fell onto another’s property. Mrs. Brown then stated the Village Flea Committee met last week and they are progressing forward. They are appreciative to have Heather join them. That way there’s great communication between the Village and the committee. They already have 30 vendors who have applied, which is about the same number as last year, and the deadline isn’t until next month. They have asked the Village about extending the event down Monroe Street to the library. They know they have to go through that process, but things are moving along well and she wanted to let everyone know of their appreciation. Andy Betschman asked what the status was on the sidewalk repair along the block where the railroad building is located. Tom responded that the slurry mix has been received at Dauch Concrete, but we haven’t been able to get the mix yet. Tom said this would mitigate some of the areas, including across the street.

Pg 2 June 14, 2022 Council meeting

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Administrator -** Tom said there are two action items in his report; one would be for two employees, Bret Gfell and Colton Ott, to attend the distribution underground safety training at the AMP regional safety meeting at Carey, OH on June 22nd. There is no cost to the Village. The other item is to remove Kadon

Martin’s probationary status and assign him to a permanent full-time status, with no increase in pay. He had a few updates to report regarding the storm. Last night at 10:57 PM, when the first storm came through, First Energy had a transmission system trip which blacked out the entire Village for about five seconds. Shortly after that, they were informed of a broken pole on North Street that came down on a secondary service drop that provided service to three residences. The repairs could not be made last night due to the fact that the pole couldn’t be brought up from the ground and the gas line wasn’t able to be located (the gas company was six hours away). The street was cleared of the tree and debris and safety hazards were mitigated. The residents agreed with restoring the electric service today. The service entrance cable across the street from Chris Raftery was damaged during the storm, so they are still waiting for an electrician to come and make repairs. Wind gusts were recorded at 42mph, with 1.99” of rain during the storm. We ended up being in good shape, as it could have been a lot worse. Regarding the Hamilton Street closure, Jim Schaffer has not yet signed anything with a demo contractor as he is still wrestling with lack of available contractors. Provided that the contact with Jim doesn’t change his position tomorrow or Thursday, Tom will suggest that jersey walls be put in place. Any debris that might come down would be trapped by the jersey walls. Asbestos has been discovered in the building, so Jim has to seek abatement procedures. Tom said he’s not sure how anyone can go in there to inspect for the abatement because the building is a potential for collapse. Yesterday, a leak was discovered late in the day at the Industrial Park water tower. It wasn’t something that could be immediately repaired without draining the tower. They were able to isolate the Broad Street tank to allow the IP tank to drain down so repairs could be made. The water loss was less than 100,000 gallons. Sam asked if the tower was due for restoration, and Tom said not in this cycle. Tom stated that as he indicated last Friday, we are in a peak load management period due to the high temperatures expected this week. This will be closely monitored. With our solar field, we’ve experienced a cost avoidance of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Solar should be at its peak with the sun being out tomorrow and the next few days. They’ve been talking to Berry, who has been very good with load leveling due to the fact that they’ve been given the incentive from the rate package put forward to stay below the threshold. Yard waste was completed today, but there’s a lot of debris and limbs from the storm. We will work on that once we get a chipper from Norwalk, after they are done with using the two that they have. The Mayor commented that she believes with the upgrades to our electrical system management we were blessed and spared from what could have been worse. She has received phone calls affirming such, as many areas around us lost power. Tom said two things made a difference. We were losing ground with our tree trimming because the tree growth was getting ahead of us. So, we covered the whole system this year, which made an impact. Additionally, over the last two weeks, First Energy used a helicopter and a zuzu saw with the twenty blades and twice ran the line from Halfway Road to Bellevue and trimmed trees the right way. That has a big impact on our reliability.

**Fiscal Officer -** Bonnie asked for Council approval for the **increase of $5,149.35** for the cost of a transformer. Council had already approved the initial requisition, but because this increase exceeds the $2500.00 threshold for Council approval, Bonnie is asking for Council approval. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to approve the cost increase as presented. Tom interjected that this is the transformer with a projected delivery date of October, 2023. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie explained that there was a water leak issue with one of our new customers. The resident lost seventy-two thousand gallons of water through an outside spigot. He was not made aware at the time he bought the house that the spigot was broken and not repaired prior to the purchase. Due to the $1000+ water invoice, and there being no public sewer at this residence, Bonnie asked if Council might consider excusing the late fees of $69.68 for acct # 05.1568.4. The owner has made payment arrangements to pay the utility, and today made good on his promise to pay the first agreed upon portion. Bonnie reminded Council that she isn’t crazy about setting a precedent, but felt under the circumstances they might consider excusing the late fees (which are only applied once per invoice). Bonnie noted that since that water reading, the customer used another thirty-eight thousand gallons of water. The spigot is now shut off. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to **excuse the late fee** as presented. Motion carried with no discussion. Bonnie stated that today she received the annual contract for dispatch services from Sheriff Corbin. The EMA has been paying for our dispatch services under the five-year agreement we have with them as a result of a levy. However, we still have to sign the contract indicating that we are aware of the cost that the EMA is paying on our behalf. In 2017 Council adopted a Resolution that states we don’t have to do annual legislation as long as the annual amount doesn’t exceed $6,000.00. The current cost is $495.00 a month, or $5,940.00 a year, so next year we may have to revisit the Resolution. Bonnie asked if Council wanted to keep the subjects for next week’s work session to be just for review of the job descriptions and the proposed food truck policy and application, which might take some time, or do they want to include any other business. The Mayor said she would like to include any other business as she has a couple things for discussion.

**Police -** They had Hooked on Fishing last Monday. It had a fair attendance of forty participants and around 75-80 people, but he expected more. The weather was ideal, but they did have food left over. Typically, they draw around 200 people. So many things are working their way back to normalcy, so the low attendance could somewhat be COVID related. They are still waiting to finalize Safety Town. They have

Pg 3 June 14, 2022 Council meeting

it penciled in for the week of August 1st, but they’re still waiting for confirmation from the school for availability of the MAC and the cafeteria, and they want to make sure with Chief Stang that the fire department and their resources will be available, too. Stats are down a little bit because of traffic cameras being shut down as a result of the latest Supreme Court ruling. (FO note: no citations have been issued since May 25th). He had a video call with Gatos’s new President, who asked about our next steps. The Chief told him that Council was determining those steps. Bonnie asked the Chief, just from curiosity, what constituted a utility complaint. The Chief said it includes requests for standby when power is turned off, or if someone calls about a power or cable line that’s down, smelling gas. Sometimes that’s up to the officer as to how it’s noted. He participated in a meeting last week with HCSO and all the local chiefs to talk about the ARPA grant and first responders. There is a grant available to fund a number of initiatives. At first, they were looking at filing the grant county-wide for all law enforcement agencies, but they found out they couldn’t do that. It came down to being able to file separately. The grant monies would give us a vehicle and a tool to help with our officer wellness programs. He asked what that could include, and frankly, it could include anything, from a membership to a physical fitness club to financial assistance. The Mayor commented that it was for health and well-being. The Chief said it would even include a phone app for mental health issues. The state level is looking for funding to approve. There’s money there and they want to spend it. There is no local match. The funding is for two years, and after that it would be up to us as to whether to continue it or see if there’s another grant out there. There’s also a section for retention, where we might be able to provide our officers with a one- or two-time bonus. We’re limited to a certain cap, but it’s pretty liberal. It’s anywhere from 15%-25% of an officer’s yearly wages, which is a lot. He needs to have the application submitted by Friday. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Joe Galea, to authorize the Chief to apply for this grant. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Mayor -** The Mayor had a citizen question about Memorial Day. There was concern about the level of sirens going through the parade. The person thought it should be a solemn, quiet affair, so she reached out to the American Legion and spoke with Molly Doss and asked if we could not use the sirens. She said absolutely not, as it’s a call to all, or something like that. She commended the PD on the great job they did with Hooked on Fishing, but she was really impressed with the inter department attendance, like the ODNR and the Sherriff’s Department, and other agencies. The Chief said that the ODNR officer was from the wildlife division, and he was measuring the fish and doing the fish count. The Mayor asked Jim Barney if Ordinance 2022-11 on the agenda would change having us suspend the traffic cameras. He responded that before we can restart the program, we have to get the proper citation language regarding the court fees. Sam asked Jim Barney how we can approve the fireworks ordinance if the State says no. Discussion. Jim said he never knows why the State legislature makes such decisions. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the training for Colton and Bret as Tom presented. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Joe Galea. Motion carried with no discussion. The Mayor then asked for a motion for Kadon Martin to be removed from a probationary to a full-time status. Joe Galea made the motion, seconded by Sam Wiley. Motion carried with no discussion. The Mayor asked if we have any legal ramifications for people who are destroying our property by jamming in the atrocities that should not be in our trash cans. What can we do to deter that? Tom said that it has its ebbs and flows. The challenge is that individuals go through our parks and push over the barrels, or they are overfilled and the debris ends up on the ground. Discussion. Joe asked if we have an anti-dumping ordinance. Jim said we have police power, so we can pass an ordinance. The problem is catching the offenders. Joe said it might not be a bad idea to put something on the books just in case we could catch someone, and it could allow us to put up signage. Jim will look into this. The Mayor said she wanted to commend all of the employees who helped get the parks ready for Memorial Day. She especially likes seeing the flags up throughout the Village. Just as a heads up, the Mayor said she presented a proclamation to the robotics teams who placed in the top 10 at the world championship in Texas. They were excited to have that at their awards assembly. After giving the Memorial Day speech this year, the American Legion gave her a $75 check that she signed over to the Village. She would like to earmark it for the open house. Bob stated that it would be nice of there were a better speaker system for that event. After some discussion about whose owns the speaker system, it was determined that it belongs to the Legion. Bob said he couldn’t hear her speech. The Mayor said the Legion does a nice job with organizing the event, and Molly was impressed with the turnout. Sam commented that some friends of his took a bike trip and came through Bellevue and Monroeville. They told him how much nicer our Village looked than some others, and they were really impressed with our Village. The Mayor asked if anything should be put on social media about the continuing limb/branch pickup. Tom said that would be nice to let people know our employees are still working on that.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

Bob reported that the HRJFD Board met on June 1st. There were eleven calls in May. They got a grant for equipment for around $14,000.00 for new turnout gear. There’s a ten-year shelf life on them, and they need about 30 of them. They’re hoping to get another grant in the fall. There is another turnout gear that’s about one-third of the cost of those who would not be entering a burning structure.

Chris reported that the Planning Commission met last night. Zach Jones, from Janotta & Herner, was a guest, and he had plans for Homan Transportation, or Triple A. They are going to be constructing a new building there and he wanted the Commission’s blessing to make sure that when they proceed everything’s a go. A lot of things are not in place quite yet, but as time progresses that information will be presented and Dave Mahl and Tom will approve those. In the meantime, the Commission approved

Pg 4 June 14, 2022 Council meeting

the plans with everything being as it was supposed to be. Sam stated that at the last meeting Council talked about the EMS issue, and he asked if Bob brought that up. Bob said it was not discussed. He just said there was a meeting coming up, he didn’t say he would bring it up at that meeting. Bob said he needs to get with Tom to make sure he has all the information.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING**

**Ordinance 2022-12** *An Ordinance changing the name of “Milan Street aka River Road” to River Road was* presented for first reading. No discussion.

**Resolution 2022-21** *A Resolution authorizing the State Director of Transportation to perform reconstruction on State Route 99 from South to North corporation limits in CY 2024* was presented for first reading. No discussion.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING**

**Resolution 2022-19** *A Resolution establishing a special revenue fund for the accounting of monies from a state opioid settlement agreement* was presented for second reading. No discussion.

**Resolution 2022-20** *A Resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with James C. Barney, Esq. for the legal counsel services as a Solicitor for the Village of Monroeville* was presented for second reading. No discussion.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING**

**Ordinance 2022-07** *An Ordinance establishing a capital project fund for the Electric Department of Monroeville, Ohio for the purpose of accumulating resources for the improvement of the substations, poles and appurtenances, and to transfer those revenues from the Electric Fund to the specific revenue fund created herein* was presented for third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to pass Ordinance 2022-07 on third reading by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

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

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE**

**Ordinance 2022-09** *An Ordinance amending or supplementing certain funds for Appropriations Ordinance 2022-06, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to pass Ordinance 2022-09 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Ordinance 2022-10** *An Ordinance banning the discharge, ignition or explosion of fireworks pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §3743.45(D)(2), and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2022-10 by title only. All voted “yea” except Sam Wiley, who voted “nay.” Motion carried with no discussion.

**Ordinance 2022-11** *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 2022-01 and adopting an automated traffic enforcement program, and eliminating court costs for the filing of an appeal by the alleged violator, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2022-11 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**Resolution 2022-22** *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to repay the General Fund a portion of the advancement of funds for the Water Supply Improvement Project, and declaring an emergency,* was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Joe Galea, to adopt Resolution 2022-22 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

**APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY**

Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Joe Galea, to pay the bills as presented on the bill summary, which included memo expenses and check # 044164 to # 044255 for a total of $1,578,878.57. Motion carried with no discussion.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before them, Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Joe Galea, to adjourn. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

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Bonnie Beck, MMC, Fiscal Officer

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Melissa M. Fries-Seip, Mayor **This is not a ratified or approved copy**