

On Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, at 6:04 PM, Mayor Joseph Galea opened the Council meeting with a word of prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited by those present.

Before roll call was taken, Jim Barney spoke and advised that a question had been raised about how Ordinances get clerked in Bonnie Beck's absence, since the Village Clerk attests to the Ordinances. What Jim thought was five-minute research project about the Village and the Fiscal Officer or her designee turned out not to be true. Not only is it not true about the Ordinance, it's not true about the minutes. The minutes specifically say if Bonnie isn't present, Council has to appoint someone to take care of the minutes for the meeting. Jim sent out an email and his research doesn't talk about the person who attests to the minutes and who verifies the minutes for Council, and it doesn't mean literally the person has to write the minutes down. Jim said in his email he stated his opinion that Council needs to appoint someone to be the keeper of the minutes. It's also Jim's opinion that Heather is here and she can write down the notes and after they are transcribed and need to be approved at the next meeting, someone who volunteers from Council can sign them instead of Bonnie and the same with the Ordinances. Once the Ordinances are approved, Jim doesn't think Bonnie can assign the responsibility to attest to those to Heather or to anybody else, it has to be Council's appointee per the statute. Jim said this project ended up taking most of his morning and it was a shock to him and to Bonnie and to everyone he sent the statute to, including Fiscal Officers in other municipalities. Jim said this is his way of saying to Council that they need to appoint someone. Jim said he hedged his bet on Sue, so he called her today to ask her to volunteer. Since this was going to be a surprise, he wanted to give someone a heads-up for at least the first meeting. The Mayor said to clarify, this is just when Bonnie isn't here, it's just temporary and he pulled up the statute if anyone wants to read it. The Mayor said he appreciates everything Heather does and she is a real professional when she does this, but Jim alerted the Mayor and Council to this issue. The Mayor said the logical thing is for Heather to be the clerk but the Mayor and Council aren't permitted to allow that per state law. The Mayor asked Jim if roll call should be done before making a motion regarding this issue and Jim verified. Jim said he did mis-state one thing and that is that Bonnie can still attest to the Ordinances, as attest and authenticate mean the same thing. Jim said Bonnie can do that even though she is not here. Jim said the minutes are clear that it has to be done by a member of Council but Bonnie can still authenticate and attest. The Mayor then asked Heather to do the roll call.

The regular meeting for the Council of the Village of Monroeville was then called to order.

Present at roll call:

Chris Raftery	and: Joseph Galea, Mayor
Mark Miller	Tom Gray, Village Administrator
Sue Rogers	Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist
Tammy Schlachter	Jim Barney, Solicitor
Bob Whitacre	Gary Lyons, Chief of Police
Sam Wiley	

Also attending: Ann Beck, Lt. Troy Kimball and Ziyah Piltz from The Attica Hub.

The Mayor asked for a nomination to designate someone as the temporary clerk for this meeting to perform the clerk's duties in Bonnie's absence tonight. Chris Raftery nominated Sue Rogers as the temporary clerk for this meeting, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Sue Rogers accepted the nomination and the Mayor congratulated her. Motion carried with no further discussion.

The March 2024 financial reports, bank statements, balance sheets, check reports, and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to Council via e-mail.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda as presented. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with no discussion.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Council meeting 3/12/24 and the special Council meeting 4/2/24. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to approve the March 2024 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 March 2024 credit card report and the 1st quarter 2024 credit card report. Motion carried with no further discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator - Tom presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom isn't certain how Council wants to handle the asset portion of his report, if Council wants to defer that to the time of the discussion prior to passing the legislation. The Mayor verified. Tom spoke with Robb Smithson today and on behalf of the Firelands Rails to Trails (FRTTI) board, Robb asked Tom to extend FRTTI's sincere thanks to Council for purchasing and installing the Rails to Trails signs. Tom said on Monroe St., between the WTP and where the alley comes out on Monroe and goes back to Manchester Street, there's a water leak. R.A. Bores should be on site tomorrow to excavate and make the repairs. There were no challenges with park trash and park restrooms during the eclipse weekend. Tom was pleased with the festival style atmosphere at Clark Park. There were a handful of people at Marsh Field. Craig Franklin manned the amateur radio net here in the Village from the H.R.J.F.D. There were amateur radio operators scattered across Huron county and all of those reports were favorable from a traffic standpoint.

Fiscal Officer – Heather presented Bonnie's report that was previously submitted to Council. The Mayor said Heather can be Bonnie's designee for report purposes. Heather asked Council for retroactive approval of the following requisitions: R.A. Bores, for \$12,000; Qualitrol, for \$3437; American Legal Publishing, for \$3097; and Utilities Instrumentation Services, for \$3510. Heather advised if Council chooses, they can address those retroactive requisitions in one motion. The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the retroactive requisitions as requested by Bonnie Beck. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no discussion. The Mayor said there's been discussion on how to handle the Recreation Board and maybe Jim can review that and draft something to make sure we are in good standing. The Mayor wasn't sure if we needed park trustees and he wants to make sure we are settled on that. The Mayor said Bonnie's reasoning makes good sense and we need to move forward on that.

Police – Chief presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Chief apologized for the front page of his monthly report, as he put in one extra overall and then he referenced January and it should state February. There's been an uptick in activity, most likely due to the improving weather and EMS runs. MPD counted anywhere between 50-60 cars for the solar eclipse, most of which were at Clark Park. Vehicle counts were set up on the traffic cameras and the numbers weren't much different than the usual. MPD staffed heavily during that weekend and stayed active with traffic enforcement in addition to the GATSO cameras. Chief likes his officers to hand out more warnings than they do tickets, as it helps show other drivers that the areas are being patrolled. One of the MPD cruisers was in an accident on the 30th, due to an impaired driver of a truck hitting the MPD cruiser during an emergency event. The driver of the truck was under the influence of alcohol. Per policy, the State Highway Patrol investigated the accident and the driver was charged with failure to yield to an emergency vehicle and OVI, but refused to take a breathalyzer. The eclipse was something to see and definitely lived up to expectations. The Mayor said he reluctantly accepts Chief Lyon's resignation due to retirement, effective 8/4/24 and asked Council for a motion for the same. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

Solicitor – Jim said he has no updates. The Mayor asked Jim where we are at with the new GATSO notice. Jim said he and Chief got it back from GATSO on 4/4/24 and Jim thinks it's ready to go. Jim isn't sure if GATSO is ready to start sending them out yet but it should be really soon. The Mayor said he spoke with Gabby Toscano after the special Council meeting on 4/2/24. Gabby had mentioned a gentleman that was hoping to take his citation out of the small claims division of the Norwalk Municipal Court and take it to the regular division of the court to request a trial. The Mayor asked Jim if there is any update and/or if Jim has decided to dismiss the gentleman's small claims filing. Jim said he talked to Gabby and they think it would be economical to dismiss that action and he assumes the dismissal has been done or will be done shortly.

Mayor – The Mayor thanked Council, all the Village departments, the Fiscal Officer's Administrative Office and the MPD for all the planning and execution for the solar eclipse. The Mayor said he received a request from a Village resident, R.L. Stidham, to waive the utility bill late fee from last month due to the USPS delivery delays. Mr. Stidham has a few different accounts as he has rental properties. The excusal would be \$14.05 for his late fee. Other residents have complained as well but aren't at tonight's meeting. Council did not make a motion in regards to waiving late fees for Mr. Stidham's utility accounts.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Chris Raftery reported that the Planning Commission held a meeting 4/2/24. Chris said they were able to review the site plan for the new building going in by where the truck wash was. The Planning Commission approved the site plan.

Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. held a meeting on 4/3/24. There were 10 calls for March. The chicken BBQ is scheduled for 4/8/24, starting at 11am and is drive-thru only. The self-breathing apparatuses have been ordered. There is no news on the new truck and July remains that target date. The Mayor said there was a good turn-out of volunteer firefighters ready for action during the eclipse, which was very reassuring and appreciated.

The Shade Tree Commission held a meeting 3/14/24. Tammy Schlachter said we are being named a tree city community once again, so a plaque and flag will be coming. On April 22nd, at 6pm, a red oak tree will be planted at Clark Park. The tree was donated by Berry Global. Everyone is welcome to attend and the Mayor will be speaking. A lilac tree will be planted in the boulevard area by where Marlene Wilson lives on W Broad Street. Miller's Landscaping is preparing brochures and prices for the Village in regards to getting new planters, but we probably won't purchase them until next year. The Mayor said one thing that was requested of him was to look into providing funds to a group to purchase flowers for the planters. The Mayor said Lindsey Leber is going to do the planting in the planters. The Village Flea had been providing funds to do that but the decision this year was to put those funds towards a Village mural. The funding gap for the mural has now been funded by a private donation. In the past, some of the Shade Tree Commission funds were partially donated for the purchase of plants. The Mayor said he was promised to get some information from the group about the what their needs are and what they would like to spend. The Mayor knows we are looking at reallocating the franchise fees to shore up the Shade Tree Commission fund so maybe the groups could work together. Tammy said nothing is currently planned, but the group is welcome to communicate with the Shade Tree Commission. The Mayor said if the legislation passes for the semi quincentennial, a committee can be set up to help prepare for 2026.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

Resolution 2024-11 *A resolution of the Village of Monroeville, State of Ohio, supporting the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America 250-OH) was presented for first reading. No discussion.*

Ordinance 2024-09 *An Ordinance prohibiting adult use cannabis operators was presented for first reading. No discussion.*

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

Ordinance 2024-05 *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance no. 2022-02 and creating an Ordinance for the allocation of revenue received from cable franchise fees into specific community funds was presented for second reading. No discussion.*

Ordinance 2024-06 *An Ordinance authorizing the Fiscal Officer to establish special revenue funds for the various Village departments for the purpose of accumulating resources for the payment of accrued sick time and unused vacation leave upon the retirement of Village employees, and to transfer those funds from the appropriate funds to the specific special revenue funds was presented for second reading. No discussion.*

Resolution 2024-09 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to establish a new Star Ohio account and transfer monies from the General Fund to the new Star Ohio account for the purpose of accumulating interest on the transferred funds for the sidewalks, streets and parking lot projects for Monroeville, OH. was presented for second reading. No discussion.*

Resolution 2024-10 *A Resolution establishing special revenue funds for the accounting of funds transferred for the accumulation of resources for vacation and sick leave payments upon retirement of Village employees was presented for second reading. No discussion.*

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

Resolution 2024-02 *A Resolution establishing a special revenue fund for the accounting of monies from the State of Ohio capital budget was presented for third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to adopt Resolution 2024-02 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-03 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advance monies from the General Fund to the Downtown Parking Lot Construction Project Fund was presented for third and final reading. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to adopt Resolution 2024-03 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.*

Resolution 2024-04 *A Resolution establishing a State Energy and Water CDS Fund for the purpose of accountability of funds received for the Grid Resiliency and Advanced Metering Infrastructure was*

presented for third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to adopt Resolution 2024-04 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

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

Resolution 2024-12 *A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts, for sale of municipal-owned transmission assets to AMP Transmission, LLC, a subsidiary of American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP), and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to adopt Resolution 2024-12 by title only. Tom said this asset sale was discussed in June of 2023 and he provided a hand-out to those in attendance. This process began in 2023, in spinning off what we are calling the 69kV assets from Herbert substation (SS). These assets, which are highlighted in the hand-out, relate to the connection of this facility to the First Energy ATSI transmission system. Years ago, during the de-regulation process, part of the de-regulation for the State of Ohio, spun off the power plants. The plants began to operate under a subsidiary corporation. During the course of that de-regulation, an element played into that scope called the availability to establish transmission organizations. AMP in itself didn't have a transmission site. All of the power companies have transmission sides of their house. AMPT put together and formed AMP Transmission LLC, under the AMP umbrella. By doing so, and because the rules changed over the years, AMP is now able to secure assets by purchase from the Village, construct assets for us and other municipalities for the betterment of the communities and for the reliability of the electric grids. What is being proposing is to take this small segment of the Herbert SS, spin those assets off and sell them to AMP transmission. That will relieve the long-term responsibility and liability from the Village of having to replace very expensive components that serve us to protect our other assets, like the transformers and low voltage structures in the SS. Herbert SS is 25-years old and Gerber Lee SS is half that. If a failure takes place, we're talking about \$100,00 right off the bat, not counting the cost of labor and materials. There are elements above ground that are 60-feet in the air and are very expensive. By having AMP purchase this particular segment of the Herbert SS relieves us of the replacement liability. We will still operate and have the flexibility to switch loads between Gerber Lee and Herbert SS's. We won't be taking a step backwards, it's a very positive step forward in creating a relationship with AMPT. AMP will be able to create an alternate, high-capacity feed to the Village at a transmission level that wouldn't be possible if we didn't partner with them and spin off the assets. It's a win-win. We can do it because we have the kilowatt hour sales on an annual basis that other municipalities don't. We won't have to continue to set aside larger sums of money to replace the very expensive assets at Herbert SS. We will have the ability for AMPT to come in at their costs and fund the next 1.5-to-2.5-million-dollar project to secure an alternate source of power to the Village. In the transmission organization operation, AMPT can take the monies that they expend on us and put them in the big pool, which is spread out over everyone in the PJM grid. No one transmission system operator bears the cost and we won't singularly bear the cost. When it comes to the next phase of strengthening and enhancing our transmission service to the Village, that 1.5-to-2.5 million costs will be spread out. From an electrical stand-point, we have a transmission line that runs from Halfway Road to Bellevue where Norfolk Southern is located, it's a loop feed. Under the new design, instead of having just a single tap-in to Herbert SS, two circuits will come in and equipment will be installed that will automatically switch us to a preferred or alternate source without operator intervention. We might see a blink or short-term interruption but service would most likely be restored almost automatically. Mark asked what the purpose is of keeping the equipment that is marked "not included in the sale" on Tom's handout. Tom said those pieces of equipment are what are called "current and potential transformers". Residents have a meter on the side of their house that records the kilowatt hour flow behind the meter, the usage. In order to meter the energy that we purchase, those devices are owned by First Energy and we can't sell them off. Bob asked if this will have any adverse effects on the electric rates. Tom said no, that the electric rates remain stable due to us being able to manage our peak load with the solar and how we manage our load management. For example, working with Berry Global and working with Monroeville Local Schools. The Mayor said before the Resolution is passed, his name is mis-spelled on this Resolution paperwork and on another piece of legislation. Jim said the paperwork can be corrected. Motion carried with no further discussion.

Ordinance 2024-10 *An Ordinance amending or supplementing certain funds for appropriations Ordinance no. 2024-25, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to pass Ordinance 2024-10 by title only. Motion carried with no further discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 045906 to check # 045971, for a total of \$765,044.72. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Mark said the OML training was eye-opening and was thankful he was able to go.

Chris said we may need to have a work session in two weeks and asked Heather to look into it.

Heather advised Council that Brown Realty, who has five or six utility account that are rentals, also inquired about Council waiving the late fees from last month's utility bills, which amount to around \$75.00 for them. Council didn't make a motion to waive the late fees for Brown Realty. Chris said Council doesn't wish to set a precedent. Sam said customers should be aware of when their bill is due every month. Chris asked when auto pay withdrawals occur. Heather advised that withdrawal occurs on the 10th of every month. If the 10th is on a Saturday, the withdrawal is done the Friday before. If the 10th falls on a Sunday, the withdrawal is done the Monday after, unless that Monday is a holiday. Tammy asked if customers can sign up for automatic withdrawal from a credit card every month. Heather said no, they don't have the ability to do that.

Sam asked Tom about electric car charging stations. Tom said he had attached information in a recent email to Council that shows that he is working with AMP to secure grant funding for charging stations in the Village at no cost. If the package is correct, we would be working at putting EV Fast Level II charging stations at 7-Eleven. It will take a little while to get everything established.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to adjourn. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Mayor Joseph Galea

Council Member Sue Rogers

"Minutes of this meeting were transcribed by Administrative Specialist Heather Alicea. Council Member Sue Rogers, appointed Temporary Clerk, reviewed as to Form & Content, and approved them as transcribed."

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