

On Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 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.

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	Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer
Tammy Schlachter	Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist
Bob Whitacre	Jim Barney, Solicitor
	Jon Earl, Chief of Police

Council member Sam Wiley's absence from tonight's meeting was excused at the 9/10/24 Council meeting.

Also attending: Cindy Wilson, Jan Vitucci-Ehrman, and Phil Wheeler from the Attica Hub.

The September 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. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, 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 on 9/10/24 and the work session on 9/24/24. Mark Miller made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the September 2024 financial reports. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY & QUARTERLY CREDIT CARD REPORT

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the September 2024 credit card report and the 3rd quarter 2024 credit card report. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no further discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Cindy Wilson spoke in regards to the sidewalk in front of her mother's house on Broad Street. Cindy received the letter from the Village that was sent to her mother. Cindy thanked Council for having the sidewalk repaired. Cindy verified that her mother will accept the estimate for the repair cost and will not need to have her taxes assessed. Cindy asked how the sidewalk in front of her mother's house was chosen as one of the first to be repaired in the Village. Cindy said she was previously told there were thirty-six or thirty-nine property owners that needed sidewalk repairs. Six were chosen for immediate repair, and Cindy's mother was one of those six. Cindy said she walked through the Village and she has come up with many more locations than what the Village has. Cindy is interested in comparing her list of locations to the Village's list of locations. Cindy said the Village should have a process in choosing who gets picked for immediate repair. Cindy asked if the Village is doing this in groups of six or is the Village going to lambast everyone at the same time. Bonnie explained to Cindy that the sidewalk program was done in sections previously, street by street. Bonnie said she doesn't know how it will be done this time, as that hasn't been discussed yet. Cindy asked if Resolutions are law and asked what happens if they aren't followed. The Mayor advised he is responsible for making sure Resolutions are enforced and carried out. Cindy said she doesn't want to nitpick, but Section 7 of the sidewalk program Resolution says the letters regarding sidewalks are supposed to go out by certified mail. The letter that was sent to her mother arrived by regular mail. Cindy said if Resolutions are passed, they need to be enforced. Cindy said she had previously asked to be cc'd on any mail that was sent to her mother and that's not happening. The Mayor agreed and said the letters should've gone out by certified mail, as stated in the Resolution, and the Village will make sure to cc Cindy on mail that is sent to her mother. Bonnie apologized as well, and said it was her mistake the letters weren't sent by certified mail. Cindy said that she thinks the Village should give residents more than thirty-days to sixty days-notice about their sidewalk needing repair in order for them to financially prepare during the wintertime, even if that includes their taxes being assessed. Cindy asked if she is allowed to see the Village's list of locations that need sidewalk repair. Bonnie confirmed, as the

information is public record. Cindy asked what the Village's sidewalk policy is in regards to some properties that don't have a sidewalk. Bonnie confirmed the Village is required to have sidewalks, it's in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Bonnie said the Village needs to have a sidewalk committee that gets together before spring, when the construction season opens. Bonnie said she will invite Cindy to that meeting. Cindy thanked her and thanked Tom for speaking with her earlier in the week and said she signed the sidewalk agreement when she spoke to him. (Cindy exited the meeting at 6:13pm)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator - Tom presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Tom said he had sent out information to Council yesterday about hiring Sean Crosby for the Street Department. Tom made a correction to that information and said Sean isn't available to start with the Village until Monday, 10/28/24, as Sean needs to wrap up his vacation time/vacation payout with the Village of Haskins. The downtown parking lot was discussed at last night's Planning Commission meeting. Tom has since met with Bonnie and she advised him the Village is required to go out for bids if the project cost is \$75,000 or more. Tom said the total cost of this project is a little over \$85,000. Tom said the plan going forward is to utilize the grant amount of \$74,145 and accomplish the parking lot to the 90th percentile this year. Next year, the finishing touches will be added, whether it be a final coat of asphalt, the line striping, the balance of the remediation from the construction, etc. This is doable and the Village will proceed on the premise to stay below the \$75,000 threshold. Sue asked if the parking lot will stay blocked off until it's complete. Tom confirmed and said that's ok, as we will be going into winter and come spring, we can add the finishing touches. Mark asked if the parking lot can be used over the winter. Tom said probably not, as we will need to see what the finishing touches are first. Starting tomorrow, trees will start to be removed in the location and there's a three-phase line pole that has to be moved. Tom thanked Council for their consideration in hiring Sean Crosby, as that will fulfill our need in the Street Department. Sean brings a multitude of skills to the position. The Mayor asked Council to consider Tom's request to hire Sean Crosby in the Street Department, effective 10/28/24, at \$22 per hour. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no discussion.

Fiscal Officer - Bonnie presented her report that was previously submitted to Council. Bonnie asked for Councils' approval to prepare a requisition for R.A. Bores in the amount of \$74,145, which is the grant amount for the downtown parking lot. Once the work is done, Bonnie will ask for reimbursement from the County. The Village has until 11/30/24 to get it done. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Bonnie asked Council to schedule a Handbook Committee meeting in order to finish up the handbook. Chris asked if we can approve what's already been discussed and then come back after the 1st of the year to finish everything. Bonnie confirmed. Bonnie asked who wants to be on the committee this time. Sue Rogers, Chris Raftery and Tammy Schlachter volunteered. Bonnie said she will e-mail them the proposed changes. Bonnie asked to schedule a meeting at the end of this meeting, along with scheduling a Utility Committee meeting.

Police - Chief Earl presented his report that was previously submitted to Council. Chief said his officers are making more traffic stops. Chief is surprised that we don't have a lot of serious accidents at the intersection of Route 20 and Monroe Street, with how long the light is red and the multitude of drivers that run the red light. Chief has advised his officers to keep an eye on that area, as drivers have been running the red light at 45mph. Chief said we recently had a person who was actively resisting arrest and stated they were HIV-positive. Our Officer handled the situation swiftly and professionally, and went to the hospital for treatment of minor cuts. Chris asked Chief if there can be more of a police presence during the football games, as there have been drivers speeding down North Street. There's also a lot of kids playing in the entryway by the field and she doesn't want to see anyone get injured. Chief said his officers are usually in that area watching traffic and after the game, they patrol Broad Street. Chris said the activity she is referring to is during gametime. Chief said we only have one officer working the street at that time and the other officer is working the game, typically. If there are issues going on outside the stadium, he will have his officer leave the field in order to patrol the area. Typically, the road officer stands by the gate in case something happens at the football field. The other officers that are working are strictly paid by the school to be at the stadium. Chief will bring the issues up to his officers to keep an eye on things. Tammy asked for an update in regards to repair of the two SUV cruisers and sale or donation of the older cruiser. Chief said he reached out to the Commander at the Sandusky Police Academy to offer them the old cruiser and the Commander was ecstatic about the offer. Lt. Kimball will be removing some items from the old cruiser that we could transfer to another cruiser, should we purchase one in the future, as it will help save money. The old cruiser is pretty rusted underneath and he had explained that to the Commander. The Commander is researching to see how the Academy could accept the cruiser as a donation. The SUV cruisers have been repaired. Bonnie confirmed payment has been sent to Angie's Auto. The Mayor said he and the Chief have had conversations in regards to Chief wanting to add a 3rd cruiser to the fleet. The Mayor said there are funds set aside, so Chief is almost where he needs to be in order for the Village to purchase the cruiser. Chief verified and said with next year's set aside funds we will be a lot closer to where we need to be. Chief said if the Village and the school move forward with a School Resource Officer (SRO), the Village will definitely need to look at purchasing another cruiser for the PD. There have been

numerous incidents where we have two officers on duty, but only one cruiser available. It would help to have a spare cruiser and then move one of the senior cruisers to the school. Chief is exploring his options, but getting a 3rd cruiser is definitely something he is looking into. The Mayor said in his conversations with the Chief, Chief would be budgeting \$67,000 for a cruiser. Chief said that was a 2023 quote and he is in the process of getting a 2024 quote, with possibly moving some parts over from the old cruiser to offset some of the cost. Chief said that recently, being down to one cruiser with the other one being repaired has been tough. Especially in regards to the officers working football games, working traffic, patrolling school zones in the morning, etc. The Mayor said that during a recent Friday night football game, there were two traffic accidents in two different locations. Chief was on foot going back and forth between the locations because we were short on cruisers. Mark asked about the PD using a bicycle. Chief said he would be happy to use a bicycle, as he is bicycle certified. Bonnie confirmed the Police Department has a mountain bicycle that was donated by the American Legion, but she isn't sure where it is. The Mayor and the Chief verified that a bicycle would come in handy during football games and parades.

Solicitor – Jim Barney had no information to present.

Mayor – The Mayor advised Jim he noticed court filings have begun for income tax non-payers. Jim confirmed. Bonnie said we have several cases that were filed this month for income tax non-filers. The Mayor said he received Jim's draft of the mural agreement. The Mayor said he has a couple of tweaks he would like to make and then he will get it back to Jim in order to move forward with the mural and get the agreement signed. Heather asked (per the Council work session held 9/24/24), why the MMRG's water and sewer rate be part of an agreement for a mural, as the water & sewer rate and the mural are two separate things. The Mayor said the MMRG brought up their water & sewer rate, as they wanted the Village to do them a favor, or quid-pro-quo, since the mural is being hung on their building. The Mayor said Bonnie had previously verified the Village doesn't have the ability to change the MMRG's water & sewer rate, so it's not going to be done. The Mayor said what Jim has proposed in the agreement is to have the Village pay the MMRG rent in order to hang the mural on their building. Bonnie said if that's the case, then we shouldn't tie in the MMRG's water & sewer rate, as that makes it sound as if the Village is giving the MMRG a discount on their utility bill. Bonnie doesn't understand why the Village is being asked to pay rent to the MMRG for hanging the mural on their building, as the mural is being donated to the Village. The Mayor said he thinks the MMRG's perspective is if they are going to allow the mural to be hung on their building, they want to know what's in it for them. Heather said it doesn't make sense for the Village Flea Committee to donate the mural to the Village, only to have the Village turn around and pay rent money to the MMRG group to hang the mural on their building, in lieu of the Village not being able to change the MMRG's water & sewer rate. The Village has many senior citizens and single parents who, like the MMRG, don't use as much water, but are still required to pay the same water & sewer rate. No matter how you look at the (proposed) agreement, our utility customers will see it as unfair. Mark said if the Village owns the sidewalk, Janotta & Herner can build something that comes up from the sidewalk to hold the mural. Heather asked if the agreement can be negotiated so that the Village doesn't end up paying rent and also asked if it's possible to find another location for the mural. The Mayor said all of that is possible and the Village can certainly negotiate and look at other locations. The MMRG can walk away from the agreement if they choose to and if that happens, a new location can be sought. Bonnie said when the new downtown parking lot is created, there will be fully exposed space on the side of David Luna's building, which could be a possible location. The Mayor verified that option has been discussed. The Mayor said nothing has been set in stone, the agreement is still being negotiated. Tammy said she thought Jessica's offer of a \$500 sign being donated to the MMRG to hang on the front of their building was generous, as most people aren't aware the MMRG are housed in that building. The Mayor agreed and said he was surprised the MMRG seemed to not care about the offer of a sign for their business. Bonnie said there are a lot of elderly customers who use less than 1000 gallons of water a month and pay the same rate. It's the Village's responsibility to make sure the utility rates are done fairly across the board. When we start making exceptions, it opens a can of worms. Chris said the MMRG could be more creative on how they fund themselves, whether it be donations or whatnot. The Mayor said to be clear, the Village isn't making any kind of change to the MMRG's water & sewer rate. The proposed agreement is for the Village to pay rent to the MMRG for the mural to be hung on their building. The Mayor said it sounds as if everyone is in agreement that exceptions can't be made for the MMRG. Sue Rogers said she is not in agreement with paying rent to the MMRG, as the mural is a gift to the Village and it's not hurting the MMRG to have the mural hung on their building. Bonnie reminded everyone the Village would be taking on financial responsibility if anything happens to the mural or the attachment it will be hung on. Bonnie said utility rates are set in order to pay the Village's debt service from the water & sewer projects that we do. If the Village is made to pay rent to the MMRG, then that will assist them in paying their utility bill, which Bonnie doesn't agree with. Bonnie contacted the Village's insurance company and they can't do anything to look at the numbers until they get specs on the mural. The Mayor thanked everyone for their feedback regarding the rental issue and said it may be time to look at a different location for the mural. The Mayor knows the Village will find a good spot for the mural if the MMRG building doesn't work out. Bob asked if there is a location where the mural could be freestanding. Tom said the new parking lot may be an option. The Mayor said informally, it's been proposed that the owner of the old furniture building

would be in favor of the mural being hung on their building, if the MMRG location didn't work out. The Mayor suggested the MAC building may also be a good location. Tom said he will speak with Jason Ott in regards to the mounting alternatives at the two different locations that were discussed tonight. The Mayor said he knows that downward lighting was previously discussed for the new parking lot. This may be a good opportunity to discuss some pan down lighting that could tie in well with a mural. Tom agreed. The Mayor said the downtown merchants are going to do their Christmas in the Village on Saturday, 12/14/24. The Village's Christmas in the Park is Sunday, 12/8/24.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Huron River Joint Fire District (H.R.J.F.D.): Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. met on 10/2/24. The new pumper truck was delivered. There were seven calls last month, two of which were in the Village. This week is Fire Prevention Week. Trick-or-Treat is scheduled for Sunday, 10/27/24.

Chris Raftery reported the Planning Commission met on 10/7/24. A site plan was reviewed and approved for the downtown parking lot. The Mayor said there will be one entry and exit for the parking lot, which will be Herrick Alley. Bob asked if there will be any paving improvements to Herrick Alley, being that it's in terrible condition and the new parking lot will increase traffic in that location. Tom said the impact will need to be determined first and we will bring that full circle at some point to see what can be done. As we look to the future, we may be able to pull in additional community resources to do the front portico, the entry and the view from Route 20, which would be complimentary to a mural. He would like to use the parking lot in Bellevue as an example, with the wrought iron arch and fence. Tom said the Village has been approached by another community group to contribute on a small level. Tom has yet to follow-up with that group to see what level the contribution might be.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

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

Ordinance 2024-21 *An Ordinance amending or supplementing certain funds for appropriations Ordinance No. 2024-02, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to pass Ordinance 2024-21 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the bill summary. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 046377 to check # 046437, for a total of \$560,063.93. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the cost of the new pumper for the H.R.J.F.D., as Bob didn't have an exact cost. The Chief said he will research to see if there are any grants available to help with the cost of a cruiser. Chief said there are electrical outlets available on the MPD side of the building should they purchase an EV.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, the Mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Tammy Schlachter made that motion, seconded by Sue Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Joseph Galea, Mayor

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