

On Tuesday, August 13th, 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
Sam Wiley	

Also attending: Lt. Troy Kimball, Jonathan Earl and family, Phil Wheeler from the Attica Hub and Alysha Galea.

The July 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, omitting agenda item # 2, the excusal of Sam Wiley, since Sam is in attendance tonight. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, 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 7/9/24 and the special Council meetings on 7/18/24 & 7/24/24. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

(Bonnie asked the Council members to please speak loud and clear in order for the minutes to be transcribed correctly from the tape recorder.)

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the July 2024 credit card report. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. 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 asked for Council's approval to authorize him, in cooperation with the Huron County Engineer and the Village Fiscal Officer, to prepare and submit a grant application to the State of Ohio Public Works Commission, for funding of the Hamilton Street Reconstruction Project. The submittance deadline is September so Tom would like to get started on the application ASAP. Tammy asked if the project includes curbing. Tom advised it doesn't, the project is for surface reconstruction. Tammy asked for a status on Village sidewalks being leveled, and asked if the trees in the locations that caused the problems will be removed and/or how will the issue be corrected with leveling the sidewalks. Tom explained that Buckeye Leveling said the Village will be able to get the sidewalks leveled to account for the tree roots. The process of removing the panels and digging the roots out of the ground will cause a significant increase in the price of the project. Buckeye Leveling assured Tom they can work around the tree roots. Mark asked Tom if he has reached out to Cindy Wilson, per the sidewalk concern she brought forward at a prior Council meeting. Tom said not yet, but he will. Mark asked Tom to please reach out to her. Tammy asked what percentage the property owners will be responsible for in regards to sidewalk repair. Bonnie explained that per the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the property owners are 100% responsible for their sidewalks. Tom said the Village's available contribution is to allow the assessment on the tax duplicate or the property owners can pay up front. Bonnie said the Village can make the arrangements with the business who is doing the leveling, if the property owner wants to use the leveler. The cost of that is also on the property owner.

Fiscal Officer - Bonnie presented her report that was previously submitted to Council. Bonnie asked for Council's approval of two purchase orders. The first one is for \$3100 for Ohio Cat, for repairs and

maintenance of the backhoe; the second one is for \$12,000 to Duncan & Allen, for attorney work on the Gray Matter issue. Bonnie believes the auditors are close to completion on the 2023 audit and asked if Council would like an exit interview with the auditor, since we have two new Council members. Bob advised it would be a good idea since they haven't done one in a while. Bonnie advised Council that she would like to have a completed employee handbook, as it's been some time since the handbook committee met for discussion. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to approve the purchase orders of \$3100 for Ohio Cat and \$12,000 for Duncan & Allen. Motion carried with no discussion. Bob asked if the \$12,000 for Gray Matter was an anticipated expense. The Mayor said no. The expense occurred because Gray Matter got behind on paying their utility bill and the Village is attempting to collect on what's due. Duncan & Allen is involved with the situation since it's a utility issue and there are complexities involved. The Mayor asked Jim about the possibility of recovering the Village's attorney fees from Gray Matter. Jim said he thinks the possibility exists. John Coyle is our outside counsel on this issue and he is very knowledgeable and doing a good job with the case. It appears the utility bills are going to get paid and then the attorney fees could be addressed later. The Mayor said he has been part of a couple of discussions about this issue and it sounds as if Gray Matter has new operators and there won't be problems going forward in regards to the utility bill payments.

Police - Lt. Kimball said Council can feel free to contact him regarding any question about the report that Chief Lyons submitted to Council (prior to Chief Lyons last day of employment). Lt. Kimball said the midday flashing lights by St. Joseph's are going back up and will be active between 11am and 12:10pm.

Solicitor – Jim Barney had no information to present.

Mayor – The Mayor said the Village was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Huron County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the proposed downtown parking lot project. The Mayor said he spoke with an individual from Huron County DD, who advised him that there may be more funding available for that project. The Mayor and Tom have spoke about this and will explore that possibility.

The Mayor spoke with Jessica Wasserman about the mural that is being created for the downtown area. The mural is close to completion and the Village Flea Committee would like to donate the mural to the Village of Monroeville. A discussion will need to take place and an agreement will need to be created. It will be up to Council to approve this and the Flea Committee is hoping for installation by fall of 2024.

The Mayor welcomed Jonathan Earl and his family to tonight's meeting. The Mayor said Mr. Earl was provisionally appointed as the Village's new Chief of Police. The Mayor asked Council to make the appointment official, and approve Mr. Earl as the new Chief of Police, on a probationary basis, with a wage of \$42.50 per hour, which will be paid on an annual salary basis, and to also approve a transfer of accrued vacation time from Mr. Earl's previous employment with the City of Whitehall Police Department. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Chris Raftery. Sue Rogers asked how much vacation time is being transferred over. The Mayor said it's a lot. Bonnie said Mr. Earl is transferring over 205 hours. The Mayor also asked Council to consider that Mr. Earl was able to start employment with the Village rather quickly, rather than burning up some of his vacation time first. Motion carried with no further discussion.

Mayor Joseph Galea administered the Oath of Office, Law Enforcement Officer, to Chief Jonathan Earl. The Mayor said Chief Earl joins the Village of Monroeville from the City of Whitehall Police Department, where he was employed for 18+ years. Chief Earl shared that he was also previously employed as a Deputy Sheriff and as a park ranger, and completed 4 years of active duty with the United States Coast Guard. The Mayor advised Chief Earl's start date is tomorrow, 8/14/24.

In closing of the Mayor's report, the Mayor asked Council to approve a \$1 per hour pay increase to Lt. Troy Kimball, in recognition of his service and his loyalty to the Village of Monroeville. It's certainly not an expression of how the Mayor and Council feel about Lt. Kimball, but nevertheless, recognition needs given. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Bonnie asked when the pay increase for Lt. Kimball is effective. The Mayor advised it can be effective with the next payroll period. Motion carried with no further discussion.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

H.R.J.F.D.: Bob Whitacre reported that the H.R.J.F.D. met on 8/7/24. There were eight calls in July, four of which were in the Village. The Fire Department's day at the fair is tomorrow, 8/14/24. The new pumper truck hasn't been delivered yet.

Safety Committee: The committee met on 7/12/24, in order to conduct job interviews with candidates for the Chief of Police position, which were held during executive session.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING

Ordinance 2024-13 *An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 2012-15, thereby repealing chapter 1301 of the Codified Ordinances, and re-creating Chapter 1301 of the Codified Ordinances regarding fees and deposits*

for *Monroeville, OH* was presented for third and final reading. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2024-13 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Ordinance 2024-15 *An Ordinance amending section 6 of Monroeville's Income Tax Ordinance regarding credit for tax paid to other municipalities* was presented for third and final reading. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to pass Ordinance 2024-15 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.

Ordinance 2024-17 *An Ordinance amending, supplementing or reducing certain funds for Appropriations Ordinance No. 2024-02, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to pass Ordinance 2024-17 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-22 *A Resolution directing the preparation of plans, specifications and estimate of costs for Monroeville's 2024-25 Sidewalk Program, as amended, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sam Wiley made a motion, seconded by Sue Rogers, to adopt Resolution 2024-22 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-23 *A Resolution repealing certain portions of the Resolution 2024-05 to correct the fund amount to advance to the CDS Fund for the Grid Resilience Project, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Sam Wiley, to adopt Resolution 2024-23 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-24 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to repay the Advanced Funds from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Generator Project Fund, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mark Miller, to adopt Resolution 2024-24 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-25 *A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advance monies from the General Fund to the HCBS ARPA County Board and COG Administered Project Fund for Monroeville's Downtown Parking Lot Project, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Bob Whitacre, to adopt Resolution 2024-25 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

Resolution 2024-27 *A Resolution authorizing expenditures utilizing American Rescue Plan Act Funds for specific permissible uses of the program, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter, to adopt Resolution 2024-27 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 Bob Whitacre, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 046215 to check # 046291, for a total of \$867,748.47. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Sue Rogers asked if there is any new information on the vacant Rahrig property. Tom said there is no new information and from what he understands, there is still a case pending in court. The same goes for the vacant Rahrig property on the west end of town. It appears that property has been abandoned and Tom is awaiting word on what the next step will be.

Mark asked if property owners are required to use the same company that the Village is proposing to use for sidewalk repair. Tom said the property owners can choose who does their sidewalk repair of their own volition. Tom said as this meeting adjourns, letters will be sent out to the property owners at each sidewalk location with more information. We haven't been able to obtain final estimates yet, as it's a busy time of year for this kind of business.

Bonnie advised that Council hasn't made a motion for Tom's action item yet, for approval of a grant application to the State of Ohio Public Works Commission for funding of the Hamilton Street Reconstruction Project. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, the Mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Sam Wiley made that motion, seconded by Mark Miller. Motion carried with no discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Heather Alicea, Administrative Specialist

Joseph Galea, Mayor

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