

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM, Mayor Joseph Galea opened the Council meeting with a word of prayer. 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		Eunice Collene, Fiscal Officer
Tammy Schachter		Jim Barney, Solicitor
Jim Ehrman		Chief Jon Earl, MPD

Also attending: Terry & Amy Miller; Sam Wiley; Kristin Kaple-Jones; Aaron (last name illegible); David Luna; Diana Nicholl; Craig & Jennifer Miller; Dr. Grant; Lee Hammond; Megan Elmlinger; Andrew Brown; Terry Boose; Tom & Tammy Vitaz; Ken Underwood; Kevin Noble; Mary Upton; and Tom Sitterly.

The March 2026 financial reports, bank statements, balance sheets, check reports, and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to the Council via e-mail.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda. Mrs. Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Raftery, to approve the agenda. 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 March 10, 2026, and the special Council meeting on March 26, 2026. Mrs. Raftery made that motion, seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

The mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the March 2026 financial reports. Mrs. Raftery made that motion, seconded by Mrs. Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT

The mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the March 2026 credit card report. Mrs. Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mrs. Schlachter. Motion carried with no further discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Brown inquired about the status of downtown sidewalk repair. Mr. Gray advised that engagement will occur in late May 2026, and a survey will need to be done, which will take two to four days. There may be possible grants through OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) or ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources).

Mr. Underwood spoke about his concerns regarding the floating solar panels. He presumes that a lot of discussion occurred, weighing the pros and cons, when the decision was made to install floating solar. He would like to see data sheets and information about the solar panels made public. He raised questions about the testing methods for hail damage, the consequences if panels break, and the durability of the glass used in the panels. The public has a right to know this information and to ensure that Council didn't make a bad decision. The mayor stated that, to his recollection, a lot of information was shared during the discussions about the solar panels, and a PowerPoint presentation was also provided. The minutes from those meetings were made available on the village website. The mayor reminded Mr. Underwood that the village must rotate minutes on the website to make room for the publication of additional minutes. The mayor thinks it would be a good idea to have a resource page on the website that includes the information Mr. Underwood is seeking.

Mr. Sitterly inquired about the pontoons located on the reservoir, asking whether they contain Bisphenol A (BPA), a cancer-causing chemical. Mr. Ehrman said that he shares the same concerns, as it's a potential risk to the village's drinking water supply. He noted that if the water were to become contaminated, the village would face a shortage of safe drinking water. Mr. Ehrman said he is uncertain whether our Water Department has the necessary technology or equipment to test for this specific chemical, and he asked Mr. Gray to verify. Mr. Gray explained that the EPA mandates that testing must be done externally, and samples are sent to a designated laboratory quarterly. This testing protocol was already in place before the EPA's 2026 mandate. Mr. Sitterly asked if Mr. Gray could obtain a list of materials used by the factory and make it public. Mr. Ehrman agreed with Mr. Sitterly's request and advised that this could be done. Mr. Sitterly raised concerns about the number of cancer-related deaths in Monroeville. Mr. Ehrman asked

Mr. Gray if there was a possibility of obtaining the chemical makeup of the plastic pontoons and making that information public. Mr. Gray confirmed. Mr. Sitterly also requested information regarding the materials used in the solar panels. He stated that if the solar equipment contains BPA, the equipment should be removed. Mr. Ehrman encouraged Mr. Sitterly to obtain contact information for the Council members from the village website and to email all his concerns to the Council members.

Mr. Sitterly also inquired about turning Herrick Alley into a one-way street or eliminating it, as drivers continue to drive into his yard, causing persistent tire ruts. The road is not wide enough for two vehicles, and drivers tend to speed through the alley. Mr. Miller asked about the necessary steps to make Herrick Alley into a one-way street. The mayor questioned Chief if this process begins with him. Chief responded that an Ordinance would need to be passed, followed by the installation of appropriate signage. The mayor then asked if a traffic study would be required. Chief deferred to Mr. Barney. Mr. Barney said that he would need to determine whether there are any existing one-way restrictions or if an ordinance could be established to designate it as a one-way street. Mr. Wiley said it's his belief that a majority of the traffic on Herrick Alley consists of drivers attempting to avoid the traffic light, and proposed a one-way direction, from west to east. Mrs. Rogers noted Council should determine if making the street one-way would affect deliveries to the Cold-As-Ice drive-thru. The mayor said that this matter could be further discussed during Council business.

Terry Boose introduced himself. He served as a State Representative for eight years and as a County Commissioner for eight years, and he is currently retired. Terry is concerned about what is coming down the pike regarding taxes. Terry is worried about how local governments and rural communities will be affected. During his time as a State Representative, he was a member of the Ways and Means Committee. He is apprehensive about the potential elimination of property taxes. All local governments, particularly townships, depend on property taxes. The elimination of property taxes could lead to the loss of Fire Departments and EMS. Terry believes that his experience can help at the county level and improve the current tax system. Terry believes he can make a difference, regardless of the election outcome, and looks forward to speaking with people who have the same concerns.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator – Mr. Gray said his report was previously submitted to the Council, and he had no additional information to present. Mr. Sitterly said that a few years ago, he had asked Mr. Gray about the possibility of applying for a grant to demolish the old gas station. He recently discovered on Facebook that the county has had funds available for demolitions for a year. Mr. Gray advised that in order to assess a property for demolition, it must be titled to the Huron County Landbank. Mr. Sitterly disagreed. Mr. Gray explained that there is a procedure for this process, and he will investigate further. The mayor said that the property owner must initiate this process. Mr. Sitterly said the landowner retains ownership of the property and uses the grant money to carry out the demolition. The mayor advised again that the property owner has to initiate the request. Mr. Sitterly said that someone from the village could have informed him about the available funds, rather than him finding the information on Facebook. The mayor responded that council learned about the information from the county in the same manner as Mr. Sitterly.

Fiscal Officer – Mrs. Collene presented her report that had been previously submitted to Council. Ashley Hankins has returned from maternity leave. As part of the budget for 2026, the furniture for the MMC Council Chambers is set to be completed. The company responsible for constructing the existing Council table, as well as the new tables, recently visited the MMC. During their inspection, they observed that the glue was visible on the joints of the current Council table. Therefore, they plan to remove the tabletop, sand the surface, and refinish it to restore the table. Should there be any upcoming committee meetings, it may be necessary to utilize the middle conference room until the Council tabletop is repaired and returned.

Mrs. Collene and Mr. Gray received a request from Water & Wastewater Superintendent Don Clark via email. His anniversary date of April 24, 2026, is approaching. Mr. Clark has asked to carry over his unused vacation time of 48 hours, and would use the vacation time before July 1, 2026. This request will need Council approval. Mrs. Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rogers, that Mr. Clark be permitted to carry over 48 hours of unused vacation time, past his anniversary date of April 24, 2026. Motion carried with no discussion.

Police – Chief presented his report that had been previously submitted to Council. Traffic stops have increased 14% from March 2025. School zone citations have also increased. GATSO red-light citations are equal to this time last year, and GATSO speed citations have increased. Officer Meyer recently had a successful OVI traffic stop, recovering methamphetamine and two loaded firearms from the vehicle. Officer Foor will be finishing her field training program and will be released on her own by the end of the month. Chief applied for a body armor grant for the officers, as he has five or six that will be expiring in

the next year to year-and-a-half. The (prior) Chief Lyons had previously applied for a grant some time ago. Chief recently discovered the police department had \$32,000 available to them, with a 75% grant match, for body armor carriers. This was a grant carried over from 2015-2016. Last week, Chief completed and submitted a grant application for \$25,000 to assist with FLOCK cameras. As Council is aware, there have been a lot of issues with vandalism in the parks overnight. FLOCK has a new camera video system that could help with the parks, the reservoir, and possibly the new MLS track. These video cameras have a 360-degree view system and detect movement, with a guardian mode setting for nighttime to alert officers. Mr. Sitterly asked if this is the same camera as the one on the corner of River Road and Washington Road. Chief advised no. That camera is a FLOCK camera for license plate technology, using the LEADS system. A recent arrest by Lt. Kimball for felony fraud led to a twelve-month prison sentence. Active shooter training has been scheduled at AMCOR.

Solicitor – Mr. Barney had no information to present.

Mayor – Per a request made at the previous Council meeting, the mayor reached out to Huron County Commissioner Dunlap to see if there was any funding available for an SRO (School Resource Officer) for Monroeville Local Schools. The commissioner's viewpoint is that schools that are located in a municipality, like Monroeville's, should be responsible for handling the funding of an SRO. The county has been involved in funding for schools like Western Reserve and South Central, as their buildings are located in the townships. The mayor doesn't anticipate reaching out to the commissioners for SRO funding.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

HRJFD

Huron River Joint Fire District convened on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Prior Council member Bob Whitacre was not present to present the report, so the mayor will ask him to submit a report via email. The mayor also noted that a Council member will need to be appointed to take Bob's place on the HRJFD joint committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee convened on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Mrs. Raftery advised that the committee had spoken with Mr. Luna regarding his request for reimbursement. A reimbursement decision has not been made yet. Mr. Luna spoke and said he would like to know what information the village has received from their insurance company. Mrs. Raftery advised that the committee had also spoken about the food truck permit fee, which resulted in a recent ordinance to reduce the permit fee. The committee also discussed employee wage increases, with no decision being made, and it will be an ongoing discussion.

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING, FERAL CATS

The Ad Hoc Committee convened on Monday, March 16, 2026, and Monday, April 6, 2026, to discuss a proposed feral cat ordinance. Mrs. Raftery said that those meetings raised numerous questions regarding the feral cat problem. Chief was present at one of those meetings. He had explained that he doesn't have the means to help residents with their complaints, as there is no ordinance in place to enforce any action. Another meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, for further discussion.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

The mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the following legislation. Mrs. Schlachter made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Rogers. Motion carried with no discussion.

Ordinance 2026-05 *An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2022-13, an ordinance creating Chapter 720 of Monroeville's codified ordinances for the rules, regulations, and permitting of mobile food units, and declaring an emergency* was presented for passage. Mrs. Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman, to pass Ordinance 2026-05 by title only. Mr. Miller inquired whether the gentleman who has already paid the higher fee for a food truck permit will receive reimbursement. Mrs. Collene said she will have to review the records at the Administrative Office to determine the date of his payment and registration, and whether his current permit has expired. Mr. Miller said that he thinks that his reimbursement should be addressed now, given that the new Ordinance is being proposed tonight. Mrs. Collene stated that she will review the records and inform the Council. Mrs. Raftery, Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Ehrman, and Mrs. Schlachter all voted yea on the motion. Mr. Miller opposed the motion and voted nay. Motion carried with no further discussion.

Ordinance 2026-06 *An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds from the General Fund (101) to the Street Fund (201) on a monthly basis as needed with total transfer amount not to exceed the amount appropriated in General Fund (101.000.52714 street transfer) to prevent any negative balance in fund Street Fund (201) of the Village of Monroeville, Ohio, and declaring and*

emergency was presented for passage. Mrs. Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Raftery, to pass Ordinance 2026-06 by title only. Mrs. Collene explained that when the budget was approved, there was a line item in the General Fund (101.000.52714) designated for transfer to the Street Fund. A total of \$190,000 was budgeted for this line item. This was based on the decision to transfer the Street Fund expenses from Fund 101 to Fund 201, following the recommendation from the State Auditor. Mrs. Collene does not intend to transfer the full amount of \$190,000; she will transfer only what is necessary as the year progresses. Should expenses be lower than anticipated, she will not transfer the entire amount from the General Fund, instead only transfer the required amount at the end of each month. Given the Hamilton Street Project and other potential projects, it is necessary to complete a transfer. The legislation is required to allow Mrs. Collene to transfer funds as needed on a monthly basis. Motion carried with no further discussion.

Resolution 2026-08 *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 (018-27) for road salt, and declaring an emergency* was presented for adoption. Mrs. Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman, to adopt Resolution 2026-08 by title only. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Gray if this was being done to lock in the price of road salt. Mr. Gray clarified that it's for the 2026-2027 calendar year. Mrs. Collene advised that the agreement does not guarantee the price; it informs the county of the village's interest in participating in the agreement, as it will be subject to bidding, and asked Mr. Gray to confirm. Mr. Gray explained that the state plans to conduct a bid for the project on behalf of all entities within the state of Ohio, which will ensure a locked-in price for the village and everyone else. If the village has any shortages of salt, we would fall back on the county and purchase it at the same price. Mr. Ehrman asked what we paid last year for salt. Mr. Gray stated he does not recall. Motion carried with no further discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

The mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the March 2026 bill summary. Mrs. Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 047605 to check # 047659, for a total of \$1,106,893.39. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The mayor said the first topic for discussion is the reimbursement request submitted by Mr. Luna. Mr. Luna inquired whether the village had received any feedback from the insurance company. The mayor said that he received a response from the insurance company today, indicating that they believe there is coverage for this matter. However, the mayor is researching which insurance company was involved at the time of the storm sewer line break and the placement of the pole. The mayor is currently reviewing older records to identify the insurer. Should the current insurer deny the claim, they are required to provide the village with the policy language that shows reliance on that insurer. The mayor thanked Mr. Luna for his patience as he, along with Mrs. Collene and Mr. Barney, continues to work on Mr. Luna's reimbursement request.

The mayor advised that a new appointee from Council is needed for the HRJFD (Huron River Joint Fire District). The mayor asked Mr. Barney if there was a statutory requirement to select a Council member. Mr. Barney said he believes the mayor can appoint, and Council approves. Mr. Ehrman volunteered. Mrs. Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Schlachter, to appoint Mr. Ehrman to serve as the village representative for the Huron River Joint Fire District. Motion carried with no discussion.

Mrs. Rogers inquired of Mr. Gray if the village is hiring seasonal staff. Mr. Gray said seasonal staff will not be hired for 2026. Mrs. Rogers asked if that decision would impact the budget, as she assumes regular staff will have to be paid overtime. Mr. Gray said no overtime is planned at this point. Mrs. Rogers asked if the work could be done without additional help, and Mr. Gray confirmed.

Mr. Miller inquired of Mr. Gray whether the bitcoin mining operation in the Industrial Park had applied for any permits in the past week. Mr. Barney said that he was included in an email sent to the Village Administrative Staff concerning a permit that had been requested by the receiver. It was Mr. Barney's understanding that the permit had been forwarded to Zoning Inspector Dave Mahl, and Mrs. Collene confirmed. Mr. Miller asked what the permit was intended for. Mr. Barney informed him that it was a conditional use permit. Mr. Miller asked for clarification. Mr. Barney explained that a conditional use permit allows them to operate. Mr. Miller asked if they had submitted an application for a building permit. Mr. Barney advised that a conditional use permit outlines the conditions that a business of that kind must adhere to in order to function at that site. Regarding buildings, there may be requirements for setbacks or size. Mr. Miller noted that earlier in the week, the bitcoin staff had poured cement and installed poles to reconstruct the lean-to that had previously collapsed during a windstorm. Mr. Miller discussed this with

Mr. Gray, who informed him that they were relocating it to the back of the property to reduce the noise. However, there are six new concrete pads positioned at the front, directly behind the first row of pads. The noise ordinance specifies a limit of 70 decibels at the edge of their property. When Mr. Miller measured the noise levels from his workplace, which is situated across the street, it registered at 80 decibels. Mr. Miller said they should be required to clean up their property and follow the rules. He expressed his frustration with the constant noise.

Mrs. Rogers stated she brought in an article from the Plain Dealer relating to data centers, if anyone is interested in reading it. Mr. Barney advised that the editor of the Plain Dealer wrote that article, and he is vehemently against data centers. He has a weekly podcast where he talks about data centers, and it's very informative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The mayor asked Council for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation. Mr. Miller made that motion, seconded by Mrs. Raftery. The regular Council meeting adjourned to executive session at 6:52 pm, and reconvened at 7:42 pm. No action was taken per the executive session.

Mr. Miller asked the mayor what could be done to replace Bob Whitacre on Council. The mayor said it's Council's decision for the first thirty days, and if they cannot agree on a candidate, it's up to the mayor to appoint someone. Mrs. Raftery asked if a candidate is required to submit a letter of interest. The mayor explained that Council has thirty (30) days to elect a replacement, and there are no requirements as to how that is done. Council can choose to advertise if they'd like. Council has thirty (30) days to select someone, and beyond that, it's up to the mayor to decide. Mrs. Rogers asked if Mr. Wiley is interested in returning to Council, and Mr. Miller confirmed that Mr. Wiley had expressed interest. Mr. Miller asked for an advertisement to be placed on the village website for one week. Mrs. Collene asked Council if they want the interested candidate(s) to submit a resume and/or a letter of interest. Mr. Miller made a motion that an advertisement for a new Council member be placed on the village website for one week. Discussion, but nothing relevant was observed. Mr. Miller then made a second motion that an advertisement for a new Council member be placed on the village website for two weeks, with candidate(s) submitting a letter of interest to the Village Fiscal Officer. Mrs. Raftery asked if interviews need to be done if more than one candidate applies. Mrs. Schlachter advised that she went through the interview process to become a Council member. Mr. Miller agreed that interviews could be done and asked for that to be part of his motion. Mr. Ehrman seconded Mr. Miller's motion. Motion carried with no further discussion. Mr. Miller asked if candidates have to live inside the village corporation limits, and the mayor confirmed. Mrs. Collene advised that she would list the requirements on the website advertisement. The mayor asked Council to keep in mind that it's in the village's best interest to select a candidate who can be present for the meetings, in order for legislation to be approved, and to cut back on the need for special Council meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, the mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mrs. Raftery.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Eunice A. Collene, Fiscal Officer

Joseph Galea, Mayor

The minutes of this meeting were recorded by Administrative Specialist Heather Alicea. Fiscal Officer Eunice A. Collene examined them for both form and content, subsequently approving them as transcribed.

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