

City of Monroe
Common Council Minutes
April 5, 2017

A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Armstrong called the meeting to order. Present at roll call were Mayor Armstrong, Alderpersons Miller, Bauman, Boyce, Newcomer, Koch, Beer, Marsh, Stangel, and Thoman.

B. CORRECTION OF MINUTES

none

C. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Stamm read a letter from Ernest Gebhardt Jr. regarding the proposed project for the parking lot located at 8th Street and 16th Avenue.

D. BUSINESS BY MAYOR

none

E. APPEARANCES BY THE PUBLIC

1. MARY FRIEDRICHS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING HER EXPERIENCE WITH THE BEHRING SENIOR CENTER

Mary Friedrich addressed the Council giving high praises to the Senior Center and the staff there.

Donna Glynn spoke regarding landscaping on the parking ramp site.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION GRANTING MISCELLANEOUS LICENSES

2. APPROVE CLAIMS AS PRESENTED ON CLAIMS LIST (\$254,158.93)

Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Alderperson Beer and seconded by Alderperson Miller. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Council skipped to H1 (Committee of the Whole) at this time.

G. BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

1. RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER FOR THE WESTSIDE FIRE STATION #1 PARKING LOT PROJECT

Motion to approve made by Alderperson Koch and seconded by Alderperson Marsh. Fire Chief Smits explained the benefits of the change order which is to add a camera. They will be able to see weather coming in. Questions and discussion ensued. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENSE AND HIRING A COMPANY TO DO SOIL BORINGS AND GEOTECHNICAL EXPLORATION FOR CITY PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 8TH STREET AND 16TH AVENUE

Motion to approve made by Alderperson Koch and seconded by Alderperson Thoman. Questions and discussion took place. On roll call vote, the motion carried with 6 aye votes – Miller, Bauman, Koch, Beer, Marsh, Thoman and 3 no votes – Boyce, Newcomer, Stangel.

At this point, the Council took up quotes and options for landscaping at the former parking ramp site. Motion made by Alderperson Koch to approve the quotes and options. Discussion took place. DPW Gerber explained and gave a summary. Gerber said that he will come back in a couple of weeks with a change order. Motion made by Alderperson Miller to amend the motion to authorize up to \$31,800 spending. Alderperson Beer seconded the motion to amend. On voice vote, the motion to amend carried. On roll call vote, the original motion carried with 7 aye votes – Miller, Bauman, Boyce, Koch, Beer, Stangel, and Thoman and 2 no votes – Newcomer, Marsh.

H. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. PROPOSED MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT AND TIF REQUEST FROM MSP REAL ESTATE

Mayor Armstrong said that a decision needs to be made on this. Questions and discussion ensued. Mayor Armstrong commented that the question is “Do you want to pursue a project with a contribution of roughly \$600,00 that will come to this TIF with no guarantee that it will pay itself off”. More discussion took place. Motion made by Alderperson Newcomer and seconded by Alderperson Thoman to continue with the process. Mayor Armstrong clarified that this includes telling MSP to continue forward. Admin. Rath added that this also means to work on the developers agreement. Alder Newcomer commented to continue until the city finds out something that isn’t liked. Again, discussion ensued. A roll call vote was taken. During the vote, Alder Boyce asked for a point of clarification regarding abstaining. City Attorney Bartholf determined that Alderpersons can’t be compelled to vote. The vote was 4 aye votes – Miller, Boyce, Newcomer, Thoman, 2 abstentions – Bauman & Stangel, and 3 no votes – Koch, Beer, Marsh. City Attorney Bartholf then determined that the motion failed because it was not a majority vote of the Council present. Discussion continued. City Attorney Bartholf said that the Council didn’t deny it. The Committee of the Whole is only advisory. It can come back if the Mayor puts it back on the Council agenda. Again, more discussion took place.

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSS QUOTES AND OPTIONS FOR LANDSCAPING AT THE FORMER PARKING RAMP SITE AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION

Brief discussion took place. The Council then skipped to H3.

3. REQUEST APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH FILLING THE SOON TO BE VACANT ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR/DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POSITION

City Admin. Rath explained. He wants to fill by recruitment. The new grade is 16. Questions and discussion took place. The Council generally agreed that they want more research on this and to compare to other communities. Mayor Armstrong commented to put this on the agenda for the first Salary & Personnel Committee of the new Council. This was generally agreed to.

The Council then went back to H2. Motion made by Alderperson Miller and seconded by Alderperson Thoman to move this agenda under the Board of Public Works. Motion carried.

The Council then went back to G1.

I. BUSINESS BY ALDERPERSONS

Alderperson Boyce commented that he would like the Board of Public Works to look at commercial customers who have agreements with the Water Utility.

J. BUSINESS PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT HEADS
none

K. BUSINESS PRESENTED BY THE PRESS
none

L. ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn made by Alderperson Beer and seconded by Alderperson Miller. Motion carried.

Carol J. Stamm, CMC/WCMC
City Clerk/Director of General Government