



MONROE CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Bill No. 20-036

SUBJECT:	Resolution Adopting the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee Recommendations
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DATE:	DEPT:	CONTACT:	PRESENTER:	ITEM:
02/18/2020	Executive	Deborah Knight	Deborah Knight	New Business #2

Discussion: 02/18/2020; 11/19/2019

Attachments: 1. Resolution 002-2020 Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee Recommendations

REQUESTED ACTION: Authorize the Mayor to sign Resolution 002-2020 adopting the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee recommendations.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The City Council is responsible for setting city policy and funding priority projects and programs.

The Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee has identified six focus areas:

1. *Housing*
2. *Partners*
3. *Prevention*
4. *Policy and Budget*
5. *Public Safety*
6. *Support Services*

The policy question for the city council is whether to adopt the Committee's recommendations (Attachment 1) in order to guide the city's investment of staff time and resources towards addressing homelessness in Monroe.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2019, Mayor Geoffrey Thomas, in response to our community's growing concerns regarding homelessness in Monroe, formed a committee to make recommendations on how the city should respond to issues relating to homelessness.

An announcement was made about the formation of the committee. Community members applied and were interviewed by the Mayor, City Administrator and the Police Chief.

The committee was formed with representation of community members from local businesses, faith based organizations, service member experts in mental health, drug dependency, and local human service providers. The committee also had represented a member with personal experience of successfully exiting homelessness.

The council confirmed ten members to serve on the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee: Rachel Adams, Jim Bloss, Jennifer Chavez, Sean Cramer, Kyle Fisher, Geoffrey Godfey, Todd Strickler, Brigitte Tuttle, Heidi Waxham and Mary Wysocki; and two adhoc members, Jason Gamble and Phil Spirito.

The Committee's goals were to:

- Provide a forum for the coordination of information among local stakeholders.
- Seek thoughtful, effective, and lasting solutions to the city's homelessness crisis.
- Facilitate assistance for unsheltered persons in the Monroe community.

- Provide the Mayor and City Council with nonbinding advice and recommendations regarding issues related to homelessness.

The committee continually kept in mind these guiding questions:

- What concerns and issues does the community have about homelessness within the City of Monroe?
- What are the underlying causes of Homelessness in Monroe?
- What do we need to know about the causes, resources, and strategies underway in Monroe and other communities that reduce homelessness?

The Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) had its first meeting in April of 2019. The HPAC has met two times per month over the past year. Over the course of the last year, the committee has been fully immersed in this topic. The committee has had experts come to give presentations, webinars, field trips to service organizations, and assigned take-home reading.

From these informative and educational experiences the committee began to hone in its focus in these area: Housing, Partners, Prevention, Support Services, Public Safety, and Policy and Budget.

In each of these categories the committee brainstormed and drafted recommendations to best express a balance of compassion and accountability and a desire to help people become able to choose a path out of homelessness. The committee has also always kept in mind that homelessness is a very complex issue that exists on a very broad spectrum. There is no one size fits all solution.

In November of 2019, the Committee hosted an Open House to ask for the community's feedback on the draft recommendations. The open house was extremely well attended and successful. The feedback from the community was very serious and thoughtful, and also encouragingly well aligned with the HPAC vision.

The city council reviewed the draft recommendations and community comments at its November 19, 2019 meeting.

The committee continued to meet and refine its recommendations, and in January of 2020 the final version of the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee recommendations were approved by the committee. The city council reviewed the committee recommendations at its February 18, 2020 meeting and directed Mayor Thomas and city staff to bring the recommendations back to the business meeting on February 25, 2020 for adopt by Resolution.

IMPACT – BUDGET

The city has \$306,000 in the 2020 budget to support the draft recommendations.

\$46,000	Rental assistance (HB 1406 funding)
\$50,000	Emergency shelter and transitional housing services
\$50,000	Support for housing and service navigators for Monroe residents
\$73,000	Embedded social worker with the police department (shared with Sno Co.)
\$12,000	Embedded social worker with the public defender (grant through office of public defense)
\$17,000	install cameras in parks to deter vandalism
<u>\$50,000</u>	Education and outreach
\$298,000	

TIME CONSTRAINTS

This is a policy decision by the city council. Adopting Resolution 002-2020 signals to the community the city's intent and priorities for addressing homelessness in Monroe. Work may proceed with implementing the recommendations based on input from the council at the February 18, 2020 study session. There are no time constraints associated with adopting the Committee's recommendations.

ALTERNATIVES TO REQUESTED ACTION

Do not adopt Resolution 002-2020 and direct Mayor Thomas and city staff to areas of concern. The city council may want to direct the public safety committee to further review the recommendations before taking final action.

**CITY OF MONROE
RESOLUTION NO. 002/2020**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MONROE, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE
HOMELESSNESS POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, homelessness is a national, state, regional, and local issue affecting all of Snohomish County, in both urban and rural areas, including the Skykomish Valley and the City of Monroe; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Geoffrey Thomas and the Monroe City Council adopted Resolution 001/2019 establishing a Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) in January 2019 to make non-binding recommendations on how the city should respond to issues relating to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee was formed with representation from community members, local businesses, faith based organizations, experts in mental health and drug dependency, local human service providers, and those who experienced homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the HPAC held approximately twenty meetings to understand the causes of homelessness; learn about best practices and service models from subject matter experts; and visit regional service facilities; and

WHEREAS, from these informative and educational experiences the HPAC developed recommendations in six focus areas: housing, partners, prevention, policy/budget, public safety, and support services; and

WHEREAS, in each of these categories the HPAC drafted recommendations to best express a balance of compassion and accountability and a desire to help people become able to choose a path out of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the HPAC recognized, throughout the process to develop recommendations, that homelessness is a very complex issue that exists on a very broad spectrum and there is no one size fits all solution; and

WHEREAS, the HPAC held a public open house on November 14, 2019 to share draft recommendations and take public comment; and

WHEREAS, the HPAC amended its draft recommendations based on public comment and feedback from the city council; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2020 the city council discussed the HPAC draft recommendations, and the city council directed Mayor Thomas and city staff to bring the HPAC recommendation back to the city council for final adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Adoption of Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee Recommendations. The City Council hereby adopts the recommendations of the Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Monroe, at its regular meeting thereof, and APPROVED by the Mayor this 25 day of February, 2020.

Approved: February 25, 2020
Effective: February 25, 2020

CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON

(SEAL)

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Elizabeth M. Adkisson, MMC, City Clerk

J. Zachary Lell, City Attorney

Exhibit A

Housing

- Establish Temporary-Housing in a permanent facility to serve Monroe residents with adjacent secured parking for those living in vehicles and RVs for overnight stay
- Establish a Sky Valley Housing Consortium to establish short, long-term, and alternative housing
- Increase alternative housing that includes but is not limited to men, youth, LGBTQ, and families and pets

Partners

- Establish Service Provider Networks to provide services and housing 24/7 in Sky Valley
- Increase public transportation between Monroe & Everett
- Involve other public entities in a network to prevent and end homelessness in Sky Valley
- Create an education campaign that supports affordable housing, job training, and treatment options

Prevention

- Gather and analyze accurate data about homelessness in Monroe
- Create an education campaign about homelessness: causes, prevention strategies, and alternatives
- Promote social services networks focused on youth and families

Policy/Budget

- Lobby legislators at all levels to increase funding for addiction and mental health treatment, affordable housing, job training, and support services
- Identify and lobby for new law enforcement strategies focused on personal accountability
- Engage developers in building affordable and subsidized housing
- Implement HB 1406 Explore all revenue options for housing, mental health, and chemical dependency
- Continue HPAC as standing committee Monitor progress towards implementing HPAC recommendations. Review Technical Committee recommendations.
- Adopt and fund a Six-Year Plan to fulfill HPAC's recommendations

Public Safety

- Implement law enforcement strategies and regulations that increase personal accountability and adhere to civil and personal rights

- Gather and analyze accurate data about crime in Monroe
- Initiate a residential and business crime prevention program
- Continue to budget for the Embedded Social Worker/Community Outreach
- Use technology to increase public safety and protect infrastructure.
- Implement Community Court so treatment for addiction and mental health can be offered as an alternative to jail

Support Services

- Create a coordinated homeless response center.
- Create a system of services that responds to the homeless crisis 24/7
- Establish more accessible mental health and addiction services in Monroe
- Obtain supportive services to navigate people through resources
- Support agencies that serve and promote self-reliance among people in need