



# MONROE CITY COUNCIL

Regular Study Session Meeting  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 P.M.  
Zoom Online Meeting Platform

**Mayor**  
*Geoffrey Thomas*

**Councilmembers**  
*Heather Rousey, Mayor Pro Tem;  
Patsy Cudaback; Kevin Hanford;  
Jason Gamble, Jeff Rasmussen;  
Ed Davis, & Kirk Scarboro*

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

The City Council meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Proclamation 20-28 issued by Governor Jay Inslee, in-person attendance is not permitted at this time.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present:

Rousey, Cudaback, Hanford (arrived 7:02 p.m.), Gamble (arrived 7:03 p.m.), Rasmussen, and Scarboro

Mayor Thomas noted the excused absence of Councilmember Davis.

Staff present:

Knight, Hasart, Feilberg, Jolley, Criswell, Huebner, and Christian  
Consultant Palmer and Cohen

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Cudaback.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

### STAFF/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Feilberg provided an Emergency Management update to include information that COVID numbers are down, Snohomish County remains in Phase 2, and there are various grants available for rental assistance and other COVID related impacts. Councilmember Cudaback thanked the staff for the recent road clearing efforts due to the winter storm. It was greatly appreciated. Mayor Thomas asked to also share his and the Council's appreciation for the quick road clearing response.

### COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Cudaback inquired regarding vaccine efforts at the fairgrounds. Mr. Feilberg shared that there are approximately 80,000 vaccines being administered at four Snohomish County sites. The Fairgrounds site is only administering second doses this week.

### MAYOR/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. City Administrator Update. Ms. Knight reviewed the extended agenda included in the packet materials.
2. Mayor Thomas informed the Council that staff was able to submit our transportation capital requests to the state legislature by last Friday's deadline. Mayor Thomas also informed Council that he is working to meet with County Councilmember Sam Low and other Mayors to have a meeting to continue discussions regarding #Finish522 and to have a letter finalized regarding the importance of widening SR522 and the interchange with Highway 2.



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### DISCUSSION

- 8.1. Economic Development Update – Mr. Huebner introduced the topic and provided a brief history regarding the path to this project. Project was to create a comprehensive data profile of the City to include an interactive dashboard for the website. Project also makes six recommended investments for economic development, as detailed in the agenda materials. Mr. Huebner demonstrated the dashboard. Councilmember Cudaback clarified this information can be used by new residents also and inquired if it would include local schools' analytics. Staff responded school information is not yet included. Mr. Palmer emphasized this presentation is also being done to receive feedback on what data should be included in this project. Part of the exercise is to determine what data is available as we develop our economic profile and how we can obtain the correct data points to prepare the City for economic recovery.

Dr. Cohen, High Peak Strategy, reviewed the project via PowerPoint as presented in the agenda materials. Discussion ensued regarding number of local workers, unemployment figures, education data, benchmarking against the local region, comparable cities, and the state, specifically to education levels, inclusion of crime statistics, etc. Discussion also ensued on if and how this information is affected by the local prison population and if this information can isolate out the prison demographics. Dr. Cohen expanded on the recommendations presented as part of the project and how they can improve the City's economic development efforts. Dr. Cohen also described how the dashboard has been designed so that the City can easily maintain this data into the future, the process of which he will provide to the City. Councilmember Scarboro cautioned that any efforts to increase tourism and population numbers should also consider the impacts created to existing residents, specifically as it pertains to our transportation grid.

Mayor Thomas thanked the team for the work put into this project and looks forward to any follow up on the questions that resulted from tonight's discussion. Mayor Thomas also expressed his appreciation for all the comments and discussion on this topic and the information already presented.

- 8.2. 2020 Fireworks Report – Chief Jolley gave an update on firework activity during 2020 and history on past activity data. Chief Jolley clarified the timeframes associated with any changes to local fireworks regulations. Discussion ensued about the need to include fire department data, potential reasons as to why call volumes are down, how firework activity can affect veterans, pets, others; that the lack of formal complaints does not necessarily mean there is not a problem. Discussion also included the timeframes associated with when fireworks can legally be discharged in the City, when sales can occur, that many purchases happen outside City limits, that some non-profits use the sales of legal fireworks as a fund raiser, there are potentially as many that would support allowing legal discharge as would want fireworks banned, that as the City grows and becomes denser, the need for a ban may change, the effectiveness of bans without a strong enforcement strategy, etc. Chief Jolley acknowledged that the data does not reflect the actual conditions during discharge periods but that any decision regarding fireworks is not a law enforcement decision but a livability decision. Council requested additional data to include fire district information, non-profit activity, and the Veterans Administration (VA) input.



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### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Gamble moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Cudaback seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:51 p.m.

Geoffrey Thomas (Feb 24, 2021 17:10 PST)

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Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor

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Rabecca R. Hasart, Interim City Clerk









# MCC Minutes 02-16-2021

Final Audit Report

2021-02-25

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