

**CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
April 9, 2013**

The Study Session of the Monroe City Council was held on April 9, 2013, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Pro-Tempore Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Goering, Cudaback, Williams, Kamp, Davis, Gamble, and Hanford.

It was noted that Mayor Zimmerman was absent.

Staff members present: Brazel, Warthan, Feilberg, Lande, Roberts, Popelka, Nelson, Quenzer, and Martinson.

Student Representative Harano was present.

City Attorney Zach Lell was not present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

No citizens wished to speak to Council.

BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction: 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program

Public Works Director Feilberg gave a presentation outlining the 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, which is the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. There will be a public hearing on April 16th.

After a suggestion from Council to discuss overpasses or some way to deal with trains, City Administrator Brazel explained that staff had been working on some designs for overpasses that would help with traffic jams if train traffic increased.

After discussion, it was determined that a fifteenth item: highway overpasses would be added to the list. Other items were moved to a different place on the list, as well.

2. Set Date to Consider Planning Commission Recommendation for Roosevelt Road Rezone

Public Works Director Feilberg gave a brief introduction, explaining that the Roosevelt Road Rezone has gone through the rezoning process. The next step is to set a meeting date to consider the Planning Commission's recommendations.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Hanford and seconded by Councilperson Goering, to set the date of April 16, 2013, for consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation on legislative rezone RZ 2011-01 Roosevelt Road.

After further comments, the motion was on the floor to set the date for consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

FINAL ACTION

- 1. Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 MMC/Sign Code/Second & Final Reading**
Planning and Permitting Manager Popelka gave a brief overview of the changes to the ordinance since last week, including the fact that it is now an interim ordinance.

After comments and discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback to accept as second and final reading Ordinance #002/2013 regarding Zoning Code Amendment ZCA 2012-04 amending MMC Title 18.80 Signs as proposed in Exhibit 1 and based on the Findings and Conclusions as shown in Exhibit 2.

After discussion, it was determined that changes to the ordinance would be voted on first. Motion died for lack of a second

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Kamp, to change the period of time for replacement of non-confirming signs to five years, instead of ten, with two one-year extensions, if necessary. On vote,

Motion carried 5/1.

Councilperson Goering was opposed.

Note: As Mayor Pro-Tempore, Councilperson Williams did not vote on this motion.

The motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback to add incentives to business owners for sign improvements. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

The motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Kamp to reduce the sign height from 45 feet to 35 feet on signs at Main Street and Frylands Blvd. facing Highway 522. On vote,

Motion carried 4/3.

Councilpersons Goering, Davis, and Hanford were opposed.

The motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Hanford, to restrict digital signs in the industrial park. After discussion the motion was amended to limit it to restricting digital signs in the adult entertainment area. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn and staff was directed to review this issue to discuss further in six months.

The motion was made by Councilperson Kamp and seconded by Councilperson Williams, to accept as second and final reading Ordinance #002/2013 regarding Zoning Code Amendment ZCA 2012-04 amending MMC Title 18.80 Signs as proposed in Exhibit 1 and based on the Findings and Conclusions as shown in Exhibit 2, pursuant to the modifications that have been voted on tonight by Council. Full title: *AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO THE DISPLAY OF SIGNAGE; ADOPTING INTERIM REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO RCW 35A.63.220 AND RCW 36.70A.390; AMENDING CHAPTER 18.80 OF THE MONROE MUNICIPAL CODE; REPEALING CHAPTER 7 OF THE NORTH KELSEY DESIGN GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY REFERENCE PURSUANT TO MMC 18.10.135; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND FIXING A TIME WHEN THE SAME SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.*

After further comments, the motion was on the floor to accept ordinance as second and final reading, with amendments. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

2. Lift Hiring Freeze/ Authorize Hiring Planning/Permitting Person

Human Resources Manager Warthan explained that with an employee retiring in the design and construction group, they determined that it would be best to backfill with a planning and permitting technician. This would combine all permitting into one department. They are asking for a one-month overlap to allow for training of the new person.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Hanford, to lift the hiring freeze and authorize staff to start recruiting for Planning/Permitting Technician.

After clarifying questions, the motion was on the floor to lift the hiring freeze and hire a permit/planning technician. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

MEETING RECESSED & RECONVENED IN STUDY SESSION: 749 P.M.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS:

1. Public Works Goals

Public Works Director Feilberg gave a presentation highlighting the key goals for the Public Works Departments, including Operations & Maintenance, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Design & Construction, and Planning & Permitting.

After clarifying questions from Council, the presentation ended.

2. Department Reports

Human Resources Manager Warthan commented on the tour at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which he feels would be worth others taking.

WWTP Manager Lande invited Council to tour and will plan to have an open house when construction is completed.

City Administrator Brazel suggested that, perhaps, they could have a Council meeting start at WWTP.

3. Draft Agenda for April 16, 2013

City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for April 16, 2013.

Council Committee will discuss social media policies at the committee meeting on April 16th.

Councilperson Goering suggested moving the April 23rd agenda items to May 7th.

Councilperson Cudaback asked to have information about procedures for Pro/Con Committees for the August 6th ballot measure. Deputy Clerk Martinson will provide that information to Council.

Councilperson Hanford would like to have four meetings per month, which should make the meetings shorter.

City Administrator Brazel explained that there was a developer project that would be delayed if the April 23rd meeting was cancelled (the April 23rd meeting remained on the schedule).

Finance Director Nelson explained about the error from the vendor who sends utility billings that send incorrect newsletter. The vendor is sending another one out at no cost to the City.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:11 p.m.



Thomas Williams, Mayor Pro-tempore



Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk