



MONROE CITY COUNCIL

Regular Study Session Meeting
Tuesday, August 17, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Zoom Online Meeting Platform

Mayor
Geoffrey Thomas

Councilmembers
*Heather Fulcher, 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 meetings are not being held at this time.

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

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present:

Fulcher, Cudaback, Davis, Gamble, Rasmussen (at 7:01 p.m.), and Scarboro. Councilmember Hanford was excused.

Staff present:

Knight, Hasart, Warthan, Swanson, Jolley, Farrell, Criswell, Huebner, Ladwig, Christian, and City Consultant Justin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Davis.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Thomas and Ms. Knight introduced Senator Keith Wagoner and Representative Carolyn Eslick. Senator Wagoner began by introducing himself and spoke about the recent State legislative session.

Councilmember Cudaback thanked him for his service and inquired about what it would take to keep open the Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC) units slated for closure. Senator Wagoner shared he inquired but has not received a response. Representative Eslick shared her research indicates the MCC has been intending to close these units for decades and she has been told it is very expensive to operate this facility. Eslick does not feel they will be changing this decision and shared additional details she learned regarding this issue. Representative Eslick is very concerned and is monitoring this issue. Senator Wagoner agrees it may be expensive but this is one of the better facilities with well operated programs that helped the inmates.

Councilmember Rasmussen thanked both Senator Wagoner and Representative Eslick for their service and thanked them for monitoring the issue with the MCC. Rasmussen understands the staffing issues in regard to stress and inquired if discussion has occurred to address the work environment and if there was discussion about addressing the extra room helping mitigate potential impacts of COVID. Senator Wagoner shared his thoughts on the reason for the MCC closures. Representative Eslick responded that talk is about reducing space but increasing inmates. She also agreed with Wagoner's assessment for the closures.

Councilmember Scarboro asked if the high expenses associated with MCC are due to the programs or the age of the buildings. Representative Eslick responded both.

Representative Eslick introduced herself and spoke regarding the last year to include sharing the challenges associated with attending the legislative session remotely.



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Councilmember Scarboro thanked both Senator Wagoner and Representative Eslick for their time and for sharing their information tonight. He appreciates the direct interaction.

Councilmember Rasmussen thanked both for their service.

Representative Eslick shared an idea about using the far-right lane on SR522 for school buses. Councilmember Scarboro shared what he knows on why buses cannot use the right lane.

Councilmember Gamble expressed appreciation for Senator Wagoner and Representative Eslick for their representation of Monroe and thanked them both for coming tonight and sharing.

Mr. Justin thanked both for their representation and shared two examples of what the Senator and the Representative have done for the City of Monroe this last legislative session.

Mayor Thomas echoed what everyone has said and thanked both for their service to the City of Monroe.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – there were no public comments.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Rasmussen thanked everyone who came to the Lake Tye All Weather Fields' ribbon cutting ceremony. It was a great event and he has had opportunity to visit the fields since. It is great to see the various people and groups utilizing the fields.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Ms. Knight reviewed the extended agenda included in the packet materials.

Ms. Knight shared that the City's American Rescue Plan Act applications are now available.

Ms. Knight updated regarding Imagine Monroe. Work is in progress with the Sounding Boards on the draft vision statements.

Ms. Knight shared the 2022 Budget process in underway.

Ms. Knight invited Mr. Swanson to share information regarding the Countywide Planning Policies and the City's Comprehensive Plan process to include an update on the timelines involved (attachment 1).

Mayor Thomas shared the latest edition of Monroe This Week is in the packet and noted that Father Bloom has invited the Council to an event to be held this Sunday.



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DISCUSSION

- 8.1. Washington State Long Term Care Tax Update – Mr. Christian provided an update on the program and reviewed the materials provided in the meeting packet.

Councilmember Scarboro inquired if the premium is based on just the City income or all income. Staff will follow up on this item.

Councilmember Cudaback asked if the maximum benefit is \$36,500. Staff responded yes.

Councilmember Gamble clarified the benefit has to be used in Washington state. Staff concurred. Gamble asked if those hired after the opt out deadline would still be able to opt out upon hire. Staff responded it does not appear so.

Mr. Christian added that the state's program premium goes up as the employee's wages goes up.

Councilmember Gamble inquired if the Council would be eligible for the AWC program. Staff is researching this and will follow up.

Councilmember Cudaback asked if long term disability offered through another employer can be used to opt out. Staff responded you can opt out but cautioned that long term disability insurance is different from long term care insurance; be sure the other offering qualifies.

- 8.2. Imagine Monroe Community Survey Results – Ms. Knight reviewed the information provided in the meeting materials.

Councilmember Gamble stated it felt like some of the highlighted verbatim statements were low on the statistics side; this seems to not line up. Gamble stated the demographics were interesting.

Councilmember Cudaback thanked Ms. Knight for sharing this information and stated she also noticed what Councilmember Gamble noticed. There seems to be a disconnect on some items and Councilmember Cudaback provided examples such as family activities versus entertainment.

Councilmember Cudaback stated staff did a great job in the number of responses received. Ms. Knight commended the City's Interns, Ms. Sorgen and Ms. Edwards, for the outreach effort.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:40 p.m.


Geoffrey Thomas (Aug 25, 2021 16:46 PDT)

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor



Rebecca R. Hasart, Interim City Clerk

TIMELINE

	Project/Task	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	PSRC Vision 2050	—————	—————				
2	Snohomish County Buildable Lands	—————	—————	—————			
3	Countywide Planning Policy Update		—————	—————			
4	2020 Census/OFM Forecast			—————	—————		
5	City's Comprehensive Plan Update				—————	—————	—————
6	State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review				—————	—————	—————
7	Planning Commission Process					—————	—————
8	City Council Process					-----	-----
9	Public Participation				—————	—————	—————



MCC Minutes 08-17-2021

Final Audit Report

2021-08-25

Created:	2021-08-25
By:	Becky Hasart (bhasart@monroewa.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAvaiuyPmiv8vSW__tEdh5L_35DODyEPOg

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