



MONROE CITY COUNCIL

Business Meeting
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Zoom Online Meeting Platform

MINUTES

Mayor
Geoffrey Thomas

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

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Fulcher, Davis, Rasmussen, Gamble, and Scarboro.
Councilmembers Hanford and Cudaback were excused.

Staff present:

Knight, Hasart, Feilberg, Swanson, Jolley, Farrell, Roberts, Criswell, Huebner, Christian, Haley, Judge Ness, Marrero, Wycoff, and City Attorney Lell

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Rasmussen.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

4.1 - Proclamation: Purple Heart City

Mayor Thomas introduced this item and read aloud a proclamation declaring City of Monroe a Purple Heart City. Terry D. Stinson, Post Commander, Ward Roney Jr. VFW Post 7511, gave a brief history of the Purple Heart Trail. Mayor Thomas asked Council to join him in the declaration by authorizing staff to affix their signatures on the proclamation.

Motion: *Councilmember Fulcher moved* to authorize staff to affix their signatures on the proclamation declaring City of Monroe a Purple Heart City. *Councilmember Gamble seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

4.2 – Brad Feilberg Recognition

Mayor Thomas, Council, and staff recognized and thanked Brad Feilberg for his years of service to the City and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patricia Bauccio, Roosevelt Ridge, expressed her concerns regarding the upcoming public hearing for the Woodlands Annexation. Ms. Bauccio stated that she believes the packet documents provided do not include information against the annexation that was provided by the Roosevelt Ridge Homeowner's Association. Ms. Bauccio spoke in opposition of splitting the neighborhood for this annexation.

James Harrigan, resident, spoke about Community Land Trust as a tool for affordable housing and invited Council to watch an upcoming webinar about the Community Land Trust later this week.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 - AP/ACH Approvals through 11/17/2021

6.2 - City Council Meeting Minutes 11/09/2021

6.3 - City Council Meeting Minutes 11/16/2021

6.4 – Solid Waste contract renewal with Republic Services

6.5 - Authorize the Mayor to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement Monroe Police Officer's Guild

Motion: *Councilmember Rasmussen moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Gamble seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 – Establish Annexation Public Hearing Date

Ben Swanson, representing Community Development, introduced this item and explained that pursuant to RCW 35A.14.130, code cities must formally establish a public hearing date for final action associated with an annexation. The proposed date for the Woodlands Annexation public hearing is January 11, 2022.

Motion: *Councilmember Gamble moved to set the public hearing date for the Woodlands Annexation on January 11, 2022. Councilmember Scarboro seconded. The motion passed 5-0.*

7.2 – Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) Grant Award Recommendations

Rich Huebner, Management Analyst, introduced this item and gave a brief history of the grant award process. Mr. Huebner explained that LTAC has decided to do two grant cycles in 2022 with the first cycle covering programs and events for the first half of the year and the second cycle, which will start in early Spring, to cover the second half of the year. Mr. Huebner then reviewed LTAC's recommendations and answered questions from Council.

Motion: *Councilmember Gamble moved to approve the lodging tax grant award recommendations as provided by the City's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC); authorize the Mayor to execute contracts with the recipients; and expressly authorize further minor revisions as deemed necessary or appropriate. Councilmember Rasmussen seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

7.3 – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Therapeutic Court Grant Program

Jessica Ness, Municipal Judge, introduced this item and gave a presentation to review the benefits of Community Court and explain how Community Court differs from traditional Criminal Court. Judge Ness also discussed the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Therapeutic Court Grant Program, including the particular fiscal impacts of the grant award that Monroe Municipal Court received. Jeff Jolley, Police Chief, spoke on the benefits of a Community Court from the Police Department's perspective.

Motion: *Councilmember Gamble moved to accept a grant from Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in the amount of \$158,779.00 for the purposes of identifying individuals before Monroe Municipal Court with substance use disorders or other behavioral health needs and engage those individuals with community-based therapeutic interventions; authorize Judge Ness to sign the Grant Agreement with AOC; and expressly authorize further minor revisions to the extent deemed necessary or appropriate. Councilmember Fulcher seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Award Recommendations

Rich Huebner, Management Analyst, explained that during the November 9, 2021 meeting, Council approved many of the recommendations. Two of the recommendations were removed from the motion because Councilmember's needed to recuse themselves due to a remote interest and there was not a quorum of Council to vote on the motion unless the items were removed. The two recommendations this evening are for M & M Antiques and Monroe Public Schools Foundation.

Councilmember Scarboro recused himself from voting to approve M & M Antiques' award due to a remote interest as his spouse has a booth inside the store.

Motion: *Councilmember Rasmussen moved to approve the M & M Antiques' American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award recommendation as provided by the City's review committees. Councilmember Gamble seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*

Councilmember Gamble recused himself from voting to approve Monroe Public Schools Foundation's award due to a remote interest as he is on the Board of Directors.

Motion: *Councilmember Rasmussen moved to approve the Monroe Public Schools Foundation's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award recommendation as provided by the City's review committees. Councilmember Scarboro seconded. Motion passed 4-0.*

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 – Draft Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan

Ben Swanson, Parks Manager, introduced Cindy Mendoza, Director of Parks and Recreation with MIG. Ms. Mendoza gave a presentation to review highlights of the draft PROS Plan including the purpose of the Plan, the various elements of the Plan, community engagement during the update process, future needs, vision, goal, and recommendations. Ms. Mendoza then reviewed the implementation plan, costs and funding strategies. Lastly, Ms. Mendoza reviewed next steps in the process and answered questions from Council.

9.2 – 2022 Draft Legislative Priorities

Deborah Knight, City Administrator, reviewed the 2022 draft Legislative Priorities and explained that the Legislative Affairs Committee has reviewed the following list and approved it to go to full Council as presented: 1. Include SR522 widening and intersection improvements in the transportation package; 2. Clarify ambiguous language in SB5051 and HB1310; 3. Fund a Mobile Crisis Response program; and 4. Support a capital budget request for the City's municipal campus improvements. Mayor Thomas stated that beginning 2023, Monroe will be in a new legislative district.

9.3 – Imagine Monroe Draft Vision Statement

Mayor Thomas reviewed the history of developing the proposed Vision Statement and read the draft Vision Statement aloud. After discussion, Council expressed a desire to include a statement about regional connections in the final draft. The following is the draft Vision Statement that will be presented for final adoption at the next meeting:

Imagine Monroe: A lively center surrounded by nature. A place of beauty and goodwill. Our parks, waterways, and environment are healthy and accessible for everyone to enjoy. Our historic downtown and business districts are thriving and full of locally owned businesses and locally sourced products. We can find everything we need with regional connections and a variety of choices for work, housing, dining, shopping, arts, and activities. Friendly and responsive, we strengthen connections through gathering spaces, events, services, and community-centered infrastructure – creating a safe place for all. In Monroe, everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong.

10. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Rasmussen expressed his concerns about what is happening in the School District right now and said that we need all partners to work together to move forward and he hopes that the District works swiftly to address the issues and make changes. Councilmember Rasmussen thanked the Police Department for their quick response to recent incidents.

Councilmember Gamble expressed his concerns about how people are making personal attacks against each other on social media and said we need to heal as a community and the City and City Council can play a part in that healing.

Councilmember Fulcher thanked Chief Jolley for his three years of service and said that he has helped to improve the culture within the Department.

Councilmember Scarboro thanked Councilmember Rasmussen for his mentorship and support.

11. STAFF/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

11.1 – Community Development Department

Stacy Criswell, Development Services Manager/Building Official, presented the October and November 2021 reports as included in the meeting packet and highlighted that Jesse Lether, Permit Technician, was awarded the Washington State Permit Tech Association (WSAPT) Member of the Year award.

11.2 - Emergency Management Report

Brad Feilberg, Public Works Director, shared the most recent case counts regarding COVID.

12. MAYOR/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

12.1 – Extended Agenda

Deborah Knight, City Administrator, reviewed the extended agenda as presented in the meeting packet and reminded everyone that the December 14, 2021 meeting is the last meeting of the year.

12.2 – City Administrator Report

Ms. Knight reported that the annual bake sale raised over \$1,650 for the food bank and residents in need and said that there are Toys for Tots bins at City Hall and the Police Department until December 15th. Ms. Knight gave kudos to Vicki Thayer, Utility Billing Assistant, and announced that Jordon Ottow was just elected to the Board of Directors for the Washington chapter of the American Public Works Association. Lastly, Ms. Knight asked Council to review two letters she sent from the Community Human Services Advisory Board.

12.3 – Mayor's Report

Mayor Thomas said it has been a pleasure working with City Council this past year.

Councilmember Fulcher moved to extend the Council meeting beyond 10:00 p.m. Councilmember Scarboro seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

13. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

13.1 – Outgoing Councilmember Recognition

Mayor Thomas, Council, and staff recognized and thanked Councilmember Jeff Rasmussen for his years of service as a Park Board Member and Councilmember. Staff showed a slide show highlighting various events and programs Councilmember Rasmussen was involved in during his tenure. Councilmember Rasmussen reflected on his years serving as an appointed, then elected, official of City of Monroe and thanked fellow Councilmembers, Mayor Thomas, staff, his family, and the voters for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: *Councilmember Rasmussen moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Gamble seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:19 p.m.


Geoffrey Thomas (Dec 15, 2021 21:01 HST)

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor


Jodi Wycoff (Dec 16, 2021 10:40 PST)

Jodi Wycoff, City Clerk

MCC Minutes 12-07-2021

Final Audit Report

2021-12-16

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