



MONROE THIS WEEK

March 1, 2024

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



I will be issuing a [Proclamation](#) recognizing the month of March as [Women's History Month](#), and March 8 as [International Women's Day](#). In 1987 Congress designated the month of March as Women's History Month, to honor women's contributions through history. International Women's Day is dedicated to the global celebration of women's achievements, the recognition of biases against women, and a call for action for equality, equity, inclusion, and justice for women everywhere. Here in Monroe, women serve in our community in many places including in businesses, nonprofits, and government, and I am thankful for the contributions of each of the women working for the City of Monroe, including the following women in leadership roles: Councilmember Tami Beaumont, Councilmember Heather Fulcher, Judge Jessica Ness, City Administrator Deborah Knight, Finance Director Becky Hasart, Court Administrator Pam Haley, and City Clerk Jodi Wycoff. I encourage all residents to read the full text of the Proclamation, and I call upon everyone to listen to women's voices, to genuinely honor the inherent value of every woman, and to take actions to remove inequities, unjust rules, and cultural norms that limit women from realizing the blessings of liberty in



all its forms as men can.

I hope you all enjoy this week's edition of Monroe This Week which features details on:

- Updated building codes
- The 2023 Economic Development Annual Report
- Vacancies on the CHSAB
- Recent oaths of office
- The new edition of Choose Monroe
- An upcoming restoration event
- A summary of the Feb. 27 City Council meeting

Please reach out to me with what may be on your mind about and for Monroe. I can be contacted at GThomas@MonroeWA.gov.

Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

UPDATED BUILDING CODES TAKE EFFECT MARCH 15

Effective March 15, 2024, cities and counties will implement the [2021 editions of the Washington State Building Codes](#). Completed building permit applications received by our Permit Center before March 15, 2024, will be vested, and reviewed for compliance under the 2018 codes. Completed building permit applications received on or after March 15, 2024, will be reviewed for compliance under the 2021 editions. For a list of the Washington State Building Codes visit our [Permitting webpage](#).

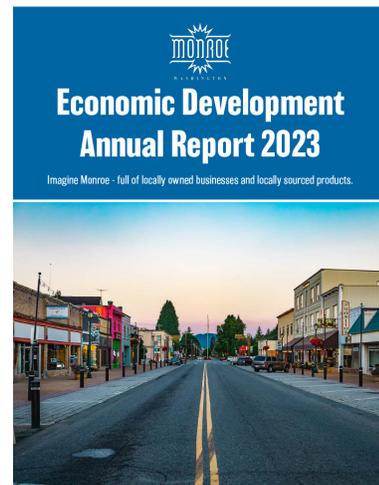


You may be considering a home improvement project such as a new deck, addition, or remodel and have questions about building permit requirements, the application process, and inspections. If so, you are encouraged to read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) about building permits prior to applying. Building permit application forms are available online ([Residential Building Permit](#)) ([Commercial Building Permit](#)), at City Hall, and by email or mail.

For questions or to request application forms, reach out to our Permit Center staff at **360-863-4501** or building@monroewa.gov. Our Permit Center business hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Permit Center is closed 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

2023 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Our Economic Development Office has released its [2023 Annual Report](#). The Report is an informative tool for us to look at last year's economic snapshot while looking ahead at ways to strengthen our local economy. Included in this annual report are findings from a survey of Monroe businesses about their perspectives of economic activity in Monroe and what challenges they face in the coming year.



Key findings:

- Monroe's population and diversity have increased.
- Monroe has a diverse and stable local economy with services, manufacturing, and retail trade as the top three industry sectors.
- Trade, construction, food services, wholesale, and administration & support/waste management & remediation services are the top sales tax contributors, which help pay for city services.
- Monroe business owners remain optimistic about revenue projections for 2024 and will either maintain or increase staffing levels.
- Business owners are concerned about rising prices, the cost of doing business, and finding qualified workers.

To view the report and learn about our economic development services, click [here](#). To subscribe to "Monroe Business," our monthly newsletter, visit our ["Sign Up For" page](#).

Please contact Patrick Doherty, our Economic Development Coordinator at **360-631-0050** or pdoherty@monroewa.gov for assistance.

VACANCIES ON THE COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

The City of Monroe is fortunate to have community members serve on its boards, commissions, and committees. These volunteers show they care about Monroe by working with others and sharing their insights about issues in the community.

We are currently seeking community members who are committed to serving others and are willing to contribute their time and expertise as a member of the [Community Human Services Advisory Board](#) (CHSAB). Members of the CHSAB are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, serving up to four-year terms.



Monroe's [Human Services Program](#) offers many services to help our

community's most vulnerable youth, adults, and families. Through our program, the City helps with housing assistance, utilities, food, treatment programs, medical care and social/emotional wellness. We strive to help people in need to overcome barriers to obtaining the services they need.

The CHSAB plays an important role in advising the Mayor and the City Council on matters related to human services, ensuring that the diverse needs of our community are effectively represented.

To be considered to serve on the CHSAB, please download the application and email the completed form to cityclerk@monroewa.gov.

EXCITING OATHS OF OFFICE

At Tuesday's City Council Meeting, we had the honor of administering the oath of office to three (3) new police officers and two (2) community service officers (CSOs). Police Chief Jeff Jolley introduced each of the new team members, and our Municipal Court Judge, Jessica Ness, officiated their oaths of office.

I want to express my gratitude for the Council's support in funding a second CSO position, secured through the end of 2024. The Community Service Officer role is crucial for both the [Police Department](#) and our community. Responsibilities encompass participation in the cross-departmental code enforcement team, enforcement of parking and animal control regulations, and facilitation of various community events and crime prevention measures. With the addition of a second CSO, we can now ensure coverage seven days a week across the community, reinforcing our commitment to Imagine Monroe.

To Officer Cangialosi, Officer Larsen, Officer Krug, CSO Haverly, and CSO Johnston, I extend my heartfelt thanks for choosing to share your talents with the City of Monroe. We eagerly anticipate and appreciate your contributions.



LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING CHOOSE MONROE

The newest edition of Choose Monroe has been released. This issue focuses on businesses located within the industrial area of the city, highlighting Auto Repair and Home Improvement retailers. It's the perfect time of year to focus on those 'fix it' projects.

This publication also gives an update on the Municipal Campus Improvement Project and a new property purchased by the City. Learn about a variety of cuisines near the industrial area and mark your calendar with all the fun events coming up in Monroe!

City residents should receive the issue in the mail this week. Hard copies will also be available at local events and businesses. Or, read online [here](#).



SOUND SALMON'S UPCOMING RESTORATION EVENT

Looking for a fun way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Join Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS) on March 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a day of riparian restoration contributing to the health of the Skykomish River! SSS is seeking volunteers to assist in grubbing (removing) English Ivy and other invasive vegetation. Invasive species are those that are introduced by humans and out-compete native species. They often lack the deep root structures that prevent erosion and can shade out or even fall our native trees. Removing invasive vegetation is vital to habitat restoration to ensure the newly planted native trees and shrubs will have an opportunity to flourish thus restoring salmon spawning habitat. This is a family-friendly volunteer event. Exact address will be shared with registered participants. Register [here](#) today!



FEBRUARY 27 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The City Council met in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, February 27. The following items were discussed and acted upon during the meeting:

Announcements/Presentations:

- Judge Jessica Ness administered oaths of office for new Police Community Service Officers and Police Officers.

Public Hearing:

After the hearing closed, Council approved the following:

- Resolution 2024-004 adopting a six-year Transportation Improvement Program for the years 2024-2029

Consent Agenda – Items considered routine and approved by one vote:

- Accounts Payable claims through February 6, 2024



- Adopt Resolution 2024-002 repealing the City's existing Finance policy title "Meeting Attendance Travel and Meal Reimbursement credit card No. 2003-017" and adopting the Travel Status Policy No. 2024-002 effective immediately
- Authorize the Mayor to sign the 2024 Agreement for Services with Skyhawks Sports Academy, Inc
- Accept as second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 001/2024, amending the 2019 Shoreline Master Program (SMP) to incorporate the Washington State Department of Ecology changes to the SMP for the final approval/certification of Monroe's SMP
- Authorize the Mayor to sign professional services contract No. 2024-015 with ROEWE Works for North Kelsey redevelopment conceptual site planning, sketches, view analysis not to exceed \$4,000
- Authorize the Mayor to sign professional services agreement No. 2024-016 with Forum Placemaking for North Kelsey redevelopment economic impact analysis not to exceed \$10,500
- Adopt Resolution 2024-006 declaring StarChase, LLC as the sole source supplier of the StarChase Vehicle Mounted Tagging and Tracking Deployment System, and authorizing the waiver of otherwise applicable competitive purchasing requirements in order to procure the same
- Authorize staff to accept a grant from the WA State Department of Commerce and execute the purchase of StarChase Vehicle Mounted Tagging system
- Adopt Resolution 2024-005 supporting the City's United States Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program application for Federal funding to support rail and road improvements in the City
- Authorize Mayor to sign Memorandum of Understanding with the Monroe Police Officer's Guild.

New Business – reviewed, discussed and approved the following new items:

- Council approved the Second Amendment to Contract Number 2022-102, directing funding for Take the Next Step Mental Health Services

Unfinished Business:

- Monroe 30 Annexation: Notice of Intention to Commence Annexation: Initial Meeting

After discussions with the applicant, Council approved the following:

- Direct staff to prepare and return for the City Council's consideration a resolution accepting the annexation boundary of the ten percent (10%) annexation petition for the property located in an unincorporated area in the Northwest Urban Growth Area, and to require the assumption of existing indebtedness of the City by the area to be annexed; to authorize the circulation of a petition for annexation of the property, subject to the zoned designation set forth in Ordinance 018-2019, and consistent with this motion; and to direct the City Clerk to record this action in the official minutes.
- Council approved the Community Human Services Advisory Board recommendations of awarding the 2023/2024 Human Services Awards as follows:
 - \$250,000.00 awarded to St. Vincent de Paul
 - \$30,000.00 awarded to Monroe Gospel Womens Mission

- \$20,000.00 awarded to Cocoon House

Staff Reports:

- Community Development
- Finance
- Police

Mayor/City Administrator Reports:

- City Administrator Deborah Knight showed recent pictures of work on the Municipal Campus Renovation Project

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The City Council will next meet in a Regular Study Session Meeting on Tuesday, March 5. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format; members of the public may participate in Monroe City Council meetings either in-person at our [temporary location](#) (Monroe School District Administration Building, 14692 179th Ave SE) or remotely via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Participation information will be posted with the March 5 agenda, which can be accessed by clicking the button below.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Jacob Walker



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Fulcher



Councilmember
Tami Beaumont



Councilmember
Kyle Fisher

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov



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