



# MONROE THIS WEEK

October 25, 2024



*As we approach the end of October, I take a moment to reflect and thank our residents, businesses, and visitors for everything you do that makes our community special. It is because of you that we are able to continue to work towards our vision of **Imagine Monroe**, where everyone feels at home and everyone feels they belong.*



*This week's edition of Monroe This Week highlights:*

- *City's Budget*
- *Proposed Code Amendments for Downtown*
- *Proposition 1: Levy Lid Lift for Community Services*
- *Network Maintenance Notification*
- *Street Sweeping Underway*

*Please reach out to me with what may be on your mind about and for*

Yours in Service,



Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

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## COUNCIL CONTINUES BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

City of Monroe  
**2025-2026 Biennial Budget  
Public Hearing**



**Nov. 12, 2024 7 p.m. MonroeWA.gov**

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, the Monroe City Council held its **second public hearing** on my **Recommended 2025-2026 Biennial Budget** and received a **detailed presentation** on anticipated expenditures and revenues that support the various fund accounts.

A third and final public hearing on the **Recommended Budget** will be held on Tues., Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. for the Council and me to receive public input. Following the hearing, the Council will have first reading on ordinances to adopt the Budget and the 2025 Property Tax levy.

City Administrator Deborah Knight shared the goals of city departments as they are reflected in the **Recommended Budget** and listed below in alignment with the City's **Imagine Monroe Vision Statement** and **Strategic Priorities**.

- **Creates Accessible Parks and Healthy Waterways** by planning improvements at Trombley Park, building a biosolids treatment plan, and evaluating the city's urban forest.
- **Supports Local Businesses** through promotion campaigns highlighting Monroe's unique restaurants, shops, and services, investing in downtown flower baskets, and planning for the future Festival Lot at the Union Bank building.
- **Builds Community** through acquisition and development of a community gathering space downtown and improvements to Lake Tye and Currie View Parks.
- **Assures Friendliness and Responsiveness** of City services through technology upgrades and completing the **Municipal Campus remodel** of City Hall/Council Chambers and Monroe Municipal Court.

- **Creates and Strengthens Connections** by investing in crosswalk and railroad safety improvements. An additional park maintenance worker will be hired to support our growing number of community events and activities. The **Recommended Budget** also supports the launch of the City's new brand as well as legislative advocacy for community priorities such as **#Finish522**.
- **Ensures a Safe Place for All** by continuing to invest in law enforcement, human services, therapeutic court, and code enforcement. Additionally, traffic calming efforts and installing a traffic signal at 147<sup>th</sup>/179<sup>th</sup> Ave SE are funded.

View the **Mayor's Recommended 2025-2026 Biennial Budget online** or through a physical copy that can be provided at the Monroe Public Library and City Hall.

## **DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL CODES CONTINUED DISCUSSION AT OCT. 29 SPECIAL MEETING**



**DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL ZONE  
PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS  
City Council Special Meeting Oct. 29  
5:30 p.m.**

A follow-up presentation on the proposed code amendments to the **Downtown Commercial Zoning District** is scheduled for the **Oct. 29 City Council Special Meeting**. Additional information will be presented in response to questions raised during the **Oct. 22 Public Hearing** and first reading of **Ordinance 002-2024**.

On Oct. 29, the City Council is expected to have second reading of **Ordinance 002-2024**.

**Proposed amendments** to Monroe's Municipal Code (MMC) for the Downtown Commercial Zoning District recommend allowing civic uses, uses associated with a banquet/conference/events facility and uses related to membership organizations. Some of the proposed amendments stem from the City's purchase of the Union Bank building for a future Festival Lot and to clarify the ability to have an events facility as an allowed use in Downtown.

The proposed changes establish these uses either as a permitted use (e.g. tenant improvement or change of use) which may require a city building permit or a conditional use which requires a more extensive approval to receive a city permit. **View the proposed Downtown Area Planning Area Map** which depicts the Downtown Promenade, East Downtown, Residential Neighborhood and Historic Main neighborhoods within the Downtown Commercial Zoning District. NOTE: The boundaries of the Downtown

Neighborhoods are not proposed to change.

If you are interested in learning more about these proposed amendments, please view draft changes available on the [Code Amendments webpage](#) and [read staff memo](#) and [watch the video](#) from the Oct. 15 City Council meeting. Although the Oct. 29 Special Meeting is not a public hearing, public comments (oral) may be given in-person at the beginning of the City Council meeting. The City Council packet materials will be [posted online](#) by the end of today.

Should you have specific questions about the proposed code amendments, please contact Amy Bright, Planner, at [abright@monroewa.gov](mailto:abright@monroewa.gov) or 360-863-4533.

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## PROPOSITION 1: PUBLIC SAFETY IMPACTS

Monroe is currently served by one permanent Community Services Officer (CSOs) and one temporary CSO in the Police Department. CSOs respond to nuisance, parking and animal control issues and represent the Department at community events. Residents and businesses are requesting enhanced police services and community safety programs, such as National Night Out Against Crime, Community Academy and Walk-Roll-Stroll to School.



On the Nov. 5 ballot is **Proposition 1: Monroe's Levy Lid Lift for Community Services**. The City's Proposition 1 proposes an increase to the City's property levy rate by 22 cents (\$0.22) per \$1,000 assessed property value. If approved, the City's Proposition 1 would provide dedicated funding to permanently hire the second CSO and one public safety position that would best support community needs and invest in parks maintenance.

**Watch this quick video** for an overview of the impacts Proposition 1 would have on public safety and parks services for the City.

A 2019 Police Department staffing study recommended additional CSO personnel to support the community's value for feeling safe. Funding for the temporarily funded CSO position has been supported from unfilled police officer positions (salaries) and ends this year. The Police Department is currently operating with two officer vacancies which puts strains and stresses on department personnel.

Having a second CSO would allow for 7 days/week coverage to respond to

abandoned vehicles, parking violations and animal control complaints. If the ballot does not pass, CSO staffing will revert to partial work-week coverage, impacting response times and Police Department participation in community events would be limited.

Please review **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs) about Monroe's Proposition 1 and visit [MonroeWA.gov/Proposition1](http://MonroeWA.gov/Proposition1) to learn more.

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## NETWORK MAINTENANCE SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 30 AND NOV. 5

A blue and yellow graphic for network maintenance. It features the Monroe logo in the top left, a crossed wrench and screwdriver icon, and the text: "Network Maintenance", "City phone & email will be unavailable:", "Oct. 30 from 10-11 a.m. & 5 p.m.- 12 a.m.", "Nov. 5 from 10-11 a.m.", and the website "www.monroewa.gov" on a yellow background.

**Network Maintenance**  
City phone & email will be unavailable:  
Oct. 30 from 10-11 a.m. & 5 p.m.- 12 a.m.  
Nov. 5 from 10-11 a.m.  
[www.monroewa.gov](http://www.monroewa.gov)

The City is performing routine maintenance on its network systems which will impact the public's ability to reach City departments by phone and email. The maintenance is scheduled for Wed., Oct 30 from 10 -11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to midnight and again on Tues. Nov. 5 from 10 – 11

a.m. 9-1-1 will not be affected, as emergency dispatch for police, fire, and medical services are operated by Snohomish County.

“Monroe Listens,” our online customer service request feature, **GIS map portal** , and **public bulk water fill station** will also not be available during these times. “**Monroe Listens**,” is a feature on our website that allows you to submit questions and service requests that are forwarded to the appropriate staff member for follow-up. Our **GIS map portal** hosts maps pertaining to addresses, utilities, flood plain, zoning, Comprehensive Plan, and current development. Our **public bulk water fill station**, located at 843 Village Way, provides potable drinking water to established customers. Other than the temporary disruption during network maintenance, these online tools are available 24/7.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

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## STREET SWEEPING UNDERWAY

There's no denying that fall brings falling leaves. And our Public Works crews have been sweeping streets to collect leaves and debris. We ask homeowners and their landscapers not to blow or sweep leaves from private property into the roadway. It would also help greatly if garbage/recycling carts were removed immediately following collection day. We have a lot of ground to cover, and we appreciate

your help.



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## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The next special City Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. To view the meeting agenda, click the button below. City Council meetings are re-broadcasted on the **City's YouTube Channel (@MonroeWA)**.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)



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](mailto:Councilmembers@MonroeWA.gov)



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