



October 1, 2024

RE: Downtown Monroe

The City of Monroe and its residents sincerely value our downtown and our business community. On behalf of our community as a whole, we thank you for choosing Monroe as your place to do business.

We are aware of social media posts throughout August and September showing that our existing plans and regulations for downtown may not reflect the Monroe community's vision today.

When the Downtown Master Plan was developed in 2008, our community envisioned a strong, sustainable economy anchored by a healthy, vibrant Main Street. (More information about the master plan can be found at <https://wa-monroe.civicplus.com/730/Resources>). Since the plan was adopted, the City of Monroe has worked in partnership with businesses to achieve this vision, including completing projects such as:

- Widening the sidewalks to encourage walking and window shopping along the street.
- Adding decorative lighting along Main St.
- Installing new planter pots, hanging flower baskets, benches, trash receptacles, cigarette urns and bicycle racks.
- Installing distinctive gateway and wayfinding signs.
- Expanding human services capacity and response.
- Acquiring the Union Bank property to increase downtown parking and develop a future festival lot event space.
- Offering no-cost building and land use permits to encourage improvement and renovation of downtown businesses.
- Installing art sculptures to enhance community and visitor downtown experience.
- Completing a parking study to better understand the dynamics of the existing parking in and around the downtown area.

The city's codes were designed to achieve the vision of a vibrant Main Street, where people can shop, meet friends for coffee or a meal, and admire the charming architecture. Historic buildings are a critical resource that contribute to the character and heritage of Monroe. City codes and policies are intended to preserve that character in order to attract customers and boost business throughout our city.

While the city, building owners, and businesses have made a significant investment into our downtown to realize the community vision that is in code, times change and people's vision for our community shifts. The City of Monroe would like to hear from you to better understand how the city's vision has or has not changed. You can send an email to councilmembers@monroewa.gov or call 360-794-7400. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you, truly, for all you do to keep our community thriving.

Respectfully,



Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor



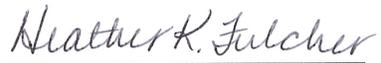
Kevin Hanford, Mayor Pro Tem



Jason Gamble,
Councilmember



Kirk Scarboro,
Councilmember



Heather K. Fulcher,
Councilmember



Tami Beaumont,
Councilmember



Kyle Fisher,
Councilmember



Jacob Walker,
Councilmember