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City Council Approves Extension of Monroe Community Library Services IGA

On Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at a Special Council Session, the Monroe City Council approved a 90-day extension of the Monroe Community Library Services Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The current IGA is set to expire on Sunday, June 30, 2024. With this extension, once signed by all parties, it will extend the effective date of the current IGA to Monday, September 30, 2024.

The extension will allow additional time for the City of Monroe to continue negotiations and seek agreement to amend and renew the IGA, which dates back to August 23, 2010, with the City of Corvallis which manages the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library System. The extension will be effective once all parties, which include the City of Monroe, City of Corvallis, and Benton County, sign it and the terms and conditions of the 2010 IGA will remain in full force and effect.

Once the extension is signed by all parties, the Monroe City Council will continue to have a fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of Monroe to ensure all tax dollars are maximized for the benefit of the City of Monroe and its citizens. The current IGA was signed in 2010 and does not factor in changes to Monroe over the last 14 years. The City of Monroe has grown and continues to grow. The cost of maintaining a city continues to increase. The primary source of funding to maintain the city's infrastructure including water, wastewater, storm water, streets, parks and buildings is property taxes. There are no other significant sources of funding. Funds and human resources are limited in Monroe. Funds for water and wastewater management have the priority in Monroe, which leaves insufficient funding to effectively maintain buildings such as the Library.

The City of Monroe is requesting the City of Corvallis, which manages the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library System, to share the cost of operating and maintaining the library. Currently the City of Monroe and its citizens are straddled with these costs. The City of Monroe is requesting the City of Corvallis cover just the library's share of janitorial services and utilities.

The City of Monroe recognizes the Monroe Community Library as an important asset to all residents, both Monroe citizens and Benton County residents. The City of Monroe is working with legal counsel, the City of Corvallis, and Benton County resources to determine the best path forward that is sustainable for the community and equitable for our citizens.

The City of Monroe and Monroe City Council look forward to signing and finalizing a new IGA with the City of Corvallis that is mutually beneficial to all parties and, more importantly, our citizens.

For questions, please contact Monroe City Hall at (541) 847-5175.

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