

City Council Minutes
March 24, 2014

Mayor Thayer called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Present: Councilors, Paul Canter, Harry Myers, Lonnie Koroush, Cindy Canter, and Donna Dillard; and Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard. Councilor Ron Thexton was excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alison Gavyn, Monroe Library Clerk, gave the Council an update on operations and activities at the library. There was discussion as to how address patrons outside Benton County (they pay an “out of district fee of \$10); where the room rental fees go (to the City); and getting on the bus tour sites of locations to visit.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilor P. Canter moved to approve the consent agenda, without the Monroe Telephone bills. The motion was seconded by Councilor C. Canter and approved 4-1 (Koroush – No). Councilor Koroush moved to approve the Monroe Telephone bills. The motion was seconded by Councilor P. Canter and approved 4-0-1 (Dillard – Abstained).

NEW BUSINESS

Loren Chavarria, Associate Director of Engagement, Center for Latina/Latino Studies and Engagement at O.S.U., presented a request to use the kitchen at the Legion Hall to start a local business making Mexican “sopes”. Their request is attached and incorporated by reference. The request was to use the building for free for the first six months with graduated increased payment from then on.

Koroush expressed concerns over the City entering into a “partnership” with a private enterprise using public facilities. Councilor Myers wanted to help business develop in Monroe, but raised concerns over health and legal issues. Mayor Thayer raised issues with operational cost of the equipment and scheduling around existing activities. Cindy Canter asked if there could be some sort of agreement that the ladies operating the business would keep it in Monroe and asked about insurance and food handler permits.

Ms. Chavarria noted that other entities at O.S.U. were providing support for this business venture and public/private partnerships were not unusual. The Department of Health would be conducting regular inspections, which they already do at the Legion Hall as a “certified kitchen”. She felt that the O.S.U. engineering students that were designing the machine to make the sopes should be able to calculate the energy consumption, though Myers and Thayer noted it would be inconsequential in light of the other machines operating in the building. She said that the ladies that would operate the business understood there were existing users and they would expect to work around their schedules. She stated there was no expectation of any agreement other than continued rental of the Legion Hall. As to the insurance question, she felt that the City’s policy on the building would cover any issues that might arise. She expressed her appreciation for the time to make her presentation, recognized that there were outstanding issues and that they did not expect to begin the operations until June.

Legion Hall Security Improvements: C.O.O Minard noted he had not had an opportunity to evaluate the proposals for a security system at the Legion Hall and asked if the Council would table it for a full report next month. The Council consensus was to table.

1 On a related topic Council noted that lights and fans were being left on and there remained
2 on-going concerns with access to the building. It was noted that there were items still
3 stacked on the tables following the 4-H group's garage sale. Paul Canter moved to direct the
4 4-H group to remove all its storage materials from the building within two weeks. Koroush
5 seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
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7 Water Rate Policy for Unoccupied Building: Councilor Myers noted that the water system
8 was available for all with certain fixed costs and the current policy to charge unoccupied
9 homes only shared those costs. Mayor Thayer noted that the city received several
10 thousands of dollars for payments under the current policy. There was no discussion to
11 amend the existing policy.
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13 Council Comments:

14 Koroush raised concerns over parking on 7th Street, it was decided he would get with Minard
15 and report back to the Council next month.
16

17 Cindy Canter reported on the Council of Government (COG) activities on medical marijuana
18 and the flashing light for the school crossing. No action was required.
19

20 Paul Canter distributed a copy of the City's current web site showing it to be quite out of date;
21 and requested copies of the Library rental policy and Park Master Plan.
22

23 Mayor Comments:

24 Mayor Thayer noted there were concerns on some hazard trees at the Haunted House
25 property east of the Long Tom River. The operator of the program, Lori O'Hare, had
26 contacted an individual who was willing to fall the trees and her group would clean up.
27 Thayer wanted to advise the Council that these potentially hazard trees need to come down.
28 The power company might to this, but if not the volunteer could do so. Minard noted that the
29 volunteer work did not constitute significant liability, but the proximity to the highway would be
30 a concern. Myers noted a certificate of insurance should be provided the city. Minard would
31 look into this and contact the power company or Ms. O'hare to have the trees removed.
32

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34 date; and requested copies of the library rental policy and the Parks Master Plan.
35

36 Cindy Canter raised concerns about any liability from the fir tree on the south side of the
37 Haunted House and allowing people on the property and in the building; the suggestion was
38 to see if a recognized arborist could determine if the tree constituted a hazard and the
39 insurance company should be contacted.
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41 The closing on the purchase of the Monroe Telephone property across from City Hall could
42 occur this week. If Mayor Thayer or Council President Paul Canter were unavailable, Minard
43 could sign with Council approval. P. Canter moved to authorize Minard to sign the closing
44 documents, which was seconded by Koroush and unanimously approved.
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46 **ADJOURN:**

47 There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.
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Signed: _____
Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest: _____
Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard