

City Council Minutes  
April 27, 2015

Mayor Thayer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present: Councilors Paul Canter, Harry Myers, Ron Thexton, Lonnie Koroush, Cindy Canter, and Donna Dillard. Staff present included Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard and Public Works Superintendent Dave Claborn.

Sheriff's Contract: Mayor Thayer began the meeting by addressing the matter of renewing the contract with the Benton County Sheriff's Office for police services. The contract was for two years with a three percent (3%) increase in each of the two years. Sheriff Scott Jackson, Under-Sheriff Greg Ridler and Deputy Ben Drongesen were present to address any questions or issues.

Councilor C. Canter asked about the disparity between the number of stops versus actual citations being written. Sheriff Jackson responded that many of the stops were for minor infractions that they would normally not cite; but issue a warning instead. The deputies used this as a means to verify what people were doing driving through town at odd hours, as an example. Canter noted it would be nice to see more detail on these stops, which Sheriff Jackson noted he would look into.

Councilor Myers noted a discrepancy between the numerical values of the annual charges for service versus the written numbers. Jackson noted the contract language would be corrected and returned to the City.

Councilor Koroush noted the failure to enforce the new no parking zones on N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. He asked Minard about how many local ordinance citations were included in the reports. Minard did not have specific numbers, but noted it was likely less than three a month. Koroush questioned the Sheriff as to what would happen if the contract was rejected. Sheriff Jackson stated the County would still respond, though it would take longer and there would be less of a police presence in Monroe. It was noted that it the indirect benefits of this police presence could not be quantified. Koroush felt the City should try going without this service for six months.

Councilor Thexton asked how long the City had been getting this police service. Mayor Thayer state he felt it had been in place since the early 1990s. Thexton moved to accept the contract with the corrected numerical narrative. P. Canter seconded the motion, which was approved 5-1 (Koroush – No).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Julie Morrell was present to get a sense of the Council on taking over the Sweet Spot Bakery site and converting it to a restaurant and lounge with alcohol. She would likely close at 10:00 PM. The Council acknowledged their support.

South Benton Nutrition Program (SBNP): Christy Warden was present to give the SBNP's response to the Council's proposal of them taking on the operation of the Legion Hall. She made several assertions in her presentation as to why the SBNP could not accept some of the Council's proposals. She did lay out a plan as to what the SBNP should and could pay to operating the building.

Councilor Dillard asked about the group's revenue sources, expenses, hours and days of operations, and access to grants. Warden responded that most of their revenues came from area donors; that they did have to purchase certain food items and those costs continued to increase, along with vehicular and liability insurance. She stated the average meal participation was around 35 and roughly one-half of those were residents of the City of Monroe proper. The days of the meals was established years ago in concert with the now defunct "meals on wheels" program.

C. Canter suggested that the group look into securing state or federal grants that may be accessed via the local Council of Governments. Thexton, who the Council representative on the COG Board would look into this and get back with the SBNP Board. Minard would report back on the SBNP response.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

P.W.S. Claborn discussed his monthly report as sent to the Council electronically and operational updates. He noted he would be changing the term of the report period; going from a calendar month to meeting period; the intent is to make the report more current. He noted the increase in the unaccounted water and that he had found and fixed one leak and was hopeful that might be the cause. He noted he had spoken with the Corp of Engineers about Fern Ridge Reservoir and anticipated no issues this summer. He discussed his research on buying a new tractor and presented the Council with the cost. C. Canter moved to authorize the purchase of low quote for the Kubota, which was seconded by the P. Canter and approved 5-1 (Thexton – No).

C.O.O Minard noted things were progressing slowly with the Red Hills Subdivision, as the development was stalled by wetland issues and another request for an extension would be forthcoming; the first drafts of the Master Plans for Stormwater and Wastewater had been received, reviewed and responded to; and the budget notice would be published for the meeting on May 27. He had been addressing a few local concerns on the legal marijuana grow sites in town, which the Sheriff's office was aware of and operating legally under State law. His position was that it was a legal operation and he was dealing with them as any other "gardener" in making sure that they were not creating any nuisances or violations; he intended to continue to operate as such unless otherwise directed by the Council. He wanted to clarify also that he worked for the full Council and while specific requests from individual Councilors come up, he and the staff need to prioritize issues based on operational demands and sometimes lower priorities got bumped.

C. Canter asked about where the staff was on putting the audio recordings of the Council meeting on our website. She moved to direct the C.O.O to investigate putting the audio files on the website, which was seconded by Koroush and approved 4-2 (Dillard and Thexton – No).

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Minard noted new bills had come in after the packets were delivered last week and new payable sheets were in front of them with the additions noted. Koroush moved to accept the consent agenda as amended and excluding the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by Myers and approved 6-0. Thexton requested more information on the Mar

photo cell kit for the water plant for \$564; Minard would check with the Claborn and respond. Thexton moved to approve the Monroe Telephone bills, which was seconded by P. Canter and approved 5-0-1 (Dillard abstained).

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Request County Transfer Certain County owned Lands to City of Monroe: Minard noted that he and the Mayor had met with County Commissioner Dixon about the future of the railroad right-of-way and other county lands in town. A letter had been crafted requesting these lands be transferred to the City, but he felt it was appropriate to get the full Council's concurrence. Thexton moved to send the letter, which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 6-0.

Liquor License Renewal: D's Diner, Dari Mart, and Long Branch Bar & Grill: The noted establishments were up for renewing their liquor licenses. As noted on the application, there were no local concerns and the Council took no action on the renewals.

Budget Committee Appointments: Mayor Thayer announced his nomination of Rob Reynolds to the Budget Committee. It was noted that Bruce and Elizabeth Hayler, along with Jewel Thexton were appointed and also served last year, had not been added to the list last year.. Minard noted we may have a full complement of lay citizens and would look into this.

Resolution No. 2015-03: Resolution Authorizing Participation in a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan: Minard noted this resolution simply allowed the staff to benefit from additional retirement accounts similar to IRAs. There would be only some nominal paper work for the Finance Officer if approved. Thexton moved to approved Resolution 2015-03, which was seconded by P. Canter and approved 5-1 (Koroush – No).

Probationary Completion and Salary Increase for Finance Officer: Minard noted that Finance Officer Dave Williams had completed his six-month probationary period and was, as discussed as part of his hiring, eligible for a five-percent (5%) salary increase. Koroush moved to authorize the increase, which was seconded by Myers and approved 6-0.

Implement Smoking and Tobacco Use Policy on Library Property: Minard noted he had received a request from the librarians to install signs at the library prohibiting riding bicycles, skate boards or roller skates as had been placed at City Hall. There were also concerns about smoking in areas on the property outside the State regulations. Koroush moved to prohibit smoking on the library property in its entirety and erect signs to that effect. The motion was seconded by C. Canter and approved 6-0.

Myers moved to have similar standards (for smoking and wheeled toys) established for the Legion Hall. Minard noted enforcement concerns for such things as riding bikes in the parking lots, but that a common sense approach would work. C. Canter seconded the motion, which was approved 6-0. Minard would craft an ordinance for the Council's consideration.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

C. Canter noted the MonroeFest was set for September 12; she had no response from Jerry's on the sign materials; and that the beer and cider gardens were being overseen by


Dudley. She noted the flags at the City Park were worn and tattered and needed to be replaced. Koroush noted his efforts to get information to the C.O.O about erecting a new flag pole and City Hall (the last one broke in a windstorm). Minard noted similar request for new flags at the library. C. Canter moved to have the flags replaced, which was seconded by Koroush and approved 6-0.

P. Canter asked Myers how things were progression on the security system for the Legion Hall. Myers noted he had a pretty good sense on the camera system, but was still researching what to do about the door. What to do ultimately may be affected by information received by Thexton from the COG on the SBNP operations.

Thayer noted he had approved a local scout moving forward with the MonroeFest signs as part of Eagle Scout project.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Signed:   
Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest:   
Chief Operating Officer Jim Minard