

City Council Minutes
May 23, 2016

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Liz Hayler asked for an update on the Dollar General Store and as to the next Planning Commission meeting. Minard noted he was still working on a site with Dollar General and the Commission met on an as needed basis; with no meetings scheduled but it would be posted.

Jim Doyle informed the Council his neighbor was building a fence in the public alley between their homes and requested the alley be left fully open. Mr. Flory, the neighbor building the fence, noted difficulties he was having with Mr. Doyle and that the fence would reduce future conflicts. Minard noted he and Mr. Claborn had looked into this matter and the fences current location created some utility problems for the City. Councilor Thexton moved to have the City staff work with the owners to see if an acceptable compromise could be agreed to. The motion was seconded by Councilor C. Canter and approved 3-0.

Mr. Bobby Eastridge complained about traffic moving through the emergency egress road built by Benton County at the westerly terminus of Commercial Street.

STAFF REPORTS:

P.W.S. Claborn discussed his monthly report as sent to the Council electronically and operational updates. He informed that he had found the leak in the baseball field irrigation and was having it repaired. He advised the Council that Commercial Street from 7th to 11th and Main Street from 6th to 10th were in pretty poor condition and needed resurfacing; he would be securing quotes for having asphalt overlaid as well removing and resurfacing the parking at City Hall.

C.O.O. Minard reported:

He was looking into an ordinance requiring apartment owners to provide garbage service, because one was not and his tenant were creating a mess or abusing the neighbor's collection bins;

Updated the Council on the "Tiny Homes" recreational vehicle park that was being considered for the old "Brick Mill" sight north of Mill Street;

Was trying to get an answer on the status of the remaining \$29,000 Margret Hull bequest as it would play into next year's budget;

Noted that the Mayor had set up a work session with the Board of Commissioners at 4:30 PM, prior to the June 27 Council meeting, which was scheduled to be held in the fire station;

That the person that had damaged the trash can at the library had come forward and he and the librarians were working on appropriate retribution.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minard noted that one additional bill had come in since the packets were put together. Councilor Thexton moved to accept the consent agenda, as updated, which was seconded by Councilor P. Canter and approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Vacancy – Discussion and Process: It was the consensus of the Council to leave the seat vacant until after the election in November.

Budget Committee Appointments: P. Canter moved to reappoint Kathy Smith and John Dillard to the Budget Committee, which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 3-0.

Corps of Engineers' Assistance on Pedestrian Bridge: Minard noted he and Cindy Canter had met with the staff of the Corps of Engineers and Long Tom Watershed. At that meeting it was determined that the City should send a letter to the Corps for permission and assistance in locating a pedestrian bridge over the Long Tom River, downstream from the dam. C. Canter felt that another letter was to have been drafted, but could not recollect to who; Minard would look into this and report back. C. Canter moved to approve sending the letter(s), which was seconded by P. Canter and approved 3-0.

Resolution 2016-04: Transferring Funds: Minard informed the Council the City was awaiting the \$60,000 grant from USDA/Rural Utilities for the Wastewater and Storm Water Master Plans. They had had been completed for months but were held up on some federal engineer's desk. In order to be able to close this fund, Finance Officer Williams was requesting loaning funds to cover the pending grants and covering the balance of the expenses from the wastewater and storm water system development funds. P. Canter moved to adopt resolution 2016-04, which was seconded by Thexton and approved 3-0.

Ordinance 16-01: An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Ordinance No. 10-263 Providing for the Cutting and Removing of Tall Grass and Obnoxious Weeds as Codified as Chapter 94 of the Monroe Municipal Code. Minard highlighted the changes from the current ordinance that included: clarifying the adjacent land owners were responsible for grass or weed abatement on abutting rights-of-way; waivers for large or agricultural owners and if fire-breaks were maintained; and that only one notice would be sent to land owners in the future or a citation to municipal court could be issued.

P. Canter moved to adopt Ordinance 16-01 with the first reading by title only, which was seconded by Thexton and approved 3-0. Mayor Thayer read the ordinance by title.

C. Canter moved to adopt Ordinance 16-01 with the second reading by title only, which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 3-0. Mayor Thayer read the ordinance by title.

C. Canter move to adopt Ordinance No. 16-01: An ordinance repealing and replacing ordinance No. 10-263 providing for the cutting and removing of tall grass and obnoxious weeds as codified as chapter 94 of the Monroe Municipal Code. Thexton Seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilor Comments and Committee Reports:

Thexton felt the Council needed to finally respond to updating several City street lights. Six 70 watt street lights were proposed to be upgraded to 100 watts. Minard informed the Council of the cost payback schedule prepared by Mr. Williams. Thexton moved to have the six lights upgraded to 100 Watt LED lights, which was seconded by C. Canter and approved 3-0.

ADJOURN: There being no further business Mayor Thayer adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.

Signed: _____
Mayor Frank Thayer

Attest: _____
C.O.O. Jim Minard