

# MONROE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 29, 2018

6PM

CITY HALL

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Canter called the Council meeting to order at 6:00PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Canter asked Council President Myers to lead the council and audience in the Pledge.
3. **Roll Call:** Mayor Canter, Council President Myers, Councilors Billings, Howard, Cuthbertson, Thayer, and Canter were present. Staff present included Rick Hohnbaum and Dave Claborn. Also present was Planning Commission Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Sheets and Monroe Rural Fire Protection District Board Chair and Planning Commissioner Eastridge. Citizens present included Emma Crane, Brian Greene, Mr. Robert Eastridge and Todd Nystrom.
4. **Statement for reason for special council meeting:** Mayor Canter stated that it was a special council meeting to discuss organization structure.
5. **Public input:** None
6. **Council Deliberation and Discussion relating to organizational structure:**  
Mayor Canter read a prepared statement outlining the reasons for the special meeting based upon council action taken at the most recent council meeting by the City Council requesting a motion to reverse that decision. Mayor Canter shared a job description and a list of current tasks being worked on by city staff. Mayor Canter asked the PWS if he had anything to add to the discussion and the PWS inquired as to what information has been previously shared with the council. Mayor asked David if he wanted to summarize his issues and David asked the Mayor if he would summarize the issues at hand and Mayor Canter shared some issues which David had related to his work environment. Mayor Canter discussed work place communication. Councilor Thayer inquired as to the project list being current or being previously created. Mayor Canter shared the fact that of being in the budget process. Councilor Thayer stated that Mr. Hohnbaum's past demonstrates that he doesn't get along with personnel and the public. Councilor Billings shared his perspective of the city staff with a pull-me push-me relationship. Councilor Billings stated that the personnel community is wrong as it is a quorum of the council. Councilor Canter stated that he was lost as to what Councilor Billings was talking about and that a budget was coming and needs to be ready by Thursday. Councilor Canter shared that the PWS has always spoken freely with the councilors and that Councilor Billings was the first one he had seen when he was upset. Councilor Canter suggested that he should follow the chain of command next time and Dave

affirmed. Councilor Billings stated that perhaps the council over voted and did it wrong and that it can be corrected. Councilor Canter moved to reverse the last council decision with the exception that the PWS can prioritize the tasks and schedules. CP Myers seconded the motion with the amended task for the PWS to also to do the same for the employees that work for him. Dave stated that once he was told that it would be better not to say something unless directed asked. Mayor Canter asked if there was a time that he was told not to speak. Mayor Canter told Dave that if had something to share he should say so. Mayor Canter suggested that the PWS and the CA should meet weekly to discuss tasks and schedules. Councilor Billings stated that there is always something changing even when there are schedules and tasks. Councilor Howard suggested that it was ok to confront anyone of the councilors and then go through the established policy. Councilor Howard suggested that a premature decision was made before it went through the process. Mayor Canter inquired of Councilor Thayer if he felt that the complaint or issue would be dealt with or sidetracked. Councilor Thayer stated that he came in and that if it came to a vote that he wanted his vote to be no since he wasn't present at the committee so his vote did not count and did not go through the correct challenges. Councilor Thayer stated he let his vote be no. Mayor Canter stated that Mr. Hohnbaum had shared with him the desired vote that Councilor Thayer had expressed. Councilor Billings stated that he has been involved in the small town politics for a number of years. PWS stated that he had additional comment and stated that he did apologize to the Mayor for having mis-stepped and handled the situation incorrectly and Mayor Canter affirmed that conversation. Councilor Cuthbertson suggested perhaps some more time such as work sessions would result in more positive council conversation and deliberations and that the council would be more informed. Councilor Howard suggested about where we go next for delegation and responsibility. CP Myers shared the current motion on the floor and the revision with the PWS having autonomy to decide tasks and priorities. CP Myers stated that the Personnel and Finance Committee was going to spend some time looking at the hierarchy and job descriptions. Councilor Thayer stated he admired the actions of Mayor Canter in his investigation and how he handled the situation. Councilor Thayer declined to vote to abstain, Billings abstained. Chad yes, Canter yes, Myers Yes, Cuthbertson yes. 4-0-2. PFC Meeting set for 6pm on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Billings requested the PFC not meet with a quorum. Councilor Canter inquired about the history of committees and what is a quorum of the council present.

- 7. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO STAFF: Staff was asked to consult with the city attorney about quorum for the committee.**

**Staff asked to consult with the city attorney about establishing the vote of an absent city councilor.**

Brian Greene stated that voting by proxy means that councilors are voting without hearing what the comments from the community had to say doesn't matter.


8. **ADJOURN:** Mayor Canter, hearing no other request for business, adjourned the meeting at 6:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted; Rick Hohnbaum City Administrator/City Recorder

Approved by Council adoption June 25, 2018.

Attest:

  
Rick Hohnbaum, City Recorder

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Paul Canter