

MONROE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 16, 2019 6 PM CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Paul Canter called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Pledge of Alliance: Mayor Canter asked Council President Billings to lead the council and audience in the Pledge.

Roll Call: Present was Mayor Canter, Council President Billings, Councilors Koroush, Thayer, Canter, Cuthbertson and Greene. Staff present was City Administrator/Recorder Hohnbaum, Fred Hilburger and Doug Carothers. In the audience was Vice Chair of the Planning Commission Dan Sheets, Terry Koroush, James Patterson, Thorin Nielsen, Dave Prowse, Ryann Canter, Linda Prowse, Christy Warden, John Greydanus and Eliza Mason.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Christy Warden stated that the SBNP fund raising was less this past year and requested that the City allow them to pay less than the full amount of annual rent required by the existing contract between the City and SBNP. Ms. Warden stated that SBNP will see less money in the future due to the demand for donated food stating that the SBNP would like to pay only \$1500 for this year and perhaps less next year. CA Hohnbaum shared that he had provided copies of the agreement between the City and SBNP in the council packets and read the paragraph related to the required annual electrical cost payments. Mayor Canter asked council if they had action they wanted to take. Councilor Canter moved to grant \$500 off for the 2019 year and work on the other long term issues in the future. Councilor Thayer seconded. Ayes: All

Terry Koroush spoke about the utility bill forgiveness granted by the City Council at their last meeting. Mr. Koroush asked who threw him under the bus and inquired if anyone could get a break on their utility bill if they make a claim against a city employee. Council members and Mr. Koroush discussed the event and it was stated that if someone complained about an employee action or statement, the city would investigate just like any other claim. Councilor Greene stated that there were two separate events that got pulled together though they shouldn't have been. CP Billings apologized to Mr. Koroush for the way he was treated. Councilor Canter asked CA Hohnbaum what happened to the meter and CA Hohnbaum explained that the meter had been pulled, a new meter had been installed. Council by consensus directed staff to have the water meter tested for accuracy.

3. STAFF REPORTS:

3.1 City Administrator, Rick Hohnbaum: CA Hohnbaum introduced two new city employees, Fred Hilburger and Doug Carothers. CA Hohnbaum reviewed the written report that was distributed and provided a plan for acquiring and updating the city cell phone system. Councilor Canter moved to approve the cell phone plan including the acquisition of two more smart phones and to be on the AT

& T First Net program. Councilor Thayer seconded the motion. Ayes: Canter, Cuthbertson, Thayer, Billings, Greene. Nay: Koroush.

CA Hohnbaum reminded the council that they were meeting earlier in the month than normal and that there would still be “normal” monthly bills to be paid which would require the Mayor’s and Council President’s signature and that the council would receive a report in January as to the additional bills paid in December. Councilor Thayer moved the approval of normal monthly bills and Councilor Koroush seconded the motion. Ayes: All.

CP Billings inquired about city funding support for the replacement of the holiday lights. Councilor Greene suggested that if the city could be responsible for the interface of the electrical connections between the PPL as a part of their support for the project. CP Billings suggested that the city give \$2500 towards the lights. Thayer seconded the motion. Ayes: All.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

Bills and Minutes: CP Billings commented on the good job that the Underground Tech Company was doing on the manhole sealant project. Councilor Canter moved to approve the consent agenda. CP Billings seconded the motion. Ayes: All.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- 5.1 Resolution 2019-25 A Resolution accepting Safe Route to School Grant and authorizing Mayor Paul Canter to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the City. Councilor Canter moved to adopt Resolution 2019-25. Councilor Thayer seconded. Ayes: All. John Greydanus announced an additional grant for this project had been awarded by United Way to assist in the funding of the school cross walk on Orchard Street.
- 5.2 Review of Ordinance 2019-02 Allowing use of recreational vehicles for seasonal farm workers. CA Hohnbaum stated that when the council adopted Resolution 2019-02, they requested that an after-season review of the implementation of the ordinance be placed on the council agenda. Hohnbaum stated that the citizens who requested the ordinance had provided a written update and letter which was in the council packet and that the city had not received any complaints or issues related to the implementation of Ordinance 2019-02. Mayor Canter confirmed that it worked out pretty well. Mayor Canter inquired of council if they had any questions and none were raised. The Council thanked Eliza and Thorin for their support on the Farmer’s Market.
- 5.3 Declaration of Vacant Seat on Monroe Planning Commission. CA Hohnbaum shared a written communication from Brandon Bathke resigning from the Monroe Planning Commission. City Planner Hohnbaum requested that the council declare the seat vacant so he could post the opening to seek candidates. Councilor Canter

moved to declare the planning commission position vacant. Councilor Thayer seconded the motion. Ayes: All.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Bulletin Board request from staff. CA Hohnbaum shared an amendment to his staff report which was included in the back of the council packet regarding a budgeted expense for a new bulletin board for city hall. Councilor Canter moved to purchase the outdoor bulletin board. CP Billings seconded. Ayes: all.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

7.1 Committee Reports


Councilor Canter shared that the Library Legacy Fund was now over \$10,000 after the recent mailing. CP Billings asked about the affordability of replacing the existing burned out lights. Councilor Canter shared that donations were accepted during the holiday event and there was at least a \$100 donation made.

Councilor Thayer shared the Ordinance Committee was requesting more time from the firm who did the draft codification document for them to complete their review.

7.2 Councilor Comments: Councilor Koroush asked about the restroom project. Mayor Canter share that the city now has approved plans and the concrete number was received today. Councilor Canter share the process takes longer when involving donations and volunteers. Councilor Koroush commented that the water treatment plant operator was working another job and CA Hohnbaum stated that he was not a city employee. Terry Koroush inquired as to the work on the restroom project and he and Mayor Canter discussed the design and work on the restroom. Councilor Thayer inquired about the opening of the Long Branch Saloon and the gas station and CA Hohnbaum shared the information he had on the removal of the tanks at the gas station. Councilor Greene shared the volunteer work done in donating a tree at the Monroe welcome sign and suggested that the City consider a thank you note.

8. ADJOURN: Mayor Canter adjourned the City Council meeting at 6:52 PM

Approved by Council Action on January 27, 2020.

 _____ 1-27-2020

Mayor Paul Canter

DATE:

Attest:  _____ 1-28-2020

Rick Hohnbaum, City Recorder