

MONROE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

September 28, 2020 6:30 PM City Hall Meeting Room

1. CALL TO ORDER: Acting Mayor Floyd Billings called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: Acting Mayor Billings asked Councilor Koroush to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present was Acting Mayor Billings, Councilors: Jeanni Cuthbertson, Frank Thayer and Lonnie Koroush. Staff present: Steve Martinenko. Planning Commissioners: Tim Eastridge, Dan Sheets, and Fred Cuthbertson. Also, in the audience was Todd Nystrom, Lorrie O'Hare, Bobby Eastridge, Lisa Lindner, Jim Irwin, Nicholas Ritch, Terry Koroush, and Tony Baker. Junction City Police Chief Bob Morris and Officer Serrano.

Acting Mayor Billings asked Steve Martinenko to read the first paragraph on the agenda regarding the public comments during the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Commissioner Eastridge gave a report about the Monroe Cemetery Board making plans for an Urn Garden.

3. COUNCIL APPOINTMENT: Acting Mayor Billings made a motion to appoint Tony Baker to the City Council. This appointment fills the vacancy left when Brian Greene resigned August 31, 2020. Councilor Thayer seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes. Tony Baker was sworn in as a City Council member and his term expires 12/31/2023.

****** Public was dismissed for an Executive Session 6:33 PM to 6:45 PM******

Upon return from Executive Session, Councilor Koroush made a motion to suspend (without pay) Maintenance and Sewer Treatment Operator, Steve Wyman until after his court case decision. Councilor Thayer seconded the motion. Discussion: Councilor Cuthbertson feels that this issue has gone on too long. We have someone that is unable to perform their duties and getting paid for quite some time. Monroe has a zero tolerance policy that we are not following and she does not agree. She has huge concerns that the council is not following the advice given to them from the City Attorney and City Insurance. Acting Mayor Billings reminded the Council that according to the Employee Handbook, there is an opportunity for last chance agreement with this employee. If he is found guilty in his court decision, he will be terminated. The vote was taken: 4 to 1. Cuthbertson-No, Thayer-Yes, Baker-Yes, Koroush-Yes, Billings-Yes. Motion carries.

4. STAFF REPORTS and Presentations:

4.1 Police Report: Junction City Police Chief Bob Morris gave a report of services provided.

4.2 Steve Martinenko, Water Treatment Plant Operator/HR Coordinator/Planning Report: Planning updates: Brickyard Estates, SDC Methodology, Red Hills Homes, Monroe Elementary School drainage issues. All these topics need more work with the Planning Commission.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

Bills and Minutes: Questions and clarification from Councilor Koroush: Branch Engineering cost, what is that for? Steve Martinenko replied that those fees are when the Red Hills approach angles must be approved before concrete can be poured at each lot. Councilor Koroush also questioned the Taylor Evans for Riverside Grant cost. Acting Mayor Billings reminded him this expense is reimbursed and part of a grant. Councilor Thayer made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Baker. Vote: All Ayes.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Community Sponsor Grant Requests: Lorrie O'Hare gave update on Scare & Share Event. Because of the conditions of the house and COVID-19, this event will not happen in 2020. No decision was made at this time for the Scare & Share Event.

Next grant request: Art in the Park. This \$1000. Needs to be held for their usage until next spring when they would be using it. Councilor Thayer made a motion to grant \$1000 to Art in The Park. Councilor Baker seconded the motion. Vote: Cuthbertson-yes, Thayer-yes, Baker-yes, Billings-yes, Koroush-no. Motion carries.

Lorrie O'Hare asked the Council why they were awarding Art in the Park \$1000, to be held for them and no decision was made for the Scare & Share Program. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilor Koroush to give Scare & Share \$1000. Seconded by Baker. Vote: All Ayes.

Next grant request Planning Commissioner and Cemetery Board Member Eastridge gave update on what was to happen at the Monroe Cemetery. There is plans to make an Urn Garden, remove some trees and work on landscape. Acting Mayor said a motion was made to give \$1000 to Monroe Cemetery, seconded by Thayer. Vote: Cuthbertson-yes, Thayer-yes, Billings-yes, Baker-yes, Koroush-no. Motion carries.

6.2 Invoice from Cascades West Regional Consortium: Councilor Koroush made a motion that the City does not get involved in this at this time. Seconded by Baker. Vote- All Ayes.

6.3 Coffee Shack: The topic of signage for the coffee shop needs to go back to Planning Commission for further discussion. Cuthbertson made a motion to go ahead and move forward with this opening, and let the Planning Commission recommend what needs to happen next. Seconded by Thayer. Vote: All Ayes.

6.4 Update Bank Signer: Councilor Thayer has signed onto the Umpqua Bank Account, however an additional signer is needed. Acting Mayor Billings asked Councilor Cuthbertson to be added as a bank signer; to which she declined. Then Councilor Baker was asked and said he would take on this responsibility.

6.5 Update Bank Signer for LGIP Account: No action or discussion was taken at this time.

6.6 Park Restroom Project: Acting Mayor Billings gave update on cost and timeline. Plans are to be complete by October 31st. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the restroom will remain closed until further notice. Councilor Cuthbertson will edit the Park Host Description application.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Scare & Share: Insurance update: CIS recommend "No Trespassing" Signs on the Bellchambers Property, and Council agreed to have them installed.

7.2 Resolution 2020-14: A resolution updating the City of Monroe Personnel Policy Handbook regarding policies related to confined space entry. Councilor Thayer made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-14. Councilor Koroush seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Councilor Comments: Councilor Koroush asked a question about the current personnel & certification for waste water treatment plant. Steve Martinenko replied that per the agreement with City of Harrisburg, he is currently working under Chuck Scholtz DRC. Councilor Koroush asked the question of who is on the Parks Committee? Right now it is Councilor Koroush and Planning Commissioner Eastridge.

9. ADJOURN: Acting Mayor Billings adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:00 PM.

Approved by Council Action on October 26, 2020.

Acting Mayor Floyd Billings *Floyd Billings* DATE: 10-26-20

Attest: *[Signature]*

Steve Martinenko, City Recorder