

December 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Monroe City Council was called to order by Mayor Duinink at 7:00 p.m. at the Monroe City Hall on December 12, 2016. Roll Call was taken, present – Bradbury, Goemaat, Hegwood, Nickelson, Hansen, absent - none. Matt Mardesen, City Administrator & Economic Development Director; Kim Thomas, City Clerk; Nicholas Chambers, Monroe Police Chief; Jeff Timmins, Public Works Director; were in attendance. Mayor Duinink announced the meeting was being recorded.

Visitors at the meeting were: Norman Rozendaal, Cody Scovill, Don Keuning, Troy Knight, Donita Breckenridge, James Breckenridge, Robert Breckenridge, Al Breckenridge, Tom Metzger, Kathleen Darrich, Dave Warrick, Sue Warrick, Jim Oldham, Arica Bringer, Kathy Hewitt, Paula Perrin, Mary Malone, Sheldon Speers, Ethan Thomas, Devin Grimes, Weston Matthers, Kathy Van Veen, Lane Raske, Devin Burk, Robert Van Der Wiel, Steve Hewitt, Linda Hewitt, Duane & Vanessa Sloan, Clint Price, Kiana Price, Rob Bray, Noah Clark, Chelbie Gillespie, Joseph Kacmangslai, Sam Clark, Bob Sheeler, Nona Kain, Mia Thomas, Erik Thomas, Jeriah Shank, Angie Morris, Dean Van Ryswyk, Jan Van Ryswyk, Mary Sue Duinink, Katie Vande Wall, Kayla Jennings, Jayci Vos, Bailey Brodersen, Brooke Nicholson, Braden Phifer, Zach Read, Ryan Hill, Carol Ann Diekema, Larry Diekema, Judy Woody, Tatum Nearmyer, Alexis Timmins, Judy Stock, Chris & Kim Daniels, and Dick Aalbers.

Council Member Hansen moved and was seconded by Council Member Goemaat to approve the consent agenda. Items on the agenda included the clerk and treasurers reports and minutes from the November regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Committee & Board Reports – Jeff Timmins gave an update on items recently completed which included: the fire department roof, trail from Lincoln to Marion Street, snow equipment serviced and ready to go. Nick Chambers presented the council with overview on how the digital speed sign is working.

November 2016 Bills

Salaries	Net:	25890.29
EFTPS	Federal Tax Payment	9140.17
Iowa Department of Revenue	Withholding/Sales Tax	7646.00
IPERS	Police/Regular	5597.21
City of Monroe	Health Ins Reimbursement	375.66
AFSCME	Union Dues	72.20
GIS Benefits	Life Insurance	84.77
Monroe Postmaster	Stamps/Mailing	232.63
United Healthcare	Health Insurance	2504.24
Mid American Energy	Utilities	3583.77
Harrison Truck Center	Repairs to Dump Truck	2664.47
Cardmember Services	Hotel/Car Rental/Books/Training	1586.75
Airgas	Cyl Oxygen/Rent	117.01
Atlantic Publishers Group	Subscription	59.95
Baker & Taylor	Books	410.07
Caldwell, Brierty, Chapula, Nuzum	Legal Services	3207.24
Carpenter Uniform	Uniforms/Supplies	2512.10
Casey's	Gas	980.38
Center Point Large Print	Books	168.96
Central Iowa Water	Payment/Principal/Interest	13264.19
City of Prairie City	Seizure Funds	733.86
Data Technologies	Training/Mileage	397.76
DEMCO	Library Supplies	180.13
Digital Ally	Microphone/Holster/Freight	140.00
EMP Emergency Medical Products	Ambulance Supplies	111.50
Forbes	Toner	95.90
Gabriel Wilson	Mileage Reimbursement	49.68
Galls LLC	Handcuffs/Holster/PD Supplies	285.46
GCMOA	Dues	20.00
Hewitt's	Pump/Brake Repairs/Battery/Oil/Filter	553.14
I+S Group	Pavement Study	4465.00
Iowa Department of Public Safety	Terminal Billing Fee	453.00
Iowa One Call	Locates	39.60
Iowa Rural Water	Dues	275.00

Windstream	Phone	669.11
Jasper County Animal Rescue League	Participation Fee	181.27
Jasper Co Extension	License Fee	35.00
Jasper County Speed Shop	PD Vehicle Service/Air Compressor	1013.39
KAL Services	Sanitation Contract	13430.75
Keltek	FD Service Call	193.50
Keystone Laboratories	Testing	701.40
Kim Thomas	Mileage Reimbursement	119.88
Leighton State Bank	Interest Payment	7303.50
Marco Inc.	Copier Contract	230.07
Matthew Mardesen	Mileage/Parking Reimbursement	346.48
Mediacom	Internet	57.45
Metro Electric	Electrical Service	452.00
Michael Frederick	Books	44.00
Mickey Nolin	Hall Rent Reimbursement	50.00
Mission Communications LLC	Service Agreement	1389.60
Monroe Foods	Air Freshener	8.75
Monroe Mirror	Business Cards/Publications	340.65
Mowboys Lawn Care	Mowing	2300.00
Newton Clinic	New Hire Testing	171.90
Newton Daily News	Annual Subscription	152.80
Philip L. Ascherman Ph.D	MMPI Review	140.00
Physio-Control, Inc	Annual Maintenance/Service Lucas	2908.25
Quill Corporation	Toner	251.98
Sandry Fire Supply	SCBA Testing/Supplies	3231.13
Shred It	Service	89.30
Taste of Home	Subscription	12.98
The Book Farm	Books	1503.82
US Cellular	Phone	143.62
Utility Service Co.	Maintenance Agreement	2790.05
Van Ryswyk Plumbing & Heating	Stool Replacement	326.46
Veenstra & Kimm	Building Permits/Inspections	6551.20
Wal-Mart	Paper/Cleaning Supplies	45.21
Wal-Mart	Library Supplies	215.30
Winton Seed Co.	Grass Seed/Fertilizer	1194.00
WP Barber Lumber	Re rod/Valves/Primer/Nuts/Gravel Mix	450.06
Iowa League of Cities	Budget Workshop Registration	80.00
MetLife	Prepaid Life Insurance	27.18
Bank Fees		5.00
Total November Expense:		\$ 137,055.13
Total November Revenue:		\$ 223,315.95

Total Revenue:

General	63955.74
Road Use	20415.13
Special Revenue	42394.33
Capital Project	1261.62
Enterprise	93102.81
Fiduciary	475.00
Debt Service	1711.32
Total:	\$ 223,315.95

Total Expense

General	69009.91
Road Use	13007.10
Special Revenue	6568.04
Capital Project	0.00

Enterprise	41166.58
Fiduciary	0.00
Debt Service	7303.50
Total:	\$ 137,055.13

Jeff Davidson and Chris Thomas were in attendance to discuss the Keep Iowa Beautiful Trail System and to finalize the project master plans. Matt Mardesen gave a brief update on the plan. The committee is asking the council to adopt the plan so when applying for grants and long term funding sources the City of Monroe will be listed as supporters. Jeff Davidson stressed the 1st priority is the Regional Federal Land Program. The KIB committee is waiting to hear about a 1.2 million dollar grant and should hear something after the 1st of the year. If this grant is awarded it would bring the trail from Red Rock Park to the Neil Smith Wild Life Refuge west of Prairie City. Bradbury questioned the financial obligation to the city. Mardesen and Davidson both stated they are not asking for any type of financial support just the adoption of the trail plan presented. Hansen moved and was seconded by Goemaat to approve the KIB Trail Plan as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Lenny Larson with ISG Group was in attendance to discuss the Monroe Pavement Management Plan. Lenny briefly went over the management plan. Most streets were rated from good to fair in the plan review. ISG has suggested adopting a 5 year project plan to repair city streets using Road Use Funds and LOST Tax Funds. Mayor Duinink thanked Lenny for coming to the meeting.

Hansen moved and was seconded by Council Member Nickelson to accept the resignation of Matt Mardesen as City Administrator. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Thomas presented the council with a spreadsheet on what other cities were paying for family insurance. Currently the City of Monroe pays nothing toward family coverage. During the last set of Police Department interviews the zero contribution amount prevented candidates from taking positions with the police department. Council Member Bradbury moved and was seconded by Goemaat to allow 60% of family health insurance to be paid by the City of Monroe. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Member Hegwood moved and was seconded by Nickelson to approve compensation time payout request for Gabe Wilson and vacation payouts for Kim Thomas and Nick Chambers. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom and Cindy Dick are asking for their higher than normal water bill to be reduced. Jeff Timmins stated that they had a leaky stool running over. Bradbury questioned what was done in the past and was told that we do not forgive bills for leaks. Mardesen discouraged the council and stated by doing this the council would be setting a precedent for others. There have been a couple instances with rural customers where they were charged rural water rates instead of city rates because of leaks in their outside lines. Bradbury's opinion is to reduce Mr. Dick's rates to what the city pays per 1000 gallons of water to Iowa Rural Water. Goemaat stated she has paid for a leak before. Hegwood moved and was seconded by Hansen to decline the request for water forgiveness for Tom and Cindy Dick. Upon roll call vote, ayes – Hegwood, Hansen, Nickelson, Goemaat, nays – Bradbury. Motion carried 4-1.

Mayor Duinink exclaimed that the discussion for Hewitt's Service Center and shutting it down was not the intention of the council and proceeded to say that during the agenda discussion all parties were reminded to be respectable to one another. Goemaat was given permission by Mayor Duinink to read a letter from John and Linda Brannen of rural Monroe supporting Hewitt's Service Center and urging the council to reconsider taking legal action against Hewitt's Service Center. Steve Hewitt urged the council and audience to look into the future of Hewitt's Service Center and not look back. Steve stated he would like to have time to spend with his wife, get things in place and continue the business. Steve Hewitt presented the Council with a plan including a flow chart on how to get rid of all the impounded vehicles stored on his property. Troy Knight has volunteered his land and Perry Pendroy will auction off vehicles and scrap he no longer wants. Steve Hewitt is also planning on working with Nicholas Chambers during the process of getting all the vehicles in his name. Steve Hewitt stated that the last thing he wished to do was divide the town and would like people to work with him instead of against him. Hansen stated during the meeting it was not her intention to close Hewitt's but continue with the clean up process like everyone else in town has been required to do. Hansen also asked about the tires? Steve Hewitt stated he did not yet have a plan for them and the process of getting rid of tires could be difficult at times. Steve stated that large tires could only be taken at certain times of the year by appointment, lack of space was also mentioned. Some members of the audience clapped after Steve Hewitt stated his plan, others did not. Before the conversation was over Steve Hewitt mentioned that he had purchased a sprayer and would continue spraying for mosquitoes on his property and thought the flow chart for impounded vehicles could be used for the Mobile Home Court too. Bradbury stated that Mr. Hewitt has taken the initiative by presenting a plan and he feels Mr. Hewitt has made a step in the right direction. Bradbury encouraged the council and Mr. Hewitt to keep the lines of communication open.

Mardesen started the conversation about hiring outside legal assistance to help with nuisance abatement issues. Mardesen presented the council with 4 attorney bios along with costs of services in the council packet they had received. Mardesen stated that the current city attorney had a conflict doing the commercial abatement. Goemaat asked what the conflict was and Mardesen stated that a letter was sent to Steve Hewitt in June and Mr. Hewitt is not in compliance with that letter. Goemaat went on to say that it was about Steve Hewitt then. Mardesen replied that it was. Goemaat stated that outside legal counsel could cost the city and felt that since Mr. Hewitt has a plan it would not be necessary. Bradbury also confirmed that this conflict of interest discussion item was about Hewitt's. The response from Mardesen was yes it was. Jan Van Ryswyk clarified that the conflict with Gil Caldwell was about Hewitt's also. Hansen stated that the city needs help with trailer court also and with Matt leaving the city will need outside help to continue with the

nuisance abatement needs. Hansen stated she is not trying to close Hewitt's down and that this whole process started when a neighbor sent the city a letter asking why nothing has been done with Hewitt's and that her small child is allergic to mosquitoes and cannot go outside. Hansen again exclaimed that others have been required to clean up and expects Hewitt's to do so too. Bradbury moved and was seconded by Hegwood not to hire an outside attorney at this time and to give Steve Hewitt an opportunity to get his business cleaned up. Mayor Duinink then asked Bradbury to be the city liaison to make sure clean up happens. Bradbury responded he would be glad to help. Nickelson then asked about the trailer park abatement issues and what would be done there. Mayor Duinink responded that there was a motion on the floor not to hire outside help. Bradbury stated that the reason for discussion was because of Hewitt's not the Trailer Park with the conflict of interest. Hansen then asked about a time frame for Steve Hewitt? Steve Hewitt got up from his chair and asked Hansen what she wanted him to do? Norman Rozendaal suggested rezoning the property during the clean up process and forming a 6 member committee to make sure that Hewitt complies. Steve could pick 3 individuals and the council could pick 3 people. Rozendaal encouraged the council to set a time frame allowing Steve to comply and be a model for others. Rozendaal stated he would be willing to be on that committee and his business could not exist without Hewitt's. Jimmy Oldham also volunteered to help with the cleanup. Jimmy stated that 5,000 tires go in and out of Hewitt's a week and that Steve knows where 4999 are located at all times. Upon roll call vote, ayes – Bradbury, Hegwood, Goemaat, nays – Hansen, Nickelson. Motion carried 3-2. Goemaat asked if the City Attorney would handle the Trailer Park. Mardesen stressed that the cost for cleanup per lot at the trailer park could range from \$3,000 to \$4,000 but was not sure. Mardesen also stated that he had talked to Doug Bishop and he would be willing to take the lots off the tax rolls after the trailer has been removed to help the owners of the park. Mayor Duinink again stressed that no one wants to close Hewitt's he also thought giving Steve a timeframe for clean up would be a good idea but stated that the city has been down this road before but the council has decided to work in good faith that this time will be different. Mayor Duinink asked Mardesen to contact Gil Caldwell about cleanup efforts for the trailer park to see if it would be worth the time and effort. Mardesen stated he didn't think he would have time to track down the registered owners of the 13 or 14 trailers not in compliance before he leaves employment with the City.

Hansen moved and was seconded by Goemaat to set interviews for the Utility Billing Clerk/Receptionist position for January 9, 2017. Motion carried 5-0.

The city has been awarded the property located at 815 N Oak through the abandonment process. Mardesen and Timmins are in agreement that the house does not need to be torn down. Mardesen recommends it be put up for bids to the highest bidder. Kathy Van Veen was in the audience and was told that the house has termites. It was decided by the council to have a termite inspection on the property before making a decision. This item will be put on back on the agenda for January.

Hansen moved and was seconded by Nickelson to approve the 1st reading of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF MONROE, IOWA, 2013, BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO WATER RATES SCHEDULE AND SERVICE, INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION, NUMBERED 92:11: SEPARATE MATER FOR OUTSIDE WATERING. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Bradbury moved and was seconded by Goemaat to give Jeff Timmins a 2% increase in pay and thanked him for doing a good job. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously 5-0. Jeff Timmins declined a closed session review for his 6 month probation period.

Open Forum – Kathy Van Veen thanked Matt Mardesen for doing a great job while his time in Monroe. Dick Aalbers stated that some of the land owned by Steve Hewitt had been zoned commercial years ago and urged the council to zone the rest of his residential property to commercial. Aalbers also stated that no one living by Hewitt's is complaining about the condition of the property around them. Dennis Herman spoke up to say that he lives east of Hewitt's and hopes the council holds Mr. Hewitt to his cleanup efforts. Herman suggested the council should have set a time frame to make sure Hewitt had complied and was disappointed that no time frame was given. Paula Perrin and Arica Brinegar both have concerns about the corn pile at Heartland Coop. Arica feels that the dust from the corn has caused her children's respiratory problems in the past. They would like to see something done with the area. Clint Price stated that the corn has been stored there since the early 1970s. Perrin also was concerned about the kids practicing sports at the High School having to breathe that dust in. A high school student in the audience stated it didn't bother him while practicing. Mayor Duinink thanked the audience for attending and showing respect to others.

Kim Thomas requested a closed session meeting to discuss the hiring of a new City Administrator and her pay while the position was being reviewed to see if rehiring is a possibility.

Bradbury moved and was seconded by Goemaat to enter into closed session at 9:18 p.m., motion carried 5-0. Bradbury moved and was seconded by Goemaat to exit closed session at 9:40 p.m.

Bradbury moved and was seconded by Goemaat to pay Kim Thomas \$61,188.75 until a new City Administrator is hired. Motion carried 5-0. The discussion on hiring a new administrator will be reviewed in 3 to 6 months.

Before adjourning the meeting, Mayor Duinink addressed the council about social media rumors, clean up expectations for Hewitt's Service Center, commercial vs. residential properties. Mayor Duinink, Hegwood and Bradbury have agreed to be on the union negotiations team. Negotiations will start after the first of the year. The current union contract will expire June 30, 2017. Mayor Duinink mentioned an employee goal setting dinner for December 30th, 2016. There were no objections to having goal setting, employee recognition dinner at the meeting.

Bradbury moved and was seconded by Nickelson to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. A full copy of minutes may be seen at www.MonroeIA.com or the Monroe City Hall.

Douglas P. Duinink, Mayor

Kim K. Thomas, City Clerk