

The Mayor and Council met for their regular meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Larry Bradley	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Charles Boyce	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Tyler Gregory	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Beverly Harrison	Interim City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney
	Russell Preston	City Attorney

Staff Present: Danny Smith, R.V. Watts, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Mike McGuire, Chris Bailey, Brad Callender, Kaitlyn Stubbs, Les Russell

Visitors: Ricky Emerick, Greg Hecht, Robin Peters, Clayton Mathias, Shauna Mathias, Donald Huff, Donna Buckner, Crysti Blaylock, Tami Burt, Julie Sams, Chad Locklear, Hamid Zaveri, Joe Grizzle, Molly Masselli, Greg Thompson, Melanie Lattimore, Chad Draper

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Invocation

Pastor Tommy Fountain, with 1025 Church, gave the invocation.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously*

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. August 8, 2023 Council Minutes
- b. August 24, 2023 Council Minutes
- c. July 18, 2023 Planning Commission Minutes
- d. July 25, 2023 Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

*Motion by Crawford, seconded by Boyce.
Passed Unanimously*

II. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Public Presentations

a. Citizen Recognition

Assistant Chief Craig League, with Walton County Fire Rescue, thanked Walton County EMS and Walton County Dispatch for helping to make this happen. Assistant Chief League, Lieutenant John Webster with Walton County Fire Rescue, Chief Andrew Dykes with Monroe Fire Department, Battalion Chief Mike Towe with Monroe Fire Department, Chief R.V. Watts with Monroe Police Department, and Lieutenant Matt Dembowski with Monroe Police Department presented Ms. Molly Masselli with the Citizen Life Saving Award for her heroic actions. Lt. Dembowski explained on March 15, 2023 at The Bridge of Georgia School Ms. Masselli created a modified tourniquet for Mr. Euladee Stowers, who had cut himself on his lower leg. The modified pressure dressing kept direct pressure on the wound to stop the bleed, which saved Mr. Stowers leg and ultimately his life. She had the intestinal fortitude, knowledge, and leadership skills in that fatal moment that proved the difference between life and death.

Ms. Masselli gave the credit the Monroe Police Department, Monroe Fire Department, and Walton County Fire Rescue for the skills she learned during the Active Shooter and Stop the Bleed Course that she attended. That is where she learned the skills that she needed to be able to handle the situation. She stated her appreciation of having a lot of family and friends that love and care about her.

No Action.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Ricky Emerick, of 715 James Huff Road, spoke concerning a subdivision being built behind his house. He wanted to know if a subdivision has been confirmed for the area between James Huff Road and Old Athens Highway, because no one has notified them.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated staff will be working on the budget this month, and the Budget Meeting will be in October. He congratulated Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks for getting the Wastewater Treatment Plant 99.9% finished. He congratulated Mr. Chris Bailey for receiving his American Public Works Association Certification. The Town Green is currently going through the punch list items. They are working on touching up some concrete, the Wi-Fi system, and park cameras. There will be some last-minute system tests before being opened to the public. Hopefully, it will be opened by Fall Fest.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley questioned whether the restrooms will be open all of the time.

Mr. Propes answered in the beginning the restrooms will only be open during event times; a scheduling system for cleaning and maintenance will have to be worked out.

2. Assistant City Administrator Update

Assistant City Administrator Chris Bailey stated the Terminal Building has been completed and is currently being furnished. It will be open for public viewing on October 22 at the Fall Festival being held at the Airport. He stated that is not to be confused with the Fall Festival on October 14 that is held in Downtown. They are working with the State on additional funding for hangars, because they have decided there is an overwhelming waiting list for hangar space. He discussed the sink holes located behind the library and on North Madison. There has been over 10,000 feet of sidewalk rehabilitation done over the last three years. Patching is being done on East Marable this week. He stated the City finally has a sweeper, which will save on that contract fee. A Traffic Study is being done on Atha Street. He thanked Ms. Beth Thompson for all of her help and hard work. The Monroe Walton Center for the Arts won an \$8,000 Grant for the park beside their building. He clarified that Fall Fest will be Downtown on October 14 and Fall Fest at the Airport will be on Sunday, October 22. He thanked Chief Watts and the Police Department for handling the unusual issues at City Hall the last couple of weeks.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearings

a. Traffic Pattern Change

City Administrator Logan Propes discussed traffic pattern changes for Milledge Avenue, Colley Street, and Bell Street between Davis Street and East Church Street. The City has previously amended the traffic patterns to make all three streets one way. Now that the majority of the homes have been constructed in the area, in addition to a great deal of utility work, and on general observation of traffic patterns, it is recommended that the existing traffic patterns be amended as follows: leave Milledge Avenue that is 15 feet wide as one-way southbound from Church Street to Davis Street, change Colley Street that is 20 feet wide back to a two-way street, and change Bell Street that is 11 feet wide to one-way northbound from Davis Street to Church Street.

The Mayor declared the meeting open for the purpose of public input.

There were no public comments; Mayor Howard declared that portion of the meeting closed.

No Action.

b. Southview Drive Cul-de-sac

City Administrator Logan Propes discussed the closure of direct access of Southview Drive to US Highway 78. The Walton County Board of Commissioners wants to create a new Public Safety access road that would link Baker Street to US Highway 78, but not utilize Southview Drive. This would keep the Public Safety and general traffic out of that neighborhood; it would go behind the existing Southview Drive. This would necessitate a cul-de-sac at the end of Southview Drive. Walton County has requested for the City to authorize the traffic pattern change and cul-de-sac at Southview. The County will be responsible for the construction.

The Mayor declared the meeting open for the purpose of public input.

There were no other public comments; Mayor Howard declared that portion of the meeting closed.

No Action.

c. Request for 4-Way at South Madison Avenue & Vine Street

City Administrator Logan Propes explained Walton County Public Works utilizes the intersection of South Madison Avenue and Vine Street with many commercial vehicles; they are requesting that this intersection be upgraded to a 4-way stop. There has been an increased frequency of accidents as well as near misses at this location. Some of the possible contributing factors that have been witnessed at this intersection are due to the increased traffic volume, speeding, and limited site distance.

The Mayor declared the meeting open for the purpose of public input.

There were no other public comments; Mayor Howard declared that portion of the meeting closed.

No Action.

2. New Business**a. Application – Beer & Wine Package Sales – 1312 Monroe LLC**

To approve the application.

*Motion by Garrett, seconded by Crawford.
Passed Unanimously.*

b. Preliminary Plat – Vines of Monroe

Mr. Brad Callender presented the request for approval of the Preliminary Plat for 455 Vine Street to allow for the development of 220 single-family residential lots on 101 acres. The applicant is requesting approval of a Preliminary Plat to renew a Preliminary Plat that was previously approved on January 12, 2021 that expired. This Preliminary Plat is the same in all respects as the one previously approved. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat without corrections.

To approve the Preliminary Plat, without corrections.

*Motion by Bradley, seconded by Dickinson.
Passed Unanimously.*

c. Approval – Traffic Pattern Change

To approve existing traffic patterns be amended as follows: leave Milledge Avenue one-way southbound from Church Street to Davis Street, change Colley Street back to a two-way street, and change Bell Street to one-way northbound from Davis Street to Church Street.

*Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

d. Approval – Southview Drive Cul-de-sac

City Administrator Logan Propes stated the map that Mr. Dickinson had requested is included in the information packet.

Council Member David Dickinson stated he has had several meetings with citizens that live in the subdivision, and there was only one person that expressed reservations.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 6:00 P.M.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley questioned whether there would be a traffic light at the intersection. He stated they really liked the idea of a traffic light and were happy to see it.

Mr. Propes answered their original intent was to have a traffic signal, but GDOT did not like that plan due to the limited sight distance coming off of the onramps.

Mr. Bradley requested that the burned-out street lights on Highway 78 be replaced during the process. He questioned whether the new road will be opened before Southview will be closed.

Mr. Propes explained they will start with a temporary construction road. As construction of the Public Safety Complex starts all of that traffic will go straight off of Highway 78 to the County property; it will not affect Southview. It will remain the same, until the Public Safety access road is a hundred percent complete and asphalted.

To proceed with the agreement with Walton County for construction and realignment of Southview Drive as presented. Mr. Dickinson clarified if the County does not move forward, he will again be making a motion for the City to close the street without assistance from the County, because it is the consensus of the neighborhood that the street needs to be closed.

*Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Gregory.
Passed Unanimously.*

e. Approval – 4-Way at South Madison Avenue & Vine Street

To approve for the intersection of South Madison Avenue and Vine Street to be upgraded to a 4-way stop.

*Motion by Gregory, seconded by Dickinson.
Passed Unanimously.*

f. 2nd Reading – Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #17

Council waived the second reading of the Ordinance.

To adopt the Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #17.

*Motion by Gregory, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*

g. 2nd Reading – Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance Amendment

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley questioned whether there is a requirement included in the Ordinance that kitchens must stay open until the last pouring time.

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal answered that is information is included.

Mr. Bradley questioned who enforces it.

Mr. Rosenthal explained that it is an Ordinance for the City of Monroe; City Marshals, Code Office, and sworn Officers have the authority to enforce the City Ordinances.

Council waived the second reading of the Ordinance.

To adopt the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance Amendment.

*Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Crawford.
Passed Unanimously.*

**h. Resolution – GEFA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan DW2021017
Amendment**

Finance Director Beth Thompson explained Council originally approved the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan documents in March of 2022. GEFA is requiring the change because the engineers extended the project completion date. The project completion date was originally January 2024, and it is being extended to August 2025, which is the only change being made.

To adopt the Resolution.

*Motion by Gregory, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*

- i. Appointment – Downtown Development Authority & Convention & Visitors Bureau Authority & Urban Redevelopment Agency

To appoint Clayton Mathias to fill the unexpired term of Wesley Sisk, to expire December 31, 2023.

*Motion by Bradley, seconded by Gregory.
Passed Unanimously.*

- j. Approval – Indigent Defense Representation Agreement

City Administrator Logan Propes recommended approval of the Agreement with Wosnik Law for Indigent Defense Representation in the City of Monroe Municipal Court. There is a slight increase of \$12,000.00. Approval needs to be contingent upon Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations.

To approve the Agreement for Indigent Defense Representation with Wosnik Law, LLC, contingent upon Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations.

*Motion by Bradley, seconded by Dickinson.
Passed Unanimously.*

V. DISTRICT ITEMS

1. District Items

Council Member Tyler Gregory thanked all the City crews for their hard work.

2. Mayoral Update

Mayor John Howard stated Council Member David Dickinson will be retiring from practicing law by June 30, 2024. Dino Day will be on Saturday from 11:00 to 3:00. Monroe Walton Center for the Arts needs extra classroom space if anyone knows of a place. He discussed the Affordable Housing Meeting, LIHTC, and encouraging home ownership for lower cost housing. Fall Fest will be on October 14.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Gregory.
Passed Unanimously.*

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

To roll the stipend for Rodney Middlebrooks into his permanent salary as of October 1, 2023.


*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Dickinson.
Passed Unanimously.*

To give Logan Propes a five percent increase starting January 1, 2024.

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Dickinson.
Passed Unanimously.*

VII. ADJOURN

*Motion by Bradley, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*


MAYOR


INTERIM CITY CLERK

The Mayor and Council met for an Executive Session.

Those Present:

John Howard
Larry Bradley
Lee Malcom
Myoshia Crawford
Charles Boyce, IV
Norman Garrett
Tyler Gregory
Nathan Little
David Dickinson
Logan Propes
Paul Rosenthal
Russell Preston

Mayor
Vice-Mayor
Council Member
Council Member
Council Member
Council Member
Council Member
Council Member
Council Member
City Administrator
City Attorney
City Attorney

Staff Present:

I. Call to Order – John Howard

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

II. Personnel Issue (s)

1. Personnel Matter

Personnel matters were discussed, including attorney-client discussions.

To roll the stipend for Rodney Middlebrooks into his permanent salary as of October 1, 2023.


*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Dickinson.
Passed Unanimously.*

To give Logan Propes a five percent increase starting January 1, 2024.

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Dickinson.
Passed Unanimously.*

III. Adjourn to Regular Session

*Motion by Bradley, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*


MAYOR


INTERIM CITY CLERK