

The Mayor and Council met for their regular meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Larry Bradley	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Tyler Gregory	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Absent:	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
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Staff Present:	Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Chris Bailey, Sadie Krawczyk, Patrick Kelley, Brad Callender, Les Russell
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Visitors:	Sharon Swanepoel, Denise Etheridge, Bruce Hendley, Lori Volk, Ann Mann, Kim Mann, Gareth Fenley, Elizabeth Jones, Rashead Ansley, Julie Sams, Hope Reese, Nancy Moate, Mark Polson, Tara Polson, Kim Jolly, Wayne Jolly, Jason Sams, Michael Mirolli, Michelle Mirolli, Carlos Thompson, Stephanie Calabrese, Kirklyn Dixon, Greg Thompson, Emilio Kelly, Teri Smiley, D. Phillip, Shelly Stephens, Mylinda Knittel, BreAnn Robinson, Virginia Crawford, Jacolin Manning, R. Jackson, Leigh Ann Aldridge, Joey Witcher
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I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Invocation

Reverend Ann Mann with the Union Chapel United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present, except Council Member Myoshia Crawford. 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 3, 2021 Council Minutes
- b. August 3, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
- c. August 17, 2021 Planning Commission Minutes
- d. July 8, 2021 Downtown Development Authority Minutes
- e. July 28, 2021 Downtown Development Authority Minutes
- f. August 12, 2021 Downtown Development Authority Minutes
- g. July 8, 2021 Conventions and Visitors Bureau Minutes
- h. August 12, 2021 Conventions and Visitors Bureau Minutes
- i. January 9, 2020 Urban Redevelopment Agency Minutes
- j. Approval – 2022 Personal Health Assessment and Wellness Credits Tiered Program – To approve the Wellness Deductibles for 2022 as presented. (Recommended for Council approval by Finance Committee September 7, 2021)
- k. Approval – Emergency Purchase Automated Side Loader Truck – To purchase from Carolina Environmental Systems for \$278,673.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Works Committee September 7, 2021)
- l. 2022 CDBG Grant Administration Services Selection – Approval of Allen-Smith Consulting. (Recommended for Council approval by Utilities Committee September 7, 2021)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 6:00 P.M.

- m. 2022 CDBG Engineering Services Selection – Approval of Carter & Sloope.
(Recommended for Council approval by Utilities Committee September 7, 2021)
- n. Approval – Out of State Travel for Police – To allow Officer Michael Bailey to attend the Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Training Center in Northpoint, Alabama for \$22,812.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Safety Committee September 7, 2021)
- o. Mathews Park Pavilion Bid Award – Approval of Great Southern Recreation for \$117,800.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Parks Committee September 7, 2021)

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

II. PUBLIC PRESENTATION**1. John's Supermarket Renovation – Georgia Downtown Association – Best Façade Rehabilitation Award**

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk recognized John's Supermarket for being awarded the Best Façade Rehabilitation of the Year Award from the Georgia Downtown Association.

2. Monroe Walton Center for the Arts – Georgia Downtown Association – Downtown Partner of the Year Award

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk recognized the Monroe Walton Center for the Arts for their outstanding work. They were recently awarded the Downtown Partner of the Year Award by the Georgia Downtown Association for their programs, classes, and their support of the community.

III. PUBLIC FORUM**1. Public Comments**

Ms. Gareth Fenley, of 1695 Brushcreek Drive, stated that she spoke more than two years ago concerning racial injustice and the Moore's Ford Lynching. She is proud of the progress being made. She discussed the possibility of a memorial plaque and the statement written by Mayor Howard, which was considered by the Monroe Diversity Board, of which she is a member. Ms. Fenley read some phrases from the letter and explained that the Board made a number of suggestions for the letter. The Board wanted the letter to come out a long time ago and whole heartedly support the sentiments of the letter. She stated people are beginning to confront the racial injustice in Monroe. The painful impact on the community today is the most important reason something should be done. The memorial will provide a public acknowledgment and is a tiny step in moving forward as a City and a County.

Mr. Rashead Ansley, of 32 Michael Etchison Circle, spoke on behalf of the Diversity Board; he requested approval of the Moore's Ford letter of apology. He discussed how the organization was formed to add diversity to the City. They have done a lot of class studies and interviewed a lot of people, and their feedback shows that there is not enough diversity. He explained Mayor Howard invited the group to speak for the people who may not have a voice. The Board has discussed the different health issues of being an African American, improving the business sector, and promoting diversified businesses in Walton County. They have all agreed that the trust, communication, and morale must be improved before these things will change. He explained the Board introduced this letter as a way of helping things improve. The letter was basically a way of addressing the hurt that people felt from that time; it is a way of putting forth an effort to progress to a better place.

Mr. Carlos Thompson stated he is a member of the Diversity Board and Mr. Garrett did not speak with him. Mr. Bradley made comments concerning what happened to Michael Etchison in the line of duty and what happened to another individual in the line of duty. The comments were like comparing apples to oranges; these people were brutally murdered. He stated we don't want an acknowledgment; we want a full-fledged apology. He does not agree with an acknowledgement. He stated we are all responsible indirectly, because our ancestors owned slaves. Indirectly, we have all benefited from land being stolen and victims being raped. There is a cloud over Monroe and issues that have to be dealt with. Mayor Howard has done some great, progressive things here. The letter had some language that the Board wanted changed; it has nothing to do with the election. He stated the Board wants a marker. Policies and Procedures cannot be used against the monument or the other monuments should not be there. The monument would only be placed here temporarily. Everyone needs to do some real soul

searching. He prays everyone will make the right decision for healing and closure; they need to be recognized for the brutal way they were murdered.

2. Public Hearing

a. Purchase Sale Agreement for Liberty First Bank Property at 830 Highway 138

City Administrator Logan Propes presented the proposal to purchase the property located at 830 Highway 138 from Liberty First Bank for \$1,150,000.00. The purchase would be owner-financed through Liberty First Bank. He explained the ultimate goal is to create connectivity from Highway 138 to Mayfield Drive. This is a long-term goal and a protective real estate acquisition.

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

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

No Action.

b. Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #11

Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Kelley explained the text amendment has been reflected in the Zoning Ordinance. The text amendment is to insert the by right usage into the M1 Zoning District; the uses are crops grown under cover and bio diesel production.

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

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

No Action.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Purchase Sale Agreement for Liberty First Bank Property at 830 Highway 138

To approve the Commercial Multiyear Purchase and Sale Agreement with Liberty First Bank as presented.

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

2. Preliminary Plat Review – 319 South Madison Avenue

Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Kelley presented the Preliminary Plat Review for The Overlook of Monroe located at 319 South Madison Avenue. He stated the plat meets with the Development Regulations and Standards of the City. The Planning & Zoning Commission and Code Office recommend approval.

To approve the Preliminary Plat for The Overlook of Monroe.

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

3. Approval – Chamber of Commerce Contract

City Administrator Logan Propes explained the Walton County Chamber of Commerce Contract is a standard renewal for \$5,774.80.

To approve the contract for the period of one year.

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

4. Appointment – Housing Authority

To reappoint Stacey Favors to a five (5) year term to expire October 6, 2026.

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

5. Professional Services Selection for Monroe Historic Survey Update

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk stated the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the proposals submitted to conduct Phase I of the Historic Survey Update. The recommendation from the Commission is WLA Studio. Their proposal is within budget and meets the criteria set forth for using Grant Funds by the State of Georgia.

To contract with WLA Studio.

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

6. 1st Reading – Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #11

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal presented the first reading of the ordinance.

7. Resolution – Adoption of Walton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2020 – 2025

City Administrator Logan Propes explained staff will be working on further updates to the Mitigation Plan, specifically in terms of Electric and applying for additional Federal Funding for better smart grid technology.

To approve the resolution.

*Motion by Little, seconded by R. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

8. Resolution – ARPA Funding

To approve the resolution.

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

9. Resolution – Georgia Cities Week, October 3 – 9, 2021

To approve the resolution.

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

10. Resolution – Local Government Lighting Project Agreement

To approve the resolution.

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

11. Resolution – GEFA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Application

To approve the resolution.

*Motion by Little, seconded by L. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

12. Mayor's Letter of Acknowledgement Regarding Moore's Ford

Mayor John Howard stated an actual policy will be brought back to Council, prior to the previously discussed marker being done. He plans to have the policy done by the end of the year; the installation time frame will depend on the supplier. The letter was finally agreed upon last Tuesday morning, after much discussion and deliberation from the Diversity Advisory Board, who advises the Mayor's office. Mayor Howard read the Letter of Acknowledgement, which he has signed. The letter will be going to the newspaper, and any Council Members who choose to sign the letter will be given the opportunity immediately following the meeting.

Council Member David Dickinson stated that he guesses he failed as a preacher last week, when discussing the Book of Amos. This week he is going to preach from the New Testament and the letter to the Galatians. In the letter Apostle Paul declares the Magna Carta of Christianity, which is basically the formula that sets us all free and says we are all the same people regardless of background, color, and gender. It states "We are all one people in Christ". Mr. Dickinson is concerned about people thinking this is a political point; he has worked on this for 25 years and will continue this work until the day he dies, whether he gets reelected or unelected. He stated when he leaves this earth, he wants to leave it emptied out to make this world and his community a better place. People need to build bridges not burn them. He promised the Diversity Board that he would support this letter and the marker. He intends to sign this letter and hopes that others will; this is about doing what is right and expressing universal love for all humanity.

No Action.

V. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor John Howard apologized to Chief Watts for what he has had to go through this year; he has lost two officers within the last six months. Mayor Howard, Mr. Propes, Ms. Thompson, and

Mr. Bailey have met individually with Mr. Ross Bradley, Mr. Tyler Gregory, and Mr. Larry Bradley concerning a major pay increase for City Officers next year. He stated they are also looking at ways to enhance Public Safety benefits. He and Chief Dykes have both met with the Daughters of the Revolution for Constitution Week. Silver Medalist Javianne Oliver will be celebrated Saturday on the Historic Courthouse steps, and there will be a parade.


VI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

VII. ADJOURN

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


MAYOR


CITY CLERK

The Mayor and Council met for an Executive Session.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Larry Bradley	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Tyler Gregory	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Absent: Myoshia Crawford Council Member

Staff Present: Brad Callender

I. Call to Order – John Howard

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present, except Council Member Myoshia Crawford and Council Member Norman Garrett. There was a quorum.

Council Member Norman Garrett arrived at 7:01 pm.


II. Real Estate Issue (s)

1. Real Estate Matter

Real estate matters were discussed, including attorney-client discussions.

III. Adjourn to Regular Session

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


MAYOR


CITY CLERK