

The Mayor and Council met for a called meeting.

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

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Jack Armstrong, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Chris Bailey, Sadie Krawczyk, Patrick Kelley, Beverly Harrison, Les Russell

Visitors: Brad Callender, Amylee Dire

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present, Council Member Norman Garrett was present via telephone. There was a quorum.

2. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated there will be a public meeting concerning Traffic Calming towards the end of March, and general concept plans for some of the higher profile areas will be unveiled by the engineers. He explained the purpose of the meeting will be to receive public input. The paving on South Madison Avenue will start in April, due to the huge sanitary sewer upgrade. The final engineered concept plan for the Downtown Green will be available next month. He stated the Walton County Comprehensive Transportation Plan has an interactive tool that is provided by the Georgia Department of Transportation which can be found online. The links are posted on the Walton Tribune and Monroe Local websites; the tool allows citizens to submit problems and suggestions to GDOT, the Counties, and the Cities. The information provided will help in planning Transportation features for the next ten years.

3. Central Services Update

Mr. Chris Bailey stated the facilities and grounds crews picked up over 3,000 pounds of trash around the City. The Spring Newsletter went out March 1. He explained a follow up study will be done on the impact of the Traffic Calming on Church Street and Davis Street. The exchange server migration went successfully. Mr. Bailey gave a presentation of the Police Station / Municipal Court Building renovation.

II. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1. Finance

a. Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Beth Thompson presented the monthly Finance Report. She stated the report has unaudited year-end numbers, because year-end accruals have not been done. The 60-day accruals will be finished after the February numbers get closed out. The finance staff has been busy with the year-end audit; Mauldin & Jenkins will be finishing their field work over the next couple of weeks. Hopefully, the final audited numbers and the CAFR will be completed in April. There continues to be an increase in the Sales Tax Revenues. The Property Tax Collections are over 98% of the budgeted amount, and February collections have not been received yet. The Utility non-payment cutoffs are down considerably compared to last year, which is probably due to monthly extensions. There continues to be a high percentage of paid extensions each month, and there are approximately 150 customers taking advantage of Budget Billing.

2. Airport**a. Monthly Airport Report**

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Airport Report. The preconstruction meeting for the Runway Paving Project will be held mid-March, with the project starting at the beginning of April. He stated all of the tenants and on-site businesses were sent letters notifying them about the closure; the information is also posted on the City website and on social media. There will be a three-to-four-week full closure of the Airport during the month of April, depending on the weather. Following the full closure, there will be another three-to-four-month sporadic closure for testing and final striping. He explained funds provided to the State of Georgia from FAA will be allotted to the Airports for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act, which should be an additional \$13,000.00 of grant funds for the City.

3. Public Works**a. Monthly Solid Waste Report**

Mr. Danny Smith presented the monthly Solid Waste Report. He stated the automated gate at the entrance to the Transfer Station is almost done. The remainder of the tipping floor is scheduled to be resurfaced on April 9 and April 10. The tonnage was approximately 7,800, which was about the same as last year. He stated they have added a new Transfer Station customer, Bulldog Disposal Services. Mr. Smith gave an update on the radon incident. A low level of radon was detected in an outbound trailer at Oak Grove landfill. He explained the level of the radiation material was too low to cause any health concerns or to suspend operations. The City has been unable to trace the source and has been advised to install a detection monitor on the scale system. The load was isolated at the landfill for further testing, and they must get the State's permission to unload it. The trailer may have come from a medical facility, nursing home, or hospital. He stated the curbside recycling program will be upgrading to 65-gallon carts. The carts will be Pepsi blue color, with the City of Monroe brand on both sides, and acceptable items listed on the lid. Information packets will be attached to the carts when they are delivered; the starting target date is April 5. The curbside glass collection service is averaging two to three more customers each week, and there was 1.5 tons collected in January.

Mayor, Council, and Mr. Smith further discussed the recycling and glass collection services.

b. Great American Cleanup Week, April 19 – 23, 2021

Mr. Danny Smith explained the week of April 19 to be Great American Cleanup Week, which will allow the citizens of Monroe to bring any of their trash, scrap metal, tires (limit 10), and any recyclable items to the transfer station free of charge. He stated they are anticipating more participation this year; a high turnout is expected, due to people being at home.

The committee recommends to Council approval to participate in the Great American Cleanup.

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

c. Monthly Streets & Transportation Report

Mr. Jeremiah Still presented the monthly Streets & Transportation Report. There were 34 units completed in fleet maintenance. The crews are working on demolition in Mathews Park and Coker Park. The leaf truck has been shut down until next fall. The crews are getting ready to do some patching for the LMIG Project and throughout the City. He discussed paving becoming more expensive each year, due to the streets having to be milled. The milling will increase the lifespan of the paving.

d. Approval – Highland Parking Lot Rehabilitation

Mr. Jeremiah Still requested approval for the complete rehab of the parking lot at the corner of West Highland Avenue and North Broad Street, which downtown businesses use for additional parking. The City wants to extend the agreement with the owner to continue using it as a public use parking lot. The proposal includes total rehab of the existing asphalt and rebuild of the retaining wall. The new design includes additional parking places, new striping, and directional striping. He requested approval of the contract with J & R Consolidated Holdings, Inc., the lowest bidder, for the amount of \$58,500.00. The project is contingent upon the acceptance and

approval of an extended contract with the owner, Kenneth Murray, Sr., to retain the property for parking only.

City Administrator Logan Propes stated the agreement will hopefully be ready next week, but it could be next month. He explained the extension will be for a minimum of five years, with a year-to-year agreement thereafter.

The committee recommends to Council approval of the contract with J & R Consolidated Holdings, Inc., for a total cost of \$58,500.00, contingent upon the property owner's acceptance and approval of the extended contract for parking only.

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

e. Vehicle GPS Purchase / Conversion

Mr. Chris Bailey requested approval for the upgrade of the current GPS system throughout the City. The total upfront cost will be \$20,570 to purchase GPS units for 93 vehicles from AT&T Fleet Complete, which includes the upfront data plan fees, system access, and installation cost. He explained this will replace the existing units already deployed throughout the City's vehicle fleet; the updated units will provide better connectivity, tracking, and diagnostic alerts. They will take the old units for approximately a \$6,000 credit on the first monthly invoice after the installation is complete. The expenses and monthly fees will be split between departments and divisions as outlined.

The committee recommends approval of the purchase from AT&T Fleet Complete for \$20,570.00 as presented to Council.

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

4. Utilities

a. Monthly Electric & Telecom Report

Mr. Brian Thompson presented the monthly Electric & Telecom Report. He discussed a report from MEAG showing the uptime availability of the substations and downtime in breaker operations throughout the year. The electric substations in the City had an uptime of 99.7% last year. Publix is ready to start building when the weather permits. The overhead portion of the Etten Drive 3-phase project is complete. The FTTX project is waiting for poly concrete boxes and distribution taps to arrive. The downstream capacity has been increased on the cable system to make sure customers are getting what they need during the fiber transition. He explained that he is not comfortable feeding the new house being built at the end of Belle Meade from the existing infrastructure; it will be fed off of Alcovy Street instead. There has been trouble with the underground power in that subdivision the last few years, because the wire has been installed since 1989. A lot of underground wire will be replaced in the CIP Budget next year. He will be meeting with a contractor to discuss the power line replacement. He will be requesting additional CIP Funds to expand the fiber system outside of the City limits and to help cover some of the new subdivisions.

b. Monthly Water, Sewer, & Gas Report

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks presented the monthly Water, Sewer, & Gas Report. The crews have temporarily stopped working on the gas extension on Highway 186, due to the cold weather. The gas main for Fields of Alcovy Mountain has been completed; it will serve 61 lots. The crews are installing the four-inch plastic gas main on Old Monroe Madison and Chandler Road in Good Hope. The Publix gas line will be starting this week. The Alcovy River and Highway 138 Sewer Extension bid has been awarded and will be starting soon. He stated the request for proposal for the Sewer Plant design and review is due March 25. The 30-inch water distribution line should be out for bid soon; Weideman & Singleton is almost finished with the design. The Piedmont Industrial water main extension was completed last week; and the 20-inch water main on Cedar Ridge is about 50% complete. The Loganville water extension is waiting on one final easement; the pump station has been completed.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley requested Mr. Middlebrooks and Mr. Thompson to include a current projects list in their Utility Reports, with a 30-60-90-120-day timeline.

5. Public Safety**a. Monthly Fire Report**

Battalion Chief Jack Armstrong presented the monthly Fire Report. He stated they had 5 false calls. They responded to 233 calls in the month of January, with six being fires. There were two fires in the City limits. The fire at 501 Pine Park Street had a \$500 loss; it was caused from rodents creating a nest under the stove. The working structure fire at 416 Spring Place had a \$40,000 loss on the property. The smoke alarm at the residence alerted the family about the fire inside the garage, and the family was able to vacate the home. The fire was contained largely to the garage; it is believed that the fire was caused by a faulty multi strip outlet. Mr. Armstrong discussed the loss of retired Captain Hubert Hawkins in January and the loss of retired Captain Joe Locklin last May. He requested that the two individuals be recognized and honored somehow.

b. Monthly Police Report

Police Chief R.V. Watts presented the monthly Police Report. He stated they had 1,518 calls for service in January and 1,624 calls last January. There were 8,877 area checks and 5,521 this time last year. The Part I and Part II Crimes are down significantly. The Joint Operations Unit executed three search warrant, made 16 felony arrests, and confiscated ten guns. He discussed the importance of staffing in order to meet the needs of the community, which was reflected this weekend. Someone tried to steal the tithes offering box off of the 1025 Church on East Spring Street; officers were able to make an arrest immediately. Sunday morning there was an assault on an 85-year-old female by an individual that escaped from a home; an arrest was made within eight and a half minutes. An arrest has been made for the Christmas morning homicide in Magnolia Homes. He discussed implementing school zone cameras to detect speeding, which would be an agreement with Red Speed. Officers recovered three stolen vehicles and made one arrest from yesterday to today.

6. Planning & Code**a. Monthly Code Report**

Mr. Patrick Kelley presented the monthly Code Report. The Code office had 114 inspections, and there were 39 permits written. There was \$102,000 worth of permitting, based on the MAB Project. He stated five new businesses acquired business licenses and three businesses closed. Main Street Apartments has their full Certificate of Occupancy, and Monroe Pavilion is ongoing. The Roe is under construction; they have had delays, due to COVID-19. The new classroom building for Grace Monroe Church is coming along well. The Reddy Clinic is still under construction. The City Marshals removed 117 signs from the roadway, issued 204 repair / cleanup orders, investigated two utility tampering cases, and issued six citations. He explained the Historic Preservation Commission granted a COA for 213 West Highland Avenue. Mr. Brad Callender has been working on information packets for new customers.

b. Intergovernmental Agreement with Walton County and City of Loganville for Aerial Photometrics

City Administrator Logan Propes explained the second Intergovernmental Agreement with Walton County and the City of Loganville for enhanced aerial photometrics, which gives an ultra-high resolution, aerial orthorectified photography model. The model will provide great planning and property assessment tools that will help with better ground visualizations and resolution for property assessment / appraisals, parcel boundaries, layering, and other GIS and planning work. The bulk of Walton County will be covered. Mr. Propes explained the City will not be subject to funding until next year, but Walton County needs approval of the agreement for their upcoming fiscal year. The City of Monroe will be responsible for paying \$6,722.02 per year for a period of three years, totaling \$20,166.05.

The committee recommends approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Walton County and the City of Loganville for aerial photometrics as presented to Council.

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

7. Economic Development**a. Monthly Economic Development Report**

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk discussed the Downtown Monroe Vibrancy Report, which is a culmination of the numbers submitted monthly to the Georgia Main Street Program. The 2021 Event Calendar which is mailed to the community is being finalized. She stated the City of Monroe Branding initiative with the Carl Vinson Institute is getting started. The survey can be filled out at <http://www.brandmonroe.com> and all input is welcome. It will be a long process, with the final product being revealed around November or December. The Annual Downtown Reception for sponsors and volunteers was held last night, and the winners will be included in the report next month. The Classic Car Show will be held on March 13.

8. Parks**a. Monthly Parks Report**

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Parks Report. The shade structures for Pilot Park were delivered yesterday and will be installed as weather permits. He stated Pilot Park is continuing to thrive and flourish. The restroom facility at Mathews Park is not in the designated place, due to the ground being too wet. It will be moved to the correct place after the ground dries out. He discussed possibly having an opening event at Pilot Park and Mathews Park in May.

III. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

- 1. Application – Beer & Wine Package Sales and Spirituous Liquors and Beer & Wine On-Premise Consumption – The Roe**
- 2. 2nd Reading – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions – Possession of Marijuana Ordinance Amendment**
- 3. Modified Development Agreement with MAB American et al.**

There was a general discussion on the above items. There was no action taken.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**1. Resolution – Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater System Preservation**

City Administrator Logan Propes discussed the wastewater system and the needed upgrades, which is a precious resource for the citizens and businesses in the City of Monroe. It could take a while to get some of the required equipment for the upcoming rehab. He explained the resolution helps to further protect the City sewer system. No more sewer lines will be run to developments outside of the City limits; sewer lines will be preserved for developments inside the City, except for taps already purchased or development agreements that have already been approved.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley questioned there being some outstanding approvals.

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal answered the system recovery fees that have already been paid and the development agreements that have already been executed anticipating connection will be honored. The two effected parties will be contacted to let them know they need to be finished within 24 months, which should not be a problem.

To adopt the resolution.

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

2. Lighting Repairs – US 78 and Highway 11

Mr. Brian Thompson discussed the ongoing conflict with the Georgia Department of Transportation concerning ownership of the lights. GDOT will not repair them, which creates a safety and aesthetics issue. He presented a request to replace the conduit, wire, and lighting structures on the ramps located on US Highway 78 and Georgia Highway 11 for a total cost of \$76,115.25. He explained there will be ten aluminum poles purchased, which will leave two spare poles as replacements. There is a twelve-week lead time for the poles.

To approve replacement of the lighting structures and repairs for a total cost of \$76,115.25

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

V. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor John Howard stated the cable bills have been reviewed as discussed and not a single household was billed incorrectly. He appointed Council Member Norman Garrett, Council Member Tyler Gregory, and Council Member David Dickinson to serve on the Decriminalization of Marijuana Committee; Chief R.V. Watts will be gathering information from other jurisdictions. COVID-19 cases are down. He discussed the Texas Power Grid and the storm that hit Dallas last week, which basically put them out of business. The City of Monroe is ready for this type of emergency situation; MEAG provides economic opportunities. The City's Energy Portfolio includes nuclear, solar, gas, wind, hydro-electric, coal, and natural gas; the City is 70% non-carbon emitting. He recommended that Council take the MEAG 101 Class. The Transfer Station will be open on Saturday, April 24 for the Great American Cleanup.

VI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by R. Bradley, seconded by Malcom. 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.

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| Those Present: | John Howard | Mayor |
| | Larry Bradley | Vice-Mayor |
| | Lee Malcom | Council Member |
| | Myoshia Crawford | Council Member |
| | Ross Bradley | Council Member |
| | Norman Garrett | Council Member (via phone) |
| | Tyler Gregory | Council Member |
| | Nathan Little | Council Member |
| | David Dickinson | Council Member |
| | Debbie Kirk | City Clerk |
| | Russell Preston | City Attorney |
| | Paul Rosenthal | City Attorney |

I. Call to Order – John Howard

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present, Council Member Norman Garrett was present via telephone. There was a quorum.

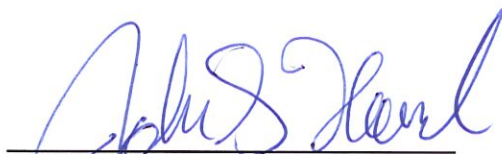
II. Personnel Issue (s)

1. Personnel Matter

Personnel matters were discussed, including attorney-client discussions.

III. Adjourn to Regular Session

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


MAYOR


CITY CLERK