

The Mayor and Council met for their regular meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Larry Bradley	Vice-Mayor
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Tyler Gregory	Council Member (via phone)
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Beverly Harrison	Interim City Clerk
	Russell Preston	City Attorney
	Donnie Wright	City Attorney

Absent:	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Charles Boyce	Council Member

Staff Present: Jeremiah Still, Matt McClung, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Mike McGuire, Chris Bailey, Brad Callender, Kaitlyn Stubbs, Chris Croy

Visitors: Emily Mapp-Hunter, Patricia Pope, Anna Ivey, Robbie Vaughn, Mitch Alligood, Tishia McRae, Rochelle Jackson, Delana Gregory, James Vaughn, Vince Kamin, Destin Avery, Lori Volk, Bruce Hendley, Garren Walker, Ned Butler, Michelle Mirolli, Kim Jolly, Julie Sams, Adriane Brown, Roger Hillman, Latasha Jones, Tishia Fenn

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Invocation

Mr. Garren Walker, from Fort Valley State University, gave the invocation.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present, except for Council Member Lee Malcom, Council Member Myoshia Crawford, and Council Member Charles Boyce. Council Member Tyler Gregory was present via telephone. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

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

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. October 10, 2023 Council Minutes
- b. September 19, 2023 Planning Commission Minutes
- c. September 14, 2023 Downtown Development Authority Minutes
- d. September 14, 2023 Conventions and Visitors Bureau Minutes

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

II. PUBLIC FORUM

1. Public Presentations

- a. Monroe Hurricanes Recognition

Mayor Howard stated Council Member Charles Boyce is Coach of the Monroe Hurricanes Basketball Team, which went to the Nationals. Assistant Coach Jeremiah Still also went to Nationals with the 10 and under boys' team, who won the Championship.

No Action.

b. Walton Teen Advocacy Board Presentation

Ms. Tishia Fenn, with the Walton Youth Advocacy Board, discussed their recent projects, events, and initiatives.

Ms. Delana Gregory, with Leadership Walton, presented the idea of having a talent show as a fundraiser.

Ms. Destin Avery, with Leadership Walton, presented the idea of doing an Heirloom Alley Garden.

No Action.

2. Public Comments

Ms. Robbie Mapp-Vaughn, of 26 Michael Etchison Spur, requested for the word Lieutenant to be added at the beginning of the name Michael Etchison Road. She wants everyone to know that he died in the line of duty.

Ms. Latasha Jones discussed the intersection at Highway 138 and Spring Street. Her father died on October 19. He was driving a motorcycle down Spring Street and turned onto Highway 138; someone crossing the road pulling out of Chick-Fil-A ran over him. It is a very dangerous intersection that needs to be made safer. She understands it is a Department of Transportation issue, but the City of Monroe has some influence on it. She stated it should be against the law to turn left during high traffic times.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes discussed the Highway 138 intersection at Starbucks and Chick-Fil-A. He had a meeting with the City engineers and GDOT officials last week. The City has requested for GDOT to take another look at the area; another accident happened there as well. GDOT is looking at a traffic improvement project that would go from Michael Etchison Road to the current East Bound On-Ramp. It is in the engineering process now, but it will take a lot of time. The City is pushing for a true green arrow for both sides on Michael Etchison Road and Highway 138. He feels confident there will at least be a time of use arrow installed. They are also pushing for signalization at Highway 11 and Highway 78. Additional improvements have been made to the East Bound On-Ramp, and it is now open. The West Bound On-Ramp is under heavy construction. The By-Pass Project is moving along and is getting ready for some utility relocations. New traffic signals have been installed on West Spring Street at Breedlove Drive; it will be restriped with turn signals over the next few weeks.

2. Assistant City Administrator Update

Assistant City Administrator Chris Bailey explained the guard rail requested for East Marable Street has now been installed. The leaf truck is following the Solid Waste routes and will continue through the end of February. Mathews Park will have trout added tomorrow. The Extra Special People (ESP) Fall Fest Event was held at the Airport on October 22; they raised \$89,000 for summer camps. The Bikes, Trikes, & Magical Lights Parade will be at Childers Park on November 16.

Council Member Tyler Gregory recused himself.

3. Department Requests

a. Utilities: Bid Award for 2022 CDBG

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks requested approval to award the 2022 CDBG Grant to James Warren & Associates for the amount of \$1,628,036.20, which was the lowest bid amount. The project includes replacement of 4,345 feet of sewer main along Glen Iris Drive, Stowers Street, portions of Bryant Road, and Edwards Street. Sewer service lines to 67 residential customers will be replaced and the existing brick manholes will be rehabbed. The bid amount also includes milling and paving of the listed streets.

To award the 2022 CDBG to James Warren & Associates.

*Motion by Little, seconded by Dickinson.
Abstaining: Gregory.
Passed.*

IV. NEW BUSINESS**1. New Business****a. Preliminary Plat – Rivers Edge, Phase I**

Mr. Brad Callender presented the request for approval of the Preliminary Plat for 302 Michael Etchison Road to allow for the development of 105 single-family residential lots in the first phase of the Rivers Edge Project. There are 325 total lots in the Rivers Edge Project. This Preliminary Plat represents a renewal of a previously approved Preliminary Plat for the development that was originally approved by City Council on August 3, 2021. The Preliminary Plat is the same in all respects as previously approved. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat without corrections.

To approve the Preliminary Plat, without corrections.

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

b. Preliminary Plat – Carson Pointe

Mr. Brad Callender presented the request for approval of the Preliminary Plat for 707 South Madison Avenue to allow for the development of five single-family residential lots in a small-scale development. The site was rezoned to PRD (Planned Residential Development) by City Council on August 8, 2023. Access to the lots will be via a private access easement with a paved driveway. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat without corrections.

To approve the Preliminary Plat, without corrections.

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

c. Final Plat – The Overlook of Monroe

Mr. Brad Callender presented the request for approval of the Final Plat for 319 South Madison Avenue to allow for the subdivision of seven townhome lots with one common area lot. Vehicular access to the townhomes will be via private access drive off of South Madison Avenue to the rear of the townhomes. The townhomes will be oriented to have four townhomes facing South Madison Avenue and three townhomes facing Milledge Avenue. Staff recommends approval of the Final Plat without corrections.

To approve the Final Plat, without corrections.

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

d. Renewal – Health and Ancillary Insurance

City Administrator Logan Propes explained the renewal of the 2024 Health and Ancillary Insurance through MSI Benefits Group. The City is partially self-insured, with some reinsurances. There are some large increases, due to a few health claims. The plan is still performing with an aggregate loss ratio of only 71%. There will be some fixed cost increases of two percent for next year and a specific stop-loss reinsurance will be set at \$80,000. The cost will be \$16,670 per employee. He proposed an increase of two percent to be paid by the employees.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley stated he is glad it has been kept as low as it has for this long.

To approve the 2023 Health & Ancillary Insurance Policies as presented through Crum and Foster, MetLife Dental, Standard, and MetLife Vision.

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

e. 2nd Reading – Development Regulations Text Amendment #7
Council waived the second reading of the Ordinance.

To adopt the Development Regulations Text Amendment Ordinance.

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

f. Discussion – Street Name Change – Michael Etchison Road to Lt. Michael Etchison Road

City Administrator Logan Propes explained that nobody disagrees with changing the name, but there are procedures that must be gone through. The other two-name changes that were done recently did not have any addresses on the streets. About 90% of the road is located in the territory of Walton County. Therefore, a reciprocal agreement will be needed with the County. He recommended that both the City and Walton County have public hearings, because there are at least 54 addresses that could be affected on the road. All of the addresses and systems would have to be updated.

Mayor Howard and Mr. Propes discussed the history of the road.

Mr. Propes stated he will discuss it with the County Manager.

No Action.

V. DISTRICT ITEMS

1. District Items

There were no district items.

2. Mayoral Update

Mayor John Howard thanked Council Member Tyler Gregory, Beth Thomspson, and Logan Propes for such a detailed Budget Meeting. The Bikes, Trikes, & Magical Lights Parade will be on November 16, and the Christmas Parade will be on December 7. There will be Candlelight Shopping every Thursday night. He thanked Public Works for their hard work. He discussed the City partnering with the Teen Advocacy Board to start holding a Teen Court.

VI. ADJOURN

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



MAYOR



INTERIM CITY CLERK