

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
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Russell Preston	City Attorney
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney (via phone)

Staff Present: Danny Smith, R.V. Watts, Bill Owens, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Patrick Kelley, Chris Bailey, Sadie Krawczyk, Beverly Harrison

Visitors: Les Russell, Amylee Dire

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

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

2. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated he and Mr. Les Russell will be interviewing candidates for the Historic Preservation Commission on Monday, which will be presented to Council for action on Tuesday. The Traffic Calming Project on Church Street and Davis Street has been started by the contractor. They are working on erosion control and will then move into demo and construction. Depending on the weather, the project should be concluded by early November. He explained some cost sharing details are being worked out for the MAB Development Agreement; there is a lot of work going on, due to it being such a mega project. He gave an update from the Georgia Department of Transportation and explained the City will have a Quick Response Project. There will be a section that is two tenths of a mile on West Spring Street constructed for a West Bound thru lane, and the project will be at no cost to the City. Mr. Propes explained the Special Election Qualifying for the District 6 Council Member will be August 17 through August 21, 2020.

3. Central Services Update

Mr. Chris Bailey stated the completion date for the Police Station / Municipal Court Building has been moved up to September 21. The facilities and grounds crews cut 233 acres of grass and picked up 2,500 pounds of trash during the month of July. He explained the Stormwater Department has been combined to be a Division of the Streets Department. Therefore, ditches and pipes will be managed under the Public Works Streets Division.

II. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1. Finance

a. Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Beth Thompson presented the monthly Finance Report. She stated revenues and expenditures are trending as budgeted overall, with the exception of Electric Metered Sales, which is due to the milder weather. Sales Tax Collections continue to increase; there was a 21% increase from this time last year. Paperwork has been submitted to the Department of Justice for the reimbursement of \$32,226.00 as part of the CARES Act Funding. A Resolution for the CARES Act Funding will be presented next week, which will be for Phase I of the reimbursements from the State of Georgia for \$715,750.00. The City received 30% of the funds which totals \$214,725.00 last week. She explained the reimbursement goes towards any

COVID-19 related expenses or expenses that were outside of the budget; it will not reimburse any revenue shortfalls.

2. Airport

a. Monthly Airport Report

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Airport Report. He stated June and July were both great months for fuels sales; there was a little over 2,400 gallons sold and a total of 113 transactions.

b. DBE Program Development & Administration

Mr. Chris Bailey requested approval of development and administration for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program by GMC Network. The three-year program is a requirement for public airports to receive Federal and State Funding for Capital Projects. He explained the program will cover years 2021, 2022, and 2023. The total amount of \$12,650.00 will be eligible for 90% reimbursement from the State in their FY2022 grant cycle, leaving the City to pay \$1,265.00.

The committee recommends approval for GMC Network to develop and administer the DBE Program to Council.

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

c. Hangar Site Construction and Labor

Mr. Chris Bailey discussed the LM Aviation Agreement from February 2020 to build the additional 16-unit t-hangar and the design concept for the site plan by GMC Network. He requested for Conner Grading and Landscape, Inc. to do the actual construction and landscaping portion of the project, for the amount of \$78,854.60. He explained the City will apply for reimbursement of this cost in the FY2022.

The committee recommends to Council approval of Conner Grading & Landscape, Inc. for the amount of \$78,854.60.

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

3. Public Works

a. Monthly Solid Waste Report

Mr. Danny Smith presented the monthly Solid Waste Report. The major projects at the Transfer Station are complete except for the wall inside the building. He stated the tonnage has increased 1,062 tons from this time last year. The curbside glass collection got off to a good start yesterday; there are currently 68 customers opting for the service. Customers are requested to rinse the containers out and remove caps and lids. Glass items cannot be mixed with other recycle items. He explained the vendor did not get the container to the City on time, so the City will use its own container and deliver the glass to the company. The vendor will pay the City \$25.00 per ton for delivering the glass to them.

b. Monthly Streets & Transportation Report

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Streets & Transportation Report. He stated the numbers for the Signs and Marking Division increased dramatically in June. The crews have been busy Hydro seeding Childers Park and demoing Pilot Park. They have also been doing grading work at the Airport.

4. Utilities

a. Monthly Electric & Telecom Report

Mr. Brian Thompson presented the monthly Electric & Telecom Report. He thanked Mr. Middlebrooks and Mr. Still for all their help after the rain yesterday. The rain caused some transmission poles to get washed out on Spring Street. The construction for the first phase of the electric service to the Pavilion Project is complete; they will have a general contractor this week and will need temporary power next week. The transformers will be set for the South Broad Street apartments tomorrow. He stated the City continues to receive large numbers of new

residential service orders. The power usage is down substantially, due to the weather. The 7-way micro duct has been installed from Downtown to Rowe Road. There will be a shutdown tonight around 2:30 for the CGNAT, which is being done in steps.

b. Monthly Water, Sewer, Gas, & Stormwater Report

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks presented the monthly Water, Sewer, Gas, & Stormwater Report. The Highway 11 South gas renewal that is being done by Harrison & Harrison is approximately 60% complete. He discussed the 2018 CDBG Sewer Collection Project on South Madison. The contractor will start replacing all of the services now that the main rehab is complete. He explained there will be a steel gas main replacement brought to Council next month for approval. The design review for the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been sent to EPD. The Loganville water line extension is moving along very well; the foundation for the pump station was poured last week. Wiedeman & Singleton has completed the redesign of the raw water line, and it is being reviewed by EPD.

City Administrator Logan Propes stated the streets were supposed to be paved towards the end of the CDBG Project, as part of the LMIG, but the project is taking longer than anticipated. The project will not be completed before October or November. He explained paving in October and November is not a good idea. The City has gotten approval from GDOT to pave the area in the Spring, using the same funding. The area will be stabilized and patched until that time.

c. Approval – Purchase Wilo RAS Pump

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks requested to purchase a new Wilo RAS pump for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He explained this is the return activated sludge pump at the sewer plant. The low bid came from J.H. Wright & Associates for \$15,542.00, which includes a five-year warranty.

The committee recommends approval of the Wilo RAS pump purchase from J.H. Wright & Associates for the amount of \$15,542.00 to Council.

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

5. Public Safety

a. Monthly Fire Report

Fire Chief Bill Owens presented the monthly Fire Report. He stated their numbers have started returning to normal, since COVID-19. The hydrant testing has been completed. He explained they have hired a new Fire Marshall, and he will start tomorrow. Fire Marshall Garrett Range will be coming from the City of Decatur, but he actually lives on Church Street. He stated ISO has called in a review for the Fire Department; the review will be in September. The last review was in 2015.

b. Monthly Police Report

Police Chief R.V. Watts presented the monthly Police Report. He stated they have seen a reduction in crime overall for the month of June. There were 14 Part I Crimes and 18 Part II Crimes. The officers conducted 9,637 area checks, with 32 arrests. The Joint Operations Unit executed two search warrants; they took three guns off the streets and made nine arrests.

c. Approval – Walton County School SRO Program Agreement

Police Chief R.V. Watts explained the contract for the City to provide the School Resource Officer Program services for the Monroe Area High School. The program funding amount is \$55,000.00 and is completely reimbursed by the Walton County Board of Education.

The committee recommends to Council approval of the SRO Program agreement with the Walton County Board of Education to provide school resource officers at the Monroe Area High School for the annual amount of \$55,000.00.

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

d. Approval – Walton County School SRO Program Agreement for Foothills Charter
Police Chief R.V. Watts explained the contract for the City to provide the School Resource Officer Program services for the Foothills Education Charter High School. The Walton County Board of Education agrees to pay the City of Monroe the rate of \$150.00 per day, for 164 days, for a total of \$24,600.00.

The committee recommends to Council approval of the SRO Program agreement with the Walton County Board of Education to provide school resource officers at the Foothills Education Charter High School for the annual amount of \$24,600.00 to Council.

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

6. Planning & Code

a. Monthly Code Report

Mr. Patrick Kelley presented the monthly Code Report. He stated the Main Street Apartments Project at 698 South Broad Street hopes to start leasing before the end of the year. John's Supermarket finished the building expansion, and the restaurant is now open. Monroe Self Storage is nearing completion. The Roe is coming along nicely and will be a beautiful project when finished.

7. Economic Development

a. Monthly Economic Development Report

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk discussed the numbers from Nextsite, which have been updated in the report. She stated the City is seeing new business growth; there have been a couple of property sales in the last few months. There are new businesses planning to open downtown. The City has executed an updated use agreement with the Murray family for the West Highland parking lot. Therefore, the City will now have access for cleaning the parking lot up, improving it, and making it more efficient. This will be the first step of getting the best efficiency out of an existing parking lot. Ms. Krawczyk discussed the DDA Planning Retreat, which was held last month. Teenagers volunteered through Love Where You Live with First Baptist last week; they updated the alley, painted some dumpsters, and cleaned things up. She explained they were also the first to participate in the Monroe Turtles Scavenger Hunt, which is a permanent scavenger hunt in downtown. There are ten turtles that are named after Monroe Historic figures, the first turtle is Myrtle located next to the fountain. She stated at this point the First Friday Concert is still scheduled for August 7. The Town Green will be gridded off for social distancing, masks will be available, and hand sanitizers will be spaced out over the field.

8. Parks

a. Monthly Parks Report

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Parks Report. The grading and demo for the Pilot Park Project started last week. He explained part of the storm drain will be replaced and the fence will be put back once things dry out. The installers will be here on Thursday or Friday, and the park should be completed in four to six weeks, depending on the weather. He requested bids for repair of the bathroom facilities at Mathews Park. The backside of the dam at Childers Park eroded, due to the rain overflow yesterday. He explained the stand pipe either bent or shifted. Contractors and potentially an engineer will be coming to look at the problem.

III. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

- 1. Public Hearing Rezone – 335 West Spring Street**
- 2. Appointment – Planning Commission**
- 3. 2nd Reading – MGAG Supply Contract Amendment & Supplemental Contract for Portfolio V Project Ordinance**
- 4. 2nd Reading – Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance**

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

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

1. Approval – 2020 Millage Rate

Finance Director Beth Thompson requested approval of the 2020 millage rate, with the rollback rate as presented. She explained the 2020 tax digest from Walton County shows an increase of 7.29% if the millage rate was left unchanged from 2019; this would qualify as a tax increase, due to inflationary growth in the digest. Instead, it is recommended by staff to adopt the full rollback rate of 7.588 mills for 2020. This will give the City a prospective 4.35% increase coming from new growth in the digest, which translates to \$143,275.00 more than 2019 at 100% of collections. She stated this is 0.214 mills less than 2019. The five-year history of the tax digest with current year’s digest and levy were properly advertised in the City’s legal organ on July 26, 2020. Property taxes will be collected by the Walton County Tax Commissioner’s Office.

To approve the legal rollback millage rate for 2020 at 7.588, Forms PT-32.1 and PT-38.


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

V. MAYOR’S UPDATE

Mayor John Howard stated he had no update tonight.

VI. ADJOURN

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



MAYOR



CITY CLERK