

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 (via phone)
	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, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Chris Bailey, Brad Callender, Kaitlyn Stubbs, Sara Shropshire, Leigh Ann Aldridge

Visitors: Julie Sams, Kim Jolly, Collyn Stephens, Shawna Mathias, Clayton Mathias, Michelle Mirolli, Pannita Bootkosa, William McDaniel, Kelli Herrington, Larry Price, Steven Brand, Chris Collin, Taylor Clay, Rickey Clay, Floni Jackson, Patrice Brett, Robert Willis, Jennifer Daniel, Clark Daniel, Lauren Gregory, Miller Gregory, Rita Dickinson, Tommy Fountain, Sr., Lori Volk, Juli Kopp Treadwell, Brenda Garner, Cristena Atkinson, Johnny Atkinson, Whit Holder, Danielle Minton-Dills, Lisa Anderson, Karen Allen, Patsy Hester, Byron Hester, Donna Scroggins, Stephen Scroggins, Kelsey Hall, Chris, Hall Crystal Curter, Daniel South, Lindsey South, Jim Favis, Greg Thompson, Charles Boyce, Josh Barber, Missy Lindsey, Nancy Tonnessen, Chris Tonnessen, Katy Atta Taylor, Rick Huszagh, Sarah Sturgill, Shannon Sturgill, Gabel Holder, Priscilla Jones, Janina Brown, Spencer Seay, Shane Hinkinson, Anthony Sims, Lesa Dowdy, Stacy Dowdy, Charlie Bunn, Ashley Bunn, Roger Hillman, Terrence Atkism, Gioncarlo Podeszesa, Mack K. Podeszesa, Elizabeth Jones, Gus Paxten, Felicia Paxten, Lynn Hill, Eloise Rucker, Barbara Booker Berry, Aurora Wilkinson, Justin Neibert, Adrienne Dowdy, Martha Murphy, Kathy Behtz, Antonio Granados, Jimmy Holbrook, Lisa Anderson, Paul Wilson, Amylee Hammond, Teri Giles, Sadie Krawczyk, Chad Draper, Geraldine Reed, Monique Cooper, Bobby Sills

**I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD**

**1. Invocation**

Archbishop Foley Beach, with the Holy Cross Anglican Church in Loganville, gave the invocation.

**2. Roll Call**

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. Council Member Myoshia Crawford was present via telephone. There was a quorum.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

To approve the agenda as presented.

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



**4. Approval of Consent Agenda**

- a. March 14, 2023 Council Minutes
- b. March 14, 2023 Executive Session Minutes
- c. February 21, 2023 Planning Commission Minutes
- d. February 28, 2023 Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
- e. February 9, 2023 Downtown Development Authority Minutes
- f. February 9, 2023 Conventions and Visitors Bureau Minutes

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

**II. PUBLIC FORUM****1. Public Presentations**

- a. Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor John Howard presented the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Ms. Lauren Gregory, with A Child's Voice Child Advocacy Center, accepted the proclamation. She stated they celebrate Child Abuse Prevention Month every April. They serve kids when there are allegations of abuse. The kids may have been witness to a crime, domestic violence, homicide, or sexual abuse. She explained that kids can heal from abuse, with supportive individuals it can be a safer community for the kids.

*No Action.*

- b. Proclamation – Georgia Small Business Week

Mayor John Howard presented the Georgia Small Business Week Proclamation, May 1 – 6, 2023.

*No Action.*

**2. Public Comments**

Ms. Geraldine Reed, of 1239 Fairview Drive, discussed the housing crisis. She stated that she was born and raised in Walton County; she has lived and worked in Walton County all of her life. She is an Associate Minister at New Beginnings Bible Church, a licensed realtor, worked in law enforcement for 10 years, and founded the Tanglewood Outreach Ministry for Kids. She stated that she has seen a lot of injustices in this County. People are being forced out of their homes and have nowhere to go; they are looking for affordable housing. Rental rates are doubling or the rental houses are being sold. There has to be a solution to the housing crisis. Ms. Reed requested to have a meeting with Mayor Howard, City officials, local church officials, the Housing Authority, and some of the homeless people concerning the housing situation. People just don't seem to care.

Mr. Chris Collin, of 614 Saint Ives Walk, stated he is a member of the Downtown Development Authority and a downtown business owner. He discussed businesses being able to sale alcohol to customers for the purpose of walking around the downtown area and attending City events. He is very concerned about Council making decisions that will directly affect businesses and livelihoods, without any evidence that the decision would make Monroe a better place. LR Burger has had zero incidents that were due to serving alcohol since they opened, due to being served alcohol, and this is true for the majority of the businesses in downtown. The restaurant industry is facing more challenges than ever in history. Businesses are still recovering from a global pandemic; this is not the time to take away revenue sources. He discussed how Alcohol Taxes are spent in the community; over half a million dollars from liquor taxes go towards funding the police force each year. He believes it is a responsible example that is being set for the children.

Ms. Monique Cooper, of 3055 Summit Lane, discussed her concern about the homeless crisis. She has lived in Walton County for about 15 years. She has a non-profit outreach ministry and has been housing the homeless. She requested for Council to look for any ways that they can help with the housing crisis. Ms. Cooper stated she supports and works with Ms. Reed. She



discussed people requesting help. Costs for everything have tripled; the economy is out of control. She is working to find funding, but she cannot house anyone else in her home.

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk, of 411 South Madison Avenue, stated that she is very encouraged by the local leaders who are standing up for the homelessness cause. She is speaking as a citizen living in downtown adjacent to the Entertainment District. City Ordinances are an example of a great local government, because the idea of changing them came from the citizens and local businesses. The people said this is a way to enhance the business mix, recruit new businesses, and support downtown activities in a safer way. She explained this was talked about and analyzed for over a year. The Ordinance was passed unanimously with full support from the community. She is really proud of it and loves downtown. There is still a long way to go, but she loves what has been built so far. Part of that success is a result of good local government, where they listen to the community and make policies that support their aims and goals. Her family has not had any issues living in the Entertainment District; it has enhanced their experience as a family and community.

Mr. Tommy Fountain, Sr., Pastor of 1025 Church, encouraged Council to repeal the Open Container Ordinance. He believes it is a bad image, a bad influence, and a bad idea. He discussed some statistics regarding teenage drinking in Georgia. He stated 17.5% of High School Students have reported drinking alcohol, 6.2% have reported binge drinking in the past 30 days, and the most recent data shows that 18% of Georgia High Schoolers took their first drink before the age of 13. He has heard rumors that a liquor store is coming into the City and that marijuana is going to be decriminalized. He discussed dealing with alcoholism through ministry and growing up with a dad that was an alcoholic and drug addict.

Ms. Lisa Anderson, of 136 West Highland Avenue, stated she was born and raised in Monroe. She owns two businesses here and serves on the Downtown Development Authority Board. She read a letter on behalf of the DDA indicating their strong support for maintaining the current City Alcohol Ordinances, which have been instrumental in bringing quality restaurants and retailers to the downtown area. Section 6-36 (c) allows properly sold and monitored open containers in the downtown district; these have been handled correctly and encourage patrons to support multiple business owners in a responsible manner. It allows the restaurant and business owners to share in the revenue generated and increases the sales tax revenue to help support services for the citizens. There has not been any issues or negative impact reported or experienced pertaining to the misuse of alcohol sold downtown since the Ordinance was enacted. She stated the business owners and law enforcement will properly address any issues that may occur.

Mr. Daniel South, of 109 Williams Street, stated he is currently building a home in downtown and owns The Roe. There are issues far greater than business development that should be discussed, such as families being on the streets. He requested that the Ordinance not be repealed or changed. He and his family have made a sizeable investment in this town; they were attracted by the comradery of the community. He stated that he understands problems with addiction. There needs to be more good examples showing that alcohol can be maintained responsibly in public.

Mr. Chad Draper, of 253 Boulevard, stated he has been a building owner in downtown since 1999. He believes that the City has great momentum starting at the core, which is downtown. He hopes that those positive changes continue to spread throughout the City. Some changes do not help all of the people in the community, but it could head in the right direction if everyone works together. Homelessness is a much bigger issue, and he would like to volunteer and help out in any way that he can. He discussed the progression of Downtown Monroe and how the less restrictive Ordinances have helped Monroe to grow. He believes the Ordinance allowing the responsible legal consumption of alcohol within the Entertainment District is going in a positive direction for the City. He encouraged leadership to keep the City moving forward. Prohibition of alcohol would have more of a negative impact than a responsible approach.

Mr. Greg Thompson, of 722 Clubside Drive, stated he is a citizen and has a business in the Entertainment District. Back around the middle of 2000 everything in Downtown Monroe closed at 5:30 and at 2:30 on Wednesdays. The City worked hard trying to get people to stay in downtown and revitalized the Downtown Development Authority. The Friday Night Concerts started bringing people into downtown, and the vacant buildings started being occupied. If the Alcohol Ordinance is repealed the downtown business district will die; businesses may have to lay employees off or even close down. He stated that he is not promoting alcohol; he is



promoting the Downtown Entertainment District for the City of Monroe. It would not be fair to the businesses.

Mr. Stephen Scroggins, with the Wine Wagon, stated 80% of their business is done in the Entertainment District. He has been a Fire Fighter and EMT for 20 years. Repealing the Alcohol Ordinance would basically shut down their business down. Their business is highly regulated, and they have not had any issues. He stated that alcohol is not the number one killer. Obesity, high blood pressure, and cardiac disease are the top killers, but restaurants are not being shut down. People are not going to stop drinking because the Ordinance is repealed; they will just do it somewhere else. He stated that drinking can be done responsibly, and Council has the ability to provide oversight.

Mr. Justin Neiburt, of 309 Milledge Avenue, stated that he recently moved to Monroe and bought a house in the Entertainment District. He has just graduated from UGA; he started working at The Roe and fell in love with the community. He discussed his support for the Open Container Policy in downtown. He lives next to the new Town Green and is invested in the City. The Open Container Ordinance is part of progression; it gives the ability to interact and socialize.

### III. BUSINESS ITEMS

#### 1. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated that yesterday was Lineman Appreciation Day, and he wanted to recognize the Electric Linemen. They have a dangerous job; they keep our lights on and keep us running. There will be a Community Quality of Life Survey coming out; it is a short survey of about 15 questions. He explained the survey helps staff turnover policy decisions.

#### 2. Assistant City Administrator Update

Assistant City Administrator Chris Bailey stated the Terminal Building is set for completion on May 30. It will be named the Dr. Kenneth Grubbs Terminal Building; he was one of the founding members of the Airport in Monroe. The completion date for the Town Green is set for July 11. There was a little over 19,000 in attendance for the Car Show on March 18, with 503 registered vehicles. The First Friday Concert will be on May 5 at 7:00 pm. The Farmers Market will start on Saturday, May 6. There will be a Community Cleanup Day on April 29, in conjunction with Georgia Cities Week. He stated Keck & Wood is working on the plans to get a guard rail installed on Marable Street.

#### 3. Department Requests

##### a. Public Works: Great American Cleanup Week, April 23 – 29, 2023

Mr. Danny Smith requested approval to participate in the Great American Cleanup effort, which will allow City residents to bring trash, garbage, scrap metal, and/or tires (limit 10) to the transfer station for free during the week of April 23-29, 2023. The City has been offering this event since 2002, aiding citizens in spring cleaning and is a way to help keep the City clean.

To approve participation in the Great American Cleanup.

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

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Public Hearing

##### a. Impact Fees

City Administrator Logan Propes introduced Ms. Marilyn Hall and Mr. Bobby Sills. Ms. Hall will explain the Impact Fee Process. He explained that the process is very lengthy.

Ms. Marilyn Hall, with Hall Consulting, gave a presentation on Impact Fee Methodology. She discussed Impact Fees 101, Regulations & Methodologies, the Recommended Approach, and the Next Steps. The Georgia Development Impact Fee Act (DIFA) was enacted into law in 1990 and made impact fees possible in Georgia. She explained that impact fees are one-time fees that are charged to land developers in order to help defray the cost of expanding capital facilities to serve the new growth. The idea is to ensure that communities have adequate public facilities as they grow. DIFA establishes a specific procedure for adoption and administration of impact



fees. Impact fees are not for operations; they are for facilities with a life span of 10 years or more. The fees could be used for a fire station, a fire truck, or heavy equipment, but not for police cars due to their life span. She explained that project improvements are not included in impact fees. DIFA allows for limited types of capital improvements to be funded with impact fees; they are restricted by the types of facilities. Ms. Hall discussed possible uses for impact fees. An Ordinance will need to be adopted, a Capital Improvements Element will need to be added as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, an Impact Fee Advisory Committee is required, and two public hearings must be held. The actual Impact Fees will be presented at the next public hearing. She explained the rules for calculations in detail. The three approaches to methodology are the buy-in approach, the incremental cost approach, and the hybrid approach. Ms. Hall stated that they recommend the incremental approach for this project, using a Citywide Service Area for everything except Stormwater. They will need to establish the existing level of service and the cost per unit. Data from the Comprehensive Plan will be used but with more detail. She explained how the fee calculations work, the proposed level of service standards, and the time frame for the next steps. Data Collection will be done in April; the Advisory Committee will meet for the first time in May; Impact Fee Calculations will be done in June; the Impact Fee Report, CIE, Ordinance, and Transmittal Resolution will be done in July; and Adoption will be in September.

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.*

## **2. New Business**

### **a. Discussion – Alcohol Ordinance**

Ms. Leigh Ann Aldridge presented some statistics from before the cups were allowed to be used in the Entertainment District compared to now. She stated that property taxes were \$3,429,385 in 2017 and \$4,492,399 in 2022. There have been 25 building rehab projects in downtown totaling nine million dollars, and the investment created 218 jobs. Event attendance was around 200,000 in 2022; between 2018 and 2022 there were 448,000 people at the events in Downtown Monroe.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley stated that he appreciates people taking an interest in the community and speaking up for it. He hopes that Ms. Cooper and Ms. Reed can get some support for housing needs that they discussed. He hears the statistics about growth but not all of the growth is due to being able to carry alcohol in the streets. The City has had growth for the last 10 years, not just the last 5 years, except during the pandemic. He questioned whether or not this can help the businesses to stay open or be able to can make money. Some of the statistics that Mr. Fountain discussed were alarming; a high percentage of deaths for people under 30 are due to alcohol consumption. He stated it is important that the City take actions that are good examples for the young people of the community. There have been lots of comments on social media over the last few weeks and many were directed towards him. Some people are saying that he is not supportive of the local businesses, but that could not be further from the truth. He has always been supportive, and he goes to the local restaurants that serve alcohol on a regular basis. Mr. Bradley stated he wants the City to continue supporting the businesses, but he does not want the City to take actions that promote or encourage the consumption of alcohol. He thinks the Ordinance is wrong, it sets a bad example for young people, and it sets a bad example for the City. Drinking is a personal decision. The Government has alcohol laws that govern what is done with alcohol for a reason. Alcohol is treated separately from all of the other food groups. The City has a responsibility as a Government to do the responsible thing as far as alcohol is concerned. This is not to stop people from drinking but to not promote or encourage it. He does not understand how it is a good example for the young people to see people walking around with an alcoholic beverage in a cup or lining up to buy alcohol at a City function. He encouraged Council to think about their responsibilities to the youth.

Council Member David Dickinson stated he is adamantly opposed to making any changes to the current Ordinance. He wants to keep the discussion rational. It is not about morality; it is about facts and business. This is about people's rights and ability to enjoy themselves, as long as they do not infringe upon the rights and freedom of others. He disagrees with Mr. Bradley and Mr. Fountain concerning the impact that the Ordinance has on alcoholics and problem drinkers. Everyone should not be punished because some people are alcoholics. There have not been any wild out of control incidents; there have been no reasons for anyone to be arrested. He stated



that there is no need to fix something that is not broken. The City has struggled for over two decades to get to where the downtown area is now. There are three Mayors present that are in support of keeping the Ordinance in place. If huge problems develop the Ordinance can be looked then. He stated none of the business are going to put their licenses in jeopardy by allowing drunk people to cause problems or do improper things.

Council Member Norman Garrett stated that he agrees with Mr. Bradley. People are coming into Monroe just to drink, which is a problem by itself. They are getting drunk and leaving the restaurants; they have to get into their cars to drive home. He stated good times can lead to tragedy, like drinking and driving. The City has made remarkable changes, and Council has tried to be productive and progressive by bringing people into the City. He stated if people can drink while downtown, then people should not be given tickets for open containers in cars. There are two different issues tonight; the black people are talking about poverty and the white people are talking about drinking rights. The City can make responsible changes that can still be beneficial to the downtown businesses; everything does not have to change at once. He thinks the businesses and Council can come to an agreement. This does not have to be a blanket stoppage, but people need to be able to see a change. People are going to drink where ever they want to, whether it is in downtown or at their home. The City needs to look at people being able to walk around with open containers, because at some point they have to get into their cars. They will be driving intoxicated, but no one is addressing the intoxication issue. He stated that if open containers are going to be allowed in downtown, then they should be allowed all over town. Everything seems to be confined to downtown; things should be able to be done outside of downtown as well.

Mayor Howard asked whether Mr. Garrett would like for the Entertainment District to be expanded.

Mr. Garrett stated that he had no problem with expanding the Entertainment District; people outside of downtown should be treated the same way. He does not think a vote has to be done today; some research can be done about supporting the businesses downtown. He believes with the City pushing these Ordinances and someone gets drunk downtown, then the City should be liable for a lawsuit.

Council Member Lee Malcom stated she was the representative for DDA during the time they were researching and trying to draw businesses into downtown. She now serves as the liaison and hears the discussions that take place at the DDA Board Meetings. She whole heartedly supports continuing with the Alcohol Ordinance as it is now, unless there is a problem. If an issue or problem arises, then Council can rethink the strategy. She stated from all indications right now, it is serving the City well. Monroe is a destination on the map and should continue moving forward.

Council Member Myoshia Crawford stated that she can understand issues from both sides. She agrees that the City should do some research to see what is best thing for the City and for the citizens of Monroe.

Council Member Charles Boyce stated he feels this is something that can be revisited and revamped; he does not think it is something that should be voted on tonight. He stated that housing issue needs to be on the agenda; it seems as though the City is putting profit over priority right now. There are people in the minority community that are hurting. He discussed the monthly cost for one of the apartments that are being built off of Unisia Drive and affordable housing. He stated that the City needs to get their priorities straight.

Council Member Nathan Little stated that he is sympathetic to both sides of the issue; one is a moral conviction and the other is economic. Perhaps the City was struggling when the Ordinance was enacted, but the City could perhaps be going back on their word to the people that have invested if the Ordinance is repealed. He stated maybe Council should have given it more thought before it was passed, but he is not in a position to vote to repeal the Ordinance right now.

Council Member Tyler Gregory stated he also hears both sides of the issue, but the City has given people the ability to choose. The Ordinance passed unanimously. He stated the ability to follow the laws correctly are up to the people. He agrees issue will need to be addressed if things were to get out of hand. The City can watch things that are being promoted and deal with any issues. He does not believe that this being allowed has caused a negative impact; it is a benefit to people. They like the parks and the community, and they like having the ability to go



from place-to-place unimpeded downtown. He stated if it becomes a problem, then it will be addressed. He believes the City is doing the right thing.

Mayor Howard stated he does think that the Ordinance needs some cleaning up and some things need to be adjusted. He stated the housing issue will be on the agenda next month for discussion.

Mr. Bradley explained none of his comments have said that the Ordinance or that the people drinking have caused disturbances or problems. He realizes that most people drink responsibly, and that has never been one of his issues. He is concerned about the direction that the City is going by promoting the drinking of alcohol, not the abuse on the streets. His concerned is about what Council passed as a City and whether it encourages and promotes the consumption of alcohol, which is not where a City should be. He stated that he voted for the Ordinance when it passed but now feels that it was a mistake, and that mistake needs to be corrected. Council needs to look at the image and example that is being set for young people when the City promotes alcohol consumption, because it is a slippery slope. He is fine with the issue being studied and brought back for a vote later. He stated that he is not going to back off from his feelings on the subject. Mr. Bradley stated he hopes the cleanup and suggested changes can be made by next month. He encouraged Council to think about the success of downtown and whether they want it to be measured by people walking around with an open glass of alcoholic beverage.

Mr. Garrett questioned whether the changes could be done by next month or what the time frame would be.

City Administrator Logan Propes stated that he will need input from Council, which will then need to be vetted. He feels there will need to be some one-on-one discussions with each of the Council Members. He explained it takes two to three months for an Ordinance to go through. He estimated that it will take two to three months of preparation, before the Ordinance comes back to Council in a final form.

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal explained that Ordinances get updated about every five years. The Alcohol Ordinance already had a short list of items that were building concerning cleanups and edits of technical details. The cleanup mechanisms needing to be done were already being discussed, prior to the discussion about repealing portions of the Ordinance. The cleanups specifically relate to City Events and the locations of breweries and micro-breweries in downtown. He believes that he is hearing that Council wants to study it some more. He suggested that this will probably need about 30 and 60 days for discussion between staff, Council, and the stakeholders in order to get some direction. Draft edits will then be done based upon that direction. The Ordinance would then come to Council for the first and second readings after those edits are made. He stated it will take at least 30 to 60 days if Council is wanting to have some internal staff studying done, internal discussions, and stakeholder discussions. His office will then need two to three weeks in order to draft the Ordinance based upon that information. It will take a few months if there are updates or changes that include repeals. The staff study could possibly be done in April and May, the Ordinance rewrites in June, and the first and second readings in July and August.

Mr. Bradley suggested for the results of the study to be brought back to Council in 60 days, prior to the drafting of the Ordinance.

Mr. Rosenthal answered that the list of items could absolutely be brought back to Council. He thinks that was what the purpose of the discussion tonight was for also. They will need to know if Council wants to repeal provisions of the Alcohol Ordinance and go back to the way it was pre-2018, or if the desire and direction is to improve the 2018 Ordinance by cleaning it up to make it more functional under alcohol provisions. He really believes that staff needs to have that direction from Council. It can be readdressed next month after some staff discussions if that is what needs to happen.

Ms. Malcom questioned what direction Council wants to go with the Ordinance.

Mayor Howard stated the internal discussion will be done first. Emails are public records, so Council and staff can go back and forth through email in order to narrow the changes down.



Mr. Rosenthal suggested that it be said that the item will be brought back up again next month, if that is what Council wants based upon the results of staff efforts. Therefore, people are not wondering when it will be brought up.

*No Action.*

b. Application – Spirituous Liquors and Beer & Wine On-Premise Consumption – 24 Twelve Cafe  
To approve the application.

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

Motion to take a five-minute recess.

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

*Meeting resumed after the break.*

c. Appointments (2) – Historic Preservation Commission  
To appoint Susan Sykes for a three-year term, to expire May 1, 2026.

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

To reappoint Elizabeth Jones for a three-year term, to expire May 1, 2026.

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

d. Appointments (2) – Tree Board  
To reappoint Lynne Laird to a three (3) year term to expire March 1, 2026.

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

To reappoint Susan Sykes to a three (3) year term to expire March 1, 2026.

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

e. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Zoning Code Text Amendment #15  
Council waived the second reading of the Ordinance.

To adopt the Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #15 as presented.

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

f. Resolution – Rescinding Preliminary Plat Approval Moratorium  
City Administrator Logan Propes stated there have been a couple of Resolutions to authorize and extend the Moratorium on the acceptance of applications for Preliminary Plats for residential development purposes outside of the City Core. He explained the Resolution was due to expire on June 30, 2023, but there have been a lot of needed Code updates implemented as part of the Comprehensive Plan. There has been a level of ease in the supply chain, and the rehabilitation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is also finally making some progress. It will take a long time for some of the developments to go from application to fruition; the construction for most of the projects will not start until 2025. Therefore, the City will allow the process to start by allowing acceptance of the applications. Mr. Propes clarified that the Resolution ends on April 30, 2023, and the City will begin accepting applications on May 1, 2023.



Council waived the reading of the Resolution.

To approve the Resolution.

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

## V. DISTRICT ITEMS

### 1. District Items

Council Member Lee Malcom questioned how many fiber installs have been done this month. She stated there are lots of people on Facebook very frustrated with other carriers, and it appears that the City of Monroe is available in those areas. She questioned whether everyone with the capability to connect with the City understands that the City can provide their service. It is important to capture those customers before they connect with new carriers.

Mr. Brian Thompson answered there is a total of approximately 870 fiber installs completed; there have been a little over 400 installs done in the last couple of months. He got two more contractors in this week. He stated that he received new door hangers this week, and they are researching ways to market the fiber. About 33% of the customers are totally new.

City Administrator Logan Propes stated it would not be very smart for the City to blast out the fiber availability until it is available everywhere literally. The fiber is not strong in every area of the City yet, so the marketing strategy is being started with door hangers.

Ms. Beth Thompson clarified the City had 431 fiber customers in January and as of March 31 there were 699.

Council Member Myoshia Crawford thanked Jeremiah Still for addressing the pot holes and guard rail issues on West Marable.

Council Member Charles Boyce stated if the City is going to expand the Entertainment District, they might as well go ahead and decriminalize marijuana.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley stated that Jeremiah Still is doing a really good job of trying to fix the pot holes in the City. He is concerned about asphalt being dropped on top of bad surfaces, because the City will have to pay for it. He does not know where the City is going to get the financing that is needed to repair these places. Fixing the pot holes is a temporary cure; the City needs to address the cost issue.

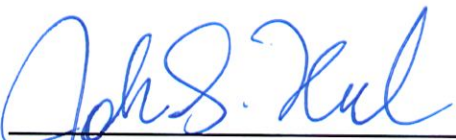
Council Member Tyler Gregory stated the Finance Department won two awards. He thanked Beth Thompson for keeping the books straight. He thanked Danny Smith for cleaning up the trash in the Mill Village and educating him on the process. He thanked Chief Watts for handling the stuff downtown.

### 2. Mayoral Update

Mayor John Howard stated there was an emergency at the Skyline Trace Apartments, and Mr. Scott Barrett called to compliment Chief Dykes and the Fire Department. He discussed the Habitat House that is under construction and gave Norman Garrett and Jonathan Locklin a special thanks. He stated five people have told him how good of a job that Public Works is doing. He thanked Chief Watts for handling the person harassing the kids in downtown.

## VI. ADJOURN

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

  
MAYOR

  
INTERIM CITY CLERK