

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
	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: Jeremiah Still, Danny Smith, R.V. Watts, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Chris Bailey, Brad Callender, Les Russell, Chris Croy, Kaitlyn Stubbs

Visitors: Sharon Swanepoel, Kyle Ward, Johnelle Simpson, Jim Campbell, Kathy Behtz, Julie Sams, Tommy Fountain, Jim Wilson, Stephanie Calabrese, Andrea Green, Wyatt Howard

## I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

### 1. Invocation

Pastor Tommy Fountain with 1025 Church gave the invocation.

### 2. Roll Call

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

### 3. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

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

### 4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. December 13, 2022 Council Minutes
- b. December 13, 2022 Executive Session Minutes
- c. November 15, 2022 Planning Commission Minutes
- d. November 22, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

## II. PUBLIC FORUM

### 1. Public Comments

Mr. Johnelle Simpson stated that he is with Fortson, Bentley, and Griffin located in Athens and is representing Mayfield Storage, LLC. He stated his objection to the Development Regulation Text Amendment. One of his colleagues sent a letter to the City that outlines all of the legalities and Code Sections that support the objection. It reads as an unconstitutional amendment as it is currently written. The parcel and the land are currently used for warehouse and warehouse self-service, which is an authorized use under the current Zoning Ordinance. The current iteration of the language would impair the vested right of his client. He stated Mr. Kyle Ward and Mr. Wyatt Howard from Mayfield Storage are also present tonight. Mr. Simpson recommended for the text amendment to be denied or tabled to allow time for his client to meet with the City to make sure that the language of the amendment does not infringe on the rights of his client.



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING      JANUARY 10, 2023      6:00 P.M.**

Ms. Stephanie Calabrese, of 400 Mayfield Drive, stated that she is a documentary artist and has lived in Monroe for the last 26 years. She offered an invitation to help support racial reconciliation with an aim towards healing. She discussed her photography exhibit titled "Hometown: A Documentary of Monroe, Georgia" and feeling that Monroe is segregated. She discussed her documentary feature film "Unspoken", which has won several awards. The film shows the impact of the 1942 Moore's Ford lynching; it will provide a better understanding of local history and influence it has had on present day challenges. On-Stage Community Theater will have a local screening on February 11 at 7:30 and February 12 at 1:30. A Community Dialogue will be hosted on February 25 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Grace Monroe Student Auditorium.

Ms. Andrea Green, of 707 East Church Street, discussed crime in Monroe. She stated that her family experienced an armed robbery the day after Christmas; a 15-year-old boy put a gun in her husband's face. They are used to crime and having to lock things up, which is sad. She discussed a 13-year-old boy stealing a car and running it into a neighbor's pool, and a neighbor's house getting shot last year. There was also a drive by shooting, where a car ran into a front porch. The crime is escalating and most of it is from juveniles. She discussed kids coming to front doors with sob stories while teenagers go through things at the back door. She stated that something needs to be done when school is out.

**III. BUSINESS ITEMS****1. City Administrator Update**

City Administrator Logan Propes explained that he, staff, and the DDA Board have been working with a consultant on a major Parking Study. The right-of-way acquisitions for the Bypass Project are almost done. According to GDOT, the Notice To Proceed on the actual construction will be in late spring or early summer. The Downtown Green completion date is late June or early July. He stated they are continuing with the Utility Bond Projects.

**2. Assistant City Administrator Update**

Assistant City Administrator Chris Bailey stated the crews picked up over 8,000 pounds of trash. Construction of the Terminal Building should be completed by April 1. The second phase of projects at Mathews Park have been completed. He gave an update on leaf season and the complications; the new truck is scheduled to arrive in the third quarter of 2023. The Transfer Station rate increase notifications are being sent out now.

**3. Department Requests****a. Fire: Walton County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Andrew Dykes explained that Walton County is in the process of applying for FEMA grant funding to offset the expense of contracting with a consultant to write the update to the 2026 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Walton County is requesting for each of the municipalities that are covered by the plan to sign the letter of agreement. He stated signing the letter signifies the intention to participate in the plan update process. The local match component can be met in part by staff participation.

To approve the Walton County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update as presented.

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

**IV. OLD BUSINESS****1. Preliminary Plat Review – River Pointe**

City Administrator Logan Propes explained the potential developer has countered on several items in the Development Agreement, and staff is now reviewing them. The item will need to be tabled until next month.

To table until next month.

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

**V. NEW BUSINESS****1. Public Hearings****a. Variance – 115 6<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mr. Brad Callender explained the property owner is requesting approval of a variance to reduce the minimum lot width and minimum lot size in order to allow a subdivision of property. Two existing lots were combined together prior to the 1973 Development Regulations; the applicant



is requesting the variances in order to reestablish the lots at their original widths. One of the lots would be 69.25 feet wide and the other would be 68.5 feet. The lot sizes would be reduced to just over 9,000 square feet each, and the minimum lot size in the R-1A District is 10,000 square feet. The Planning Commission recommended approval as submitted without conditions.

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

Mr. Jim Campbell, the property owner, spoke in favor of the variance. He explained there is currently one existing home, and they intend to build another house on the vacant lot.

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

*No Action.*

## 2. New Business

### a. Election of Vice Mayor

To elect Larry Bradley as Vice-Mayor.

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

### b. Appointment – Council Representative to DDA

To appoint Myoshia Crawford as Council Representative to DDA, with Lee Malcom as the secondary representative.

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

### c. Approval – Election Qualifying Fees

City Administrator Logan Propes presented the 2023 Election Qualifying Fees. He explained Georgia Code Section §21-2-131 states that each municipality shall fix and publish the qualifying fees for the offices that will be up for election every year that there is a general election. The qualifying fees are set for \$180.00. The fees must be advertised no later than February 1 of each year in which there is a regular election.

To approve the qualifying fees for the 2023 Election as specified in the Georgia Code.

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

### d. Variance – 115 6<sup>th</sup> Street

To approve the variance.

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

### e. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #14

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley requested for Mr. Callender to comment on the complaints by the gentleman during the Public Hearing.

Mr. Brad Callender stated there has been an application submitted for a Certificate of Appropriateness on the Highway 78 Corridor, and they included their Constitutional Objection with the request. He explained the application would be considered under the current ordinance, because it was submitted prior to the amendment going into effect.

Mr. Bradley clarified that their COA application would be under the old regulation and not under the new regulation. He questioned whether the application would be good for six months.

Mr. Callender explained a COA that has been approved by the Planning Commission would expire after six months.

Council waived the reading of the Ordinance.

f. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Development Regulations Text Amendment #6  
Council waived the second reading of the Ordinance.

To adopt the Development Regulations Text Amendment Ordinance.

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

g. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Animals Ordinance Amendment  
City Administrator Logan Propes explained the amendment restrengthens the Ordinance. It also complies with the Intergovernmental Agreement that the City has with Walton County.

Mayor Howard stated when an animal is seen being mistreated or abused the person should call animal control as well as the police.

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal gave the first reading of the Ordinance to amend the Animals Ordinance.

## VI. DISTRICT ITEMS

### 1. District Items

Council Member Lee Malcom thanked City staff for the phenomenal Christmas Parade. She was impressed with the cleanup and orchestration of the event.

Council Member Tyler Gregory stated “Go Dogs!”, and he is excited about back-to-back championships. He explained the payment kiosk at City Hall will be replaced on January 28 and should be done by January 31. Customers will be able to pay online or by phone if they can not come in during regular business hours.

### 2. Mayoral Update

Mayor John Howard wished congratulations to Council Member Lee Malcom for becoming a grandmother again; this is her fifth grandchild. The City had an outstanding Christmas Parade. He discussed the great job done by the Electric and Gas Departments during the cold temperatures on Christmas Eve. Mayor Howard requested for Mr. Thompson to give a fiber update.

Mr. Brian Thompson stated they have put in over 150 route miles of fiber the last few years and are now at the point of mass installs. He discussed the new Fiber Status Report that he will provide each month. Two contract install firms have been hired. They will be meeting with a third firm within the next couple of weeks. He discussed preparation for transitioning.


## VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

## RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

## VIII. ADJOURN

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

  
MAYOR

  
INTERIM CITY CLERK



The Mayor and Council met for an Executive Session.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Larry Bradley	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Charles Boyce, IV	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: Chris Bailey

**I. Call to Order – John Howard**

**1. Roll Call**

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

**II. Real Estate Issue (s)**

**1. Real Estate Matter**

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

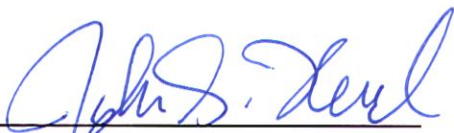
**III. Legal Issue (s)**

**1. Legal Matter**

Legal matters were discussed, including attorney-client discussions.

**IV. Adjourn to Regular Session**

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

  
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 MAYOR

  
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 INTERIM CITY CLERK