

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
	Tyler Gregory	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Staff Present: Danny Smith, R.V. Watts, Andrew Dykes, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Chris Bailey, Sadie Krawczyk, Brad Callender

Visitors: Julie Sams, Jason Sams, Teri Smiley, Stephanie Calabrese, Kerie Rowe, Emilio Kelly, Charles Boyce IV, Ron Coleman, Tara Polson, Mark Polson, Lee Garrett

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present, except Council Member Lee Malcom. There was a quorum.

Council Member Lee Malcom arrived at 6:10 pm.

2. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated they are continuing to monitor how the COVID outbreak is affecting Monroe and Walton County; the City is trying to conduct business accordingly. He stated the City lost two employees from COVID last week. He explained the City may go back to virtual meetings if the outbreak ramps up too much.

3. Central Services Update

Mr. Chris Bailey stated the facilities and grounds crews picked up over 3,500 pounds of trash around the City. A pre-construction meeting will be held next week for the 2020 CDBG, and construction should be starting around the first of October. He explained the new striping has been done on the parking lots at City Hall, Pilot Park, and at On-Stage Walton. Phase II of the Plaza Shopping Center Project should be underway; the pre-construction meeting was held last Friday. He stated the second Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for December 4, and the updated project timeline is attached to the report.

II. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1. Finance

a. Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Beth Thompson presented the monthly Finance Report. Revenues and expenses are trending as budgeted citywide. The Sales Tax Revenues continue to increase year after year. They are working on the 2022 Capital and Operating Budgets; the Department Heads have submitted their budget requests. She explained there will be a Budget Planning Retreat held in the next couple of months, and there will be a Financial Transparency Tool implemented in October.

Council, City Administrator, and Ms. Beth Thompson discussed revenues, expenses, specific guidelines, special operating funds, and the Financial Transparency Tool.

b. Approval – 2022 Personal Health Assessment and Wellness Credits Tiered Program

Mr. Les Russell presented a Tiered Program for the 2022 Wellness Credits. He stated it is time for open enrollment and the Personal Health Assessments. Currently, there are wellness credits given from the deductible amounts for BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol, and no tobacco use. There were originally 24 employees that did not qualify for any deductible credits and now that number is down to six. He requested approval to create a second tier of credits; he reviewed the lower guidelines that would have smaller credits. As an incentive, this year a \$500 wellness credit will be offered for employees that show proof of having gotten the COVID vaccine by December 1, 2021. He explained Piedmont Walton will provide the Personal Health Assessments in the Clinic at City Hall for a total cost of \$25 per employee.

Mayor, Council, and Mr. Russell discussed deductible credits, COVID vaccinations, incentives, and costs related to COVID.

The committee recommends approval of the Wellness Deductibles for 2022 as presented to Council.

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

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

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Airport Report. The City received a \$777,000.00 reimbursement from the Georgia Department of Transportation for paving the runway. The engineers are working on the maintenance hangar and terminal building site plans; the designs will be brought to Council in November.

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

Mr. Danny Smith presented the monthly Solid Waste Report. The tonnage at the Transfer Station was down 426 tons compared to this time last year, because of the two-day loss from the incident in July. He explained by partnering with WestRock Recycling more materials are going to be added to the Curbside Recycling Program; food and beverage cartons will be added to the collection list. The new flyer with acceptable items will be added to the City's website. He discussed the OOPS tag which will be used to educate customers on unacceptable items. Customers will have three opportunities to get it right, prior to the cart being pulled for three months. This is to reduce the amount of contamination going into the curbside program and the processor. Mr. Smith stated participation is way up; they ran out of carts and have ordered more. Glass collection participation is also up. He reviewed the Holiday Route Schedule.

b. Discussion / Approval – Emergency Purchase Automated Side Loader Truck

Mr. Danny Smith explained the emergency purchase of the automated side loader for the additional cost of \$8,673.00 totaling \$278,673.00. The purchase was an emergency because there was a 15% increase going into effect at the end of August, which would have raised the price to \$320,000.00.

The committee recommends approval of the emergency purchase of the Automated Side Loader from Carolina Environmental Systems for the amount of \$278,673.00 to Council.

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

c. Monthly Streets & Transportation Report

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Streets & Transportation Report. The LMIG Project started much quicker than planned, but has since been delayed due to COVID. East Washington has been milled; Bryant and Pine Crest will be milled next week. He explained Walton County will be paving East Washington from Broad Street to South Madison tomorrow and Thursday. The section going from South Madison to Felker will be paved early next week. He stated the crews have been patching and working on the easements for the upcoming stormwater projects. They have been working on the maintenance and paving on Green, West Marable, and Nowell Street. They have also been working on drainage projects and runway edges at the Airport.

4. Utilities

a. Monthly Electric & Telecom Report

Mr. Brian Thompson presented the monthly Electric & Telecom Report. The contract crews for the Madison Avenue Project are in the Gulf Coast helping to restore power from the hurricane. The hurricane is causing issues with getting transformers. He stated Publix, Marshall's and Ross are powering from a transformer now. There are only three other transformers to be installed for the project, and they should be finished next week. He explained the City got a full membership into the Solar Project; it was oversubscribed so he is unsure of the allocation at this time. The crews have been installing conduit for fiber in a lot of subdivisions, but they are having to wait on the electronics to be delivered.

b. Monthly Water, Sewer, & Gas Report

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks presented the monthly Water, Sewer, & Gas Report. He explained the gravity line for the Alcovy River and Highway 138 Sewer Project is about 85% complete. The contractor has started on the Sewer Plant Rehab. The 18-inch pipe going to MAB Development has been completed and pressure tested; it will be chlorinated next week. The 24-inch raw water line and the 20-inch finished water main are 45% complete; prequalification's for the contractors will be bid on December 2. The Loganville Water Line has been completed, except for the pressure sensors, which should be delivered within the next couple of days.

Council Member Tyler Gregory recused himself.

c. 2022 CDBG Grant Administration Services Selection

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the Grant Administration Services Agreement with Allen-Smith Consulting for the 2022 CDBG. The project will rehabilitate water, sewer, and stormwater systems throughout the City.

The committee recommends to Council approval of Allen-Smith Consulting for the 2022 CDBG Grant Administration Services.

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

d. 2022 CDBG Engineering Services Selection

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the Engineering Services Agreement with Carter & Sloope for the 2022 CDBG to rehabilitate water, sewer, and stormwater systems throughout the City.

The committee recommends approval of Carter & Sloope for the 2022 CDBG Engineering Services to Council.

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

5. Public Safety

a. Monthly Fire Report

Fire Chief Andrew Dykes presented the monthly Fire Report. The department responded to 214 emergency incidents, with five of them being fires. The fire loss was able to be confined to a \$450 appliance. He discussed the Heat Map included in the report, which shows the incident distribution and service demand locations. The City gave and received aid from Walton County about an equal number of times. He included a comparison of incident type statistics from the last four years. The aerial truck, ladder truck, and all of the ground ladders have been tested, as well as all of the pumps, and the necessary repairs have been made.

b. Monthly Police Report

Police Chief R.V. Watts presented the monthly Police Report. The calls for service were down by 212 from this time last year, the court cases were up, Part A Crimes were down, and the arrests were up. He explained there was a shooting incident on Perry Street and another in Monroe Estates; arrests were made in both incidents. There were six guns taken off the streets within the last 30 days. The department supported the L&J Harris Kids Foundation Back to School Kickback for 2021. Chief Watts stated the department lost Officer Tracey Conroy, a 49-year-old female, due to complications with COVID. He requested prayers for her family and the department.

c. Approval – Out of State Travel for Police

Police Chief R.V. Watts requested approval to move forward on the purchase of a fourth canine for the department, which would give the City constant canine coverage. The funds would come from the sale of asset forfeiture vehicles that were sold on GovDeals. He requested approval to purchase the canine using the asset forfeiture funds; there would be no cost to the tax payers. Officer Michael Bailey would attend the Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Officer Training Center for his Dual-Purpose K-9 Certification, for a total cost of \$22,812.00.

Vice-Mayor Larry Bradley clarified that none of the \$22,812.00 cost for the canine and the training will not come from the General Fund. The cost to the tax payers will be zero.

The committee recommends to Council to allow Officer Michael Bailey to attend the Alabama Canine Law Enforcement Officer Training Center in Northport, Alabama, for a total cost of \$22,812.00 to be paid from Asset Forfeiture Fund.

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

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

Mr. Brad Callender explained that Mr. Patrick Kelley could not be present tonight, but Council could reach out to him by phone or email if they have any questions about the report.

City Administrator Logan Propes stated the report demonstrates that a lot of the ground covering enforcement issues throughout the City have been addressed.

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

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk presented the monthly Economic Development Report. She discussed the Downtown Development Authority Annual Work Plan for what they will try to achieve in the next 12 months. There will be a Parade and Community Celebration in Downtown Monroe for Olympic Medalist Javianne Oliver on September 18 at 10:00 am; she will be recognized for her outstanding efforts in the Olympics. The City received two awards at the Georgia Downtown Conference; John's Supermarket received the Best Façade Rehabilitation Award and Monroe Walton Center for the Arts received the Downtown Partner of the Year Award. She stated the City Branding process is getting into the final stage and will be revealed to the community during the Bicentennial Week. The Blaine Station Master Plan will be presented to Planning and Zoning by Lord Aeck Sargent this month and Council next month.

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

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Parks Report. He stated the restroom for Pilot Park has been ordered, and there is a small drainage adjustment that will be made for the lower play area. Phase II is underway at Mathews Park; the additional restroom has been ordered. He explained the restrooms have about a five-month lead time, because they are not made until after they have been ordered. The remainder of the equipment should start arriving in the next couple of months. There will be a company coming in to do a full study of the pond, and the paving will be done in the spring. Keck & Wood will be revising and reworking the master plan for improving the park system, which will be presented to Council next year.

b. Mathews Park Pavilion Bid Award

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the recommendation for approval of Great Southern Recreation for the replacement of a 22-foot by 44-foot pavilion and the addition of a 30-foot by 60-foot pavilion. Great Southern Recreation had the lowest bid amount of \$117,800.00. He explained the City will save approximately \$21,000.00 on the pavilions by using the sealed bid process.

The committee recommends approval of Great Southern Recreation for \$117,800.00 to Council.

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

III. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

1. **Public Hearing – Purchase Sale Agreement for Liberty First Bank Property at 830 Highway 138**
2. **Public Hearing – Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #11**
3. **Preliminary Plat Review – 319 South Madison Avenue**
4. **Approval – Chamber of Commerce Contract**
5. **Appointment – Housing Authority**
6. **Professional Services Selection for Monroe Historic Survey Update**
7. **1st Reading – Zoning Ordinance Code Text Amendment #11**
8. **Resolution – Adoption of Walton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2020 – 2025**
9. **Resolution – ARPA Funding**
10. **Resolution – Georgia Cities Week, October 3 – 9, 2021**
11. **Resolution – Local Government Lighting Project Agreement**
12. **Resolution – GEFA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Application**
13. **Mayor’s Letter of Acknowledgement Regarding Moore’s Ford**

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

IV. MAYOR’S UPDATE


Mayor John Howard stated that by the end of the year the Development Authority will have up to three announcements concerning the Piedmont Industrial Park. This will add some jobs and good financial resources to the City. The Boys and Girls Club held the Duck Derby last week to raise money; there were 3,500 ducks dropped into the Alcovy River. They were able to raise approximately \$35,000.00.

V. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Howard stated there is no need for an Executive Session tonight.

VI. ADJOURN

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



MAYOR



CITY CLERK