



Called Council Meeting

AGENDA

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

6:00 PM

City Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER

- 1. Roll Call

II. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion - Walton County Public Safety and Jail Complex
- [2.](#) Resolution - Opposing Jail Complex on East Church Street

III. ADJOURN

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROE,
GEORGIA, OPPOSING THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE NEW WALTON
COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AND JAIL COMPLEX AT 1125 EAST CHURCH STREET
LOCATED IN THE CITY LIMITS OF MONROE**

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe, Georgia (the “City”) has been vested with substantial power to regulate the use of property within the City for the purposes of maintaining the health, morals, safety, security, peace and general welfare of the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City does not have the power to regulate use of property located within the City that is owned by other governmental entities, including Walton County (the “County”); and,

WHEREAS, the City has learned of the County’s decision to enter into a Real Estate Purchase and Donation Agreement (the “Agreement”) with East Church Street Investment Property, LLC, a related entity to local home builder Reliant Homes, for the purpose of building a new public safety complex including a new jail facility (the “New Jail”) with the potential to house up to 2,000 inmates; and,

WHEREAS, the City is supportive of Sheriff Joe Chapman fulfilling his constitutional duties to house inmates charged with crimes here in the City and all of Walton County; and,

WHEREAS, the City is supportive of the County working to either build a new jail facility in an appropriate location or to renovate the existing jail facility to house inmates safely and appropriately; and,

WHEREAS, the Agreement calls for the County to purchase 21.3 acres of land located at 1125 East Church Street, Monroe, Georgia (the “Property”) for construction of the New Jail; and,

WHEREAS, the County has released a conceptual rendering of the New Jail that shows that several homes would also need to be purchased by the County and then demolished to accomplish the County’s plan for the New Jail; and,

WHEREAS, the County has indicated to the City that it is relying in part on a Project Site Evaluation conducted in July, 2013, in choosing the Property for the location of the New Jail; and,

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides for an inspection period that lasts until November 3, 2021, for the County to consider the feasibility of the Property to be used for its intended purpose of the New Jail; and,

WHEREAS, the Property is located within the City Limits of the City of Monroe; and,

WHEREAS, the Property is located in a predominantly residential area that is historic in nature; and,

WHEREAS, there are two (2) elementary and secondary schools, multiple houses of worship and several municipal recreational parks located within one (1) mile of the Property; and,

WHEREAS, general common land planning principles traditionally dictate that correctional facilities such as the proposed New Jail are most appropriately located in non-residential areas; and,

WHEREAS, use of the Property for the New Jail by the County will have a detrimental impact on the historic Church Street corridor and its residential neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, the City has experienced significant economic growth over the past several years, especially in and around the historic core of its downtown Central Business District; and,

WHEREAS, much of that economic growth has been the result of desirable intown living in close proximity to the Central Business District; and,

WHEREAS, the Church Street Corridor and the surrounding residential neighborhoods have seen a strong and steady growth of property values due in large part to the desirability of those neighborhoods and their close proximity to Monroe’s Central Business District; and,

WHEREAS, locating the New Jail on the Property and demolishing several adjacent homes to build the New Jail will negatively impact the property values in the Church Street Corridor and surrounding residential neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, the City has expended great effort in recent years to further improve and develop the City’s Code of Ordinances, Zoning Ordinance, Future Land Use Plan and Comprehensive Plan to create diverse, stable, profitable and sustainable residential neighborhoods in close proximity to the City’s historic Central Business District; and,

WHEREAS, by choosing to use the Property for the New Jail instead of allowing the Property to develop into additional residential housing options for the community the County is ignoring and undermining the City and its citizens of their right of self-determination to establish community standards and community-specific quality of life issues specifically as it relates to the historic Church Street Corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of Monroe do hereby adopt the following resolutions:

1. The preamble of this Resolution shall be considered to be, and is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein; and,
2. The City is strongly opposed to the location of the New Jail on the Property; and,
3. The City is strongly opposed to locating the New Jail in any residential neighborhood area; and,

4. The City is interested in working with the County and Sheriff Joe Chapman to find an appropriate location for a new correctional facility to house Walton County inmates; and,
5. The City strongly believes that a new feasibility study should be conducted to determine an appropriate location for a new correctional facility rather than relying on a study that is more than eight years old; and,
6. The Mayor and Council hereby authorize the City Administrator to work with the County and Sheriff Joe Chapman in any appropriate manner to facilitate discussions about locating a new correctional facility for the County in a non-residential area of the City or County.

SO RESOLVED this 27th day of July, 2021.

CITY OF MONROE, GEORGIA

Approved: _____
John S. Howard, Mayor

Attest: _____
Debbie Kirk, City Clerk