

Town of Monroe

Town Board Meeting

July 18, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

June's monthly expenses were reviewed and approved.

June's minutes were approved.

Those in attendance at tonight's meeting are Mike Geels, Josh Geerken, David Bard, Clayton Lengerich, Justin Shaffer, Rachel Tague, both Berne and Decatur's newspaper journalists, Kris Burkhart and Clayton Lothridge

New Business

Nothing new to report.

Old Business

Strick's Barry Melton is here at tonight's meeting to discuss the Strick tax abatement that needs approved and signed by council. Barry began explaining the media coverage a couple of months ago was incorrect. Strick had filed with the State of Indiana a "warn" notice. This notice was said to have laid off all of Strick's employees. Barry stated that none of this was true. He notified council that they have upgraded their yard aka parking lot. Mike asked Clayton if Strick has been compliant. Clayton told council that they have been compliant. Council approved the tax abatement extension. Josh made a motion to accept. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0. David did mention that he would like Strick to communicate with council when things are released to the public that way council can have some sort of answers.

Utilities Superintendent

Justin noted water main work at the school is completed.

He has upgraded signs around town.

The Andrews Street project in front of the Best One warehouses will start soon.

Cold patching has been done.

Windows in the clerk's office is getting installed this month.

Justin has been working with Wessler to use up the remaining money with the SRF. He's wanting to put the remainder towards the water project in front of the Best One warehouse on Andrews St.

Paul Davis has submitted his letter of resignation to the Town. His last day will be August 4, 2024. Justin has placed an ad in the newspaper for the assistant superintendent position.

Justin has asked council if he can participant in the Angel Tree project this year through Adams County. He would like to purchase \$600 worth of gifts for the local children to have a good Christmas. He'd like to purchase enough gifts for 5 children this year. Mike would like to revisit this when Rachel is creating the budget. Justin also asks if he can not be held responsible for the sales tax on these gift items. This has been tabled until we discuss the budget.

Fire Department

Kris Burkhart was present at tonight's meeting. He said he learned that the fire department has a fire truck that is owned by the town. He is asking council what they'd like to do with this truck.

Kris has reached out to Rachel to see if she has a title for the truck but she has had no luck locating one.

Kris also mentioned that a few years back Baker Tilly/Town of Monroe had found 8k in the towns budget for the fire department labeled as Fire Misc. Kris believes this money was to pay for the insurance on the fire truck that is owned by the town. Rachel said she will look into this.

Mike said he'd entertain a motion to sign the title over to the fire department. David made a motion that once the title is obtained, the truck will then be signed over to the fire department. With Claytons suggestion, Josh is abstaining from this decision since he's on the fire department. Mike seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Other Business

Clayton Lothridge was present at tonight's meeting. He is here to let council know how being on the Adams County EDC is going and what he's learned so far since this is his first year being on the board. He stated the EDC is here for local businesses. He is asking any local business to reach out to him or the EDC for any sort of assistance they may need, monetary or otherwise.

The EDC is currently working on bringing other internet providers into the area. He said there are only 2 at the moment and they are either costly or have bad service. There is more to come on that front.

Clayton touched base on the Monroe Day Festival coming up on September 7, 2024. With the help of Best One, Monroe Day is set to be a success. This is only the second year for Monroe Day. Clayton has been working closely with Matt Brown of Best One and they are bringing music, games and a car show to this year's event. Clayton says big things are coming this year including a golf cart raffle sponsored by the Monroe Volunteer Fire Department.

Moving forward, Clayton would like to see a Halloween event of sorts in the town. He mentioned maybe having the fire department do a chili cook off the same night as the annual Halloween trick or treating the town holds. He mentioned he'd like to see it done on Saturday October 26 instead of the 31st. Council was receptive to this change.

Clerk-Treasurer

Rachel has asked council if they would like to contribute to the Monroe Day event. There is a celebratory fund she has earmarked for this type of thing. Council would like to contribute. Mike asked for a motion. Josh will abstain since he's employed by Best One and is also on town council. David made a motion to contribute 2k to Best One for the Monroe Day celebration. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

With budget time approaching, Rachel asked council if they'd like to increase this amount in the celebratory fund for next year taking it to 3k or more. Josh suggested they increase it to 3k for now and go from there on future budgets. Mike was in agreement. David said yes to 3k next year. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Rachel asked council if they'd like to have Craig from Baker Tilly come to discuss the budget for 2025 and to explain how we came up with 2025 numbers. They all agreed and said yes to having Craig come to a future meeting.

Rachel has asked council to consider a direct deposit option for all employees. Keystone offers a program that works with their payroll program. David commented that in order to see the town moving forward, he would like to see this as an option. The cost will be roughly \$600 for the new system, \$600 for the ability to email check stubs to the employees and then an annual renewal of \$190 for the license. Clayton Lengerich recommended making a contingent motion for approval of this new system with the understanding that he will review the contract that Keystone has presented before the town gives an official okay to this. David made a motion to accept. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Town Attorney

Clayton Lengerich is here tonight to present 3 new ordinances.

The first ordinance 2024-9 Establishing Standards and Requirements for the Monroe Water Service. This ordinance covers a variety of items such as connections fees, schedules, water deposit fees, no obstruction to the town water system on residents lots...and so on. David made a motion to accept this ordinance. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The next ordinance is 2024-10 and is for Regulating Farm Animals within the Town of Monroe. This ordinance discusses the no rooster rule and the number of hens permitted within the town. It also mentions that Amish buggies are exempt from this ordinance with concern to the fecal matter & urination concerns.

The last ordinance is 2024-11 which prohibits the use of jake brakes within the Town of Monroe. This states that no semis are permitted to use their Jake brakes along 124 within the Town of Monroe. There will be a \$225.00 fee incurred if a semi is caught doing this. Josh made a motion to accept this ordinance. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

Town Board President

Clerk-Treasurer