

**CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2011**

The Business Meeting of the Monroe City Council was held on October 4, 2011, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robert Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Balk, Cudaback, Tuttle, Kamp, Williams, Stima, and Goering.

Staff present: Brazel, Feilberg, Quenzer, Willis, Harris, Bremner, Roberts, Farrell, Sax, Inahara, Popelka, and Martinson.

City Attorney Zach Lell was also present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Vickie Mullen, 10312 210th Street SE, Snohomish, expressed concern that the City stay within their legal boundaries pertaining to Hotel/Motel tax distribution. She hopes that they will look at the proposals and decided then. She also had ideas she wanted to share and was willing to answer questions. She wants what's best for downtown; but, it needs to work for whole city. She doesn't like the proposed new logo and feels that citizens need to be asked.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that no decisions have been made with regard to the hotel/motel taxes; nothing has been brought to Council at this time.

Councilperson Balk asked about the rumor that the Visitor Information Center wasn't going to be funded.

Mayor Zimmerman stated that the committee hasn't met or made decisions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Cudaback asked that Consent Agenda items #4 & #5 be pulled from the agenda.

The motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Kamp, to approve the Consent Agenda items #1, #2 & #3. On vote,
Motion carried 7/0.

Items approved: 1A) August 23, 2011 Study Session Minutes; 1B) September 6, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes; 1C) September 13, 2011 Study Session Minutes; 1D) September 20, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes; 2) Bills (Checks #80614 – 80728) in the amount of \$1,665,077.84; 3) Release Retainage/Public Works Project 179th and W. Main St. Intersection Improvements.

After clarification on the project, the motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Goering, to approve Consent Agenda #4 – *Award Contract & Authorize Mayor to Sign Consultant Design Agreement for Fremont Street Utility Replacement Project*. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

After asking questions for clarification, the motion was made by Councilperson Cudaback and seconded by Councilperson Goering, to approve Consent Agenda #5 – *WHPacific Engineers Errors and Omissions Reimbursement – Design Consultant for the ARRA Grant for US 2/Chain Lake Road Project*. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary 2012 Budget Presentation/Enterprise Fund, General Fund, & Internal Service Funds Budget Items

Finance Director Nelson gave an overview of the Preliminary 2012 Budget pertaining to General Fund Revenues, which includes no increase for 2012. Sales tax is expected to remain flat until possibly late 2012. Admissions Tax revenue is projected to be 16% less than 2011. The Utility Tax revenue increase of 9% is based on other utilities charging higher rates. She gave further details on various funds and explained that the proposed budget includes four layoffs, including three in the Parks Department. After answering questions from Council, her presentation concluded.

PUBLIC HEARING

Revenue Sources for 2012

Finance Director Nelson gave a brief overview explaining that this was just a formality for the public to address council with regards to revenue.

Mayor Zimmerman opened the public hearing.

Vickie Mullen, 10312 210th Street SE, Snohomish, commented that Monroe still has existing businesses that haven't paid for business licenses. She suggested that there are also ways to get fees from those who come in to provide services within the city. She also suggested raising business license fees, which could bring in another \$20,000.

The motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Kamp, to close the public hearing. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

Consideration of Waiver of Park Impact Fees for Housing Hope Project in Marvin Gardens

Councilperson Balk explained that he is a former board member of Housing Hope and had recently participated on a project. He recused himself and left Council Chambers.

Councilperson Cudaback explained that she sits on a Housing Hope committee. She recused herself and left chambers.

Councilperson Stima stated that he went to a fundraising event for Housing Hope. Attorney Lell stated that he didn't need to recuse himself.

Permit & Planning Manager Popelka explained that Housing Hope had purchased 14 additional lots in Marvin Gardens. The previous 30 lots didn't pay some fees, due to a trade to the City. The City exempts certain housing from impact fees; however, it does not exempt single family homes. Some jurisdictions waived permit fees; but, not impact fees. The impact fees were paid under protest for five homes, to get the project started. Not charging the impact fees will affect the Parks Capital fund. He introduced Ron Peterson from Housing Hope, who wished to address Council.

Ron Peterson, 231 North Sunrise Blvd. Camano Island, explained that they are building single family homes for low and very low income families. They understand that this is the worst time to ask for fee reductions, when they've asked to take money from parks. Originally they had asked for a waiver of mitigation fees. He explained that some jurisdictions have waived or reduced permit or plan review fees. Housing Hope pays full price for the first one and a large discount for others that are the same design. He hopes that Council can support a reduction in fees.

After discussion, it was determined there would be no action taken at this time. Council will consider this request at a future date.

Councilpersons Balk and Cudaback returned to council chambers at 8:35 p.m.

Presentation of New Web Design

Public Works Director Feilberg explained that the deadline for the design decision is October 21st. He explained the color choices and showed examples.

After discussion, it was determined that other choices would be presented at another Council meeting.

Director Feilberg showed the various logo designs. After discussion, it was determined that modified logo choices would be brought back for Council review.

MAYOR/COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS

Councilperson Williams announced that there is motocross racing at the Fairgrounds on Wednesdays and Thursdays, which goes well with the City's sports theme.

Mayor Zimmerman explained about the mission trip he was taking to Haiti and that he would be meeting with the Mayor of Dessalines. They love formality and it had been recommended that they present a proclamation to declare them a Sister City, to show moral support to the community.

After Councilperson Balk commented that we would want to make sure it wasn't part of the official "Sister City" program, it was determined that staff would research the program.

Chief Quenzer reported that the murder trial was successful and that Benjamin was convicted.

Deputy City Clerk Martinson reported on the September 22, 2011 Ethic Board meeting and that the Board had written language to add to the ethics code, to ensure that confidential information remain confidential through the complaint process. The Ethics Board will meet in early November to determine where the phrase would fit best.

Draft Agenda/October 11, 2011 Study Session

City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for October 11, 2011.

A Web site presentation was added to the October 11, 2011 agenda.

After discussion, it was determined that the November 8, 2011 Council meeting would be cancelled, as it is an election night..

Mayor Zimmerman stated there was a need for an executive session. City Attorney Lell explained that the executive session would be for approximately 10 minutes, and was for purposes of discussion litigation or potential litigation with legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 1(i).

MEETING RECESSED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:10 p.m.

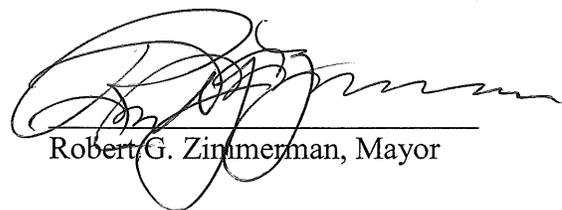
EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS EXTENDED

MEETING RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION: 9:26 p.m.

There being no further business, the motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Kamp, to adjourn the meeting. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:27 p.m.



Robert G. Zimmerman, Mayor



Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk