



MONROE CITY COUNCIL

Regular Study Session Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Zoom Online Meeting Platform

Mayor
Geoffrey Thomas

Councilmembers
*Heather Rousey, Mayor Pro Tem;
Patsy Cudaback; Kevin Hanford;
Jason Gamble, Jeff Rasmussen;
Ed Davis, & Kirk Scarboro*

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Proclamation 20-28 issued by Governor Jay Inslee, in-person attendance is not permitted at this time.

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present:
Rousey, Hanford, Davis, Rasmussen, and Scarboro

Mayor Thomas noted the excused absence of Councilmembers Cudaback and Gamble. There were no objections.

Staff present:
Knight, Hasart, Swanson, Feilberg, Jolley, Haley, Criswell, Huebner, and Christian
Consultant Adams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Rousey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

County Councilmember Sam Low gave an update on Highway 522. Appreciated Mayor Thomas calling in to testify to the state legislature in support of Highway 522 efforts as did the County. Highway 522 was in good shape, is part of Senator Hobbs' transportation package fully funded. Still waiting on the project list from the house side where funding seems to be lower than Senator Hobbs' proposal. Mr. Low thanked the City Council, Mayor, and staff for their continued hard work with #Finish522.

Councilmember Scarboro inquired if the whole Highway 522 project was funded. County Councilmember Low clarified it is currently but may change during reconciliation with the house projects.

Mayor Thomas thanked County Councilmember Low for coming this evening and providing this update. Mayor Thomas also thanked Mr. Low for all his work on Highway 522 and other projects, such as the synthetic turf fields at Lake Tye, the Boys and Girls Club, the Monroe Community Senior Center, Take the Next Step, and others. Thank you for your advocacy.

STAFF/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Mr. Feilberg provided an Emergency Management update to include information regarding Snohomish County's move to Phase II of the Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery. Mr. Feilberg shared what that means for us and stressed that we should continue social distancing and personal protection measures currently being taken. Mr. Feilberg also shared the current framework for recovery as shared in the Council packet.



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COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

1. Councilmember Scarboro shared he has received his first vaccination shot. It was a relatively easy process and he is looking forward to his second shot.
2. Councilmember Rousey gave an update on the P3 committee meeting last week and also shared that she attended the Snohomish County Tomorrow annual assembly last Wednesday.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. City Administrator Update. Ms. Knight reviewed the extended agenda included in the packet materials.

Ms. Knight shared the results of the Department of Health District 5 representative vote. There was a split vote for our representation and the Health District asked if we wished to reconsider our vote. The respective Mayors of the five cities within District 5 will be meeting to discuss this situation. Mayor Thomas clarified that Councilmember Redmon from City of Snohomish needed a supermajority of the cities to be reappointed; Councilmember Neigel from City of Sultan needed a simple majority to be named. Mayor Thomas asked if Council would like to reconsider their appointment. Councilmember Rasmussen wished to stay with Mr. Neigel. Councilmember Hanford concurred. Councilmember Scarboro also agreed. Councilmember Rousey mentioned she had voted for Ms. Redmon but she would go with the majority in this case. Councilmember Davis mentioned his preference would be to not change the current appointment of Mr. Neigel. Councilmember Hanford mentioned that Councilmembers Gamble and Cudaback supported Neigel at the last meeting. Mayor Thomas reiterated that the Council does not wish to change at this time.

Ms. Knight provided an update on Imagine Monroe. Two of the three focus groups have been assembled. Still working to find additional Latinx representation for the Spanish speaking focus group. Also currently scheduling and conducting one on one interviews, all of which is designed for data gathering. An update will come before Council on March 16, 2021. Project remains on schedule and on budget.

Ms. Knight shared that as part of the COVID outreach for Phase II to businesses performed by Mr. Palmer, the City has received several messages of thanks for the information being provided, that it is timely and understandable. One comment from Mr. Whitfield stated that this information was helpful both for his business and in his role as a school board member.

Ms. Knight shared that Mr. Swanson had mentioned previously that the implementation of the new building code went into effect on February 1, 2021 and the City was expecting to see an increase in permit activity prior to this date. The City received 105 permits of which 19 were single family residential in December and 92 in January of which 26 were single family residential. Both were significant increases over normal levels for these two months. Ms. Knight stated that the Building Department staff is doing a phenomenal job.



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2. Mayor Thomas mentioned that the City has welcomed two new officers in the last week, Officer Travis Munguia, a Monroe native and resident of the valley, and Officer Kaitlin Fisher, a lateral from the City of Duvall. Very happy to have them. Mayor Thomas mentioned that last week there was opportunity to provide testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee at the state legislature. Was able to and was convenient to do remotely. Gave testimony in support of Highway 522. When he was asked about preferences for funding, Mayor Thomas expressed there is no current preference but that we are supportive of having Highway 522 finished.

DISCUSSION

- 8.1. 2020 Human Services Annual Report. Ms. Adams provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached) which recapped the annual report and thanked Ms. Knight, Mr. Huebner, and Mr. Christian for all their help.

Councilmember Hanford appreciated the report and the data presented.

Councilmember Scarboro brought up the temporary encampment code and the various discussions to date. He asked about what specifically was discussed and asked how the discussion groups felt about the code. Ms. Adams clarified that the current code is interim to bring it into alignment with the state. Discussions were around duration of the code and length of stay. Councilmember Scarboro asked if we have a homeless count for Monroe. Ms. Adams did not have a number but mentioned that numbers are decreasing due to the success of the Monroe outreach team, specifically getting people to diversion centers and treatment. Councilmember Scarboro mentioned he is asked about homeless counts frequently and this information would be helpful. Ms. Adams will follow up with this information.

Mayor Thomas expressed his appreciation for all the work that Ms. Adams, the CHSAB, and all the community partners are doing. He also thanked the Council for making this investment into the community to help our more vulnerable population.

Ms. Knight also thanked Ms. Adams and staff for all the work everyone is doing. We have come a long way over the last year. She is really proud of the work we are doing together.

- 8.2. 2021 Legislative Priorities – Public Safety. Ms. Knight introduced this topic and provided a framework for tonight's discussion. Ms. Knight recapped the information provided in the agenda packet to include those bills being supported by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and stated tonight's focus is on two specific bills, House Bill (HB) 1203 and HB 1054, and how they affect police operations. Ms. Knight invited Chief Jolley to share his operational perspective on these bills.

Chief Jolley expressed appreciation for the opportunity to address these issues and began by stating there is a lot that law enforcement agrees on, arbitration reform, decertification, and tactical limits. But changes must improve trust and support the men and women of law enforcement and keep the community safe. The job must be done the right way every day. We are fortunate that Monroe is a supportive community and Monroe has a great Council that provides the tools needed to provide adequate safety. Chief Jolley shared that the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) also supports many of the same bills as AWC. Chief Jolley shared his opinion that 90 percent of all law enforcement agencies are doing well and doing the right thing. Much of this legislation is blanketed across many states. Washington is introducing over 65 bills that target law enforcement and there has been little to no input from the law enforcement community. The Chief shared that he feels that those departments with problems are matters of culture and lack of training. Larger departments



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can't get to each officer in the same way that smaller departments can. Defunding does not equal more accountability or equity, just more poorly trained officers. We need more training, not less.

Chief Jolley recapped the specifics contained in HB 1054 as detailed in the agenda packet and shared the potential consequences of each item. Of specific note was the banning of the use of K9 units for the apprehension of individuals. Chief Jolley gave an example of when you would use a K9 and how he would be reluctant to send an officer, for safety reasons, into the same situation. Chief Jolley expressed that he felt there was no evidence based or scientific research for making these changes. Law enforcement has been provided evidence as to why these tools are best practice. It may be that more training or the method of use may need to be improved, but not the removal of the tool itself. Councilmember Scarboro asked about the amendments to HB 1054 to date and shared his concern about the removal of the use of K9s also. Chief Jolley believed that one iteration stated the K9 had to be on a leash but that it changed when it came out of committee. Chief Jolley shared his concern that due to officer safety issues, lack of K9 use would lead to having to walk away from certain situations which could be unsafe for the community. Chief Jolley highlighted other specifics in the bill, including the banning the use of tear gas and certain types of military equipment. Chief Jolley clarified he does support banning some military style equipment but there are tools that come from the federal government that improves and supports officer safety. This bill has potential unintended consequences. WASPC has reached out to the author of this bill to provide input. WASPC opposes this bill as does the Chief. This bill is currently out of committee but has not yet moved to the Senate.

Mayor Thomas clarified that both WASPC and AWC are working on amendments to the bill and inquired about the likelihood of HB 1054 moving to the Senate. Staff responded the likelihood is high.

Councilmember Hanford also expressed his concerns and concurred with the Chief's concerns regarding this bill. He expressed appreciation for the Chief's leadership and report.

Councilmember Rousey also concurred with Councilmember Hanford. Agrees this is not helpful to our department but is aimed at departments with problems. This bill will create problems in Washington and when the time comes, she will support opposing this bill.

Chief Jolley recapped the specifics contained in HB 1203 as provided in the agenda packet. Chief Jolley shared his concerns to include how this community board would have access to any investigation, access to any crime scene and evidence, and the right to subpoena documents and compel testimony. More people would have access to sensitive information about ongoing investigations. Could be a loophole for defense attorneys and could compromise investigations. Bill also mandates that the Mayor would have to hire Police Chiefs from a list provided by this board and not by a recruitment process chosen by the Mayor or Council. Also of concern is the diversion of funding from the police department to fund the oversight board, creating a new layer of government outside the Council's control as the elected representatives. WASPC opposes this bill as does the Chief.

Mayor Thomas clarified that even if the Mayor had to use the board's list for potential Chief candidates, the Council would still be involved with the appointment. The Council is not precluded from the process but that the recruitment for potential candidates could be truncated.

Mayor Thomas inquired about who appoints this oversight group. Does the Council have this authority? Chief Jolley stated that is still uncertain.



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Mayor Thomas shared his concern that if the board is not appointed by the Council, it takes oversight away from the voters who elect the Council. Also, funding for this board is not in line with how other City boards are funded. This is one of many concerns regarding this board for the Mayor.

Mayor Thomas inquired regarding the status of HB 1203. Staff will follow up on and shared this is a bill of concern for the AWC.

Councilmember Hanford concurs with all the concerns raised for all the same reasons. The Mayor acknowledged seeing affirmative head nods and thumbs up from the remaining Council to Councilmember Hanford's statement.

Chief Jolley shared he has been invited to testify before committee on these bills and would welcome the opportunity to do so. He reiterated there are good bills out there that address police accountability and decertifying officers. He is very supportive of holding his profession more accountable. He does not support taking away tools that hold criminals accountable and that safeguard communities. Chief Jolley appreciates the Mayor and Council giving him the opportunity to speak to these bills this evening.

Mayor Thomas stated it appears that he and the Council are supportive of the Chief testifying to those aspects of these bills that would have an adverse or concerning effect on police operations. Mayor Thomas expressed that the Chief has demonstrated that there are positive proposals along with those that are negative and those that are not relevant and that the Chief is taking a balanced approach when analyzing the impacts of the proposed bills. The Chief is not being reactive without thinking these things through. The Mayor asked to receive continued updates on these items and asked to be informed about when it would be prudent for the Council to take a formal stand regarding these bills. Mayor Thomas expressed appreciation to the Chief for tonight's update as well as expressed his support for our law enforcement and our community. He also appreciates how intentional we are being about these issues and stated that the Chief has support to provide comment/testimony in the same manner as how he presented tonight.

Ms. Knight expressed appreciation for the opportunity to update the Council on these issues. These are fast moving legislation so we want to keep Council apprised of any potential changes or new bills that would need Council's attention.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hanford seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:20 p.m.


Geoffrey Thomas (Feb 24, 2021 17:11 PST)

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor



Rebecca R. Hasart, Interim City Clerk

2020 Annual Human Services Report



Presented By:
City of Monroe
Project Management Consultant
Rachel Adams

Hindsight is 2020

- Relationships
- Capacity

Covid19 Human Services Response

- Outreach
- Grants
- Partnerships

Housing

- Affordable Housing
- Sheltering Solutions
- Sky Valley Cold Weather Shelter

Partners

- Stakeholders
- Subject Matter Experts
- Technical Advisory Committee

Support Services

- Service Provider Check Ins
- East County Coordinated Entry

Policy & Budget

- HPAC Recommendations
- CHSAB Established

Public Safety

- Existing Programs
- New Services

Prevention

- Communications Plan
- *We Are Monroe Campaign*

Thank you!









MCC Minutes 02-02-2021

Final Audit Report

2021-02-25

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