

**CITY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS/STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
July 12, 2011**

The Business/Study Session of the Monroe City Council was held on July 12, 2011, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robert Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff present: Brazel, Feilberg, Quenzer, Harris, Smith, Nelson, Bremner, Lande, and Martinson.

City Attorney Zach Lell was not present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

Lana Stevens, 711 1st Street S., Kirkland, is a property owner in Monroe and was there to give an update on DREAM. She gave the history of DREAM, which is an acronym for Downtown Revitalization and Enhancement Monroe. They have done a lot to enhance shopping in historic Downtown, including coupon books, an arts and crafts show, and a farmers' market. They will have a flea market with high-quality antiques and crafts. She thanked Mike Farrell and Brad Feilberg for supporting everything they have worked on. It's important that the money stays in the community. She thanked Mayor Zimmerman for the good job he is doing. DREAM is continuing to work with the Chamber of Commerce to keep activity going in downtown.

Fred Walser, 692 Park Lane, Monroe, is Chair for the US Safety Coalition. He stated that the bypass is going to happen and they need the City's help. He explained about Tiger Grants, which are for projects are for long-range improvements. He met with Scott North, the Herald Editor, who said that they plan to do a story about the problems on Highway 2. Representative Mike Armstrong is on the House of Transportation Commission and was appointed by Governor Gregoire to sit on the new Transportation Advisory Commission, to look at transportation. The bypass is his Number 1 priority and he supports the Tiger Grants, which needs someone to run it. Representative Armstrong suggested that we contact our federal delegation, Senators Murray and Cantwell. We need to get the 522 connector right now, as it would take 10,000 vehicles per day off Highway 2. There is also interest in putting the connector road through to connect with the Fair Grounds. Representative Armstrong wants to meet with the City Council the third week in September, to have roundtable discussions before the legislative session. He is talking about all three phases being completed on the bypass.

Mayor Zimmerman stated that they were meeting with the DOT on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and invited Mr. Walser to attend.

City Administrator Brazel reported that they are sending a staff member to the training for the Tiger Grant.

Ty Balascio, 13402 231<sup>st</sup> Ave SE, Monroe, addressed Council about their decision made at the last meeting determining that the initiative didn't satisfy the legal requirements of an initiative. He questioned where in the constitution such an authority exists.

## **BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS**

#### **2010 Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Award**

Mayor Zimmerman read a letter from the Department of Ecology awarding the WWTP the *Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance* award. "It takes diligent operators and a strong management team, working effectively together to achieve this high level of compliance. ...Your excellent record demonstrates that dedicated operators run the Monroe Wastewater Treatment Plant and their combined efforts lead to outstanding compliance."

Mayor Zimmerman congratulated WWTP Manager John Lande, who stated that they have received this award four out of six years.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Williams, to approve the Consent Agenda. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

Items approved: 1A) April 5, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes; 1B) April 12, 2011 Study Session Minutes; 1C) April 19, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes; 2) Bills (Vouchers #079849 – 079965 in the amount of \$162,996.11; 3) Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Revised Construction Management Agreement with WHPacific for the Kelsey/Main Street Signal Project; 4) Amend "Agreement for Tourism Services": A. DREAM; B. Sky Valley Trout Unlimited.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Review of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Members**

Public Works Director Feilberg explained that the lodging tax is collected to be used for tourism. In order to disburse that money, state law requires that the City have a Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, which would be tasked with making recommendation to Council from community group applications. Currently, there is just one member left on the committee; they are seeking a motion from Council to direct staff to recruit new committee members.

The motion was made by Councilperson Balk and seconded by Councilperson Goering, to direct staff to recruit members for the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. On vote,

Motion carried 7/0.

COUNCIL RECESSED AND RECONVENED INTO STUDY SESSION: 7:30 p.m.

### **STUDY SESSION ITEMS**

#### **Possible Code Amendment for Utility Vacancy**

Finance Director Nelson explained that a citizen had asked to extend her Utility Vacation request for a longer period than allowed while she is on an extended trip out of town.

After discussion, it was determined that Director Nelson would report back to Council with numbers to show the effects of allowing more people to have extended vacation of utility payments. She would also discuss the legal issues surrounding this type of action with City Attorney Lell.

**Discussion: Advisory Initiative Pertaining to Traffic Cameras**

Mayor Zimmerman stated that this has been a very passionate discussion within the community. He wants to recognize that Councils present and past have been prudent regarding the traffic safety cameras. Council action recently was based on legal opinions from various court justices, and that their actions were for purposes of protecting constituents. They did vote to prepare to put this on the ballot for a future vote.

City Administrator Brazel explained that one resolution being presented is to vote whether the City should continue the program, and one is to vote whether there should be future installations of cameras.

Mayor Zimmerman stated that the reason behind the resolutions is for two points of issue that were important; but it could be combined into one for the ballot. Council gave direction that he could seek a declaratory judgment, which they haven't done at this time as they were waiting to see results from other cities. In Longview the court ruled that the initiative filed in Longview is invalid. The City can ask for its own declaratory judgment.

Mayor Zimmerman read the first resolution, which would put an advisory vote on the ballot to determine whether citizens would want the Traffic Safety Camera Program to continue after the current contract expires.

After discussion, it was determined that they would move forward with staff preparing to put it on the November ballot for citizens to vote on whether or not the contract should be extended.

Mayor Zimmerman read the second resolution draft, which would put an advisory vote on the ballot for citizens to decide whether they want a say in the installation of future traffic safety cameras.

After discussion, it was determined that Council's suggestions would go back to the City Attorney, and Mayor Zimmerman directed staff to put on the next agenda the resolution to put an advisory vote on the ballot determining whether citizens want additional cameras installed.

In addition, they would find out if the fourth camera could legally be subject to that vote, too.

After review of the "Photo Enforcement Cameras in Monroe" fact sheet, suggestions were made for changes and additions and would be brought back to Council on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Department Reports**

### ***Finance Department***

Finance Director Nelson reported that she is working on the 2012 budget and also noted the Donation Report in the Council packet. She also reported that the State Auditor is auditing the City's 2010 financials at this time.

### ***Information Technology Department***

IT Manager Denise Bremner gave an update on their Request for Proposals (RFP) for Web site services. They had received 11 proposals, and chose four vendors to interview. They compared pricing, the "look and feel" of their web proposal, and how easily departments could work with it. They chose Civic Plus, which specializes in municipal Web sites. She gave the breakdown on costs and the savings the City would have after the first year. She explained the services that were included and that updates would be included in the annual \$3,000 maintenance cost. The City would always have the newest version. Each department could do their own web updates and the City would move from static to dynamic.

### ***Police Department***

Chief Quenzer explained that the department statistics report was provided in the packet. One detective was lead for the investigation on the County Deputy who shot a man in Bothell. They are also continuing with the homicide case at the Department of Corrections. The DOC is continuing to pay at 100% of what the Police Department bills.

### ***Public Works Department***

Public Works Director Feilberg explained that they are interviewing for the Planning/Permitting Manager position on Friday, and continuing their work on the economic development manager position and plans examiner position, as well. He also reported on the Chain Lake Road/Highway 2 intersection improvement project, which is nearing completion.

### ***Human Resources***

HR Manager Smith reported on two vendors who would be giving presentations to the Council Finance Committee on their health care and ancillary programs. Anyone interested in the presentations is welcome to attend.

Mayor Zimmerman asked that they keep it to no more than three Councilmember and that the committee members let Ms. Smith know if they aren't able to attend the meeting, so replacements could be arranged for the presentations.

### ***Parks Department***

Mayor Zimmerman reported on the phenomenal success of Tri-Monroe. He had spoken to one of the participants, an Olympian, who said it's the best venue he had ever seen. The Pro-Wakeboard event was attended by 7,500-10,000 people. Saturday was one of the largest showings on the tour. He met with three professionals on Sunday, who also felt that it was one of the best venues in the tour. One participant said it was the best venue in his career. Business owners said they did very well during the event. Sockeye's closed early, due to being out of food items. Mayor Zimmerman closed by saying that Mike Farrell and his staff did a tremendous job on set up for the event.

**Draft Agenda/May 17, 2011 Council Business Meeting**

City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for July 19, 2011.

Councilperson Goering asked that the proposed resolutions for traffic cameras be added to the July 19<sup>th</sup> agenda, and that "diversity of neighborhoods" be removed from the term limits resolution.

Councilperson Cudaback asked when the farm ordinance would be coming before Council. Director Feilberg responded that it would come back in early fall.

Councilperson Goering commented about the wakeboard event and thanked the Parks and Public Works crews for a great clean-up job after the event. He suggested that something could be done with the vacant former Pan-Alaska building on Highway 2. One possibility would be to build a hotel to support these kinds of event.

Director Feilberg stated that hotels aren't currently allowed in Monroe; but, motels are allowed. That issue could be put on the docket list. This will be discussed further on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

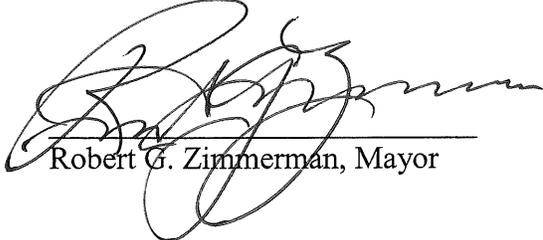
Mayor Zimmerman commented that the wakeboard event was the largest event Monroe has hosted in its Parks system and what a great job was done by staff. He also wanted to thank the Police officers who were there throughout the day. The event went very smoothly.

Chief Quenzer gave an update on the Hill Street building demolition, stating that the asbestos has been removed. They will start taking the structure down on the week of July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Councilperson Stima would like to have the planning commission or someone to look at putting more teeth in our code to ensure structures that are becoming dilapidated are taken care of more quickly.

Director Feilberg explained that the City had already adopted the International Maintenance Code; but, they don't have staffing to focus on it.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:11 p.m.



Robert G. Zimmerman, Mayor



Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk