

1



MONROE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 7:00 pm  
MINUTES

2

3

4

5

6

7

**7:00 p.m.**

8

9

**1.** The regular meeting of the Monroe City Council was called to order by Mayor Parsons at 7:00 p.m.

10

11

12

**2.** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Buchmiller. A prayer was offered by Councilmember Payne.

13

14

15

**3. Roll Call**

16

Mayor Johnny Parsons

17

Councilmembers:

18

Dane Buchmiller

19

Janet Cartwright – left at 7:55 p.m.

20

Michael Mathie

21

Perry Payne

22

Erica Serrine

23

Public Works Director Devin Magleby

24

Power Foreman Josey Parsons

25

City Recorder Allison Leavitt

26

Utility Board Chairperson Jeff Nielson

27

28

**4. Consider a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held October 25, 2022.**

29

30

**Councilmember Payne moved to approve the October 25, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mathie. A roll call vote was called. Voting yes: Councilmembers Buchmiller, Cartwright, Mathie, Payne, and Serrine. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried. 5-0**

31

32

33

34

35

**5. Citizen input – Limit of 3 minutes per comment**

36

37 David Peterson expressed his love of our town and the trees that we have here. The trees,  
38 however, take a lot of maintenance and having to obtain a key to access the limb pile is going to  
39 cause an inconvenience in maintaining the trees on his property. He understands that there is a  
40 problem with misuse at the limb pile which has caused the Council to implement the key lock  
41 system for access to the limb pile. He suggested that stronger penalties be put into place for non-  
42 residents and others misusing the limb pile instead of penalizing those not misusing the limb pile  
43 by having to obtain a key for access. Mayor Parsons stated that we have looked at other options  
44 but for now we are going to go with the key system to see if it helps with the issues we are seeing  
45 at the limb pile. Mayor Parsons explained that he personally followed someone with limbs on  
46 their vehicle from Sigurd to our limb pile and we cannot keep up on the maintenance of the limb  
47 pile for our residents, if we do not curtail non-residents using the limb pile.

48  
49 Mr. Peterson expressed that if trail cameras were installed along with signs stating strong  
50 penalties the key system would not be needed. Mayor Parsons explained that this is a  
51 convenience to our citizens, and they are going to have to do some pre-planning for working on  
52 the weekends. There are no other cities in our area that offer this service, and it is a great asset  
53 that we need to protect.

54  
55 Mr. Peterson asked about maintenance of the limb pile and who provides this. Mayor Parsons  
56 explained that normally City staff use the backhoe to push the pile but with last October's early  
57 snowstorm and increased use we had to hire Mathew Mills to bring in his dozer to push the pile.  
58 Mr. Peterson said that a backhoe is not sufficient to manage this kind of job efficiently, and if the  
59 City were to purchase a loader, he would push the pile a couple of times a week. Mayor Parsons  
60 stated that the City staff and equipment were sufficient to maintain the pile until everybody in  
61 the County started using our pile. Mayor Parsons stated again that at this point we are going to  
62 use the key system because our only alternative is to shut it down and that would not be good  
63 for our residents.

64  
65 Mr. Peterson stated that he thinks the key system is penalizing those who have not misused the  
66 limb pile, Mayor Parsons stated that they should look at it as a privilege to use the limb pile. Mr.  
67 Peterson did not agree with Mayor Parsons but stated that he was going to try and look at the  
68 issue the way Mayor Parsons explained it.

69  
70 Mr. Peterson asked the Council to look at the option of purchasing a loader from UDOT surplus  
71 equipment program. Councilmember Mathie stated that purchasing equipment would help  
72 maintain the limb pile, but it does not address the problem of overuse from those outside of  
73 Monroe. He explained that the Council has looked at the options he has suggested tonight, and  
74 the key system is the most feasible option for right now.

75  
76 Mr. Peterson is thankful for the limb pile, just wished it were a little more convenient for weekend  
77 use. It was explained to him that a key can be picked up on Friday for weekend use.

78

79 To end the discussion Mayor Parsons explained to Mr. Peterson that the City was going to stay  
80 with the key system option for now and thanked Mr. Peterson for coming tonight.

81  
82 Bill James explained that he and Anthony Whitmore are property owners who have purchased  
83 property adjacent to their property located in the Green Valley Subdivision. It was explained that  
84 both the Planning Commission and City Council have approved the property line adjustments.  
85 Since the meeting with the Council, it has become known that adding property to a property  
86 located in a subdivision is a more entailed process than previously thought. Quinn Davis, with the  
87 Sevier County Recorder's Office, suggested that a metes and bound agreement would accomplish  
88 what the property owners are wanting to do. This would create two separate lots, one for Mr.  
89 James and the other for Mr. Whitmore. These lots would be noted as non-buildable lots but  
90 would prevent having to vacate Green Valley Subdivision.

91  
92 **6. Approval of October 2022 cash disbursements, adjustment journal and aging report.**

93  
94 **Councilmembers reviewed and signed the October 2022 cash disbursements, and adjustment**  
95 **journal.**

96  
97 **7. Business**

98 **a. Red Rock Fly-in Review - Stacey Whitmore**

99  
100 Stacey Whitmore was not in attendance at tonight's meeting, this discussion will be tabled.

101

102 **b. Parks and Recreation Review - Mike Miles**

103

104 Mike Miles presented to the Council a review of work he completed this summer at Ekker Fields  
105 located at the Mtn. View Park.

106

107 Mr. Miles stated that City employees Kaycee Roberts and Darci Wagner did a phenomenal job  
108 this summer with the upkeep of the City's parks. Mr. Miles expressed concerns about how  
109 difficult it is for these two to take care of everything that is needed at the park and suggested an  
110 additional person be hired to help in the future.

111

112 Mr. Miles submitted a letter to the Council outlining needs at the park and ballfields and his  
113 opinion on how some of these needs could be addressed. Mr. Miles acknowledged that part of  
114 the funding for the park maintenance has come from a generous donor but asked that the City  
115 look at ways to obtain funding from City residents. The council recognizes Mr. Miles concerns but  
116 at this time placing an additional financial burden on our citizens for park needs is not feasible.

117

118 Mr. Miles stated that the operation and maintenance (O&M) costs are often overlooked when  
119 organizations add to their facilities. Councilmember Payne stated that as groups have come to

120 the City to request new facilities, such as a recreation center, it has been the O&M costs that  
121 have prevented the City from moving forward on the request.

122

123 Mr. Miles suggested hiring someone full time to take care of the parks and recreation programs.  
124 Mayor Parsons explained that right now there are not funds to do this and that City Treasurer  
125 Jacee Barney is helping the different recreation programs as needed or requested.  
126 Councilmember Serrine stated that the City would love to hire a recreation director but when you  
127 look at adding a fee to the current registration costs and keep it affordable, it does not come  
128 close to what the cost of an employee would be. Councilmember Serrine stated that when the  
129 City put the RAP (recreation and park) Tax on the ballot it was defeated.

130

131 Mr. Miles suggested that a meeting with the City and the school district administration be held  
132 to discuss the needs at the ballfields and create a written agreement with them. He thinks that  
133 there is a lack of communication with the high school administration, coaching staff, and City  
134 employees. The high school is currently using our park facilities for tennis, soccer, and baseball  
135 with little to no participation in O&M expenses. Mayor Parsons expressed that our fields were  
136 built by a donor who has expressed a desire that the high school baseball team use our fields and  
137 he has worked long enough with the school district to know that they usually will only help with  
138 the initial costs of the project. Councilmember Mathie stated that there is a legitimate issue  
139 concerning conflicts with the high school using our facility when needed by our league programs,  
140 and he is good with them using the facility if they are contributing and helping. Councilmember  
141 Mathie is in favor of a well-planned meeting with a good agenda outlining our concerns and  
142 needs be held with all parties involved. Councilmember Serrine stated that she was planning to  
143 contact our school board representative Rick Orr to arrange a meeting before spring sports start  
144 in February.

145

146 Mayor Parsons and the Council thanked Mr. Miles for his efforts on the ballfields for the past two  
147 years and stated that his efforts have not gone unnoticed, many compliments have been received  
148 from not just our players but from visiting teams, on how nice our facility is.

149

150 c. Utility Board Report on Power Costs - Jeff Nielson

151

152 Chairperson Jeff Neilson explained to the Council that the Utility Board recently met to discuss  
153 options for the Council to address the increase in power costs over the past few months. We  
154 have had to purchase power on the open market, which increased our September bill to \$90,000  
155 more than last year's September bill. Our average cost of power for September was .125 cents  
156 per kWh instead of our budgeted amount of .055 -.060 cents per kWh. We are currently charging  
157 our customers .086 -.092 cents per kWh. We all understand that we cannot charge less than our  
158 costs and stay in business.

159

160 Chair Nielson stated that the Utility Board is recommending a rate increase of .02 cents per kWh  
161 starting January 1, 2023 and include in our power department policy a purchase power price  
162 adjustment clause (surcharge) section. This section will allow a separate charge to our customers  
163 if we experience more months like September 2022 to cover costs for purchased power only. This  
164 surcharge would not be used to cover operating costs, these should be covered within our rate  
165 structure. In researching this option City Recorder Allison Leavitt spoke with personnel from  
166 Logan City and Morgan City. Logan has had this clause in their policy for over 20 years and this is  
167 the first time they have had to use it, Morgan has yet to implement the surcharge. Logan's  
168 example is on a monthly basis, but Morgan's is on a projected annual cost. We liked the annual  
169 basis versus the monthly because power costs fluctuate and if we used monthly the cost to our  
170 customers for September would have been at least an additional .06 cents per kWh. Again, Chair  
171 Neilson explained that the Utility Board is not suggesting using the surcharge now, just would like  
172 this in the policy so that it could be acted upon if needed.

173  
174 The Council discussed with Power Foreman Josey Parsons what is happening on the open market  
175 right now. Power Foreman Josey Parsons explained that in the past power purchased on the open  
176 market was to help with the peaks in power usage for systems, and there was little demand for  
177 this, so the prices were reasonable. Now the need for this peak power is in higher demand, due  
178 to many reasons the price on the open market has gone through the roof. One reason the  
179 demand has increased is coal fired plants such as IPP and Hunter are unable to get coal, so they  
180 are having to reduce production or limit when they produce power. These are two of our sources  
181 which we have contracted with for a price of .03 - .05 cents per kWh instead \$22 per kWh, which  
182 was what we paid for some of our power in September.

183  
184 It was suggested that next summer we should promote power conservation just as we do with  
185 water. If customers conserve during the peak hours this would reduce the amount of power  
186 purchased on the open market. Councilmember Mathie stated that our biggest users are the  
187 schools and pumpers. Pumpers are not really in a position to conserve since they only water  
188 when needed anyway. Power Foreman Josey Parsons stated that UAMPS has a conservation  
189 program in which we could participate. Monroe City would put so much money into the program  
190 and then we could offer a rebate program to our customers who purchase energy saving  
191 appliances or install led lighting in their homes. There are ways we can conserve; we just need to  
192 identify the most effective ways and areas to do so. Councilmember Mathie stated that by  
193 participating in these programs we are demonstrating to our customers that we are trying to  
194 provide them ways to save money and use their power more wisely.

195  
196 Council and Power Foreman Josey Parsons discussed other options that UAMPS is working on  
197 ways to help systems provide reliable and affordable power. Power Foreman Josey Parsons will  
198 inform the Utility Board and Council on the progress of these studies.

199

200 Power Foreman Josey Parsons stated that he does not see things getting better in the near future  
201 and he will continue to review and participate in other power options that UAMPS provides.

202  
203 Chair Nielson asked what we could save by not giving the 10% Christmas light discount. It costs  
204 approximately \$3500 each year; it was figured if we just gave a flat discount of \$5 to each person  
205 who put up Christmas lights it would save approximately \$2000. We have already advertised the  
206 discount for this year in the newsletter so the Council will consider and decide before next year's  
207 holiday season on how to handle the Christmas light discount program.

208  
209 The council discussed the increased costs associated with the power department, as with  
210 everything else equipment, materials and wages have increased since our last rate increase. Even  
211 with the .003 cent per kWh yearly increase the revenues have not kept up with the expenses.

212  
213 The Council agreed to the .02 cent per kWh rate increase and to update the power department  
214 policy to include a purchased power adjustment clause section. Councilmember Buchmiller  
215 stated that when we did our last rate increase the plan was that it was enough to avert a rate  
216 increase for quite some time and at no fault of our own, here we are two years later having to  
217 increase our rates to keep up with the increasing costs our power department is experiencing.

218  
219 Further discussion and an opportunity for public input will be done at our regular schedule  
220 meeting to be held December 13, 2022, and a resolution will be prepared for the Council to vote  
221 on the changes.

222  
223 **8. Other Business**

224 a. Staff Reports

225  
226 City Recorder Allison Leavitt

227  
228 \*Distributed department budgets to Councilmembers and Mayor Parsons.

229  
230 \*Councilmember Cartwright had to leave the meeting and asked City Recorder Allison  
231 Leavitt to talk with the Council about the cemetery space fee increase.

232  
233 Councilmember Cartwright suggested increasing the current fees as follows:

234

	Current	Proposed	Non-Resident*
Burial Space	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$500.00
Open/Close	\$225.00	\$300.00	N/A

Saturday Additional	\$100.00	\$150.00	N/A
Infant & Cremation	\$100.00	\$150.00	N/A
Disinterment	\$1000.00	\$1500.00	N/A

235 \*We are not currently charging a different price for non-residents.

236

237 Council agreed to have Cemetery fee adjustments as a business item at our next Council  
238 meeting.

239

240 Public Works Director Devin Magleby –

241

242 \*Bob Watts with Sevier County Road called to see if we want gravel crushed while they are  
243 crushing gravel at the gravel pits in the near future. This is what we have done in the past and it  
244 has been good for the City, since it reduces the cost of gravel for the City. The Council agreed to  
245 let Public Works Director Devin Magleby work with Mr. Watts on this matter and spend up to  
246 \$15,000.

247

248 \*After office hours on-call employee and limb pile access protocol. The Council stated that on  
249 call employees do not have to accommodate requests for access to the limb pile. Residents are  
250 just going to have to plan ahead and obtain a key from the office for weekend or after hour use.

251

252 Power Foreman/Fire Chief Josey Parsons-

253

254 \*Expressed to the Council that the Fire Department is struggling with firefighter attendance and  
255 recruitment of new firefighters. There was a discussion on training requirements and how to  
256 compensate new firefighters for the training and what benefits could be added to encourage new  
257 and current firefighters to attend meetings and fires.

258

259 The Council asked Fire Chief Parsons to meet with his officers and draft a proposal that they think  
260 the firefighters will be happy with and present this to the Council for a decision.

261

262 \*Our Christmas silhouettes, which hang on the light poles, are getting old and not working, would  
263 like to begin replacing a few each year. The Council agreed to have City staff look for  
264 replacements for the aging silhouettes.

265

266 b. Department Business-Council

267

268 Councilmember Payne –

269

270 No further business tonight.

271

272 Councilmember Serrine –

273

274 \*Will follow-up on setting up a meeting with the Sevier School District Administration, South  
275 Sevier High School Principal and other effected parties concerning use and maintenance of fields  
276 at Mtn. View Park.

277

278 Councilmember Mathie-

279

280 \*Trees were selected and have been removed on 400 N. Have spent most of the budgeted funds  
281 for this year.

282

283 \*Jones and DeMille Engineering has submitted a grant application on our behalf to UDOT to  
284 develop a master transportation plan for Monroe. Sevier County is in the process of completing  
285 their plan and we thought it would be a suitable time for Monroe to create a transportation plan  
286 that would coincide with the County.

287

288 Councilmember Buchmiller –

289

290 No further business

291

292 Mayor Parsons –

293

294 No further business

295

296 **9. Adjournment**

297

298 **There being no further business to come before the Council for consideration, Councilmember**  
299 **Mathie moved the Regular Council Meeting adjourn at 8:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by**  
300 **Councilmember Buchmiller The vote was unanimous. The motion carried. 4-0**

301

302

303 The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022  
304 starting at 7:00 p.m. at Monroe City Office.

305

306 Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.

307

308

309

310

311 Allison Leavitt

312 Monroe City Recorder

313



Johnny C. Parsons

Mayor