

City Council Meeting Summary 06.07.2021

Next City Council Meeting – June 21, 2021, at 6:00 PM

Official Minutes available at www.cityofmonmouth.com

A live stream of the event is shown on the @cityofmonmouth Facebook page

Presentation of Monmouth Police Department Officer Awards

Two Officers from the Police Department received service awards for during the Council meeting. Officers responded to a medical call earlier this year involving a potential drug overdose. During that time, Officer Cox and Officer Hall performed CPR and other life-saving measures on the patient. For their quick response and assistance to paramedics and the fire department, Officer Cox received a Lifesaving Award, and Officer Hall received a Certificate of Accommodation.



1– Presentations or Citizen Inquiries

Mark Richardson spoke to City Council in opposition to the Archer Avenue road closure request that ICS has made. Richardson spoke about alternative options that may be available to the school, which included a pedestrian sky bridge and traffic control devices. Richardson also spoke about the perceived lack of benefits to the community at large vs. the benefits to a single organization.

A full video of the discussion is available as a Livestream on the City Of Monmouth Facebook page.

2- United Way/Smithfield Foods/MC Art Department/BCCA Hispanic Heritage Festival

The United Way, in cooperation with Smithfield Foods, the Monmouth College Art Department, and the Buchanan Center for the Arts, would like to hold a festival highlighting the Hispanic community in Monmouth and the region.

The festival will have multiple food vendors, a Hispanic dance performance, a mariachi band, pinatas, a tequila pull, and other appropriate traditions enjoyed by the Hispanic community.

The event will be held in the parking lot in the 100 block of East Archer Avenue on September September 18 from 5 PM to 10 PM.

A motion was made to approve the request and was **approved**.

3- Building and Zoning Monthly Report – Director Clark

Director Clark provided City Council with the status of many projects throughout town

- Buffalo 67 has finished a number of projects and will be applying for an occupancy permit shortly
- J.B's Woodshed has completed its façade and is awaiting awning installation
- The new United Way building has completed its interior renovations and is currently making façade adjustments and improvements
- Dame Fine Coffee is currently completing internal construction on their new drive-up building
- OSF has started their renovation of a 10k foot space to accommodate additional surgery units
- The Tin Cup Express building has completed the installation of its new drive-up building and is now open for business

4- Woodard and Curran Monthly Report – Director Jackson

- Woodard Curran's American Water Infrastructure Act compliance team has been working on the Risk and Resiliency Assessment report that is due to IEPA by June 30. Our current SCADA system is not up to the latest specifications for cybersecurity. Recommendations from the Risk and Resiliency Assessment will be forthcoming once the report is completed.
- WIRC is re-submitted our CDBG application for a \$500,000 grant to assist with the cost of replacing the water main on West Harlem
- The Federal Government has re-instituted the earmark program, formerly known as the STAG grant program, whereby we can apply directly to our Congressional Senator and Representative for an earmark grant. Working with the Woodard Curran Funding Team, the City has applied to Senator Durbin for a \$600,000 earmark grant to assist in the cost of the West Harlem water main replacement.

5- Discussion for Refunding Series 2006 Bonds and Issuing Series 2021B GOB Bond

The City currently has several Bonds that can be refunded to take advantage of the low-interest rates to save money and fund additional capital projects that are needed.

The City is not currently refinancing the bonds, and tonight's resolution is only an authorization to allow the City Administrator and Mayor to begin negotiations. The item will return to City Council for final approval of the details.

A motion was made to allow the City Administrator to explore refinancing options and was **approved**.

6- Discussion of Field's Downtown Pushcart Locations

A local entrepreneur, Dave Schonfelder, would like to operate a mobile food cart around the public square during lunch hour and at special events. The cart would be a standard size like is commonly found in metro areas on public sidewalks. Schonfelder holds the appropriate licenses from the FDA, State, and Local Health Departments.

All of the current food trucks/carts are currently positioned on private party lots, and this request is for placing on public-owned property.

City Council discussed whether the current ordinance needs changing or if City Administration should handle the requests.

A motion was made to allow the City Administration to review and grant permits for food carts. The motion was **approved**.

7- Extend Monmouth Townhomes Purchase Option to October 30, 2021

Last year the City Council entered into a purchase option with Monmouth Townhomes to purchase a 7.25 acre the City owns on East Jackson Avenue. Monmouth Townhomes has the intention to construct 44 residential housing units to serve the Monmouth area.

Upon review of the plat documents, it was found that the current plat documents are outdated and not accurate. Monmouth Townhomes would like to extend the option until October 30, 2021, to allow the company enough time to perform the survey and file the appropriate documents. Monmouth Townhomes anticipates construction to begin on November 1 of this year.

A motion to approve the extension of the purchase option and was **approved**.

8- Resolution - 21-004, Sale of Municipal Owned Property – Transfer Station

At the last City Council meeting, the City Council passed a motion instructing the City Attorney to prepare a resolution authorizing the sale of the transfer station to a private company, Lake Shore Recycling.

The transfer station acts as a collection point for waste removed from the site by the City's solid waste vendor.

A regional recycling and waste management company, Lake Shore Recycling (<https://www.lrsrecycles.com>), would like to purchase the transfer station from the City Of Monmouth. They intend to use the transfer station to collect solid waste as is currently done and transport it to their permanent landfill in Atkinson, Illinois.

- LRS is currently offering \$2,000,000 to purchase the transfer station
- Yard waste and brush collection WILL NOT be affected by the potential sale and will remain under municipal control
- LRS will compensate the City \$1.00 for every in-bound ton that is received on the site
- The company wishes to install a scale and hire additional employees
- LRS will maintain all necessary equipment
- The company also wishes to purchase commercial property in Monmouth to establish its truck fleet, perform maintenance and customer service operations
- LRS would also like to competitively bid on trash and recycling pickup for the City of Monmouth households

A motion to approve the resolution was made and was **approved**.

This item will return to City Council to authorize the final purchase agreement.

9- 21-005, Resolution to Commit Funds from Water/Sewer Fund for CDBG Grant

The City is currently pursuing a CDBG grant to help rebuild the infrastructure on Harlem Avenue. A component of the grant consists of local matching funds if awarded.

Tonight's resolution is an affirmation that the City will match the required funds if the grant is awarded.

A motion was made for approval and was **approved**.

10- 21-011 – Street Vacation – 200 Block of West Archer

ICS has requested a vacation of the 200 block of West Archer. The school is exploring the possible construction of a gymnasium in an adjacent parcel. The school currently owns both sides of the street and would like to build the gym on the Northside of Archer Avenue with a hallway connecting the facility on the Southside of Archer.

Chris Gavin spoke to the City Council regarding the changes they have made to the building plans after a discussion with neighbors in the area. These changes include features to direct all traffic on B street instead of A street, additional parking spots, and additional green spaces. Gavin also spoke about the benefits to community development and the steps that would occur if the project was approved and if it was denied.

A full video of the discussion is available as a Livestream on the City Of Monmouth Facebook page.

A motion was made to vacate West Archer, and the motion was **approved**.

11- 21-012 – Variance to Replace Garage – 221 S. 5th Street

The property owner at 221 South 5th Street would like to replace a garage on the property.

Construction of the new garage is anticipated to be larger than the existing structure and will require a setback variance due to an adjacent property line. This item recently went before the Zoning Board of Appeals and received unanimous approval.

A motion was made for approval and was **approved**.

13- Executive Session

Per Illinois Statute 5ILCS 120/2, an Executive Session was held to Consider Employee Compensation. No action followed return to regular session.

14- Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Report compiled by Ken Helms, City of Monmouth