

The Mayor and Council met for their regular meeting.

Those Present:	Greg Thompson	Mayor
	Wayne Adcock	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Denise Dixon	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	Cliff Peters	Council Member
	Jimmy Richardson	Council Member
	Rita Scott	Council Member
	Jerry Smith	Council Member
	Russell Preston	City Attorney
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Staff Present: Knox Bell, Wayne Chancey, Keith Glass, Brian Thompson

Visitors: McKay Johnson, Martha Blackwell, William Chapman, Jim Hughes, James Edwards, Donna Yearwood, Kerry Blind, Blake Watts, Karen Paul, George Baker III, Charles Sanders, Crista Carrell, Ansley Holder, Loren Roberts, Michael Matthews, Gene Pope, Carol Ruff, Lakishe Malcom, Reverend Carlos Thompson, Anel Sanchez, Devon Sanchez, Sam Harrison, Reverend Ben Evans, Reverend Brad Waters, Robert V. Watts, Chad Draper, Dennis Dudley, Robbie Schwartz, Rick Huszagh, Marcus Young, Kavius Young

I. CALL TO ORDER – GREG THOMPSON

1. Invocation

Mayor Thompson gave the invocation.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Thompson noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

*Motion by Scott, seconded by Adcock.
Passed Unanimously.*

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. June 3, 2008 Council Minutes
- b. June 10, 2008 Council Minutes
- c. June 10, 2008 Executive Session Minutes
- d. June 17, 2008 Planning Commission Minutes
- e. June 24, 2008 Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
- f. Purchase – Radios and Equipment – To purchase radios and equipment for the Public Works Transportation Department from East Georgia Communications for the amount of \$31,709.00 to be purchased from SPLOST funds. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Works Committee July 1, 2008)
- g. Approval – Agreement with Walton EMC – To build the fiber line into Snellville for the cost of labor only, approximately \$30,000.00, which the City will recoup during the first year of the agreement and also to proceed with the Walton EMC Agreement. (Recommended for Council approval by Utilities Committee July 1, 2008)
- h. Approval – Choice Load for Old Monroe Mill LLC – To offer Old Monroe Mill LLC the City's industrial rate for a three year period. (Recommended for Council approval by Utilities Committee July 1, 2008)
- i. Purchase – Two 112.5 KVA Transformers – To purchase a transformer from Solomon for the amount of \$5,850.00 and a backup transformer from Equity for the amount of \$5,367.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Utilities Committee July 1, 2008)
- j. Approval – Fire Hose Replacement – To purchase fire hose, which is a budgeted item, from NAFCO for the amount of \$9,795.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Safety Committee July 1, 2008)

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

*Motion by Adcock, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*

II. PUBLIC FORUM**1. Public Comments**

Mr. Anel T. Sanchez, of 138 6th Street, stated he has lived in Monroe for eleven months, having moved from South Florida. He explained Officer Harrison has been called out to his house on several occasions and has always shown his family the utmost respect.

Ms. Devon Sanchez, of 138 6th Street, explained Officer Harrison has treated her with respect each time he has come to their house, which is more than she can say for most of the men here. She stated he has even stopped by to make sure the kids in the neighborhood are doing okay and staying out of trouble.

Ms. Martha Blackwell, of 211D Sorrells Street, stated her complaint is with the City not with Officer Harrison. She stated on February 12, 2008 she was called from her job at Park Place Nursing Home by her son, because Officers Watts and Kraft were at her apartment with a warrant for 211C Sorrells Street not D. There was a man fixing her stove and when he left the officers questioned what he was doing there. She stated the next thing she knew they were searching her apartment. She went to the Police Department to talk to the Chief and was told that she didn't know what was going on in her apartment while she was working. The Chief followed her back to her apartment and tried to come in her house again. She then went to the Mayor and he has yet to do anything. Ms. Blackwell said she still has not received a phone call from anyone trying to apologize to her.

Mr. Sam Harrison explained he wanted to apologize to the City Council of Monroe for the comment he made in a personal conversation which is out of his character and not the type person he is. He just wanted to say he is truly sorry and looks forward to serving the City in the best way that he can and this will never happen again.

Reverend Ben Evans, of 1912 Brookland Court, stated he knows a lot of nice things have been said concerning Officer Harrison, but the damage has already been done. He stated after having heard the video tape what should be concentrated on is the word another and how can the citizens feel comfortable with Officer Harrison stopping them or coming into their neighborhoods.

Reverend Brad Waters, Pastor at Grace Baptist Church, explained he wanted to speak on behalf of Sam Harrison not only as his friend but also as his pastor. He wants to speak for his character and the kind of man he is. Reverend Waters stated the word of God says we are to forgive when a man asks for forgiveness, which he did moments before. Mr. Harrison has been a faithful member of the church and the law enforcement society which protects and serves this community.

Mr. Michael Matthews, 4440 Bridgeport Place, explained when officers come to your place you do not know what mind set or mind frame they are in, you are in a trusting position that the person will do the right thing all the time, but officers are human and sometimes make mistakes. He stated in his position he had to be fair to everyone; to Sam Harrison, to the subject the comments were directed at, to the City, and also to himself. The recommendations for punishment are what he felt needed and had to be done in order to correct the situation. He expressed that he felt he did what was right.

Mr. Gene Pope, of 3570 Bullock Bridge Road, stated he has known Sam Harrison for three years and goes to church with him and his family. He has known him to be an upstanding fine young man. He said if he told Mr. Harrison he had offended him then Mr. Harrison would have apologized to him.

Ms. Carol Ruff, of 790D Ridge Road, stated in Mr. Harrison's behalf he has always been good to her even though she is in an interracial relationship and has an interracial teenager. She stated Mr. Harrison did and said something he shouldn't have said, but she forgives him because of the way he has treated her. Ms. Ruff stated in her opinion it all goes back to Keith Glass, she stated that she has called and needed him and he didn't call back. Officer Drossman sent a letter to her job as a landlord and got her fired. She stated Chief Glass never called her back even after she faxed him the paperwork which was sent to her company. The incident cost her job and her place to live. She stated she believes in any job everything goes back to the head; they know what they can get away with and what they can not.

Ms. Lakisha Malcom, 240 Tanglewood Drive, stated she is present in behalf of the youth in Walton County. She stated Sam Harrison apologized but he apologized to the wrong people, he works for the community not the Council. It all goes back to leadership; he knows what he can get away with. She stated he will not be able to pull anyone over without them having a biased opinion. Ms. Malcom said pulling a person over and searching the car over and over again to find nothing is not leadership it is harassment. She stated they held a concert at the fairground in Monroe and received a \$1,000 fine for saying one curse word on stage which was caught on tape. She stated Chris Wellborn was given a disorderly conduct ticket for asking God to please have mercy on his children, well in her opinion the Mayor started off with a prayer so that would be disorderly conduct if that is the way we are going to look at it.

Reverend Carlos Thompson, 730 Parklake Court, stated he was just down here dealing with the Mr. Jackson issue which was a slip up. He said he believes Mr. Harrison is sincere in his apology, but this is not about him. Look at this neighborhood and the people; the people are tax paying citizens who are paying someone to disgrace them and call them names. Reverend Thompson questioned when the incident happened in the department was it reported to post. It is protocol to send it to post within ten days, if not it is an automatic termination. This whole City is corrupt and no one wants to tell it. He is going to stand for righteousness everybody deserves fair treatment if they are going to pay taxes. They are calling for his termination immediately.

Captain Robert V. Watts, Uniform Division Commander for the City of Monroe Police Department, stated he is present as a form of rebuttal as to what has been told to Council this evening. As far as what Ms. Blackwell said about her residence being illegally searched, it is not so. They did go over to her house that day and did make an arrest on an individual who had a valid warrant. Upon knocking on the door they could smell the odor of marijuana coming from the house and visibly saw it inside the house. An arrest could have been made for the incident, but a warning was given instead. As to the statements from Lakisha Malcom about the concert which took place at the fairgrounds, she was given a copy of the City Ordinances as to what could or could not be said at the concert. She stated it was only one curse word made, but there is a video tape of the incident. That tape can be pulled, on several occasions she made derogatory comments, curse words, and the same word as what Officer Harrison is being judged on here tonight. Mr. Watts stated he and Officer Harrison have knelt down together and prayed with an individual trying to take his own life. So he knows where his heart is; he just made a mistake. The department has held him accountable for the mistake, now it is time to move on.

2. Public Hearing

a. Rezone / Annexation – 512 Great Oaks Drive

Code Enforcement Officer Knox Bell presented the application for rezone of this property from B-2 County to B-2 City. Mr. Bell stated the acreage is .582 with approximately 161.46 feet of road frontage on Great Oaks Drive. The Code Office and Planning Commission recommend the request be approved.

The Mayor declared the meeting open for the purpose of public input.

Mr. Dennis Dudley, of Brewer & Dudley LLC, spoke on behalf of the property owner in favor of the rezone. He explained in the rezone application the proposed improvements were described as a single story 3,000 square foot medical office building, the petitioner currently intends to construct a two story 6,000 square foot medical office building with approval from the Code Office and Planning Commission.

There were no other public comments; Mayor Thompson declared that portion of the meeting closed.

To approve the rezone.

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*

To grant the annexation.

*Motion by Adcock, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*

b. Variance – 2151 West Spring Street

Code Enforcement Officer Knox Bell presented the application for a variance on parking requirements for this property. Mr. Bell explained Monroe HMA, Inc. is requesting a variance on the size of the parking space, the request is for 9 x 18 and the City ordinance requires the space to be 9 x 20. They are also requesting not to be required to use curbs and gutters on the parking lot. Mr. Bell stated this not to be an issue, because the only place the City ordinance requires curbs and gutters are on the streets.

The Mayor declared the meeting open for the purpose of public input.

Mr. Kerry Blind, with Ecos Environmental Design, spoke on behalf of the hospital in favor of the variance stating he would answer any questions for Mayor and Council.

There were no other public comments; Mayor Thompson declared that portion of the meeting closed.

To approve the variance.

*Motion by Little, seconded by Smith.
Passed Unanimously.*

c. 2nd Reading – Redevelopment Plan Ordinance

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal gave the second reading of the ordinance to adopt an urban redevelopment plan.

Mayor Thompson stated this ordinance has already helped Crane Plumbing who was in the process of shutting down and moving all of their equipment to Tupelo Mississippi. After a meeting they took the guidelines of this ordinance which helped them decide to shut the Mississippi plant down to expand the operation and leave it in Monroe.

Mayor Thompson declared the meeting open for the purpose of public input.

There were no public comments; Mayor Thompson declared that portion of the meeting closed.

Motion to accept the second reading of the redevelopment plan ordinance.

*Motion by Scott, seconded by Richardson.
Passed Unanimously.*

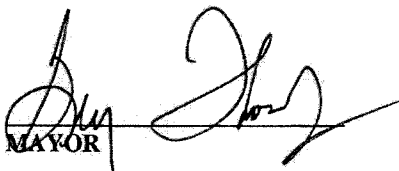
III. NEW BUSINESS**1. Presentation – Friends of Walton Park Presentation**

Mr. William Chapman, on behalf of the Friends of Walton County, gave a presentation which included the land donated to the City of Monroe by the Walton Foundation. He explained they could not think of a better activity or asset for the City other than a park which would exist right inside the City. Mr. Chapman explained what he is talking about tonight is the involvement of Friends of Walton County in the development of this park; raising the funds to develop it, engaging the community, and organizing all the volunteers with the City managing the development of the park. They are requesting to have an agreement for the Friends of Walton County to be the developer of the park with the City retaining ownership of the park. This would require the City's three properties and the City would need to be responsible for maintaining the park when it is completed. Mr. Chapman requested to have a meeting with staff if Council were interested in pursuing this option.

Mayor Thompson stated the first step would be to get the legal issues out of the way, which would include the title on the property.

IV. ADJOURN

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Smith.
Passed Unanimously.*


MAYOR


CITY ADMINISTRATOR