

CITY OF MONROE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
300 W. CROWELL STREET
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112
MARCH 4, 2024 – 4:45 PM
AGENDA
www.monroenc.org

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application
2. Fire Department Medal of Valor Awards to Captain Charlie Porter, Captain Keith Starnes, Firefighter Chad Aldridge and Firefighter Josh Hawk
3. Minutes of Public Safety Committee Meeting of February 5, 2024
4. Ordinance Temporarily Closing State-Maintained Roads for Independence Day Celebration to be Held July 4, 2024, Patriots' Day Celebration to be Held September 15, 2024, Halloween Happenings Event to be Held October 19, 2024 and Christmas Tree Lighting Event to be Held December 7, 2024
5. Police Department Donations from Brady's K9 Fund and Tampa Police Department



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: March 4, 2024

FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Bryan Kindley, Deputy Chief

SUBJECT: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Staff is seeking authorization to apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

REVIEW

Staff is seeking authorization to apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase a mobile air trailer system used to fill breathing apparatus bottles on emergency incidents and during training evolutions. The grant total would be approximately \$181,588. This is a 90% Federal funding and 10% matching grant, meaning the city would have to fund approximately \$18,158. Staff would request to fund the match from Fund Balance if we receive the grant. The mobile trailer would be stored at station 4, but could be transported anywhere.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee is requested to recommend that City Council authorize staff to apply for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for approximately \$181,588 to purchase a mobile air trailer system.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: March 4, 2024
FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief
PREPARED BY: Greg Collins, Deputy Chief
SUBJECT: Firefighter Medal of Valor Awards

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Staff requests to recognize firefighters for the rescue of a citizen from a structure fire.

REVIEW

On November 23, 2022 the fire department responded to a structure fire on Fairly Avenue with reports of a person possibly trapped inside. Firefighters arrived and began search and rescue efforts along with other fire suppression activities. While searching one apartment, Captain Keith Starnes and Firefighter Josh Hawk located an unconscious victim on the floor in the living room. These firefighters immediately began removing the victim towards the back door. Captain Charlie Porter and Firefighter Chad Aldridge entered the apartment and assisted with getting the victim out of the residence and into the care of Union EMS. The victim was transported by EMS along with a Monroe Firefighter to the hospital where ultimately she recovered. While all firefighters on the scene played a role in this rescue, these members entered a dangerous environment, quickly located the victim and brought her to safety. Staff feels these four firefighters qualify for the Medal of Valor and recommend presenting it to them at the next council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee is requested to recommend that these firefighters be recognize and presented the Medal of Valor at the March 12, 2024 Council meeting.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2024**

The Public Safety Committee met on February 5, 2024, at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Large Conference Room.

Members Present: Chairman David Dotson, Council Member Julie Thompson, Committee Member Chip Wardwell, Committee Member David Beckwith,

Absent: Council Member Gary Anderson, Committee Member Charles Perry

Staff Present: City Manager Mark Watson, Assistant to City Manager Lisa Hollowell, Fire Chief Ron Fowler, Deputy Fire Chief Bryan Kindley, Deputy Fire Chief Greg Collins, Fire Division Chief Nick Steffler, Police Chief Bryan Gilliard, Engineering Director Sarah McAllister, City Attorney Richard Long, Police Attorney Ken Honeycutt, Police Lieutenant Steve Morton, Accounting Manager Ashley Ivey, Grant Administrator Lisa Kerner

Guests:

Chairman David Dotson called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

Item 1. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2023 Meeting

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of November 6, 2023. Committee Member Wardwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Fire Station 1 – Administrative Office Sites

Fire Chief Ron Fowler presented to the Committee possible sites for the Fire Station 1/Fire Administration Facility. Chief Fowler indicated there are five possible sites in the downtown area for consideration:

Police Department Site: Same site with the Police Department, fronting Charlotte Ave.

Senior Center Site: Same site with the Senior Center, near Charlotte Ave.

Marshal Street Site: Corner of Crowell Street and Marshal Street

Jefferson Street Site: Between Jefferson Street and Franklin Street east of Church Street

Fifth/Third Bank Site: Charlotte Ave. between Franklin Street and Windsor Street

Chief Fowler presented to the Committee the needs of the Fire Department regarding the new facility, as well as initial findings on these sites, and sought direction as to which sites were preferable to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee recommends the Fire Department pursue the sites at the Police

Department (primary) and the Senior Center (secondary) and revisit this discussion further at the next Public Safety Meeting in March. The Committee requested Chief Fowler to move forward with environmental studies on both sites.

City Manager Mark Watson also requested Chief Fowler move forward with releasing an RFQ to select the design engineer for this project so that we are getting the environmental results at the same time that we have a designer selected and can start working on exact building placement and elevations, allowing the City to know the cost range for building. City Manager Watson stated that for budgetary purposes, we need to begin to move in that direction as the City is under a known time-line in the current lease arrangement that we have for the Fire Administration Offices. City Manager Watson recommends once Staff has the results of the environmental and selection of designer, it will come back to this Committee and will go to Council once all information, including budget is established.

Item 3. Medical Standby at Athletic Events

Chief Fowler presented to Committee for a number of years the Fire Department has been providing medical standby at middle and high school football games in the City. It has been a service the Fire Department has provided at no cost. Schools outside of the City are using Union EMS to provide medical standby coverage. Chief Fowler presented to the Committee that he feels the City should start doing the same this coming year. Chief Fowler presented two reasons for doing so, it is a challenge providing the staffing especially on Saturday's when the middle school games are scheduled in a series of games all day. Chief Fowler presented that the state has implemented a new concussion protocol. Chief Fowler stated that all of our firefighters are certified EMT's, however, are not trained to diagnose concussions. Chief Fowler presented that it is better if the medical standby service is provided by a higher level such as Union EMS with a Paramedic level service or the school's athletic trainers that are trained in the new protocol. No action is necessary, just informational purposes only.

4. Medical Response

Chief Fowler presented to the Committee that Monroe Firefighters respond to emergency medical incidents in the City. The Fire Department in the past, has responded to the medical calls in a smaller vehicle, with a goal of being more efficient. The Fire Department has gone back to utilizing apparatus to respond to medical calls. Chief Fowler stated that reasoning for doing so is to provide a better level of service and keeping the company together in the event a fire call comes in, this allows the firefighters to respond in a more timely manner. No action is necessary, just informational purposes only.

5. Downtown Safety in Social District

Police Chief Gilliard presented to Committee that the Police Department was asked to check into the safety of Downtown and the Social District. Chief Gilliard stated that he and his staff have performed foot patrols and spoken with most of the businesses downtown and have a good start with businesses on Main Street, Hayne Street and area to address some of the homeless folks that are staying there during the night or early in the morning.

Chief Gilliard stated that they have reached out to the businesses to make sure they understand we are willing to help in any way the Police Department can. Mayor Pro-Tem Dotson discussed the historic homes that are in disrepair that are close to downtown, a lot of those are being utilized by our residentially challenged individuals that walk around downtown. Mayor

Pro-Tem recommends we get Code Enforcement to see if they can do inspections to see if those homes are locked.

Other

Police Chief Gilliard made the Committee aware that CALEA will be on-site the first week of March.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Council Member Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Beckwith seconded the motion which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Withers – Committee Secretary



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: March 4, 2024

FROM: Ryan Jones, Parks and Recreation Director

SUBJECT: Ordinance for Special Events – Independence Day Celebration, Patriots’ Day, Halloween Happenings and 2024 Christmas Tree Lighting

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Public Safety Committee is requested to consider an ordinance to temporarily close certain state-maintained roads for three City of Monroe special events.

REVIEW

The City of Monroe Parks & Recreation Department is planning to hold the Independence Day Celebration on Thursday, July 4, 2024, Patriots’ Day on Sunday, September 15, 2024, Halloween Happenings on Saturday, October 19, 2024, and the Christmas Tree Lighting Event on Saturday, December 7, 2024. North Carolina General Statute 20-169 states a municipality shall pass an ordinance approving a special event and place signs giving notice of the event if it involves state-maintained roads. The Independence Day celebration requires the temporary closure of IB Shive Drive (SR1245) and Halloween Happenings and the tree lighting event requires the temporary closure of Franklin Street (SR 2100) from Charlotte Avenue to Hayne Street. The Patriots’ Day event requires the closure of Hayne Street (NC 207) from Jefferson Street to Franklin Street (SR 2100). Therefore, the attached Ordinance (O-2023-12) is provided for approval of the temporary lane closure and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents. Once approved, the Street Division will place the signs giving notice prior to the event.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff request that The Public Safety Committee recommend City Council approve Ordinance (O-2024-12) and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Attachment:
Ordinance (O-2024-12)
Maps: Fourth of July Barricades, Halloween
Happenings Barricades, Christmas Tree
Lighting Barricades

**AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE CERTAIN
STATE-MAINTAINED ROADS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
ORGANIZED BY THE CITY OF MONROE, NC
O-2024-12**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 20-169 authorizes local authorities to regulate by ordinance the use of a highway within their jurisdiction by processions, assemblages, or anything that may be construed as a procession or assemblage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe will consult with the local North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division office to verify that a proposed event will not 1) interfere with other planned special events and 2) impact or be impacted by planned maintenance or other activities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe will sponsor and hold its annual Independence Day Celebration on Thursday, July 4, 2024, Patriots' Day Celebration on September 15, 2024, Halloween Happenings on October 19, 2024, and Christmas Tree Lighting event on Saturday, December 7, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the July 4th event will require the temporary closure of IB Shive Drive (SR 1245), the Halloween Happenings event and the Christmas Tree Lighting event will require the temporary closure of Franklin Street (SR 2100) between Charlotte Avenue and Hayne Street. The Patriots' Day event will require the closure of Hayne Street (NC 207) between Jefferson Street and Franklin Street (SR 2100).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

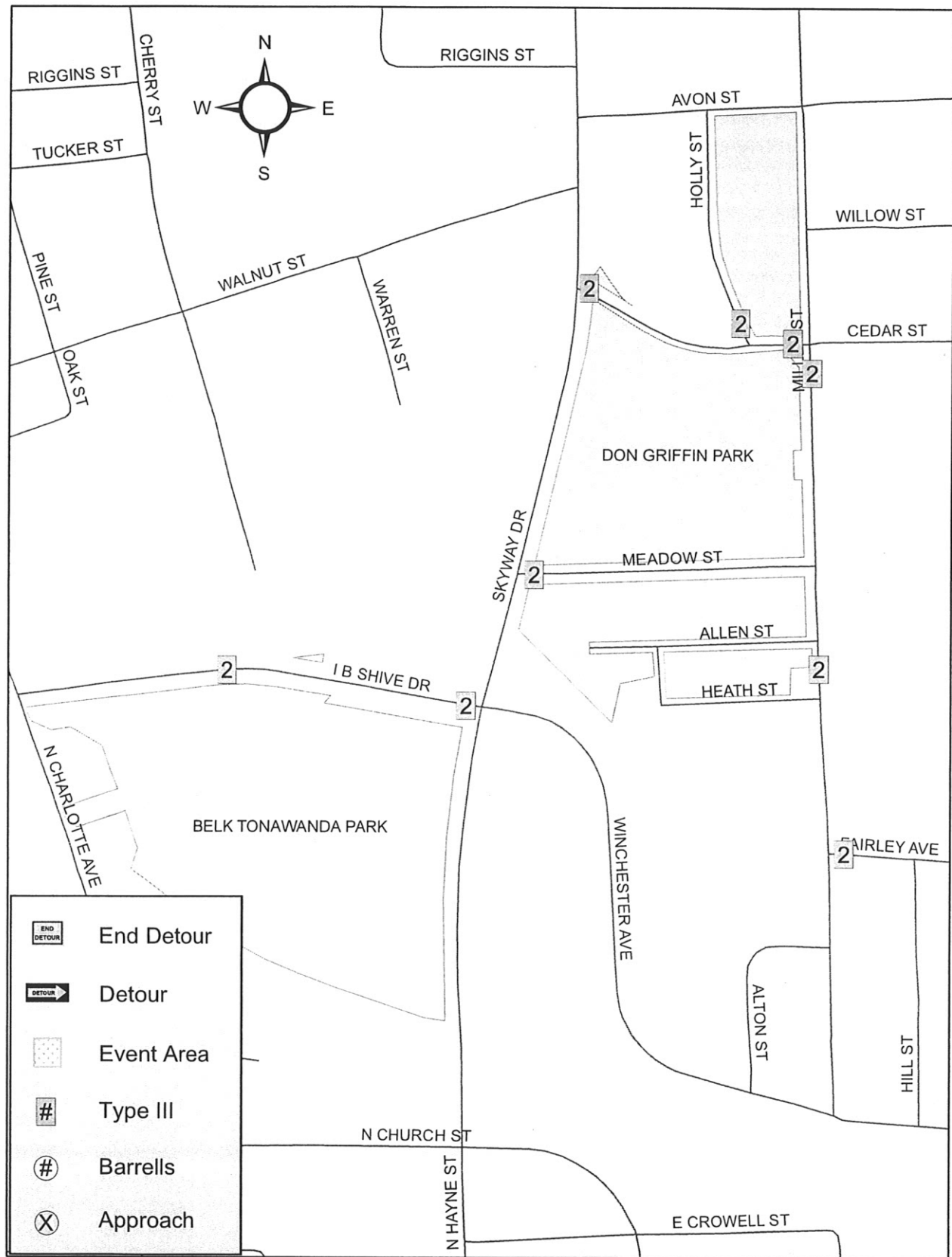
1. City Council approves and authorizes the temporary closure of IB Shive Drive (SR1245) on July 4th, Hayne Street (NC 207) between Jefferson Street and Franklin Street (SR 2100) on September 15th, and Franklin Street (SR 2100) between Charlotte Avenue and Hayne Street on October 19th and December 7th for a special event per the attached maps;
2. City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to take any actions necessary to effect the provisions of this Ordinance;
3. This Ordinance shall be effective as of the date of adoption.

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2024.

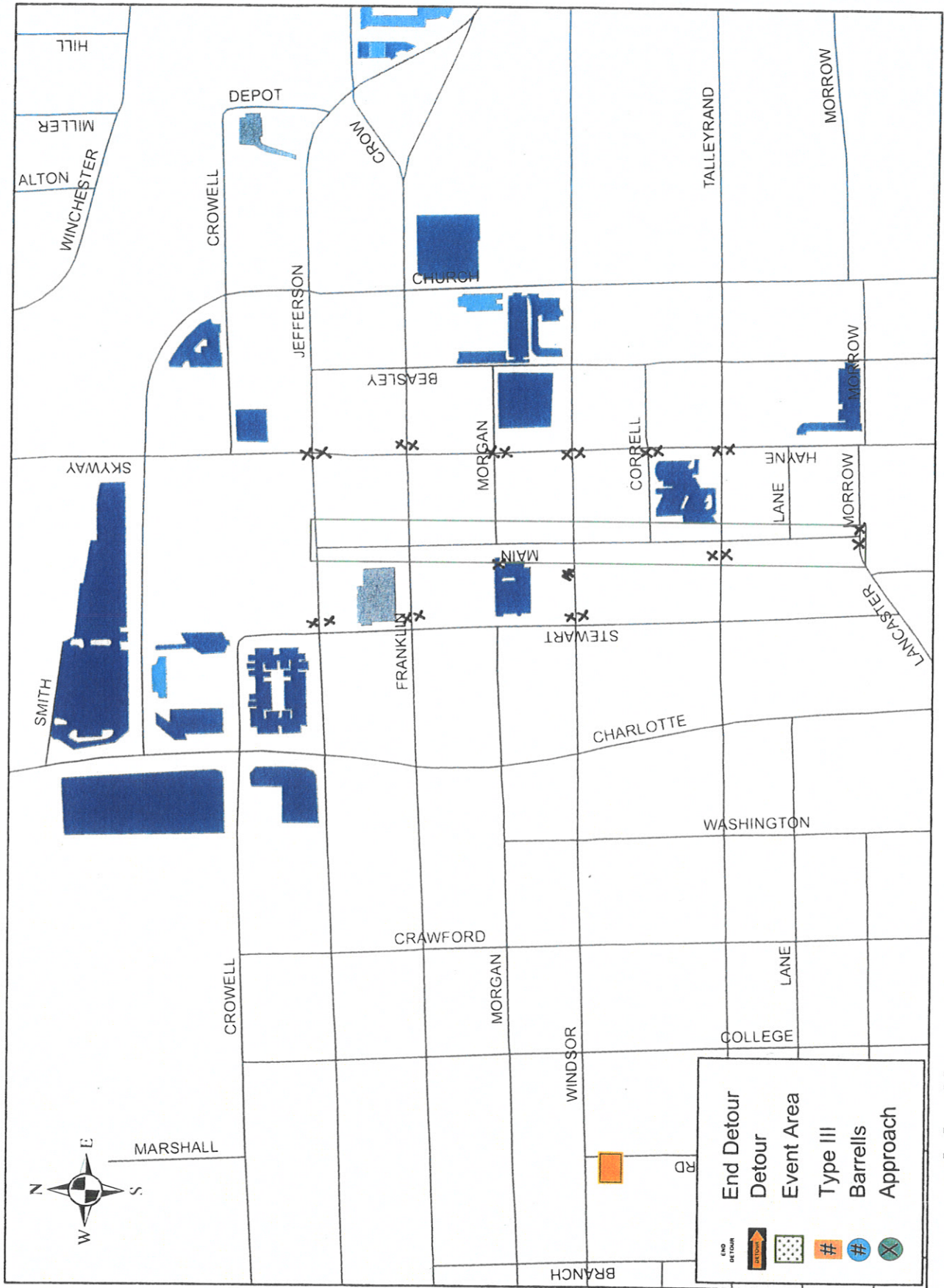
Attest:

Mayor Robert A. Burns

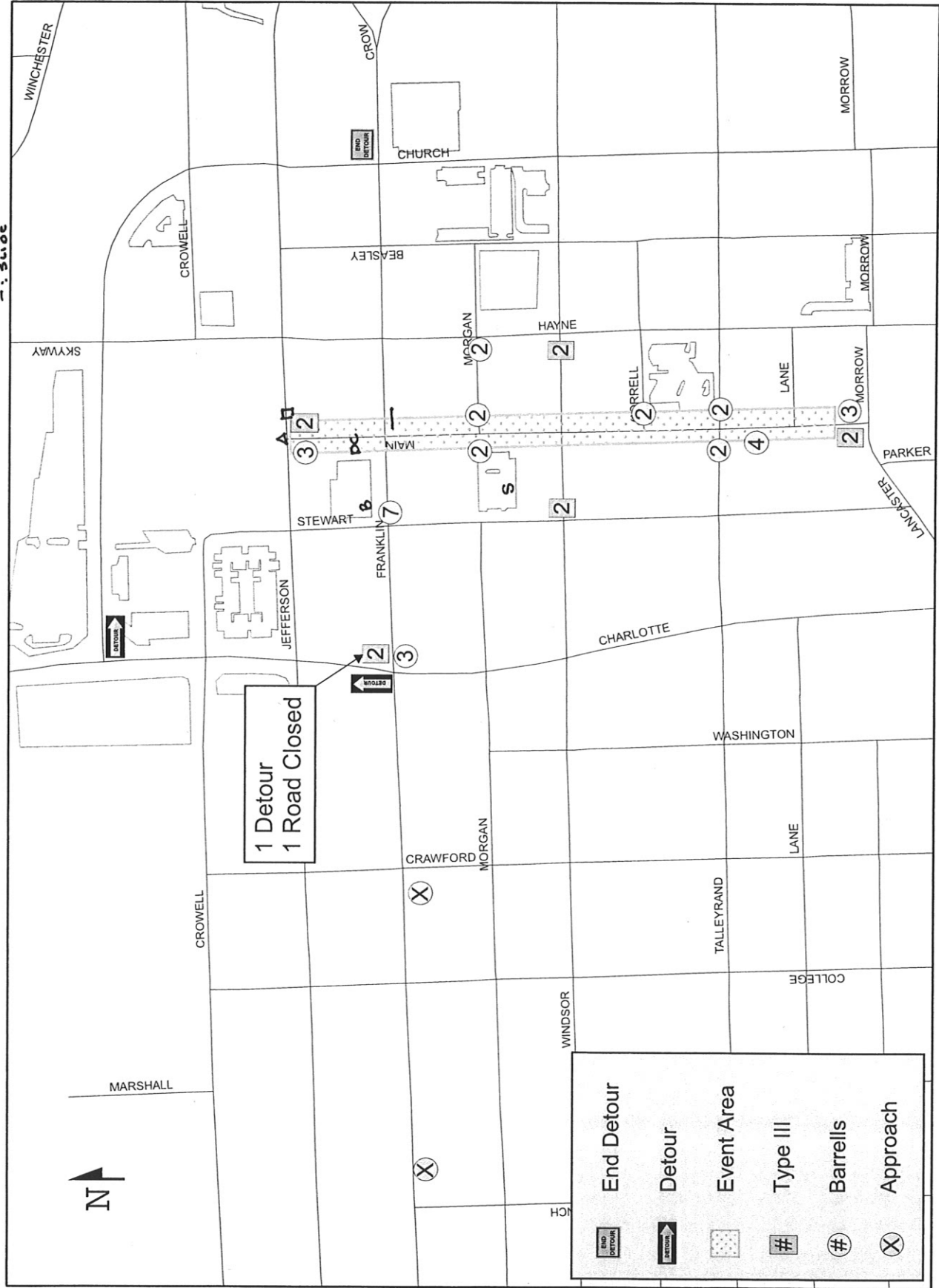
Bridgette Robinson, City Clerk



Fourth of July Event Map



Halloween Happenings Site Map



Christmas Tree Lighting



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: March 4, 2024
FROM: J. Bryan Gilliard, Chief of Police
PREPARED BY: TJ Goforth, Police Captain
SUBJECT: POLICE K-9 DONATIONS

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Staff requests approval to accept the Police K-9 vest donations made by Brady's K9 Fund and a Police K9 vehicle kennel from Tampa Police Department, in Tampa Florida.

REVIEW

Staff have the opportunity to accept the donation of Police K-9 ballistic vests for the Monroe Police Department that will protect our four-legged officers while they serve and protect their community. These vests are being donated by Brady's K-9 Fund, at no cost to the Monroe Police Department.

The Police K9 vehicle kennel being de-commissioned from a Tampa Florida Police Department surplus vehicle and is being donated to the Monroe Police Department.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff request approval from the Public Safety Committee to accept this donation and forward to the full Council for approval.