

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
300 W. CROWELL STREET
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112**

www.monroenc.org

August 26, 2024 – 4:15 PM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Public Safety Committee Meeting of August 5, 2024
2. Budget Amendment for Fire Department Donation from Council Member Gary Anderson
3. Budget Amendment for Police Department Donation from Quick Trip, Carolina Division
4. Safe Place/Safe Haven Program
5. City Hall Council Chambers Occupancy Limits

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

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

Members Present: Chairman David Dotson, Council Member Julie Thompson, Council Member Gary Anderson, Committee Member David Beckwith

Absent: Committee Member Chip Wardwell,

Staff Present: City Manager Mark Watson, Assistant to City Manager, Lisa Hollowell, Fire Chief Ron Fowler, Deputy Fire Chief Greg Collins, Fire Administrative Assistant II Alice Withers, Police Chief Bryan Gilliard, City Attorney Richard Long, Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar, Grant Administrator Lisa Kerns

Guests:

Chairman David Dotson called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Item 1: Minutes from June 3, 2024 Meeting

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of June 3, 2024. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Discussion on E Old Highway 74

Engineering Director McAllister presented to the Committee information concerning the complaints of tractor-trailers using the road as a cut-through to Highway 74. This matter was for discussion purposes only.

Item 3: Budget Amendment – Interlocal Agreement

Fire Chief Ron Fowler presented to the Committee funds received from Union County in the amount of \$75,000 for an Interlocal agreement for mutual aid assistance from the Monroe Fire Department. Staff requested the Public Safety Committee recommend Council to accept the funds and allocate them to the Fire Department. Council member Anderson made a motion to forward to Council for approval. Committee member Beckwith seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 4: Budget Amendment – Donation for Camp 1872

Fire Chief Ron Fowler presented to the Committee a donation in the amount of \$600 from the Monroe Rotary Club. These funds will be used for the Monroe Fire Camp 1872. Staff requested the Public Safety Committee recommend Council to accept the funds and allocate them to the Fire Department. Council Member Anderson made a motion to forward to Council for approval. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Council Member Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Withers – Committee Secretary



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: August 26, 2024

FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Alice Withers, Administrative Assistant II - Fire

SUBJECT: Budget Amendment for Donation Received for Fire Explorers

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Fire Department seeks acceptance of a donation to support the department's Fire Explorer Program and approval of a budget amendment allocating these funds to the Fire Department.

REVIEW

The Fire Department received a \$500 donation from Council Member Anderson's discretionary account. These funds will be used for the Monroe Fire Explorer Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Public Safety Committee recommend that Council accept this donation and approve Budget Amendment BA-2024-23 and to appropriate and designate these funds to Fire Department expenditure accounts.

Attachment: BA-2024-23

**CITY OF MONROE
BUDGET AMENDMENT
BA-2024-23**

1. Amendment necessary to designate and appropriate funds received from Council Members Anderson's discretionary funds for the Monroe Fire Explorer Program.

General Fund:

Revenues:	
Miscellaneous – Fire	\$500
Expenditures:	
Fire Department	\$500

Adopted this the 10th day of September of 2024.

Robert A. Burns, Mayor

Attest:

Bridgette H. Robinson, City Clerk



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: August 26, 2024

FROM: J. Bryan Gilliard, Chief of Police

PREPARED BY: TJ Goforth, Captain

SUBJECTS: Budget Amendment for Donation to Police Department from Quick Trip, Carolina Division

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Acceptance of donation to Police Department from Quick Trip, Carolina Division.

REVIEW

The Police Department has received a \$6,000 donation Quick Trip, Carolina Division to be for the Youth Programs.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests approval from the Public Safety Committee to accept this donation and forward the matter to City Council for consideration of adoption of a Budget Amendment accepting and appropriating the funds.

Attachment: Budget Amendment BA-2024-24

**BUDGET AMENDMENT
BA-2024-24**

1. Amendment necessary to designate and appropriate funds received from Quick Trip, Carolina Division for the Monroe Police Explorer Program.

General Fund:

Revenue:

Miscellaneous	\$6,000
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Expenditure:

Public Safety	\$6,000
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Adopted this 10th day of September, 2024.

Attest:

Robert A. Burns, Mayor

Bridgette H. Robinson, City Clerk

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STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: August 26, 2024

FROM: J. Bryan Gilliard, Chief of Police
Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: TJ Goforth, Captain

SUBJECTS: Safe Place / Safe Haven Programs
1) Discussion
2) Program Participation Consideration
3) Resolution of Participation for City Council Consideration

SUMMARY STATEMENT

At the request of Public Safety Committee Member, Councilwoman Julie Thompson, Monroe Police and Fire Department staff will present information on the Safe Place program and a Safe Haven Baby Box all to be located within the City of Monroe.

REVIEW

Monroe Police and Fire Department staff have been requested to present information related to Safe Place programming and signage as well as the Safe Haven Baby Box to be located within the City of Monroe. Staff plan to present information obtained from the National Safe Place website explaining what a Safe Place is, who can utilize the Safe Place and criteria for establishing your location as a Safe Place. Staff will also explain the Safe Haven Baby Box program.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee is requested to 1) Discuss the Safe Place / Safe Haven Programs; 2) Consider Program Participation; and 3) Consider a Resolution of Participation for City Council Consideration.

Safe Place Sites

Safe Place sites are businesses and other public locations designated by licensed Safe Place agencies as “safe places” for youth to go when in a crisis. These locations fit criteria set up by NSPN and receive orientation and training by the local licensed Safe Place agency.

Safe Place sites display the Safe Place signage and call the local licensed agency when a youth enters and asks for help. They provide reassurance and safety until the Safe Place responder arrives to meet with the youth. Safe Place sites must work in partnership with a local, licensed agency who is responsible for the operation of the Safe Place program in their community. The licensed agency is responsible for assisting Safe Place sites with acquiring Safe Place signage, required training, and is the contact for sites when youth request help.

Safe Place sites include, but are not limited to:

- Businesses – fast food, convenience stores, etc.
- Fire stations
- Libraries
- YMCAs
- Community centers and other social service agencies
- Mobile Safe Place sites – public transit buses, trains, etc.

Requirements

NSPN has developed basic criteria for Safe Place sites, which include:

- Easily accessible
- Visible
- Youth friendly – safe and comfortable
- Ideally open 24 hours a day/otherwise as many hours as possible
- Located in a high traffic area
- At least two trained employees on duty

Note: The licensed Safe Place agency in your community may have additional criteria to become a Safe Place site.

Steps to become a Safe Place site in your community:

- Determine if there is an existing Safe Place program in your community.
- If there is, contact the licensed agency to inquire about becoming a site. The agency will provide details and work with you to determine if your business meets the requirements to become a Safe Place site.
- If there is not a licensed agency near your place of business, please consider becoming a TXT 4 HELP partner or Ambassador until a licensed agency is available.

• Safe Haven Baby Box

NC Safe Surrender of Infants Act, which is *Article 5A of Chapter 7B*. The act is the statutory authority to establish surrender locations for babies. Police and Fire stations are specifically mentioned as surrender locations.

- A Safe Haven Baby Box is a designated location where parents can anonymously and safely leave an infant they are unable or unwilling to care for.
- The process involves opening the box's secure door, placing the baby inside, and then closing the door. Once the door is shut, a sensor alerts authorities to retrieve the baby.
- These boxes aim to prevent unsafe abandonment and ensure that infants are placed in proper care, following legal protocols.

STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: August 26, 2024
FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief
PREPARED BY: Alice Withers, Administrative Assistant II - Fire
SUBJECT: City Council Chambers Occupancy Limits

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Committee is requested to discuss the Council Chambers Occupancy Limits.

REVIEW

Staff will discuss with the Public Safety Committee Occupancy Limits in the City Council Chambers to include State Fire Code regulations and other factors.

RECOMMENDATION

For discussion and action as desired by the Public Safety Committee.