

HOMELESS & ADDICTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

5:00 PM

**City Hall Council Chambers
300 West Crowell Street
Monroe, NC**

- Item 1.** **Public Comment**

- Item 2.** **Approval of Minutes – July 11, 2024**

- Item 3.** **Guest Speaker(s) on Addiction Issues**

ATTENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Please contact Heidi Bumgarner at 704.282.4527 to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

CITY OF MONROE
HOMELESS AND ADDICTION COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 11, 2024
MINUTES

The Homeless and Addiction Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2024 with Chair Gary Anderson presiding.

Present: Chair Gary Anderson, Member Gray Biber, Member Joseph Quinto, Member Sheila Crunkleton and Clerk Heidi Bumgarner.

Absent: None

Staff: Doug Britt

Guests: Chase Griffin

Chair Anderson called the Homeless and Addiction Committee Meeting of July 11, 2024 to order at 5:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment. None

Item No. 2. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2024.

Motion: Member Sheila Crunkleton made a motion to approve the May 9, 2024 Minutes as presented

Second: Member Joseph Quinto

Action: The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Chair Anderson stated the Homeless and Addiction Committee should have a recommendation to present to City Council within 4 to 5 months. At that time, there will be someone designated to present the recommendation to Council.

Item No. 3. Presentation by the City of Monroe Deputy Fire Chief Greg Collins. Chair Anderson introduced Chief Collins who gave a presentation entitled, *Poisoning & Overdose Response* for the Monroe Fire Department. Chief Collins highlighted MFD's response to Poisoning and Overdose calls, how they track, code and place the calls within their system. MFD classifies the case as a medical response call, showing the highest number of medical response calls are for medical assist with EMS crews, and EMS calls with MFD assist (excluding vehicle accident with injury). These calls are primarily poisoning/overdose calls related to intentional or accidental prescription drugs, accidental recreational/opioid, ingestion of chemicals, or food related. The data does not show if it was an actual overdose or not. Chief Collins explained while all Monroe police officers and MFD carry Narcan, EMS would have data specific to overdoses, as they track when

Narcan is used. He suggested returning with more focused feedback based on questions or discussion following the presentation.

A brief discussion ensued regarding one slide highlighting suspected opioid related calls within Union County, where the highest numbers falling within the city limits of Monroe where the population is dense. Chief Collins pointed to some of the cluster areas that fell within the proximity of the shelter where homeless camps pop up, and repeat calls in certain areas near the lower cost hotels.

Member Gray Biber then introduced Chase Griffin, explaining he was a friend of her late son, who had passed from a drug overdose. She explained Chase and her son had done many drugs together. Chase overdosed and remained hospitalized for 3 months having to learn to walk and talk again. Chase briefly shared his story of addiction and recovery, telling of how easy it is to become addicted to these drugs and how easy it is to obtain them.

Chair Anderson thank Mr. Griffin for being brave enough to share his story and congratulated him on his continued journey of sobriety.

There being no further business, Member Joseph Quinto made a motion to adjourn the Homeless and Addiction Committee Meeting of June 11, 2024 at 5:54 p.m.

Second: Member Crunkleton

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

Gary Anderson, Chair

Heidi Bumgarner, Clerk