

HOMELESS & ADDICTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 2024

5:00 PM

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

- Item 1.** **Public Comment**
- Item 2.** **Sgt. Mark Isley - Update on Homeless Issues in the City**
- Item 3.** **Terry Sholar - Homeless Policy Recommendation/Legal Update**
- Item 4.** **Discussion/Recommendation to Council for a Billboard for Addiction Awareness**
- Item 5.** **Approval of Minutes - October 10, 2024**

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
October 10, 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 October 10, 2024 with Chair Gary Anderson presiding.

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

Absent: Member Gray Biber

Staff: Doug Britt

Chair Anderson called the Homeless and Addiction Committee Meeting of October 10, 2024 to order at 5:01 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 July 11, 2024 Minutes as presented

Second: Member Joseph Quinto

Action: The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Item No. 3. Presentation by the City of Monroe Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar.

Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar passed out copies of the landmark case, where The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled against the city of Grants Pass, Oregon in City of Grants Pass v. Johnson in 2023, but the U.S. Supreme Court overturned that decision in 2024. The findings of this case resulted in a 6-3 ruling, where the Court upheld the right of local governments to enforce municipal ordinances, which among other things, preclude homeless persons from using a blanket, a pillow, or cardboard box for protection from the elements while sleeping within the City's limits.

After a short discussion regarding the complex issues involved with tackling the homeless problems, Mr. Sholar stated municipalities could prohibit certain things and have an ordinance covering those concerns. All agreed the city has an obligation to protect its property, stating an ordinance prohibiting anyone sleeping on public benches downtown, setting up camps and sleeping in public parks or anywhere on city owned property seems justified. It would not just

target the homeless, but prohibit anyone from setting up camp on city property for any reason, including any sort of protests, thus preventing the destruction or trashing of city property.

Chair Gary Anderson suggested having an ordinance drafted to present to City Council for consideration that would prohibit sleeping or setting up camp on public property within the city limits of Monroe.

Motion: Member Joseph Quinto made a motion to draft such an ordinance
Second: Member Sheila Crunkleton
Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Committee members continued their discussion realizing how significant the homeless problem is, leading to concerns about safety, sanitation and access to basic needs with each requiring many different approaches for handling these very complex issues.

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