



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

City Hall - Large Conference Room
300 W. Crowell Street
Monroe, NC
January 6, 2025
4:15 PM

AGENDA

1. Minutes from December 2, 2024
2. Award of Fire Helmets
3. Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grant Application
4. Charles Street Speed Study Update
5. Legislative Agenda Discussion
6. Code of Ordinances Amendment to Chapter 130 titled General Offenses
Against City Regulations to Add Section 130.11 titled Camping and Other
Activity Prohibited

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2024**

The Public Safety Committee met on December 2, 2024, at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Large Conference Room.

Members Present: Chairman David Dotson, Council Member Julie Thompson,

Absent: Committee Member Chip Wardwell

Staff Present: City Manager Mark Watson, Assistant City Manager, Lisa Hollowell, Assistant City Manager, Jeff Wells, Fire Chief Ron Fowler, Deputy Fire Chief Greg Collins, Fire Administrative Assistant II Alice Withers, Police Chief Bryan Gilliard, Assistant Police Chief Rhett Bolen, Police Lieutenant Steve Morton, City Attorney Richard Long, Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar, Finance Director Lisa Strickland, Engineering Director Sarah McAllister, Land Development Engineering Manager Will Auret

Guests:

Chairman David Dotson called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

Item 1: Minutes from October 7, 2024 Meeting

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of October 7, 2024. Chairman Dotson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Budget Ordinance for Fire Station 6

Fire Chief Ron Fowler presented to the Committee a request to consider a budget ordinance for funding for the preconstruction services, updated architectural design costs, and property acquisition cost for the sewer line connection. Council Member Thompson made a motion to forward to Council to approve the funds needed and approve the budget ordinance. Chairman Dotson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Evaluation of Neighborhood Entrance/Connection Requirements

Land Development Engineering Manager Auret presented to the Committee a discussion per Mayor Pro Tem Dotson's request of engineering staff to research how other municipalities handle entrances in their standards. Upon further review, Staff found that our current standards are very similar to others. This item was for general discussion purposes only.

Item 4: Safe Place Signage

Fire Chief Fowler presented an update on the Safe Place Signage. This item was for general discussion purposes only.

Other Business

Police Chief Gilliard presented to the Committee at the request of Chairman Dotson research study on Charles Street. Chief Gilliard will update at the January meeting to discuss once more data has been collected.

Fire Chief Ron Fowler updated the Committee on apparatus for Monroe Fire Department to be delivered in May and July of 2025. Chief Fowler also stated that the ventilation fan is due to be delivered in the next few days.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Council Member Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Dotson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Withers – Committee Secretary



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2025

FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Alice Withers, Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: Award of Fire Helmet Engineer Rick Cauthen and Engineer Clinton Oster

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Public Safety Committee is requested to consider a recommendation for City Council to authorize awarding Engineer Rick Cauthen and Engineer Clinton Oster each their respective fire helmet.

REVIEW

Engineers Rick Cauthen and Clinton Oster have retired. The General Assembly of North Carolina recognizes the importance and the symbolism of the Firefighter's helmet. General Statute §160A-294.1 authorizes municipalities, at the discretion of the governing board, to honor retiring firefighters by awarding them their fire helmet. Recognizing the importance of the fire helmet to Engineers Cauthen and Oster, Staff feels it is fitting and proper to honor them by awarding them with their fire helmet to cherish during retirement. In accordance with General Statute §160A-294.1, staff recommends that Council set the price of the helmet at \$0.01 (one cent), and award it to Engineers Cauthen and Oster.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Public Safety Committee recommend that City Council authorize awarding Engineers Cauthen and Oster their respective fire helmets for one cent each.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2025

FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Bryan Kindley, Deputy Chief

SUBJECT: Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program application.

REVIEW

The Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program opened on November 12, 2024 and closed on December 20, 2024. When Staff learned the grant application period had opened and due to the application deadline and timing of meetings, Staff submitted an application. The City will have the opportunity to accept or deny the grant if selected for the award. This grant is for firefighter operations and safety. Staff applied for a turnout gear washer, dryer and commercial clothes washer for the training grounds. This is a 90% federal grant with a 10% City match. The total cost of the equipment is \$22,356.65. The city match for this grant would be \$2,235.67.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Public Safety Committee allows staff to continue with the application process and bring to City Council for approval at the January meeting.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2025

FROM: J. Bryan Gilliard, Chief of Police

PREPARED BY: Chad Shoultes, Traffic Division Lieutenant

SUBJECT: Update on Charles St. speed study

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Monroe Police Department Traffic Division Lieutenant Chad Shoultes will provide an update on the speed study for Charles St.

REVIEW

As the supervisor assigned to the Monroe Police Department Traffic Division, Lieutenant Chad Shoultes has been involved in obtaining a speed study for Charles St. because of the request for speed calming devices. Data obtained from this 30-day study will be presented to the committee.

STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2025

FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Alice Withers, Administrative Assistant II - Fire

SUBJECT: Legislative Agenda Discussion

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Discussion of items for Council's Legislative Agenda.

REVIEW

The Public Safety Committee is requested to discuss items for City Council consideration for Council's 2025 State Legislative Agenda. Staff will provide recommendations for discussion and seek additional recommendations from the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

Discussion and direction by the Public Safety Committee regarding Legislative Agenda items for Council consideration.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: January 6, 2025

FROM: Terry Sholar, Senior Staff Attorney

PREPARED BY: Terry Sholar, Senior Staff Attorney

SUBJECT: Code of Ordinances Amendment to Chapter 130 titled General Offenses Against City Regulations to Add Section 130.11 titled Camping and Other Activity Prohibited

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Staff is recommending the Public Safety Committee consider supporting the request to amend Chapter 130 titled General Offenses Against City Regulations to Add Section 130.11 titled Camping and Other Activity Prohibited.

REVIEW

After hearing various comments from individuals and discussion, Staff proposes the Committee consider supporting the request for an ordinance prohibiting camping and other activities on public property. In light of the recent US Supreme Court decision, (City of Grants Pass Oregon v. Johnson, 144 S.Ct 2202, 2024) recognizing the ability of municipalities and local governments to prohibit camping, sleeping, etc. on public owned property, the Committee believes the City of Monroe should adopt a similar ordinance. In recent years, the City of Monroe has experienced an increase in the size of its homeless population and a related increase in homeless camping in the City. In addition, the City has experienced an increase in individuals sleeping on City property and in the City's Downtown area. Although such activities are considered detrimental to property owners and businesses in the Downtown district, the City should address the problem with compassion and understanding that homelessness for some is a result of consequences beyond their control.

The proposed ordinance prohibits camping, erecting temporary shelters, starting fires, and sleeping on public property. Public property includes federal, state, county, and city owned property including parks, parking lots, sidewalks, and rights of way. It also prohibits sleeping in a prone

position downtown on public property or on private property blocking an entrance to a private building.

The penalty section of the ordinance provides for criminal enforcement as a class 3 misdemeanor.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee is requested to provide a favorable recommendation to City Council to consider adopting the Code of Ordinances Amendment to Chapter 130 titled General Offenses Against City Regulations to Add Section 130.11 titled Camping and Other Activity Prohibited.

Attachment: Proposed Chapter 130 new § 130.11 Ordinance O-2025-03

ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY OF MONROE CODE OF ORDINANCES
TITLE XIII: GENERAL OFFENSES
CHAPTER 130: OFFENSES AGAINST CITY REGULATIONS
O-2025-03

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONROE THAT TITLE XIII, CHAPTER 130 OF THE MONROE ORDINANCES IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 130 by adding a new §130.11 to read as follows:

130.11 Camping and Other Activity Prohibited.

- A. Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
1. *Camp or Camping* means the use of city property for overnight living accommodation purposes such as sleeping, or making preparations to sleep (including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping), or storing personal belongings, or placing any tents or a temporary shelter on city property for living accommodation purposes.
 2. *Temporary Shelter* means tents, tarps, or any type of structure or cover that provides partial shelter from the elements.
 3. *Public Property* means any real property owned by any federal, state, or local governmental agency and includes, but is not limited to parks, recreational facilities, streets, rights-of-way, parking lots, or sidewalks.
- B. It shall be unlawful for anyone to Camp on any Public Property.
- C. Camping as defined in this section is deemed a public nuisance and the city may summarily remove a Temporary Shelter, bedding or personal belongings.
- D. It shall be unlawful to light or use a campfire or bonfire on Public Property except as may be specifically authorized by a permit.
- E. No person shall Camp, sleep, or rest in a prone position on public property at any time of the day or night.
- F. Within the Downtown District defined and established in § 160.01, no person shall Camp, sleep, or rest in a prone position, day or night, on Public Property, or on private property in front of an entranceway to any privately-owned building so as to block the entrance or impede access in any way.

Section 2. Amend § 130.99 PENALTY by deleting it in its entirety and replacing and substituting it with the following:

A violation of this section may be punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor and be subject to a maximum fine not to exceed \$500.00 pursuant to G.S. 160A-175 and G.S. 14-4.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Attest:

Robert A. Burns, Mayor

Bridgette H. Robinson, City Clerk