

CITY OF MONROE
SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
300 WEST CROWELL STREET
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.
AGENDA
www.monroenc.org

- Item 1.** Public Comment Period
- Item 2.** Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2025
- Item 3.** Autistic Person Sign Policy
- Item 4.** Community Survey Update
- Item 5.** Community Perspective Input – Melinda Plue

ATTENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Please contact Angie Sustar at asustar@monroenc.org or 704-282-4651 to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

CITY OF MONROE
SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2025
MINUTES

The Special Needs and Disabilities 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 3:00 p.m. on January 7, 2025 with Chair Julie Thompson presiding.

Members Present: Council Member Julie Thompson (Chair), Mayor Robert Burns, Committee Members Karen Heath, Kelly Stegall, and Melinda Plue, Property Management Director Ryan Jones (ex-officio), and Clerk Angie Sustar

Staff: Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell, Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar

Visitors: Terri Blumer

Chair Thompson called the Special Needs and Disabilities Committee Meeting of January 7, 2025 to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment. Terri Blumer stated that she was observing the meeting. She advised that her son participated in the Exceptional Children's program through the Union County Public Schools and has since graduated. She shared that she was looking for ways to be involved.

Item No. 2. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2024.

Motion: Member Melinda Plue made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2024 Minutes as presented.

Second: Mayor Robert Burns

Action: The motion to approve passed unanimously with the following votes.

AYES: Chair Thompson, Mayor Burns, Members Stegall, Heath, and Plue

NAYS: None

Item No. 3. Autistic Child Signage Policy. Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar advised that based on discussions at the last meeting he was requested to prepare a policy for consideration by the committee. He presented the proposed Autistic Child Signage Policy for the committee's review. He advised that it is an autistic sign policy for a parent of an autistic child in the home. The parent can request in writing that the City install an autism child sign to notify drivers that there is an autistic child in the area. He advised that the policy follows the North Carolina Department of Transportation's policy.

The committee reviewed the policy and Mr. Sholar noted the recommended changes as discussion took place. The revised proposal will be emailed to committee members. He advised that once the committee approves the revised proposal, it will be forwarded to City Council for approval.

Item No. 4. City Communication Team Survey Update. Mr. Jones advised that the survey was posted and several responses received. Mr. Jones will email a spreadsheet detailing the survey

responses. He was encouraged that we are already addressing a need identified on the survey with the development of the resource guide. Communications will post a link to the resource guide on the committee's webpage.

Item No. 5. Legislative Agenda Discussion A general discussion was had regarding proposed city priorities to address with our legislative delegation and the general assembly.

Items discussed included:

- Handicapped accessible parking
- Sidewalk accessibility in Downtown
- The possibility/advisability of using Powell funds for these items

There being no further business, Member Melinda Plue made a motion to adjourn the Special Needs and Disabilities Committee Meeting of January 7, 2025.

Second: Member Karen Hall
Action: The motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Member Stegall, Chair Thompson, and Mayor Burns
NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

	Policy: Autistic Person Signage Policy	Effective Date:
		Revision Effective Date:
	Policy Number: ED-07	Page 1 of 1
	Robert A. Burns, Mayor	Engineering Department Responsible Party

Monroe City Council finds that vehicular traffic on streets in residential neighborhoods pose a special risk for autistic individuals or others with development disabilities. Due to the risk, City Council finds that operators of motor vehicles should be warned of the possible danger of the presence of an autistic person or person with an developmental disability. The City of Monroe should adopt a policy regarding autistic person signage similar to the standard practice adopted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Therefore, the Monroe City Council hereby adopts the following standard practice for signage only on City streets regarding autistic children:

1. An “Autistic Person Area” sign may be located and erected on a City Street upon formal written request accompanied by the following:
 - a. A doctor or other suitable medical provider’s statement that a person has autism or other developmental disability that places the person at risk for elopement;
 - b. The person with the disability is residing on the street where the request is made.
2. Such signs may only be placed on low volume, low speed streets in residential neighborhoods in a suitable location determined by the City Director of Engineering;
3. “Autistic Person Area” signs shall conform to all approved NCDOT standards in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices;
4. When the person that was the reason for placing the sign no longer resides on the street for whatever reason, the City should be provide written notification the person no longer resides on the street and the sign should be removed as soon as practicable.