

**CITY OF MONROE**  
**SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**300 WEST CROWELL STREET**  
**MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.**  
**AGENDA**  
[www.monroenc.org](http://www.monroenc.org)

- Item 1.** Public Comment Period
- Item 2.** Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2025
- Item 3.** Autistic Person Signage Policy
- Item 4.** Committee Impact Discussion
- Item 5.** Other Business

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

**CITY OF MONROE  
SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 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 February 4, 2025 with Chair Julie Thompson presiding.

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

Absent: Karen Heath

Staff: Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar

Chair Thompson called the Special Needs and Disabilities Committee Meeting of February 4, 2025 to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. A quorum was present.

**Item No. 1. Public Comment.** None

**Item No. 2. Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2024.**

Motion: Mayor Robert Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2024 Minutes as presented.

Second: Member Melinda Plue

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

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

NAYS: None

**Item No. 3. Autistic Child Signage Policy.** Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar presented the proposed policy for review. After a brief discussion, Mr. Sholar advised that the policy would be disseminated to the committee for grammatical edits.

Being that there were no substantive changes Member Melinda Plue made a motion to recommend the Autistic Person Signage Policy be forwarded to City Council for consideration.

Second: Member Kelly Stegall

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

**Item No. 4. City Survey Update.** Mr. Jones reported on responses to the recent survey and advised that as an additional push, the survey will be posted again on the city website. He advised that responses have been consistent with some of the needs previously identified by the Committee. There were brief discussions between committee members during review of the survey responses.

Once survey results are reviewed, a report will be compiled into presentation format to disseminate the information to City Council.

Chair Thompson thanked Mr. Jones for his work on the survey and stated that we are almost there. By achieving our goals list, we're going to see some things that we've already addressed and certain things we can address moving forward. This information will be good to present to City Council.

**Item No. 5. Community Perspective Input** Discussion facilitated by Member Plue and Chair Thompson included an acknowledgement that there are issues outside the scope of this committee, emphasis on the importance of bringing awareness to the unique work of Members Plue, Stegall, and Heath in the community, and recognizing that one vital group missing from the committee is someone with a disability.

Mayor Burns further emphasized his desire for the continuing education of the committee and his inclination to use city resources such as the Communication Department to educate others.

Member Stegall concurred that having someone with lived experience on this committee would help broaden the general understanding of the work to be done. Chair Thompson inquired if anyone had knowledge of someone who might participate on the committee.

There was additional discussion regarding the potential permanency of this committee. Member Stegall stated there is significant opportunity for increasing the quality of life for these individuals and their families in our community.

Member Plue suggested reaching out to other municipalities to see what they are doing, how their committee is formed, and what significant items they have addressed.

Following discussion of future committee parameters and community representation, Terry Sholar advised that if the committee becomes permanent, members would work with City Council to carry out the committee's vision.

It was decided that Members Stegall, Plue and Heath would present to the committee their work with the special needs and disabled populations at consecutive meetings.

Chair Thompson thanked everyone for their willingness to work and serve on the committee.

There being no further business, Mayor Robert Burns made a motion to adjourn the Special Needs and Disabilities Committee Meeting of February 4, 2025.

Second: Member Kelly Stegall  
Action: The motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Members Stegall and Plue, Chair Thompson, and Mayor Burns  
NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.