



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

City Hall - Large Conference Room
300 W. Crowell Street
Monroe, NC
March 3, 2025
5:30 PM

AGENDA

1. Minutes from February 3, 2025
2. Position Statement on Law Enforcement Cooperation
3. Autistic Person Signage Policy
4. Charles Street Sidewalk Improvements
5. LD Davis' Request for Guardrail
6. Hazard Mitigation Plan
7. SAFER Grant Opportunity
8. Discussion of Skateboarding Downtown and Review of Current Ordinance Regulating the Same

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2025**

The Public Safety Committee met on February 3, 2025, at 4:15 p.m. in the City Hall Large Conference Room.

Members Present: Chairman David Dotson, Council Member Julie Thompson, Committee Member Chip Wardwell, Committee Member Daryle Anderson

Absent:

Staff Present: City Manager Mark Watson, Assistant City Manager, Lisa Hollowell, Assistant City Manager, Jeff Wells, Fire Chief Ron Fowler, Fire Administrative Assistant II Alice Withers, Fire Deputy Chief Greg Collins, Fire Deputy Chief Bryan Kindley, Assistant Police Chief Rhett Bolen, City Attorney Richard Long, Senior Staff Attorney Terry Sholar, Finance Director Lisa Strickland, Engineering Director Sarah McAllister, Grant Administrator Lisa Kerner

Guests: Brooks Durham, John Powell, Michelle Ball

Chairman David Dotson called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

Item 1: Minutes from January 6, 2025 Meeting

Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of January 6, 2025. Committee Member Wardwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: ADTS Donation of Monroe Police Department

Assistant Police Chief Rhett Bolen presented to the Committee a request for a Budget Amendment for a \$50 donation received by Advanced Drive Training Services for the Monroe Police Explorer Program. Council Member Thompson made a motion to approve the amendment and to forward to Council for approval. Chairman Dotson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Union County Critical Intersections – Franklin St & Johnson St.

Engineering Director Sarah McAllister presented to the Committee design options for safety improvements to the intersection of Franklin St. & Johnson St. All options include a signalized intersections with a striped median or concrete median alternate. This item was for general discussion only.

Item 4: Discussion on Public Safety concerns related to undocumented individual in the City of Monroe

Chairman Dotson presented to the Committee public concerns expressed to him about undocumented individuals in Monroe. Chairman Dotson asked the Committee to recommend a way for Council to clearly communicate to the citizens of Monroe that the City of Monroe will continue to work with all Federal Agencies to apprehend all violent offenders, regardless of their immigration status. Chairman Dotson made a motion to ask Staff to prepare a position statement to affirm Monroe’s on-going collaboration with Federal Agencies to locate and apprehend violent offenders, regardless of immigration status and that statement be forwarded to City Council for approval. Committee Member Wardwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Guardrail Installation

At the request of Council Member Kerr and City Manager Mark Watson, staff discussed the possibility of installing a guardrail at or close to LD Davis Industries, LLC located at 2031 E. Roosevelt Blvd after repeated high-speed issues, a vehicle colliding with the warehouse/building resulting in structural damage. Staff recommended contacting NCDOT and add it to next month’s meeting agenda. This was for discussion purposes only.

Other Items:

Fire Chief Ron Fowler presented to the Committee that the Fire Department is having a Strategic Planning meeting next Tuesday, February 11, 2025, and anyone is welcome to come. Chief Fowler also presented to the Committee that the department’s new ventilation fan truck was operational. The ventilation fan is used for clearing smoke and hazardous gases out of large buildings. It is the only one in NC.

Charles Street sidewalk in residential area was requested to be added to next month’s agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Council Member Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Wardwell 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: City Council
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: March 11, 2025
FROM: Terry Sholar, Senior Staff Attorney
PREPARED BY: Terry Sholar, Senior Staff Attorney
SUBJECT: Proposed Adoption of Autistic Signage Policy

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Request to adopt Autistic Person Signage Policy ED-07.


REVIEW

The Special Needs and Disability Committee discussed the danger that vehicular traffic on residential streets poses for individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities at their February 4, 2025 meeting. Such individuals may not be aware of the danger posed by traffic and are prone to elopement into traffic. The suggested policy would provide for the City of Monroe’s placing warning signs on residential streets where individuals with autism or developmental disabilities reside. The policy makes provisions for how to request a sign and the standards needed including a medical provider’s statement of diagnosis and elopement risk. NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has a similar policy for “Autistic Child” signage on NCDOT residential streets. The City of Monroe’s policy would extend the signage beyond an autistic child to apply to individuals regardless of age and to apply to other disabilities other than just autism. The sign would be similar to the NCDOT signage and conform to NCDOT standards.

RECOMMENDATION

The Special Needs and Disability Committee and Staff recommend City Council adopt the Autistic Person Signage Policy.

Attachment: Autistic Person Signage Policy (ED-07).

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

Monroe City Council finds that vehicular traffic on streets in residential neighborhoods poses a special risk for individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities. Due to the risk, City Council finds that operators of motor vehicles should be made aware of the presence of an autistic person or a person with a developmental disability.

The following is the standard practice for autistic person 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’s or other suitable medical provider’s statement that a person has autism or other developmental disability that places the person at risk for elopement; and,
 - b. The person with the disability is residing on the street where the request is made.
2. Such sign may only be placed on low volume, low speed streets in residential neighborhoods in a suitable location determined by the City’s Engineering Director.
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 with autism, or other developmental disability, no longer resides on the street, the City should be provided with written notification and the sign should be removed as soon as possible.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: March 3, 2025
FROM: Sarah McAllister, P.E., Engineering Director
PREPARED BY: Will Auret, P.E., Land Development Engineering Manager
SUBJECT: Charles Street Sidewalk Improvements

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Staff will be prepared to discuss two different preliminary estimates for sidewalk improvements on Charles Street.

REVIEW

City of Monroe Engineering Staff has generated two cost estimates for sidewalk improvements on Charles Street. Both options are for sidewalk to be added to the West side of Charles Street. Option one extends from Franklin Street to Green Street and option two extends from Franklin Street to Sunset Drive.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for general discussion.

Attachments:
Charles Street sidewalk estimates

**Estimate for Charles Street Sidewalk from
Franklin Street to Green Street**

Estimate Contractor

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

| DESCRIPTION | QTY | UNIT | UNIT COST | AMOUNT |
|---|-----|------|--------------|------------------|
| Mobilization (5%) | 1 | LS | \$ 16,000.00 | \$16,000 |
| Comprehensive Grading | 1 | LS | \$ 50,000.00 | \$50,000 |
| Foundation Conditioning Materials, Minor Str. | 2 | TON | \$ 65.00 | \$130 |
| 15" R.C. Pipe Culverts | 8 | LF | \$ 110.00 | \$880 |
| 24" R.C. Pipe Culverts | 8 | LF | \$ 170.00 | \$1,360 |
| Drainage Structures | 1 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$5,000 |
| 2'-6" Concrete Curb & Gutter | 200 | LF | \$ 70.00 | \$14,000 |
| Surface Course, S9.5A | 52 | TON | \$ 250.00 | \$13,000 |
| Base Course, B25.0C | 210 | TON | \$ 250.00 | \$52,500 |
| Monolithic Sidewalk | 233 | SY | \$ 100.00 | \$23,300 |
| Concrete Sidewalk (5' wide) | 595 | SY | \$ 80.00 | \$47,600 |
| Concrete Driveway | 220 | SY | \$ 155.00 | \$34,100 |
| ADA Ramp | 10 | EA | \$ 3,000.00 | \$30,000 |
| Traffic Control | 1 | LS | \$ 20,000.00 | \$20,000 |
| Seeding and Mulching | 1 | LS | \$ 10,000.00 | \$10,000 |
| Sub-Total = | | | | \$317,870 |
| Construction Surveying | | | | \$25,000 |
| Contingencies | | | | \$51,440 |

Total Construction = \$394,310

ADDITIONAL COSTS

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----|--------------|----------|
| Right-of-Way Acquisition/Easements | 1 | LS | \$ 35,000.00 | \$35,000 |
| Erosion Control | 1 | LS | \$ 10,000.00 | \$10,000 |
| Design Surveying/Engineering (15%) | 1 | LS | \$ 60,000.00 | \$60,000 |
| CEI | 1 | LS | \$ 25,000.00 | \$25,000 |

Total Additional = \$130,000

TOTAL = \$524,310

**Estimate for Charles Street Sidewalk from
Franklin Street to Sunset Drive**

Estimate Contractor

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

| DESCRIPTION | QTY | UNIT | UNIT COST | AMOUNT |
|---|------|------|--------------|------------------|
| Mobilization (5%) | 1 | LS | \$ 20,000.00 | \$20,000 |
| Comprehensive Grading | 1 | LS | \$ 75,000.00 | \$75,000 |
| Foundation Conditioning Materials, Minor Str. | 2 | TON | \$ 65.00 | \$130 |
| 15" R.C. Pipe Culverts | 8 | LF | \$ 110.00 | \$880 |
| 24" R.C. Pipe Culverts | 8 | LF | \$ 170.00 | \$1,360 |
| Drainage Structures | 1 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$5,000 |
| 2'-6" Concrete Curb & Gutter | 200 | LF | \$ 70.00 | \$14,000 |
| Surface Course, S9.5A | 52 | TON | \$ 250.00 | \$13,000 |
| Base Course, B25.0C | 210 | TON | \$ 250.00 | \$52,500 |
| Monolithic Sidewalk | 466 | SY | \$ 100.00 | \$46,600 |
| Concrete Sidewalk (5' wide) | 1190 | SY | \$ 80.00 | \$95,200 |
| Concrete Driveway | 220 | SY | \$ 155.00 | \$34,100 |
| ADA Ramp | 10 | EA | \$ 3,000.00 | \$30,000 |
| Traffic Control | 1 | LS | \$ 20,000.00 | \$20,000 |
| Seeding and Mulching | 1 | LS | \$ 10,000.00 | \$10,000 |
| Sub-Total = | | | | \$417,770 |
| Construction Surveying | | | | \$25,000 |
| Contingencies | | | | \$66,420 |

Total Construction = \$509,190

ADDITIONAL COSTS

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----|--------------|----------|
| Right-of-Way Acquisition/Easements | 1 | LS | \$ 35,000.00 | \$35,000 |
| Erosion Control | 1 | LS | \$ 10,000.00 | \$10,000 |
| Design Surveying/Engineering (15%) | 1 | LS | \$ 77,000.00 | \$77,000 |
| CEI | 1 | LS | \$ 25,000.00 | \$25,000 |

Total Additional = \$147,000

TOTAL = \$656,190



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager

DATE: March 3, 2025

FROM: Sarah McAllister, P.E., Engineering Director

PREPARED BY: Sarah McAllister, P.E., Engineering Director

SUBJECT: LD Davis' Request for Guardrail on US 74

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Staff will be prepared to discuss NCDOT's response to LD Davis' request for guardrail on US 74.

REVIEW

Engineering Staff reached out to NCDOT regarding LD Davis' request for guardrail along US 74 in front of their business. Zach Gardner, Division 10 Traffic Engineer, is working on compiling crash data and conducting a field investigation. Amelia Helms, District Engineer, and Quinn McCracken, Union County Maintenance Engineer, are evaluating the request for guardrail and verifying the right of way. Staff should have an update on their recommendations by the March 3rd meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for general discussion.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: March 3, 2025
FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief
PREPARED BY: Alice Withers, Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT: Resolution to Adopt Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Staff is presenting a resolution to adopt an updated Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

REVIEW

Monroe is a participating municipality in a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan with Cabarrus, Stanly and Union Counties and various municipalities within those counties. That plan has recently been updated.

State and Federal regulations require jurisdictions to have hazard mitigation plans to be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that Public Safety recommend Council adopt Resolution R-2025-11, adopting the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING CABARRUS, STANLY AND UNION
REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
R-2025-11**

WHEREAS, the citizens and property within the City of Monroe are subject to the effects of natural hazards that pose threats to lives and cause damage to property, and with the knowledge and experience that certain areas of the county are particularly vulnerable to drought, extreme heat, hailstorm, hurricane and tropical storm, lightning, thunderstorm wind/high wind, tornado, winter storm and freeze, flood, hazardous material incident, and wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe desires to seek ways to mitigate the impact of identified hazard risks; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has in Article 5, Section 160D-501 of Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes, delegated to local governmental units the responsibility to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina has enacted General Statute Section 166A-19.41 (*State emergency assistance funds*) which provides that for a state of emergency declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20(a) after the deadline established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2002, P.L. 106-390, the eligible entity shall have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 322 of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 states that local governments must develop an All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds and other disaster-related assistance funding and that said Plan must be updated and adopted within a five year cycle; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe has performed a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the previously approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and has updated the said plan as required under regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 and according to guidance issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Monroe City Council to fulfill this obligation in order that the County will be eligible for federal and state assistance in the event that a state of disaster is declared for a hazard event affecting the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monroe City Council hereby:

1. Adopts the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Vests Union County Emergency Management with the responsibility, authority, and the means to:

- (a) Inform all concerned parties of this action.
- (b) Cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies and private firms which undertake to study, survey, map and identify floodplain areas, and cooperate with neighboring communities with respect to management of adjoining floodplain areas in order to prevent exacerbation of existing hazard impacts.

3. Appoints Union County Emergency Management to assure that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and every five years as specified in the Plan to assure that the Plan is in compliance with all State and Federal regulations and that any needed revisions or amendments to the Plan are developed and presented to the Monroe City Council for consideration.

4. Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted this __ day of March, 2025.

Attest:

Robert A. Burns, Mayor

Bridgette H. Robinson, City Clerk



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: March 3, 2025
FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief
PREPARED BY: Bryan Kindley, Deputy Chief
SUBJECT: Federal SAFER Grant Opportunity

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant tentatively opens March 11, 2025 and staff recommends applying for this grant.

REVIEW

The Federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant tentatively opens March 11, 2025 and closes on April 12, 2025. Staff recommends applying for six firefighter positions to complete the Ladder/Rescue split. Twelve positions were requested in the FY25 budget to separate the Ladder/Rescue company into two four-person companies. Six positions were allocated in the FY25 budget. Staff request to submit this grant application for the remaining six positions.

Staff has identified this staffing need and requested funds in the upcoming budget for these positions; however, we feel it would be prudent to apply for this grant opportunity. This is a 100% federally funded grant for 36 months that covers the cost of regular salary and benefits with no city match required.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests the Public Safety Committee to recommend that City Council approve Staff to apply for the SAFER grant opportunity for six firefighter positions.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Public Safety Committee
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: March 3, 2025
FROM: Ronald D. Fowler, Fire Chief
PREPARED BY: Alice Withers, Administrative Assistant II - Fire
SUBJECT: Discussion of Skateboarding Downtown and Review of Current Ordinance Regulating Same

SUMMARY STATEMENT

At the request of Chairman Dotson, Staff is requested to discuss skateboarding downtown and review of the current ordinance regulating the same.

REVIEW

Staff has been requested to discuss the skateboarding downtown. Currently, the City of Monroe has an ordinance in place regulating skateboarding including restrictions, on locations where skateboarding is allowed. As community needs evolve, it is appropriate to periodically review these regulations to ensure they align with the public safety concerns and community interests.

RECOMMENDATION

For discussion purposes only.

Attachment

GENERAL PROVISIONS**§ 71.01 BOARDING OR ALIGHTING FROM MOTOR VEHICLES IN MOTION.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to board or alight from any motor vehicle while such motor vehicle is in motion.

('84 Code, § 16-41) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 71.02 RIDING ON PORTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE NOT DESIGNED OR INTENDED FOR PASSENGERS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to ride on any portion of a motor vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This provision shall not apply to any employee engaged in the necessary discharge of duty of his employment or to persons riding within truck bodies in spaces intended for freight or merchandise.

('84 Code, § 16-42) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 71.03 ENTERING OR JUMPING ON VEHICLE WITHOUT CONSENT.

It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, jump upon or ride upon any vehicle without the consent of the owner or driver thereof.

('84 Code, § 16-43) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 71.04 ALLOWING PARTS OF BODY TO PROTRUDE BEYOND LIMITS OF VEHICLE.

It shall be unlawful for any person riding in a motor vehicle to allow any part of his body to protrude beyond the limits of the vehicle in which he is riding, except when necessary to give such signals as are by law required.

('84 Code, § 16-44) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 71.05 LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS IN FRONT SEAT OF MOTOR VEHICLE.

It shall be unlawful for the driver or any person in charge of any motor vehicle to permit more than three persons, including such driver, to ride in the front seat of a motor vehicle.

('84 Code, § 16-45) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 71.06 HANGING ON TO MOVING VEHICLE.

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to hang on to any moving vehicle.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any person riding upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, skateboard or any toy vehicle to attach such bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled or toy vehicle or himself to any moving vehicle upon any roadway.

('84 Code, § 16-46) (Am. Ord. O-1998-51, passed 11-17-98) Penalty, see § 10.99

§ 71.07 ROLLER SKATING AND THE LIKE, IN CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT INCLUDING CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL STREETS.

It shall be unlawful for any person to skate on roller skates or to ride or skate on a skateboard, roller coaster or scooter in the streets or on the sidewalks within the central business district as well as the following residential streets: Parker Street, Lancaster Avenue, Houston Street and Morrow Avenue. It shall be unlawful for any parent or guardian to permit his child or ward to skate on roller skates or to ride or skate on skateboard; roller coasters or scooters in the streets or on the sidewalks within such central business district as well as the following residential streets: Parker Street, Lancaster Avenue, Houston Street and Morrow Avenue.

('84 Code, § 16-47) (Am. Ord. O-1998-49, passed 11-17-98; Am. Ord. O-2017-06, passed 4-4-17)