

HOMELESS & ADDICTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2025

5:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

300 West Crowell Street

Monroe, NC

- Item 1. Public Comment**

- Item 2. Update on Homeless Issues -Monroe PD**

- Item 3. Finalize Billboard Awareness**

- Item 4. Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2025**

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
FEBRUARY 13, 2025
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 February 13, 2025 with Chair Gary Anderson presiding.

Present: Chair Gary Anderson, Member Joseph Quinto, Member Sheila Crunkleton, Member Gray Biber

Absent:

Staff: Doug Britt, Lisa Hollowell

Chair Anderson called the Homeless and Addiction Committee Meeting of February 13, 2025 to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item 1. **Public Comment** – None

Item 2. **Presentation by the Union County Community Shelter**

Melissa McKeown, Chief Executive Officer of the Union County Community Shelter provided information and statistics regarding homelessness nationwide, comparing the same statistics within Union County. Ms. McKeown highlighted many of the programs provided through the community shelter, in addition to feeding the hungry 3 meals a day, 7 days a week. She also briefly outlined some of the many reasons there is an affordable housing crisis nationally and more specifically in Monroe.

Members of the committee asked various questions regarding the topics of information and brief discussions took place. There is a stigma surrounding the homeless as they are not taking the initiative or not helping themselves. You cannot just throw money at the problem without a plan and knowing the importance of a support system. The homeless situation is overwhelming. One of the issues discussed is the huge problem of trash. Homeless camps leave a lot of trash. Member Crunkleton suggested adding to the list of recommendations to council is giving out the orange trash bags to homeless population to leave out on the roads where they could be picked up. Safety at the Shelter is another issue. Chair Anderson spoke to the issue of sex offenders who are not allowed in the shelter and his surprise the shelter had no vouchers for the hotel where they would be sent, especially when the low temperatures require shelter. He stated the police department gets numerous calls every day to the shelter and even though the library is a county function, the police handle those calls as well.

Item 3. Continued Billboard Awareness Discussion

Lisa Hollowell, Assistant City Manager gave an update on her research into the billboards. She reached out to the Adams Company who has the digital billboard on Hwy 74. The cost is about \$2500 for a minimum 4-week period. Doug Britt spoke about a pop-up ad for 7 seconds every minute for a month runs about the same. He also stated a static billboard runs from \$3500 to \$4000 for 4 weeks as well.

There being no further business, Member Crunkleton made a motion to adjourn the Homeless and Addiction Committee Meeting of February 13, 2025 at 5:50 p.m.

Second: Member Biber

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

Gary Anderson, Chair

Heidi Bumgarner, Clerk