

April 21, 2021

A special meeting was called to order by Mayor Duinink on April 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Monroe City Hall. Roll call was taken. Council Members in attendance were: Wilson, St. Peter, Steenhoek, McCoy, and Goemaat. Employees in attendance were: School Resource Officer - Adam Choat, Police Officer - Brandon Blom, Police Chief - Nicholas Chambers, and City Clerk/Administrator Kim Thomas. Jamee Pierson, Editor of the Newton Daily News was the only visitor at the meeting.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the adoption of a Police Reserve Program for the Monroe Police Department.

Police Officers Brandon Blom and Adam Choat both started as reserve officers for other departments before being hired as a full-time officer. Both officers spoke very highly of the program and Chief Chambers as a boss. The cost for the reserve program training would be covered by Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and after completion the reserve officers would be given a \$500.00 gift card for expenses such as equipment or uniforms. It was brought to the attention of the council that the training for the program had already started. Some pros and cons of the program were discussed by the council.

Mayor Duinink suggested adopting the program on a one year trial basis. McCoy and Goemaat agreed that the program could benefit the City of Monroe. Possible candidates could become full-time officers and move to the community. Wilson and Steenhoek both voiced their concerns about the operation of the police department and lack of being able to keep full-time police officers.

Council Member McCoy moved and was seconded by Council Member Goemaat to adopt the Monroe Police Reserve Program on a one year trial basis. Upon roll call vote, ayes: McCoy, Goemaat, nays: Wilson, Steenhoek, and St. Peter. Motion did not pass 2-3.

Mayor Duinink also brought up concerns about the School Resource Program. "It appears the PCM School District is unhappy with the service being provided by the School Resource Officer Program", stated Duinink. Both Mayor Duinink and Council Member Wilson have been receiving negative comments about the SRO Program and have been informed that the program may not be needed in the future.

Council Member Steenhoek moved and was seconded by Goemaat to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. A full copy of minutes may be seen at the Monroe City Hall or www.MonroelA.com.

Douglas P. Duinink, Mayor

Kim K. Thomas, City Clerk/Administrator