

City Manager's Report
Brian J. Borne, Interim City Manager
Week Ending June 10, 2022

Downtown

Matthew Black, Director, Downtown



The City of Monroe has designated the Monroe Social District to allow citizens to enjoy alcoholic beverages within the downtown area. The official opening of the Social District was Friday, June 10, 2022.

On September 8, 2021, the North Carolina General Assembly approved House Bill 890, which made changes to state Alcoholic Beverage Control laws. HB 890 was signed by Governor Cooper on September 10, 2021, and it is now law as Session Law 2021-150. The relevant change for this issue and the City is that local governments are allowed to establish Social Districts and common areas where patrons of existing ABC permittees can freely assemble to consume purchased beverages. The law opens much of downtown as an entertainment area for community assembly which is consistent with the revitalized downtown area efforts.

Rules:

Alcoholic beverages may be consumed in the Social District from Monday- Saturday 8:00 a.m. 12:00 a.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 12 a.m.

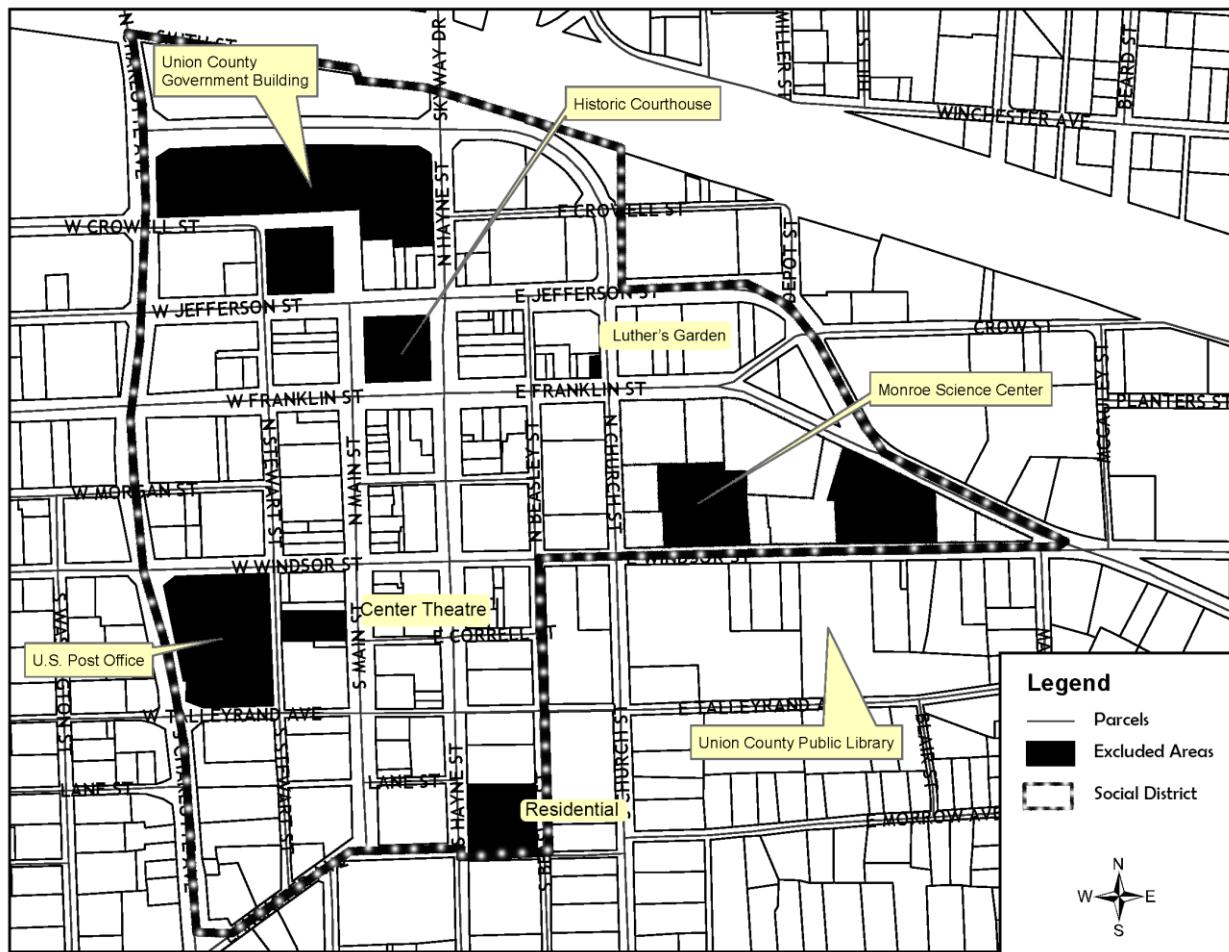
No outside alcohol is permitted within the district. All alcoholic beverages must be purchased from establishments located within or contiguous to the district (in specially labeled cups) and must be consumed within the District.

Upon leaving an establishment where an alcoholic beverage is purchased, the beverage must be consumed or discarded before entering a different business that serves alcohol.

No alcoholic beverages may be brought into or consumed within Public facilities

All alcohol in open containers must be disposed of before exiting the District or entering a vehicle.

Map of the Social District



Information for ABC Permit Holders

ABC permitted establishments must ensure they meet all legal requirements for carding and limiting consumption of alcoholic beverages. The establishment can only serve two beers/wine drinks, or one liquor drink, to one patron at a time.

Alcoholic beverages that are sold for consumption in the District may only be sold in a container that meets all the following requirements:

- The container clearly identifies the ABC permittee from which the alcoholic beverage was purchased.

- The container clearly displays the Monroe Social District logo.
- The container is not made of glass.
- The container displays, in no less than 12-point font, the statement, “Drink Responsibly – Be 21.”
- The container cannot hold more than 16 fluid ounces.

Businesses located within or contiguous to the District that do not serve alcohol may permit people to enter with an alcoholic beverage in an approved container. Businesses not wishing to participate in the District should install signage indicating “Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited.”

- The City will provide window decals with the Social District logo.
- Businesses not wishing to participate in the District should install signage indicating “Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited.”

Enforcement and Reporting

City of Monroe Police Officers will enforce the requirements of the Monroe Social District. To report potential violations, please call the Monroe Police Department at 704-282-4728 or the Monroe ABC Enforcement Division 704-226-5993.

Energy Services

Rob Miller, Director, Energy Services

Electric Division

Mr. Devon Lockey started on May 23, 2022 as an Electric Substation Technician II.

Natural Gas Division

The Natural Gas division completed the installation of 2” PE gas main throughout the Simpson Farm subdivision.

Engineering

Sarah McAllister, Director, Engineering

New Hires and Promotions

Michael “Andy” Aldridge and Jacob Kelly have been hired as Equipment Operator I.

Lew Whitley has been promoted to Construction Inspector II.

Vitaliy Chepel has been hired as a Stormwater Engineering Technician II.

Fire

Ron Fowler, Chief, Fire Department

Smoke Alarm Saturday:

Monroe Firefighters participated in the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal's Annual "Smoke Alarm Saturday" on June 4, 2022. The department canvassed an area of approximately 75 homes along the Clara, Bickett, Bay and Parker Street neighborhood. Firefighters were able to enter 36 homes and install 54 smoke alarms. Six of the homes were without any smoke alarm protection at all. The American Red Cross partnered with us on this event and assisted with sharing safety information with the residents we visited. Fire explorers also participated alongside firefighters in this event, which provided good interaction with them and the citizens.



Live Burn Training:

Firefighters recently conducted live burn fire training in a donated house on Concord Avenue. The house was being demolished as part of a new subdivision clearing and was offered for fire training. Fire departments are allowed to burn these structures provided that all state and local regulations are followed. Donated structures like these afford firefighters an opportunity to train on various firefighting skills in realistic scenarios. Firefighters are shown in these pictures practicing ventilation techniques and interior fire attack. During interior attacks, fire crews attack the fire from inside the structure while additional firefighters stand ready outside as safety teams and for interior rotations. We also incorporated some water supply and firefighting mutual aid training with some of our county volunteer fire departments during this training opportunity.



Human Resources
Debra C. Reed, Director, Human Resources

Exemplary Customer Service Award Committee:

The Exemplary Customer Service Award Committee held a meeting on October 20, 2021. The Committee selected Nick Presson, Water Resources Crew Leader I, as the recipient of the Exemplary Customer Service Award for the second quarter of 2022. A plaque with Nick's picture will be posted in the lobby at City Hall and in the employee's department.

New Employee Orientation:

On June 29, 2022, Debra C. Reed, Director of Human Resources will conduct a "New Employee Orientation.. Training will be conducted at the Old Armory Community Center. The purpose of the training is to share information regarding the City's initiatives, priorities, expectations, and various policies and procedures. In most instances, employees have worked in their positions for a period of time with the City and will understand the material being presented.

Planning and Development Department
Lisa Stiwinter, Director, Planning and Development

Code Enforcement:

The Code Enforcement division will be taking a text amendment to the General Services Committee on July 7, 2022 followed by a public hearing at the July 12, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting. The purpose of this text amendment is to update Chapter 153 titled *Minimum Housing Standards* to conform with North Carolina General Statute 160D, Article 12 titled *Minimum Housing Codes* as well as update and modernize the existing ordinance language.

Permitting:

Permit Revenue- includes Building, Planning, Fire & Engineering

<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2021</i>	<i>FY 2022</i> <i>7/1/22 – 5/31/22</i>
\$412,148.79	\$1,131,453.87	\$1,991,376.71

New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued:

<i>FY 2020</i>	<i>FY 2021</i>	<i>FY 2022</i> <i>7/1/22 – 5/31/22</i>
131	378	637

Monthly Total Permit Counts for May:

<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
264	461	631

Planning Division:

The Board of Adjustment and Historic District Commission have open seats.

The Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial board. This Board hears and makes decisions on Special Use Permits, Variances, and Appeals.

The Historic District Commission makes quasi-judicial decisions on matters within the Historic District. You must either live in the district or have a demonstrated special interest, experience, or education in history, architectural, archaeology, or related fields to serve on this Commission.

Please note if you are interested in serving on one of these boards, you must attend at least one meeting prior to applying to serve on a Board. The application is on the City's website. If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Department at 704-282-4520.

Promotions:

David Maw – promotion to Code Enforcement Officer II

Vernon Cathcart – promotion to Code Enforcement Officer II

Robert Rushing – promotion to Code Enforcement Office III/Community Maintenance Supervisor

Police Department

J. Bryan Gilliard, Chief of Police

Community Involvement:

On May 28, 2022 the Community Services Division held Coffee with a Cop at Dandelion & Friends Mercantile.





Officers of the Monroe Police Department participated in the D-Day 10K run up Currahee Mountain located at Camp Toccoa, Georgia. Camp Toccoa is home to Airborne Regiments during WWII (506 PIR - 101st Airborne Division, E Company - Second Battalion, 511 PIR - 11th Airborne Division, 517 PIRCT, 501 PIR - 101st Airborne Division, and the 295th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Company. This run was to honor those who have served in the US Armed forces and those who continue to serve! 3 Miles Up 3 Miles Down!



Patrol Division

Thanks to Food Lion – and the Hilltop Store of Monroe for the blessing us with some healthy snacks and drinks as a part of Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.



The brave men and women of the Monroe PD were hot and decided that a great way to cool down was to go enjoy a Pelican's Snoball.



On June 9, 2022, Alixandria Brooks was officially sworn in as a Monroe Police Officer. Congrats to Officer Brooks!



School Resource Division:

The School Resource Division has been busy! Between end of year testing, exams, field day and graduation, they've remained active in the schools. Here are a few graduation pictures from Monroe High School and Central Academy of Technology & Arts Class of 2022.



Water Resources

Russ Colbath, Director, Water Resources

Polk Street Sewer Main Improvements:

Water Resources Construction Division crews are tackling a tough sewer main replacement project on Polk Street. This project required crews to work in close proximity to customer homes and ensure customer service is a priority. The sewer main being replaced was installed in approximately 1947.

The photos below show Chris Deese and Jordan Griffin using survey equipment to establish elevation and grad/eslope on the new line. The project is being completed at a significant cost savings compared to contracting.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Equalization Basin Project on Schedule:

Construction work on the 15-million-gallon flow equalization basin at the City Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is progressing nicely and on schedule. The project is located adjacent to the WWTP at 775 Treeway Drive. This improvement project will allow the WWTP to safely handle fluctuating wastewater flows that enter the plant, particularly during heavy rain events such as hurricanes. This improvement is imperative to the future economic growth and development of the City.

The project was designed by Hazen and Sawyer Engineering and City staff and underwent extensive permitting with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). The final qualization (EQ)Basin will be classified as a high hazard dam by NCDEQ and be managed accordingly.

The project is being constructed at a cost of \$5,017,532 by local contractor Dellinger Inc., and will be completed by December of this year.





Water Resources New Hires, Advancements, and Retirements:

New Employees

Scott Clark – Director of Water Resources