March 20, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Gina Carroll called the meeting to order with Steve Tonsor, Jeanne Cheek, JoAnn Woodall, Meagan Gomez, Cathy Mudd, Tony Yates, and Melissa Hays present. Corrections to the minutes of the January 16, 2023 meeting were discussed. Upon revision, said minutes were approved following motions by Tony Yates and Meagan Gomez.

Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Hays presented the Monthly Financial & Budget Analysis Report. Five months into the fiscal year, 53% of the budget expenditures had been spent. Revenues, year-to-date, exceeded annual budget by 2%.

Presenting the Librarian’s Report, Mrs. Hays expressed concern for deteriorating archival copies of the Monroe City News currently stacked in the library. Inadequate shelving and time are speeding decay. Rachel Grime of Little Dixie Libraries suggested perhaps donation to a Historical Society was appropriate. Purchase of large storage bins and/or digital reproduction of hard copies was discussed. The board requested Mrs. Hays explore the possibility of digital reproduction with Little Dixie and possibly the Monroe City News. Mrs. Grime reported the Monroe City Library would be receiving Steam Kits due to successful pursuit of grant funds. The Kits are Educational Packs for young children. Revamping a corner of the library to attract the attention of the Young Adult demographic was listed as a goal of the librarian.

Mrs. Hays reported patron interest in accessing the library after business hours as the site of a Bridal Shower. Current policy addresses rental of the conference room only. If approved, Mrs. Hays indicated a willingness to attend the event, with food and drink to be confined to the conference room. Discussion followed regarding precedent and potential problems in the future. Meagan Gomez made a motion that with the librarian’s presence the Shower be allowed. A deposit of $175 should be required, with $25 refunded if properly cleaned. The board approved.

Mrs. Carroll reported frustration with attempts to motivate attorney Chris Biennek. Rachel Grime reported thru Mrs. Hays that communication is lacking between Little Dixie and Monroe City Library’s respective counselors concerning a pending merger. In summary, Mrs. Carroll believes Mr. Biennek needs to address key issues in a timely manner. A building lease agreement and contract for services rendered need to be initiated for review. In addition, an independent opinion regarding dispersal of library funds at time of merger was desired. Board discussion ensued regarding use of said funds for elevator repair and furniture. Mrs. Hays pledged to investigate elevator repair more extensively. As per policy, Mrs. Carroll stated a vacancy on the library board needed filled. A list of potential board members was presented with an invitation for additions. Post discussion, Tony Yates and Jeanne Cheek moved the board be frozen at 8 members with merger pending. Motion was approved. Next regular meeting was set for May 15, 2023. Meeting adjourned. Steve Tonsor, Secretary