

1 City of Montgomery
2 Law and Safety Committee of City Council Meeting
3 December 2, 2024
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7 Present

8 Brian Riblet, City Manager
9 John Crowell, Police Chief
10 Paul Wright, Fire Chief
11 Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
12

Committee Members Present

Sasha Naiman, Chair
Ken Suer
Chris Dobrozsi

13 The Law and Safety Committee of Council convened its meeting for December 2, 2024
14 at 3:30 p.m. with Mrs. Naiman presiding.
15

16 Mayors Court Discussion

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18 Mr. Riblet explained that as a follow up to the Mayors Court discussion held at the last
19 Committee meeting, he wanted to provide an update to the Committee. He explained
20 that he and Chief Crowell met with the Law Director to discuss the financial constraints
21 that have been felt over the past two years. He stated there are two concerns
22 contributing to the discussion of Mayors Court focused on budgetary issues and the value
23 of the service. He explained that if the focus was only on financial constraints, it proves
24 that the City is losing money currently. He explained that the Prosecutor is contracted
25 for \$48,000 annually and the Magistrate at \$25,500 annually.
26

27 Chief Crowell added that these expenses do not include the overtime for officers who are
28 required to attend Mayors Court for fines they issued. He added that if a case is then
29 remanded to Hamilton County Court those same officers are then required to be at the
30 hearing for a second time. He stated this gets very costly and many of the cases that are
31 heard in Mayors Court are not for residents.
32

33 Mr. Riblet explained that as a result of meeting with the Law Director, the prosecutor's
34 contract was renegotiated to \$19,800 a year. He added that a memo was drafted
35 effective immediately with this change based on the prosecutor working five to six hours
36 a month. Mr. Riblet explained that since the sudden resignation from the Magistrate there
37 is an extreme amount of interest from qualified magistrates. He explained that the going
38 rate is \$500 a session. He stated this would result in a great deal of savings compared
39 to what has been paid. Mr. Riblet stated that while the noted changes will not completely
40 close the gap between the revenue and expenses, they would make it more maintainable.
41

42 Mr. Riblet explained that soon an annual report would need to be sent to the Ohio
43 Supreme Court on the Mayors Court processes for the year so the Mayor would need to
44 appoint an interim magistrate to meet that requirement. Mr. Riblet suggested that the
45 interim magistrate would continue to oversee cases through January, which would give
46 the Mayor and staff time to interview candidates.
47

48 Chief Crowell explained that with the lack of staff at the police department the revenue
49 from traffic offenses has dropped. He added that when the department is at full staff the
50 revenue would increase; however, not to the level it used to be as it has always been the
51 policy not to issue tickets as a way to increase revenue. He stated that he felt good about
52 the changes and will look deeper into the data of who is using the Mayors Court moving
53 forward.
54

55 Mr. Riblet stated that he feels the changes to the existing prosecutor and magistrate fees
56 will put the expenses more in line with the revenue and allow 2025 to be a year of review
57 to determine the future of Mayors Court.
58

59 Mr. Riblet requested a motion of support to allow staff to make the changes and to
60 evaluate data of who is using Mayors Court and for what purpose in 2025.
61

62 Mrs. Naiman requested to adjourn into Executive Session for matters related to the
63 employment of a public official. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. The Committee unanimously
64 agreed.
65

66 The Committee adjourned into Executive Session at 5:13 p.m.
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68 The Committee returned into regular session at 5:37 p.m.
69

70 Mr. Dobrozsi moved to approve the changes to the prosecutor and magistrate contracts
71 and to request the Mayor to appoint an interim magistrate based on a successful
72 interview process for 2025. Mr. Suer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.
73

74 **Other Business**
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76 Mr. Riblet stated that as expressed in an email sent to Council, Sergeant T.J. Shreve was
77 selected as the new Assistant Police Chief. He explained that Sgt. Shreve would begin
78 his new role on January 5, 2025. He added that it was a difficult process as all candidates
79 were very qualified and respected officers.
80

81 Mr. Riblet stated that Firefighter Kyle Boeckermann would be attending the December
82 Work Session meeting to introduce his new son and to thank Council for the
83 implementation of the new parental leave policy. Mr. Boeckermann is the first staff
84 member to utilize the policy.
85

86 **Minutes**
87

88 Mr. Dobrozsi made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024 meeting.
89 Mr. Suer seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.
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91 **Adjournment**
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93 Mr. Suer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. The Committee
94 unanimously agreed.
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96 The Law and Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.
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Chair of Law and Safety Committee of City Council