

City of Montgomery  
City Council Work Session Minutes  
May 15, 2024

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Terry Donnellon, Law Director  
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager  
Kevin Chesar, Community Dev. Dir.  
John Crowell, Police Chief  
Maura Gray, Finance Director  
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director  
Paul Wright, Fire Chief  
Amy Frederick, Community Engagement Coordinator  
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

Ron Messer, Mayor  
Sasha Naiman, Vice Mayor  
Lee Ann Bissmeyer  
Chris Dobrozsi  
Craig Margolis  
Catherine Mills-Reynolds  
Ken Suer

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City Council convened its Work Session for May 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Messer presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Messer asked for a motion to dispense with roll call as all council members were present.

Mr. Margolis made a motion to dispense with the roll call. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Riblet introduced Lisa Woods, owner of EarthWise Pet Store to City Council and presented her with a framed picture of Asha, the City's new Therapy Dog, as a proud sponsor of Asha's grooming and supplies. Mr. Riblet added that Dr. Katie Karilo from Cincinnati Animal Clinic has also donated her veterinarian services for Asha. He stated that both of these businesses were located outside of Montgomery but were very generous to donate their time, expertise and supplies for the care of Asha. He stated that there would be a formal thank you in the July Bulletin for both EarthWise Pet and Cincinnati Animal Clinic.

City Council thanked Mrs. Woods for her generosity and partnership with the City.

Mr. Heitkamp formally introduced Mike Gertz to City Council as the newest Service Worker I in the Public Works Department. Mr. Gertz joined the City fulltime in February. City Council welcomed Mr. Gertz and wished him a long and successful career with the City.

Council Member Margolis presented Palash Kapoor with a \$1,000 Scholarship as the Civic Engagement Scholarship Winner. Mr. Margolis explained that as part of his proceeds collected from performing wedding ceremonies during his time as Mayor, he created the scholarship program to increase education and engagement with the Sycamore High School students. He explained that Mr. Kapoor was one of three students who participated in the program. Mr. Kapoor was selected as the grant recipient based on his essay that outlined his experience of learning about the street resurfacing program that the Public Works Department oversees.

Mr. Kapoor thanked Mr. Margolis and City Council for the opportunity to learn about the legislative process in local government and for the \$1,000 scholarship award. He explained that he will be attending Stanford in the fall and majoring in Economics.

City Council wished Mr. Kapoor the best in his studies and invited him back to a Council meeting when he returned home.

58 **LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING**

59  
60 **An Ordinance Establishing The Schedule Of Municipal Compensation For Employees**

61  
62 Mr. Dobrozsi read the title and moved for passage of the Ordinance. Council previously approved reading this  
63 legislation for the third reading at this May Work Session.

64  
65 Vice Mayor Naiman seconded.

66  
67 Mr. Dobrozsi explained that information has been previously supplied on this Ordinance that, if approved, will  
68 establish a new Schedule of Municipal Compensation for non-bargaining unit employees. It is necessary to establish  
69 a new Schedule of Municipal Compensation as the current Schedule does not specify any wage rate adjustments for  
70 July 2024 or beyond.

71  
72 Mr. Dobrozsi asked if there were any updates.

73  
74 Mr. Riblet replied there were none.

75  
76 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

77  
78 AYE: Bissmeyer, Mills-Reynolds, Dobrozsi, Messer, Naiman, Suer, Margolis (7)  
79 NAY: (0)

80  
81 **An Ordinance Amending Chapter 34, Personnel Policies; Bond**

82  
83 Mr. Dobrozsi read the title and moved for passage of the Ordinance. Council previously approved reading this  
84 legislation for the third reading at this May Work Session.

85  
86 Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded.

87  
88 Mr. Dobrozsi explained that information has been previously supplied on this Ordinance that, if approved, will  
89 approve proposed modifications to Chapter 34 of the Montgomery Ohio Code of Ordinances.

90  
91 Mr. Dobrozsi asked if there were any updates.

92  
93 Mr. Riblet replied there were none.

94  
95 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

96  
97 AYE: Mills-Reynolds, Dobrozsi, Messer, Naiman, Suer, Margolis, Bissmeyer (7)  
98 NAY: (0)

99  
100 **ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR JUNE 5, 2024 BUSINESS SESSION**

101  
102 **NEW LEGISLATION**

103  
104 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Contract with Frost Brown Todd, LLC to Provide Special**  
105 **Counsel Services**

106  
107 Mayor Messer assigned the legislation to Mr. Dobrozsi.

108

109 Mr. Riblet explained that, if approved, this legislation will authorize a contract with Frost Brown Todd, LLC to  
110 provide special legal services for labor negotiations/labor relations/human resource functions. The work of Frost  
111 Brown Todd, LLC has been invaluable in labor negotiations/relations efforts, and it is important that the City  
112 maintain this relationship as the City continues it labor and employee relations into the future. Mr. Riblet added  
113 that the City expended \$17,700 in 2023 and \$8,000 so far in 2024. He explained that while the City has not  
114 exceeded the threshold of allowable contractual expense, this legislation will cover any unforeseen expenses that  
115 may occur.

116  
117 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

118  
119 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- 120
- 121 • A Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m.
  - 122
  - 123 • As a reminder, the final round of Board and Commission Chair Updates will be held on Wednesday, June  
124 5 beginning at 5:00 p.m.
    - 125
    - 126 ○ 5:00 – Larry Schwartz – Landmarks Commission
    - 127 ○ 5:15 – Chip Harrod- D & I Commission
    - 128 ○ 5:30 – Benny Miles – Civil Service Commission
    - 129 ○ 5:45 – Alice Aguilar- EAC Commission
  - 130
  - 131 • The Law and Safety and Financial Planning Committees have no agenda items and have been cancelled for  
132 the month of June. Mr. Riblet reported there are no regular agenda items for the Planning, Zoning and  
133 Landmarks Committee but asked Mr. Suer if he would like to hold the meeting for the purpose of  
134 interviewing candidates for the vacant seat on the Landmarks Committee. Mr. Suer replied that he would  
135 like to hold interviews at that meeting and asked Ms. Gaylor to proceed with scheduling the interviews  
136 beginning at 4:00 p.m. on June 3.
  - 137
  - 138 • There were no agenda items for the Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs or Public Works Committees  
139 at this time but he would provide an update for these meetings at the June 5 Business Session.
  - 140
  - 141 • Thank you to everyone who assisted with the annual Beautification Day event.
  - 142
  - 143 • Public Works has been busy overseeing a number of construction projects, including the Montgomery Road  
144 sidewalk in front of the Chevrolet, Audi, and Lincoln dealerships (constructed by Huff Concrete and paid  
145 for by the dealerships), additional Montgomery Road sidewalk in front of Schoolhouse Plaza, Camargo  
146 Cadillac, and Twin Lakes (constructed by Ford Development and paid for by SORTA 70% and City 30%),  
147 resurfacing of Cooper Road east of Main Street (constructed by Jurgensen and paid for by Indian Hill), and  
148 the beginnings of our Resurfacing Program being constructed by Jurgensen.
  - 149
  - 150 • Strawser Construction, Inc. began the annual crack-seal program this week and will be applying crack-seal  
151 to 12 streets. All though this program is not very exciting, it is an important component of our roadway  
152 maintenance and extends the life of our pavements in a very cost-effective way.
  - 153
  - 154 • A mowing contract was signed with TDG Facilities in the amount of \$44,168.28.
  - 155

156 **Human Resources**

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- 158 • Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Ross submitted his resignation effective May 24 to take a position with Miami  
159 Township Clermont County. This will create one firefighter/paramedic job opening.

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- Mary Romer will be returning for the 2024 summer months as a Summer Recreation Specialist to assist with recreation programming and events.

### Events

- Saturday, May 18, the EAC will host a document shredding event at Public Works. The event will run from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- A reminder that the National Public Works Week recognition luncheon will be held at the Public Works facility on Thursday, May 23 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Council is invited to join us in honoring the hard work our public works staff does all year long.
- The Montgomery Pool will open on Saturday, May 25. We look forward to another successful season.
- Memorial Day afternoon, Mr. Dick Schnitz will be performing TAPS at the Hopewell Cemetery at 3:00 pm. Mr. Schnitz has done this for several years outside of City Hall, however moving this short performance to Hopewell Cemetery will further honor those veterans who served and sacrificed in service to our country.
- On Wednesday, May 29 the First Suburbs Consortium will be meeting in Silverton from 6:00-7:30 p.m. with a presentation from the Hamilton County Coroner.
- Twin Lakes will be hosting a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, May 30 at 9:30 a.m.
- The Big Rig Gig will be held on Tuesday, June 4 at the Montgomery Square Shopping Center. The event will run from 9:00am to noon.

Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session to review negotiations with public employees; to consider the purchase of property for public purposes and to consider information of an applicant for economic development.

### LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Donnellon reported that he had no additional report outside of the legislation already discussed.

### CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

#### Mrs. Bissmeyer

Mrs. Bissmeyer reported that she attended a Hamilton County Library Board meeting where they discussed future construction at the Symmes Branch. She stated that they were looking to demolish and rebuild the facility. She added that the main branch will be having a reopening event from July 12 through July 14.

#### Mrs. Mills-Reynolds

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds reported the following:

- She attended a Sycamore Advisory Committee meeting where they reviewed the completion of the 2023-2024 School year and discussed reviewing the start times of the various grade level buildings.

212 **Mr. Dobrozi**

213  
214 Mr. Dobrozi reported on the following:

- 215
- 216 • The Sister Cities Commission continues planning for Bastille Day.
- 217 • Government Affairs may meet to hold interviews for the Arts Commission. He will confirm with
- 218 the other Committee members and let Ms. Gaylor know.
- 219 • On Friday, May 10, he and Mr. Riblet conducted a presentation for the Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- 220 on the Montgomery Quarter development.
- 221

222 **Vice Mayor Naiman**

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224 Vice Mayor Naiman reported the Law and Safety Committee met on May 6 at which time Sergeant Kenney Bertz

225 provided an update on SWAT operations. She praised Sgt. Bertz for his professionalism.

226  
227 **Mr. Suer**

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229 Mr. Suer praised Mr. Riblet for his work on a grant application for the Montgomery Quarter Phase II. He stated

230 that, if awarded, the grant could be up to 1.5 million dollars.

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232 Mr. Suer reported that at the May 8 Landmarks meeting a submission was made from Architect Mike Wentz who

233 is in the process of purchasing the former Don's Auto Repair building. Mr. Wentz proposes to renovate the building

234 into office and art studio/gallery space. The Landmarks Commission approved the design of the building.

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236 **Mr. Margolis**

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238 Mr. Margolis reported on the following items:

- 239
- 240 • The Art contest had a great turnout.
- 241 • The EAC is hosting a shredding event on Saturday, May 18.
- 242 • He will be out of town from May 23 to June 6.
- 243

244 **Mayor Messer**

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246 Mayor Messer reported that he and Vice Mayor Naiman participated in an interview with Nick Rehtin at Twin

247 Lake on May 13. He stated that the interview was broadcast on the Twin Lakes network for all residents there to

248 view.

249  
250 Mayor Messer stated how great the Photo Contest and Beautification Day events went.

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252 Mayor Messer reported that he would be out of town from May 30 to June 4 and then again from June 7 to June 18.

253 He stated that he would be at the June Business and Work Sessions and that Vice Mayor Naiman would be in town

254 during his absence to act on his behalf.

255  
256 **MINUTES**

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258 Mr. Margolis moved to approve the minutes of May 1, 2024 as amended. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded. City

259 Council unanimously agreed.

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264 **OTHER BUSINESS**

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266 Mr. Riblet explained to City Council that along with Ms. Henao and Mr. Chesar, they had been working with local  
267 artist Peyton Harshfield to create murals for the passage walls from the public garages into the Montgomery Quarter  
268 Development. Two mural designs were displayed for feedback from City Council.

269

270 City Council expressed their thoughts on the images and relayed their support of the project and instructed staff to  
271 move forward with the project.

272

273 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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275 Mayor Messer stated that Mr. Riblet had requested an Executive Session to review negotiations with public  
276 employees; to consider the purchase of property for public purposes and to consider information of an applicant for  
277 economic development. He asked for a motion to honor Mr. Riblet's request.

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279 Mr. Margolis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to review negotiations with public employees; to  
280 consider the purchase of property for public purposes and to consider information of an applicant for economic  
281 development.

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283 Vice Mayor Naiman seconded.

284

285 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

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287 AYE: Bismeyer, Mills-Reynolds, Dobrozsi, Messer, Naiman, Suer, Margolis (7)

288 NAY: (0)

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290 City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

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292 City Council reconvened into Public Session at 7:52 p.m.

293

294 **ADJOURNMENT**

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296 Mayor Messer asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none he asked for  
297 a motion to adjourn.

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299 Mr. Margolis moved to adjourn. Mrs. Bismeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

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301 City Council adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

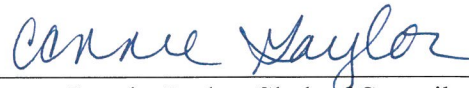
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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council