

City of Montgomery
City Council Business Session Minutes
October 9, 2024

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
John Crowell, Police Chief
Derek Morgan, Finance Specialist
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Matthew Vanderhorst, Communications and Information Service Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Amy Frederick, Community Engagement Coordinator
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
Wendy Grethel, Customer Support and Volunteer Specialist

City Council Members Present

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

City Council convened in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Messer presiding.

Mayor Messer asked for a moment of silence in observance of the devastation suffered across southern states due to Hurricane Helene and the impending threat expected from Hurricane Milton.

ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Margolis made the motion to dispense with the roll call. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds presented Denise Willike with a Certificate of Appreciation as the Beautification and Tree Commission's Summer Season of Beauty Winners. City Council thanked Mrs. Willike for her families dedication in maintaining a beautiful home and contributing to the beauty of Montgomery.

Police Officers David Roberts and Craig Flick were sworn in as the newest officers to join the Police Department. City Council welcomed them to the City of Montgomery team and wished them well in their new roles in the City.

LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING

PENDING LEGISLATION

Mayor Messer asked for a motion to accept the agenda and read all legislation by title only since all of the legislation has been made available to the public before the meeting.

Mr. Margolis made the motion to accept the agenda and read all legislation by title only. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

An Ordinance Repealing Section 33.01 Of The Code Of Ordinances Creating An Investment Committee And Establishing Its Authority

Mr. Suer read the title and moved for passage of the third reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Margolis seconded.

Mr. Suer explained that information has been previously supplied on this Ordinance that, if approved, will repeal Section 33.01 of the Code of Ordinances. He added that with the approval of an Investment Policy, as required by the Ohio Auditor, there is no longer a need for an Investment Committee within the City, and this Ordinance repeals Section 33.01 of the Code of Ordinances appointing an Investment Committee. All investments are controlled by

the policy and investments may only be made consistent with the policy. To avoid any confusion, this Section is being repealed. In repealing this Section, we also are repealing the Linked Deposit Program which has been dormant for several years.

Mr. Suer asked if there were any updates.

Mr. Donnellon replied there were none.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

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

NAY: (0)

NEW LEGISLATION

A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by The Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to The County Auditor

Mr. Suer read the title and moved for passage of the Resolution. Mr. Margolis seconded.

Mr. Suer explained that information has been previously supplied on this Resolution that, if passed, will accept the rates and amounts determined by the Hamilton County Budget Commission. As a State of Ohio taxing authority and pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, the City is required to adopt an annual tax budget. City Council adopted the Tax Budget on July 10, 2024. The submitted Tax Budget was accepted by the Budget Commission and Auditor. City Council is requested to accept the Budget Commission's rates and amounts, which would result in the estimated collections as specified in the City's 2025 Tax Budget. This action will then permit the Budget Commission to collect property taxes at the rates established for the upcoming year.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

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

NAY: (0)

Mr. Dobrozsi explained that he will recuse himself from the vote of the following legislation as it included funding for the Montgomery Quarter and could pose a potential professional conflict. He exited the dais.

An Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Montgomery, State of Ohio During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025

Mr. Suer read the title and moved for passage of the first reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Margolis seconded.

Mr. Suer explained that information has been previously supplied on this Ordinance that, if passed, will establish the City's budget for fiscal year 2025. These documents were reviewed with City Council at the September 12 Budget Review meeting. As a result of these discussions, any changes to the budget will be forthcoming and will be presented to City Council in the packet for the December 4, Business Session.

Vice Mayor Naiman asked if the Ordinance reflected the same budgetary information that was presented at the September Budget Review meeting.

Mr. Riblet explained that it was the same but there was discussion about increasing the board and commission budgets that were not included in the budget reviewed at that meeting. He stated those would be added as well as any other final adjustments by the final reading in December.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

AYE: Messer, Naiman, Suer, Margolis, Bissmeyer, Mills-Reynolds	(6)
NAY:	(0)
ABSTAIN: Dobrozsi	(1)

Mr. Dobrozsi rejoined City Council on the dais.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Riblet gave the following report:

- City Council Work Session is scheduled for October 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Financial Planning Committees will meet Monday, October 14 at 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 respectively. The Public Works Committee has cancelled their meeting for October.
- Special thanks to staff for the incredible work performed during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Specifically, Public Works, Police and Fire for their work that Friday and through the weekend. And thanks to Public Works for providing the Special Brush pick-up.
- Thanks to everyone for making Harvest Moon another incredibly successful event this past Saturday. Recreation, Public Works, Wendy, Amy and many many others.
- Matthew Vanderhorst, Amy Frederick and Connie Gaylor have been busy recording podcasts for the City's Smashin' the Stigma Mental Health Podcast channel. Four podcasts related to the August Community presentation on suicide have been added with three more podcasts related to mental health scheduled to be posted in the upcoming weeks. You can find these podcasts on the City's website, on the Mental Health Initiative page.

Events

- A Community Mental Health presentation will be held on Thursday, October 17. Julie Harmon, with Cincinnati Children's Hospital, will lead the discussion on Supporting Youth in a Mental Health Crisis and Beyond. The program will begin at 7:00 pm at Terwilliger Lodge.
- A Lanterns and Landmarks Historic Walking Tour and Reception will be conducted by our own Tracy Henao and Kevin Chesar on Saturday October 19. The tour begins at 6:00 pm at Universalist Church with appetizers and wine before walking throughout the Historic District.
- Mr. Donnellon will once again be smoking his award-winning RIBS for City Council and Staff. Mark your calendars for Friday, November 1 at Terwilliger Lodge from 11:30-1:00. The Energy Team will be circulating a sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts.
- The Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual dinner on Thursday, November 14 from 5:00-8:30 p.m. The event will be held at Cooper Creek Event Center this year with a plated dinner. There will be no walk-in registration, so if you would like to attend, please let us know so that we can get you registered.
- And.....as our Liaison to the Chamber, our own Tracy Henao is one of the finalists for this years' Gerri Harbison Spirit Award. Please go to the Chamber website, scroll down and you can vote for Tracy. The deadline to cast your vote is Friday, October 25.

Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session to consider confidential information of an applicant for economic development assistance.

MINUTES

Mr. Margolis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

MAYOR'S COURT REPORT

Mayor Messer requested a motion to disburse the September Mayors Court collections in the amount of \$6,260.

Vice Mayor Naiman made the motion to disburse the September Mayors Court collections in the amount of \$6,260. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Margolis reported that several downtown business owners, including Euro Café, Z's Place and MPH were sponsoring a Fall Wine Walk October 19. He stated he thought it was great that the business owners were beginning to take the initiative to plan DORA events on their own.

Mr. Margolis reported that Mr. Riblet would be presenting at a Hamilton County Municipal League meeting held at the Montgomery Quarter on Saturday, October 26 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Margolis stated that he would be out of town from October 10 through October 16.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Messer stated that as Mr. Riblet has requested an Executive Session, he would like a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to consider confidential information of an applicant for economic development assistance.

Mr. Margolis made the motion to adjourn into Executive Session to consider confidential information of an applicant for economic development assistance. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

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

NAY: (0)

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m.

Council reconvened into Public Session at 7:28 p.m.

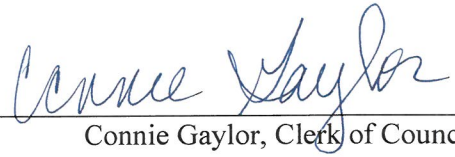
ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. Margolis moved to adjourn. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

City Council adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council