

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
September 18, 2024

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
Kevin Chesar, Community Development Director
John Crowell, Police Chief
Maura Gray, Finance Director
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Amy Frederick, Community Engagement Coordinator
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
Wendy Grethel, Customer Service and Volunteer Specialist

City Council Members Present

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

Council Members Absent

Craig Margolis

City Council convened its Work Session for September 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Messer presiding.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Messer asked for a roll call.

The roll was called with all members in attendance except for Mr. Margolis.

Vice Mayor Naiman moved to excuse Mr. Margolis's absence as he had given prior notice. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 9, 2024 BUSINESS SESSION

PENDING LEGISLATION

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

Mayor Messer explained that this would be the third and final reading of this Ordinance and asked if there were any updates on the legislation. Mr. Suer replied there were none.

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

Mayor Messer assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

Ms. Gray explained that, if approved, this Resolution 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.

Mayor Messer explained that this legislation will be added to the October 9 agenda for consideration that evening.

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

Mayor Messer assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

Ms. Gray explained that, if approved, this Ordinance will establish the City's budget for fiscal year 2025. The proposed budget was 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.

Mr. Suer thanked staff and administration for a seamless budget process. He praised the collaborative nature of the departments in the budget preparation.

Mayor Messer echoed Mr. Suer's comments and added that he appreciated the capital project option analysis as presented by Mr. Riblet. He explained that the analysis would help to prioritize the larger projects and expenditures in the upcoming years.

Mayor Messer explained that this legislation will be added to the October 9, 2024 Business Session agenda for first reading. The second reading will be held at the November 6, 2024 Business Session. The third reading of the Ordinance will be held at the December 4, 2024 Business Session with adoption of the Ordinance requested at that meeting.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- A Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Financial Planning Committee meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, October 14 at 5:30 p.m. The Law and Safety and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees have cancelled their meetings for the month of October.
- The Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Financial Planning Committees will meet on Monday, October 14 at 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 pm respectively. The Public Works Committee has cancelled its meeting for October.
- Staff are anticipating soliciting bids for a Construction Manager at Risk for the Montgomery Road Roundabout Monument Project. One of the first steps is to authorize an Evaluation Committee. Mr. Riblet asked for a voice vote to approve Terry Donnellon, Gary Heitkamp, Tracy Henao and himself as the Evaluation Committee.

Mrs. Bissmeyer moved to approve the suggested Evaluation Committee members. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

- An anticipated 2024 appropriation adjustment will be presented in October followed by the final end of the appropriation in December.

Human Resources

- The Police Department will welcome two new officers Monday, September 30. Officer David Roberts will be coming to the City from the Village of Mariemont and Officer Craig Flick will be joining us from the City of Trenton with 16 years of law enforcement experience.

Events

- The Annual One Stop Drop recycling event will be held Saturday, September 21 at Public Works from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This annual recycling event will include items such as paint, household batteries, household items for Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity ReStore as well as cardboard recycling.
- The Montgomery Amazing Race is scheduled for Saturday, September 28.
- Hamilton County ReSource will conduct a *Get the Dirt on Backyard Composting* seminar on October 3 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Harvest Moon will be held Saturday, October 5 at Swaim Park from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- The Beautification & Tree Commission will host a B & T Talk on October 8 at Terwilliger Lodge from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on *Managing our Yards to Save Native Pollinators*.

Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session to consider matters related to the employment or compensation of a public employee or official.

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

No report.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mrs. Bissmeyer

Mrs. Bissmeyer followed up on a previous report regarding the Symmes Township Branch of the Hamilton County Library system which is scheduled for demolition in October. A temporary location will be available during construction at 9267 Governors Way near the former J.C. Penny store location.

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds stated she attended the first Sycamore Schools Advisory Board meeting for the year. She explained that they identified several group projects to focus on this year. She stated she would follow up with more details as the work unfolded.

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission is diligently working on the final touches for The Amazing Race scheduled for September 28 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. She added that the Commission was also preparing for the Star Party scheduled for September 20.

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds reported that the Beautification and Tree Commission will hold the Fall Plant Swap at the Montgomery Farmers Market on Saturday, September 28.

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds explained that as conversations continue to develop around pickleball, that the Parks and Recreation Committee should address these in a formal Committee meeting.

Vice Mayor Naiman added that she agreed that there should be a public meeting to address the requests to reconsider the closures of the pickleball courts at Swaim and Dulle Parks after the new courts are opened at Weller Park. She stated that the Committee should provide a transparent explanation as to why the decision to close the existing courts was made.

Mr. Dobrozsi

Mr. Dobrozsi reported on the following:

- Arts Commission projects:
 - Art in the Park for 2025
 - Food Tour for 2025
- Sister Cities is working on another Soiree En Blanc dinner in February of 2025.
- Government Affairs Committee items:
 - Police Department Surplus-2017 Ford Explorer
 - Fire Department Surplus-Expired Turnout Gear to be donated to Cincy4Ukraine
 - Updated Wildlife Management Position Paper. He explained that the position from the City had not changed. There will be no approved sterilization or approved hunting programs. Other updates included ODNR information and studies regarding coyotes.

Mr. Suer made a motion to approve the updated Wildlife Management policy. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Vice Mayor Naiman

Vice Mayor Naiman stated that she would be attending the 2024 *40 Under 40* ceremony Tuesday, September 24 as a selected *40 Under 40* designee.

City Council congratulated Vice Mayor Naiman for this auspicious recognition.

Mr. Suer

Mr. Suer praised the work of staff on another great car show event. He explained that the event has evolved into a really nice event with a good number of participants.

Mr. Suer stated that in relation to the Wildlife Management policy and the pickleball issues that it prompts the conversation of what is a city responsibility and obligation versus a homeowner's responsibility or expectation.

Mayor Messer

Mayor Messer stated that he attended Vegas in the Village and the Car Show and was appreciative of staff who work hard to offer such wonderful events in the city.

MINUTES

Vice Mayor Naiman moved to approve the minutes of September 4 Business Session and the September 12 Budget Review meeting minutes. Mrs. Mills-Reynolds seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Messer stated that Mr. Riblet had requested an Executive Session to consider matters related to the employment or compensation of a public employee or official and asked for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session.

Vice Mayor Naiman made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to consider matters related to the employment or compensation of a public employee or official.

Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

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

City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.

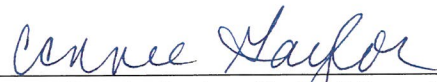
City Council reconvened into Public Session at 7:27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mrs. Bissmeyer moved to adjourn. Mrs. Mills-Reynolds seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

City Council adjourned at 7:27 p.m.



Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council