

City of Montgomery
City Council Business Session Minutes
April 2, 2025

Present
Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
John Crowell, Police Chief
Kevin Chesar, Community Development Director
Maura Gray, Finance Director
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Matthew Vanderhorst, Communications and Information Service Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
Amy Frederick, Community Engagement Coordinator

City Council Members Present
Ron Messer, Mayor
Sasha Naiman, Vice Mayor
Lee Ann Bissmeyer
Craig Margolis
Catherine Mills-Reynolds
Ken Suer

Council Members Absent
Chris Dobrozsi

City Council convened in Council Chambers at 6:06 p.m. with Mayor Messer presiding.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Messer explained that the roll has been called at the Public Hearing held prior to the Council Business Session and that Mr. Dobrozsi had been excused for his absence.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Staff provided an update on the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan focusing on the progress of each goal from 2022 to current day as well as discussing what was to come throughout the remainder of 2025.

NEW LEGISLATION

Mayor Messer explained that since all legislation has been made available to the public before this evening's meeting he would like a motion from Council to accept the legislative Agenda and read all legislation by title only.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing And Regulating Under-Speed, Low-Speed And Utility Vehicles

Vice Mayor Naiman read the title and moved for passage of the first reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Margolis seconded.

Vice Mayor Naiman explained that correspondence from Law Director Terry Donnellon was shared that explained this updated version of the Ordinance authorizing and regulating Under-Speed/Low-Speed Vehicles. She explained that included in the updates was clarification regarding the streets upon which the vehicles may be operated has been clarified in this revised version, as well as clarifying the appropriate safety equipment required by the State of Ohio. Finally, to answer questions concerning the applicability of our Traffic Code, subsection 3(D) has been updated to acknowledge that all traffic laws applicable to all motor vehicles are applicable to these same vehicles.

Vice Mayor Naiman asked if there were any updates.

Mr. Donnellon replied there were none.

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds stated that she appreciated the changes but still had one item to ask clarification for. She stated that she seen the definition of a "Gator and a Golf Cart" and wanted to confirm if Gators would not be allowed on the roads.

58 Mr. Donnellon replied they would not because they could not pass the inspection required.
59

60 Chief Crowell clarified that if the vehicle complies with the State of Ohio's applicable statutory requirements and
61 includes appropriate seat belts for the operator and each passenger that it could be permitted but that a lot of
62 adjustments would have to be made for a Gator, utility vehicle, to meet those requirements, so he did not expect
63 that to be likely.
64

65 Mrs. Mills-Reynolds stated that she would like to see language added in the future that would instruct drivers of
66 these types of vehicles to stay in the right lane.
67

68 Mr. Riblet explained that he would not recommend that being added to the Ordinance or as a restriction as it
69 would be very hard to enforce and control. He explained that he thought if the Ordinance were approved that
70 when the program was rolled out FAQs could be distributed along with recommended guidelines to educate
71 drivers on proper etiquette when traveling on a 2 and 4 lane road.
72

73 Vice Mayor Naiman asked if there was more subjective language that could be used by law enforcement in fact
74 there was a golf cart impeding traffic.
75

76 Chief Crowell explained that these types of vehicles are described and included in other Sections of the Code.
77

78 Mrs. Mills-Reynolds stated that she understood about the car seat rules for children but questioned whether there
79 are laws around animals being secured in a golf cart.
80

81 Chief Crowell stated that he did not know that there was anything like that.
82

83 Mr. Riblet stated that this was another thing that could be addressed in the FAQs. He stated like requiring the
84 carts to be in the right lane, this would be another thing that would be hard to restrict or enforce. He mentioned the
85 number of pets that are seen riding in cars unrestrained.
86

87 Mrs. Mills-Reynolds explained she was concerned whether an animal got out of the cart and was struck by a car.
88

89 Chief Crowell explained that under the Code that an animal would be considered part of the vehicle load and it
90 would be a citable offense if it jumped out of the vehicle.
91

92 Vice Mayor Naiman stated that she felt there are more animals that get hit by cars running from their yard than
93 would be jumping or falling from a golf cart.
94

95 Mr. Suer stated that he felt this was an interesting experiment. He emphasized that he felt it would work as long
96 as people behave responsibly and follow the guidelines. He stated that we could see how it goes for the first year
97 or two and if there were too many problems that this could be reconsidered. He stated that other communities are
98 allowing golf carts, and it is working so he has no reason to think it would not work in Montgomery as well.
99

100 Mr. Margolis agreed that if people adhere to guidelines it should work. He stated he does not know anyone who
101 is interested.
102

103 Vice Mayor Naiman asked what the timeline will be to allow for community feedback.
104

105 Mr. Riblet explained that an article will go in the May Bulletin asking for feedback by the end of May. He stated
106 that the second reading of the Ordinance would be at the May 7 Business Session and the final reading at the June
107 4 Business Session.
108

109 Vice Mayor Naiman asked how getting feedback from the bulletin will work for residents.
110

111 Mr. Riblet replied the link to provide feedback on the website would be included or residents could call City Hall.
112

113 Mrs. Bissmeyer asked what typical feedback for something like this would be.
114

115 Mr. Riblet replied that he wasn't sure as we haven't recently asked for this kind of feedback. He stated he
116 anticipated it would be negative feedback mostly as typically people do not reply if they agree with something. He
117 asked City Council to consider how the feedback would affect their final decision. He stated it is hard to say how
118 many replies might be received.
119

120 Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that she thought people would be grateful for this and would be well behaved.
121

122 Mr. Riblet stated that with a deadline of May 24, people would have almost a month to respond to share their
123 thoughts about golf carts.
124

125 Mayor Messer stated that he did not see seat belts as a requirement on the BMV checklist attached with the
126 legislation.
127

128 Chief Crowell explained that what was provided in the packet was the BMV general form but that the police will
129 add the seat belt requirement to it if the Ordinance is approved.
130

131 Mrs. Mills-Reynolds asked if staff would notify the Golf Cart dealer on Montgomery Road, Devers, to know
132 about the requirements as people would likely visit them if interested in purchasing a golf cart.
133

134 Chief Crowell replied that it was in the plan to let them know.
135

136 Mr. Riblet added that most new golf carts already have seat belts installed.
137

138 The roll was called and showed the following vote:
139

140 AYE: Bissmeyer, Mills-Reynolds, Messer, Naiman, Suer, Margolis (6)
141 NAY: (0)

142 ABSENT: Dobrozsi (1)
143

144 **A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Montgomery, Ohio Declaring Support For The**
145 **Preservation Of The Federal Tax Exemption Of Municipal Bonds**
146

147 Mr. Suer read the title and moved for passage of the Resolution. Mr. Margolis seconded.
148

149 Mr. Suer explained that information has been previously supplied on this Resolution that, if approved, will
150 acknowledge the City's support to continue to recognize the tax exemption of municipal bonds. As Congress
151 reshapes the Tax Code, we want to be sure this source of financing for public projects is protected. Mr. Suer
152 added that many communities find this as an important source for financing.
153

154 Mr. Suer asked if there were any updates.
155

156 Mr. Donnellon replied there were none.
157

158 The roll was called and showed the following vote:
159

160 AYE: Mills-Reynolds, Messer, Naiman, Suer, Margolis, Bissmeyer (6)
161 NAY: (0)

162 ABSENT: Dobrozsi (1)
163

164 A Resolution Accepting A Bid And Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Contract With Prus
165 Construction Company For The Montgomery Road Curb And Curb Ramps Replacement Project

166
167 Mr. Margolis read the title and moved for passage of the Resolution. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded.

168
169 Mr. Margolis explained that information has been previously supplied on this Resolution that, if approved, will
170 authorize the City Manager to enter into Contract with Prus Construction to construct the Montgomery Road Curb
171 and Curb Ramps Replacement Project. The resurfacing of Montgomery Road between Pfeiffer Road and Weller
172 Road is scheduled to occur this Fall. To prepare the roadway for this resurfacing work, this project will remove
173 and replace concrete curb at select locations, along with the removal and replacement of fourteen (14) curb ramps
174 to bring them into ADA compliance. It is requested that the project be approved in the amount of \$169,224.00,
175 which is the amount of the Base Bid plus a 10% contingency.

176
177 Mr. Margolis asked if there were any updates.

178
179 Mr. Heitkamp replied there were none.

180
181 Mayor Messer asked when it is expected that the work would begin.

182
183 Mr. Heitkamp replied that he anticipated it as early as May.

184
185 Mayor Messer stated it would be good for the public to see improvements beginning.

186
187 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

188
189 AYE: Messer, Naiman, Suer, Margolis, Bissmeyer, Mills-Reynolds (6)
190 NAY: (0)
191 ABSENT: Dobrozsi (1)

192 A Resolution In Support For The Ohio Communities Coalition And The Public Awareness Of State Issue 2
193 Renewal For The State Capital Improvement Program On The May 6, 2025 Statewide Ballot

194
195 Mr. Suer read the title and moved for passage of the Resolution. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded.

196
197 Mr. Suer explained that information has been previously supplied on this Resolution that, if approved, endorses
198 the City's support to the Ohio Communities Coalition which is conducting a public awareness campaign regarding
199 State Issue 2 to renew and extend the State Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Suer stated that this is important
200 for Montgomery to support, and he feels other communities have a stake in this as well. He said that collective
201 support will keep the program in place.

202
203 Mr. Suer asked if there were any updates.

204
205 Mr. Donnellon replied there were none.

206
207 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

208
209 AYE: Naiman, Suer, Margolis, Bissmeyer, Mills-Reynolds, Messer (6)
210 NAY: (0)
211 ABSENT: Dobrozsi (1)

217 **An Ordinance Authorizing Huntersknoll Court Stormwater Sewer Project Public Improvements**

218

219 Mr. Margolis read the title and moved to suspend the second and third readings of the Ordinance. Vice Mayor
220 Naiman seconded.

221

222 Mr. Margolis moved for passage of the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded.

223

224 Mr. Margolis explained that information has been previously supplied on this Ordinance that is part of the
225 assessment process reaffirming our authorization for the Huntersknoll Court Stormwater Sewer Project. The last
226 step in the process will be adopting an Ordinance for the specific assessments, which fortunately came in even
227 lower than the estimated assessments included in the Resolution of Necessity.

228

229 Mr. Margolis asked if there were any updates.

230

231 Mr. Donnellon replied there were none.

232

233 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

234

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

238

239 **An Ordinance Accepting Publicly Dedicated Easement Rights And Public Improvements For Stormwater**
240 **Improvements From Various Property Owners In The Huntersknoll Court Stormwater Sewer Project**
241 **Area**

242

243 Mr. Margolis read the title and moved to suspend the second and third readings of the Ordinance. Vice Mayor
244 Naiman seconded.

245

246 Mr. Margolis moved for passage of the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Naiman seconded.

247

248 Mr. Margolis explained that, if approved, this Ordinance accepts the plat for the as-built stormwater
249 improvements in the Huntersknoll Court Stormwater Sewer Project Area. The plat both accepts publicly dedicated
250 sewer lines specifically depicted on the lots in question, but it also vacates an older public sewer line which is no
251 longer in use. Also, there is a revision to the Ordinance accepting the Public Improvements and easement rights
252 for the Huntersknoll properties. The revision has been made to allow the Ordinance to be more easily recorded
253 once it has been approved.

254

255 Mr. Margolis asked if there were any updates.

256

257 Mr. Donnellon explained there were none.

258

259 Mr. Margolis stated he felt this was a wonderful project.

260

261 Mr. Suer stated that this project was an excellent example of a stormwater issue being dealt with effectively. He
262 praised Mr. Heitkamp and staff for great work in working with the residents to solve a problem they were having
263 with their stormwater.

264

265 Mayor Messer asked if there would be a strain with the heavy rains that the area has been experiencing.

266

267 Mr. Heitkamp replied that the heavy rain that we have been receiving in short hours will test our systems. He
268 added that crews have been sent out to critical locations to ensure there were no debris or blockages in
269 anticipation of flooding.

270

271 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

272

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

276

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

277

278 Mr. Riblet gave the following report:

279

- 280 • City Council Work Session is scheduled for April 16, 2025 immediately following a Public Hearing
281 scheduled at 5:45 for consideration an Expansion of Conditional Use/Final Development Plan Approval
282 regarding Sycamore High School.
- 283 • The Volunteer Walk of Fame induction ceremony is also scheduled for Wednesday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m.
284 Richard White with the BZA is the only person to be inducted into the Walk of Fame this year. It is
285 anticipated that the ceremony will be held in Montgomery Park weather permitting. If there is inclement
286 weather, the ceremony will be held here in Council Chambers.
- 287 • The Financial Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 7 at 4:30 p.m. The Law and
288 Safety and Planning, Zoning, and Landmarks Committees have cancelled their meetings for the month of
289 April.
- 290 • The Government Affairs Committee will meet on Monday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m. The Parks and
291 Recreation and Public Works Committee have cancelled their meetings for the month of April.
- 292 • On Tuesday, April 8, interviews will be conducted with three firms for the Safety Center
293 Addition/Renovation project. If those interviews go well, it is anticipated that there could be legislation
294 presented to City Council to reach an agreement with the successful firm.

300

Human Resources

301

- 302 • Police Officer positions – Background investigations for two candidates are being conducting. There are
303 two open positions to fill.
- 304 • Firefighter/Paramedic positions – the written and agility test portions of the Civil Service examination
305 process are scheduled for April 9. Seven applicants are registered for this testing. There are two
306 firefighter/paramedic positions to fill.

307

Events

308

- 309 • As a reminder, Amy Frederick shared an invitation from Nicholas Dunigan, a recent 2025 MCLA
310 graduate and Fifth Third employee, to tour the Fifth Third Private Bank in Montgomery this Thursday.
311 Nicholas invited the 2025 class, City Council, Senior Staff, and Amy Frederick to this event to say Thank
312 you to the City for hosting MCLA. Light bites and refreshments will be served.
- 313 • The Third Annual Mental Health Fair will be held this coming Saturday, April 5 at Twin Lakes. The Fair
314 will run from 9:00 to 11:30 and will host 34 vendors.
- 315 • Next Wednesday, April 9 the Beautification and Tree Commission is hosting an event at Terwilliger
316 Lodge from 7-9 p.m. "Backyard Birding" Part I. Part II is scheduled for October 15.

317

323 **MINUTES**

324

325 Mr. Margolis moved to approve the March 19, 2025 Public Hearing and Work Session minutes as written. Mrs.
326 Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

327

328 **OTHER BUSINESS**

329

330 Mrs. Mills-Reynolds thanked Public Works for the great job they did with the Spring brush collection at her
331 home.

332

333 Mr. Suer shared a conversation he had with a resident who was very appreciative of the help she received from
334 Laura Braun in the Finance Department when she came to City Hall to file her income taxes. The resident stated
335 that Ms. Braun was so friendly and helpful.

336

337 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

338

339 There was no request for an Executive Session.

340

341 **ADJOURNMENT**

342

343 Mayor Messer asked if there were anything further to discuss in Public Session. As there was none, he asked for a
344 motion to adjourn the meeting.

345

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

347

348 City Council adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

349

350

351

352

Connie Gaylor

Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council