

City of Montgomery  
City Council Work Session Minutes  
September 16, 2026

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Jack Hemenway, Law Director  
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager  
Kevin Chesar, Community Development Director  
John Crowell, Police Chief  
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director  
Ben Shapiro, Fire Chief  
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Serv. Dir.  
Amy Frederick, Community Engagement Coordinator  
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

Lee Ann Bissmeyer, Mayor  
Sasha Naiman, Vice Mayor  
Mike Cappel  
Frank Forsthoefel  
Craig Margolis  
Catherine Mills-Reynolds  
Ken Suer

City Council convened in Work Session for September 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Bissmeyer presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bissmeyer asked for a motion to dispense with roll call as all members were present. Mr. Margolis made the motion to dispense with the roll call. Mrs. Mills-Reynolds seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

**LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 7, 2026 BUSINESS SESSION**

**PENDING LEGISLATION**

There was no pending Legislation

**NEW LEGISLATION**

**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, 2027**

Mr. Bigham explained that, if passed, this Ordinance will establish the City's budget for fiscal year 2027. He explained that the proposed budget were presented to and reviewed with City Council at the September 10 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 2, Business Session.

Mayor Bissmeyer assigned the Ordinance to Mr. Suer.

Mayor Bissmeyer explained that the Ordinance would be added to the October 7, Business Session agenda for first reading. The second reading will be held at the November 4, 2026 Business Session. The third reading of the Ordinance will be held at the December 2, 2026 Business Session with adoption of the Ordinance requested at that meeting.

**An Ordinance Enacting And Adopting The 2026 Recodification To The Code Of Ordinances And Declaring An Emergency**

Ms. Gaylor explained that, if passed, this Ordinance will approve the 2026 Recodification to the Code of Ordinances. The updates are based on Ordinances adopted by City Council, based upon changes in Ohio Law and

Traffic laws enacted by Ohio legislature. Council is asked to pass the Ordinance as an emergency so that the new Code can be implemented immediately.

Vice Mayor Naiman asked a series of questions regarding the codification process related to updating the Code of Ordinances based on changes from the Ohio Revised Code and how that will be presented to City Council.

Ms. Gaylor explained that the recodification process addresses only the Ordinances that have already been passed. She explained that when changes arise in State Law, these changes are incorporated into the Code of Ordinances automatically, unless there is some discretion, at which point, the proposed changes would be brought to Council for consideration as new legislation. This process only includes what has already been reviewed and approved by Council.

Mayor Bissmeyer cited the example of the changes made regarding signs in the Zoning Code that was presented to City Council for approval before being recodified and enacted.

Ms. Gaylor added that through the process with EnCodePlus that a legal review of the Code of Ordinances was conducted and may result in updates that will have to come back to City Council based on the feedback of the review. She explained that the feedback from the legal review will be sent to Mr. Hemenway for his review and for and proposed changes.

Mayor Bissmeyer assigned the Ordinance to Vice Mayor Naiman.

Mayor Bissmeyer explained that this Ordinance will be added to the October 7, 2026 Business Session agenda, for first reading. It is requested that the second and third readings be suspended and the Ordinance passed as an emergency at the meeting

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- A Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Law & Safety, Financial Planning, and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees have cancelled their meetings for the month of October.
- Currently there are agenda items for the Government Affairs Committee on Monday, October 12; however, there is none for the Parks & Recreation or Public Works Committees. Mr. Riblet will provide an update at the October 7 Business Session.

### **Operations at the City**

- Thank you to those who attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Safety Center on Tuesday, September 15.
- MSA Design, the firm assisting the City with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, met with the Public Works Team on September 15. As part of the current data collection phase, the Public Works Team shared valuable insight, feedback, and ideas with MSA regarding Montgomery's parks and facilities. MSA will continue its community engagement efforts by attending the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on October 8.
- As a reminder the Community Mental Health presentation with Drew Robinson is Thursday, October 29, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

- A large crane was delivered to the MQ site on Monday and steel for Building 2A began being erected on Tuesday, September 15. As a reminder, a Beam Signing ceremony is scheduled for October 19 at 3:00 p.m.

#### Human Resources

- Mr. Dan Miller, current Public Works Supervisor will officially retire from fulltime employment on September 30; however, Dan will be coming back as a frontline employee to help during the winter months in light of the deployment of Zac Haiman.
- Three internal interviews for the Public Works Supervisor position were held today.

#### Events

- The EAC will once again hold the One Stop Drop this Saturday from 10 am to 1:00 p.m. The annual event collects items for Goodwill, Matthew 25 Ministries and Operation Give Back as well as normal monthly recyclable items.
- The Fall Plant Swap will be held Saturday, September 26 at the Montgomery Farmers Market from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
- The Montgomery Arts Commission is hosting a Montgomery Walking Food Tour on Saturday, September 26. While the 3:00 p.m. tour is full, a few spots remain for the 1:00 p.m. tour. Registration is available on the City's website.
- Registration is open for the first two Live at the Uni concerts. Spots are still available for the September 29 performance featuring Rick VanMatre and his jazz quintet, as well as the October 13 performance featuring NO PROMISES, Cincinnati's award-winning vocal group.

#### LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Hemenway stated that the General Assembly is on break so there is no report.

#### CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

##### Mr. Margolis

Mr. Margolis reported on the following items:

- The Safety Center Groundbreaking Ceremony.
- The Parks & Recreation Commission
  - Botany Walk held on September 13 was well attended.
  - Bike Safety Program is being designed
  - Trash Grabbers with storage bin were placed at City Hall so volunteers could readily access them to help with park clean up.
  - Star Party is scheduled for October 23
  - Smore's packing will be held in preparation of Harvest Moon
  - MSA will attend the next Commission meeting to discuss the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- The Beautification and Tree Commission
  - The Seed Library in Swaim Park
  - Fall Plant Swap
  - October 14 B & T Talk on growing succulents

- He asked about the progress of the Wayfinding Signs in the City. Mr. Heitkamp replied that the work is still in progress.

**Mrs. Mills-Reynolds**

Mrs. Mills-Reynolds reported on the following items:

- The Sister Cities Commission is in communications with Neuilly-Plaisance for a future exchange.
- Government Affairs met and discussed a proposed Recreation Sponsorship Policy. She explained that in the past there have been requests for the city to accept physical items or monetary gifts related to naming rights and those requests have been denied.

Mr. Forsthoefel stated that sponsorship opportunities could benefit the city. He stated that discretion would have to be granted to City leaders and a tight policy be written to make it a successful policy.

Mr. Riblet reiterated that the policy discussed was specific to recreation. He explained that with the recent requests for naming rights and plaques, it will be good to have an overall sponsorship policy. He added that there could also be a time when a larger sponsorship may be offered.

Vice Mayor Naiman cautioned allowing naming rights to recreational spaces as other issues could arise that may be negative to the process.

**Mr. Forsthoefel**

Mr. Forsthoefel reported on the following items:

- Government Affairs Committee meeting discussed the submission of a new event sponsored by the Arts Commission which will combine an Arts Fair event with a DORA event at the MQ. He explained that the Arts Commission has been working on the proposed event for over a year and have done a wonderful job in preparing the proposal. He stated that the event will be held on June 5, 2027. He explained that their goal is to recruit 30 artists and estimate there could be 1,000 attendees. The Commission anticipates generating \$2,700 in registration fees, netting \$1,300 for the Commission. He stated that he could see a sponsorship opportunity for this event as well.
- Mr. Forsthoefel also attended the Groundbreaking ceremony and is excited to see the project begin.

**Mr. Suer**

Mr. Suer reported the following items:

- The Arts Commission in the past held an Art Show at Swaim Park. He stated he thought the new event was a good initiative for the Commission.
- Groundbreaking Ceremony-He stated it was a good project and is looking forward to its completion.
- Landmarks Commission met and reviewed three cases.

**Vice Mayor Naiman**

Vice Mayor Naiman reported the following items:

- Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Applause to the Police Department staff who participated in the Blue Ash Law Enforcement Fair. She appreciated how engaged our officers were with those who attended.

- The Parks & Recreation Committee met and heard an update on the 2026 Pool Season.

**Mr. Cappel**

Mr. Cappel reported on the following:

- At the Parks & Recreation Committee it was discussed that the Swim Safe contract has reached its expiration. An RFP will be conducted in preparation of next year's pool season. He added that attendance was up this past season.
- He attended the Sycamore Advisory Committee. He explained that they reformatted how feedback would be provided to the Board. He stated that they also discussed the start time of schools, which needs Board approval.
- An idea for a Snowplow naming contest. He explained that this would be a way to engage with the Public Works department and educate drivers on driving in the snow.

**Mayor Bissmeyer**

Mayor Bissmeyer reported on the following items:

- The recent Staff Appreciation lunch and how much staff does for the community.
- The value of the Live at the Uni performers and the benefit to the residents of their performances.
- Safety Center Groundbreaking ceremony and the anticipate year and a half completion.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Cappel moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2026 Business Session. Mr. Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**MAYORS COURT REPORT**

Mayor Bissmeyer asked for a motion to disburse the August Mayors Court revenue in the amount of \$11,013. Mr. Margolis made the motion. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Mr. Margolis moved to adjourn. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

City Council adjourned at 6:44 p.m.



Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council