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City of Montgomery  
City Council Work Session Minutes  
November 20, 2019

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Terry Donnellon, Law Director  
John Crowell, Police Chief  
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director  
Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.  
Katie Smiddy, Finance Director  
Paul Wright, Fire Chief  
Faith Lynch, Community Engagement Coordinator  
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council  
Shawn Cooper, Customer Service Representative

City Council Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Mayor  
Lynda Roesch, Vice Mayor  
Lee Ann Bissmeyer  
Mike Cappel  
Gerri Harbison  
Craig Margolis  
Ken Suer

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City Council convened in Council Chambers for the Work Session at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to dispense with the roll call since everyone was in attendance.

Mr. Margolis moved to dispense with the roll call. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Dobrozsi asked Pat Buschmann of the American Legion NE Post 630 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

David and Pat Buschmann, Commander Jim Meyers and other members of the American Legion Post NE 630 were in attendance to be recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for their work in completing the Hopewell Cemetery Veteran Identification Project.

Commander Jim Meyers thanked City Council for the Certificate of Appreciation and for honoring Post 630. He explained how projects like these are a labor of love for veterans. He stated that they are were pleased to volunteer their time for the recognition of veterans laid to rest at Hopewell Cemetery.

City Council expressed their sincere thanks to the veterans for their military service as well as for their continued volunteerism in the City of Montgomery and community.

**LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION TONIGHT**

**ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 4, 2019**

**Pending 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, 2020**

Mr. Suer explained that information has been previously supplied on this Ordinance that, if approved, would establish the City's budget for fiscal year 2020. These documents were presented to and reviewed with the Financial Planning Committee of City Council at their September 3 meeting.

Mr. Suer asked if there were any updates.

Ms. Smiddy replied that there would be some minor changes that will be presented to the Financial Planning Committee on December 2, 2019 and if approved, updated in the packet for the December 4, 2019 Business Session.

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**New Legislation**

**A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Labor Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council, Inc., for Wage and Benefits from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022**

Mr. Riblet explained that it is requested that City Council consider approving a Resolution authorizing a labor agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. Both the City and the FOP accepted the fact-finder’s recommendations in October. The final step in this collective bargaining process requires legislation authorizing the City Manager to enter into the new labor agreement with the FOP. Mr. Riblet highlighted that the main focus of the contract was a 2.75% salary increase for three years, one hour of comp time for every hour an officer conducts field training, and caps on health insurance contributions. Mr. Riblet stated that he felt negotiations resulted in a good contract.

**A Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for the City of Montgomery**

Ms. Smiddy explained that this Resolution is for the five-year Capital Improvement program that is approved annually as a companion piece to the annual budget. She explained that a capital expense is an expense that exceeds \$5,000 which can be for the purchase of vehicles, improvements to buildings or construction, or anything that is a fixed asset.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Riblet, City Manager, gave the following report:

- City Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- City Council is scheduled to hold the City Council Swearing-In Ceremony and Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:15 p.m. There will be a short reception prior to the Business Session meeting.
- The Law & Safety and Financial Planning Committees will meet on Monday, December 2 at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., respectively. The Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee has cancelled their meeting for the month of December.
- The Government Affairs Committee will meet on Monday, December 9 at 4:30 p.m. The Parks & Recreation and Public Works Committees have cancelled their meetings for the month of December.
- During the recent Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner, the City of Montgomery was awarded the Spirit of Montgomery award for the Montgomery Citizens’ Leadership Academy. Many employees work hard to make MCLA such a standout program. MCLA would not be possible without a strong team effort and genuine interest in making Montgomery a welcoming and friendly community. Mr. Riblet complimented Council Members Harbison and Roesch for a very nice program.
- The same evening as the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Awards, Faith Lynch accepted a Blacksmith Award in the Podcast Category on behalf of the City from Public Relations Society of America, Cincinnati Chapter. The award was presented to the City of Montgomery for the Weathering the Storm podcast during their annual Blacksmith Awards Dinner held at the Newport Aquarium. Congratulations go to Arts Commission Chair Greg Leader, who served as executive producer and host, Faith Lynch, and Matthew Vanderhorst for this outstanding achievement. Also, thank you to all of the employees, past, and present, who participated in the podcast interviews. The podcast has now garnered 1,600 downloads.

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- JK Meurer completed a pavement repair of the Montgomery Road southbound ramp onto West Bound Cross County Highway.
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- A contract was signed with Aeromark in the amount of \$7,356.50 for pavement markings in the Heritage District. We anticipate this work beginning this week, weather dependent.
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- The Holiday in the Village and tree lighting event will be held on Saturday, December 7 beginning at 5:00 p.m.
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- Please mark your calendars for the Annual Holiday Luncheon which will be held on Friday, December 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Terwilliger Lodge.
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- Breakfast with Santa will be held at Terwilliger Lodge on Saturday, December 14 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
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- As a reminder, City Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
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- Mr. Riblet wished everyone a very happy and safe Thanksgiving Holiday and if you have an opportunity to help others who are less fortunate please do so.
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130 Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a public official.

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132 **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

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134 Mr. Donnellon wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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136 **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

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138 **Mr. Cappel**

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140 Mr. Cappel reported that the EAC held their monthly cardboard recycling event and have a planned Adopt A Spot cleanup the upcoming weekend.

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143 **Mrs. Bissmeyer**

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145 Mrs. Bissmeyer reported that she attended a post-election event where a Delhi Township Trustee, who is doing their community engagement for their development, stated how impressed they were by how the City has handled our public relations with our project. He stated that they are looking at Montgomery as an example as their project moves forward.

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152 **Mrs. Harbison**

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154 Mrs. Harbison reported that at the Government Affairs Committee meeting held on November 11, the following topics were discussed:

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- Street names for the Montgomery Quarter were presented in categories related to location, our sister-city in France and historical references. She stated that the Committee gave their feedback and that staff would be bringing a revised list back to the Committee in December that can then be shared with all of Council.
  - Topics for the Community Leadership Forum were discussed such as the Diversity & Inclusion efforts, the Chamber's Buy Local campaign, a presentation by the Fire Department post-levy and an update by the Schools post-levy.
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Mrs. Harbison reported that a motion was made by the Committee for the following Commission Member reappointments:

- Matthew Debevec to the Art Commission for a term expiring 1/31/2023
- Rosie Ritchie to the Art Commission for a term expiring 1/31/2023
- Jody Ballah to the Sister Cities Commission for a term expiring 1/31/2023
- Dina Schmidt to the Sister Cities Commission for a term expiring 1/31/2023
- Jack Wild to the Sister Cities Commission for a term expiring 1/31/2023

Mrs. Harbison explained that these reappointments did not require a second by City Council as they are a Government Affairs Committee recommendation. City Council unanimously approved the appointments.

Mrs. Harbison reported that at the previous Art Commission meeting, the Live at the Uni Holiday concert was confirmed for Sunday, December 15 featuring the Cincinnati Christmas Carolers.

Mrs. Harbison reported that at the Sister Cities Commission meeting planning was discussed for the Dinner Around the World event to be held on Sunday, February from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Sister Cities Commission is also putting together new Bastille Day Sponsorship packets.

**Vice Mayor Roesch**

Vice Mayor Roesch reported that the Beautification and Tree Commission held the annual Holiday Decorating event and adorned the downtown area with greenery and bows. She stated that the Commission also met to discuss flower selection for spring planning of 2020.

Vice Mayor Roesch stated that BAMSO 2019 Holiday Concert would be held on Sunday, December 1 at the Montgomery Assembly of God. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will feature BAMSO, Cincinnati Choral Society and special young artist, cellist Miriam K. Smith.

**Mr. Suer**

Mr. Suer stated how impressed he was with the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner. He stated that he was pleased with how the Chamber has grown and how important it is to the City that its vibrant.

**Mr. Margolis**

Mr. Margolis wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Mayor Dobrozsi**

Mayor Dobrozsi echoed Mr. Suer's compliments on the Chamber of Commerce Dinner and how well put together it was.

Mayor Dobrozsi also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to approve the November 6, Business Session minutes. Mr. Margolis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**



216 Ms. Smiddy explained to City Council that the pricing of the 2019 Taxable Refinance Bond for the Vintage Club  
217 was locked in at 3.245% replacing the current 4.4%. She stated the refinancing to the lower rate would save the City  
218 a total of \$2.3 million over the term of the bonds.  
219

220 Mr. Donnellon stated that he has the Preliminary Official Statement for the refinancing of the bond and City Council  
221 will need to acknowledge and accept the statement. He stated as part of the bond offering and, also State audit,  
222 Council would need to make a motion to approve the issuance of the refinanced new bond.  
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224 Mr. Cappel moved to acknowledge and approve the Preliminary Official Statement. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City  
225 Council unanimously agreed.  
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227 Mr. Donnellon added that the City has an AA2 Rating, which is the highest rating issued.  
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229 Mayor Dobrozsi explained to Council that his term as the OKI Board Council representative is at the point of  
230 renewal and asked the members if they would like to serve on the Board in the next term or if they would like for  
231 him to continue in this role.  
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233 Mr. Suer made the motion for Mayor Dobrozsi to continue as the Council representative on the Board of OKI. Vice  
234 Mayor Roesch seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
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236 Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for discussion of the appointment of a Public  
237 Official.  
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239 Mrs. Bissmeyer made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for discussion of the appointment of a Public  
240 Official. Mr. Cappel seconded.  
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242 The roll was called and showed the following vote:  
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244	AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Harbison, Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer, Margolis	(7)
245	NAY:	(0)
246	ABSENT:	(0)

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248 Council adjourned in Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.  
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250 City Council reconvened into Public Session at 9:20 p.m.  
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252 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none he asked for  
253 a motion to adjourn.  
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255 Mr. Cappel moved to adjourn. Mr. Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
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257 City Council adjourned at 9:21 p.m.  
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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council