

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
October 21, 2020

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.
John Crowell, Police Chief
Katie Smiddy, Finance Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

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

City Council convened its Work Session for October 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting at City Hall and by telephone conference with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding. This remote access meeting was allowed by emergency legislation adopted by the Ohio General Assembly and approved by the Governor. The emergency legislation added language to RC Section 121.22 allowing public meetings by telephone conference during the current pandemic and declared State of Emergency. As required by the statute, notice of the telephonic meeting was publicized more than 24 hours in advance to allow public access through the same conference call in service. The public was also given a backup number to call in the event there were technical difficulties. This Notice was posted on the City's website and a similar Notice was sent to The Cincinnati Enquirer.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called, and all Council Members answered as present either in person or on the phone line.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

James "J" and Jane Fleckenstein were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation as the Beautification and Tree Commissions Summer Seasons of Beauty Winner.

Ms. Roesch explained the process of the selection of the Seasons of Beauty Winner as the Beautification and Tree Commission Council Liaison. She read the Certificate and thanked the Fleckenstein's for their care and attention to making their landscaping and home beautiful for the community to enjoy.

City Council echoed Ms. Roesch's sentiments and thanked the Fleckenstein's for coming to accept the award.

Aftab Pureval, Hamilton County Clerk of Court-Mr. Pureval addressed City Council regarding the CDC's moratorium on evictions through the end of the year. Mr. Pureval explained that if a tenant has been negatively affected by Covid-19 they cannot be evicted until after December 31, 2020. He stated that this does not absolve the tenant from paying their rent but prevents them from being evicted during the moratorium. He explained that there is an affidavit online at cincyhelpcenter.org that can be obtained by the tenant who fills it out and provides to their landlord. The landlord then files it and may be able to receive payment on behalf of the tenant. He stated there is 5 million dollars set aside for emergency rental assistance in an effort to support both the tenant and the landlord.

Mr. Suer asked Mr. Pureval how many evictions he expects to see as of January 1, 2021 in Hamilton County.

Mr. Pureval replied that it is hard to anticipate the amount due to the suspension of hearings during Covid, however he feels it will be close to two thousand.

GUESTS & RESIDENTS

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to move the Guests and Residents portion of the agenda to the end of the agenda after Other Business.

Mr. Cappel made a motion to move the Guests and Resident portion to after Other Business on the agenda. Vice Mayor Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2020 BUSINESS SESSION

PENDING LEGISLATION

An Ordinance Modifying Section 132.14, Noise, of The Montgomery Code of Ordinances

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that this legislation is anticipated to be tabled and asked Mr. Donnellon to provide information on this motion.

Mr. Donnellon explained that he and Mr. Riblet had a lengthy discussion with Mr. Gary Gross who had concerns regarding the history of the Ordinance from his time serving on City Council. Mr. Donnellon explained that it would require some research into historical records and explained that he would like to request a motion to table the legislation to be added to the November 18 Work Session Agenda with modifications and to be read for second reading at the December 2, 2020 Business Session.

Mrs. Harbison made a motion to table the Ordinance until the November 18 Work Session for review and the December 2, 2020 Business Session for second reading. Vice Mayor Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

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, 2021

Mayor Dobrozsi explained that this would be the second reading of the Ordinance and asked Ms. Smiddy if there were any updates.

Ms. Smiddy replied there were none.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that as he does with any legislation that may relate to the Montgomery Quarter, he would be recuing himself from the vote on November 4. He explained that although he has no ownership interest in Neyer Properties, Inc. nor any in the limited liability companies in partnership to develop the Montgomery Quarter, he will continue to recuse himself from discussion and abstain from voting upon legislation related to the Montgomery Quarter project.

NEW LEGISLATION

There was no new legislation.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- The City Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Riblet reported that as we finish up final versions and any modifications to agreements associated with the Montgomery Quarter, staff would like to schedule a Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) meeting prior to the Business Session beginning at 6:45 p.m. to provide updates and request any approvals needed. He stated that if Council would be so inclined a motion could be made to begin the Business Session immediately following the conclusion of the CIC meeting.

Mrs. Bissmeyer as President of the Montgomery Community Improvement Corporation called a meeting for Wednesday, November 4 at 6:45 p.m.

Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to begin the City Council Business Session immediately following the conclusion of the CIC meeting. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

- The Law and Safety, Financial Planning and Planning Zoning and Landmarks Committees have all cancelled their meetings for Monday, November 2.
- The Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Public Works Committees do not anticipate meetings for Monday, November 9 at this time but Mr. Riblet will provide an update at the November 4 meeting.
- Congratulations to Chief Wright for being presented with the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association "Distinguished Service Award for 2020". This award is presented to individuals who have performed outstanding services to the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association as well as to the Ohio fire service in general.
- 738 cars traveled through the Halloween Haunted Trail on Saturday, October 17 at Weller Park. Thank you to council, staff and volunteers that assisted with this popular drive through event.
- The Open House for the Pfeiffer/Deerfield Roundabout project was held Tuesday, October 20 at Terwilligers Lodge. It was attended by 23 people, not including City staff and representatives from Strand Associates. The feedback received will be compiled and reviewed by City staff and Strand Associates before final designs are completed.
- Mr. Riblet reported that Frank Forsthoefer, Superintendent of Sycamore Community Schools announced his retirement from the schools at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Mr. Riblet reported the following job postings for open positions at the City:
 - Community Development Director advertisement began on October 18 with a deadline to submit applications scheduled for November 13.
 - Communications and Engagement Coordinator advertisement will begin on October 25 with a deadline to submit applications scheduled for November 23.

Both positions will appear in the Cincinnati Enquirer, the Cincinnati Herald, multiple online job posting sites, and various professional association websites.

- A reminder that National First Responder Day will be recognized on Wednesday, October 28 with a recognition breakfast for the City's Fire & Police staff. The breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will be held in the Mayor's Court/Training Room at the Safety Center.
- Also happening next week on Friday, October 30, Mr. Donnellon will provide his annual Smokin Irish Ribfest at the Public Works Facility to provide a safe dining environment for staff and Council. The luncheon will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Donnellon reported that he participated in an Ohio Municipal League Board meeting that morning and the topic of discussion was the current Order from the Governor's Office that allows for hybrid meetings. He explained that the Order will expire the end of November. He explained that the General Assembly was on recess and comes back into session the week after the election. He stated that it is anticipated the Order will be extended as an emergency before December 1. He added he would update Council and staff as soon as a decision is issued from the State.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Cappel

No report.

Mrs. Bissmeyer

No report.

Mrs. Harbison

Mrs. Harbison provided an update on the following Committee and Commission meeting agenda items:

- Government Affairs Committee

- The 2020 Holiday Card has been chosen featuring the signature lamp with a wreath. There were seven submissions that the Arts Commission considered and made the recommendation from. The Government Affairs Committee confirmed the Arts Commission selection. Julie Hamel is the artist.
- The 2020 Holiday Decorating was discussed, and it was decided that multi-color large bulbs (non-flashing) will be used on the Holiday Tree.
- The Landmark App Scholarship was discussed and approved by the Committee. Mrs. Harbison asked Mr. Vanderhorst to provide background on the scholarship.

Mr. Vanderhorst explained that Apple's mobile app requirements changed, rendering the Landmark app obsolete and inoperable. He stated that Staff chose not to embark on creating a new app given the limited interest in the app at the time, and the extreme number of hours and high cost to rewrite the app. He stated that during the start of the 2019 school year, he approached Mel Hoffert, Sycamore High School Computer Science Teacher, to determine if his students would be interested in creating a mobile app as part of a school project. Mr. Hoffert discussed the idea with a few of his students, showing interest in the project. Soon after, City staff met with three students who worked on the app during the early months of 2020, then the pandemic hit. The subsequent school closings and move to a virtual learning environment affected the team's ability to work on the app, however the students continued to work on the app through the summer of 2020. The app is currently in the Apple store awaiting review before being released to the public. Mr. Vanderhorst stated that he recommended using the existing Community Engagement Grant funds to compensate the students for the large amount of time they spent in developing the app.

Mrs. Harbison stated that each student would receive \$750, totaling three grants.

- Surplus equipment was declared that included: multiple filing cabinets from the Community Development Department and a dump truck with spreader and plow from Public Works.

- Staff provided an update on the Hopewell Cemetery design and master plan. Staff also informed the Committee of a 12' high monument that will be placed at the cemetery as there are no height requirements that would restrict it. She added that Ms. Roesch provided background on discussions with Janet Korach that prevented height restrictions on monuments at the cemetery.
- A reminder that the joint First Suburbs and Hamilton County Municipal League meeting is scheduled as a Zoom meeting for Thursday, October 29 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Liz Blume is the speaker on Affordable Housing Solutions. She stated that if anyone was interested, they can register on the First Suburbs website to receive the link to the meeting.
- Sister Cities Commission
 - There will be no in-person Dinner Around the World in 2021
 - Matthew Vanderhorst will work with Sister Cities to add previous cooking videos on the website and Sister Cities will put a request for recipes on the website to help create a virtual "Dinner Around the World Cookbook"
 - The Naked Karate Girls are not available for Bastille Day 2021, so the Menus are going to be the main headliner.

Ms. Roesch

Ms. Roesch provided an update on the following meeting agenda items:

- The Beautification and Tree Commission honored the Lazy Daisy Garden Club for their years of service maintaining the garden at the Wilder Swaim House by placing an engraved stone at the garden, The Beautification and Tree Commission are now taking over the care and maintenance of the garden.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission were asked to designate some of the City's tennis courts as Pickleball courts only. She explained that staff had conducted a survey of the residents regarding this issue and feedback supported leaving the courts as multi-use courts. Ms. Roesch stated that when the resident survey was conducted next year that this issue would be revisited.
- The Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (BAMSO) will broadcast the Blue Ash Veterans Concert on the BAMSO YouTube channel from November 11 to November 13.

Mr. Suer

Mr. Suer reported that he and Mr. Riblet met with residents of Cooper Road that had concerns regarding the Montgomery Quarter and whose houses had yards adjacent to the construction area. He stated that topics of their concerns were as follows:

- a. Height of buildings
- b. Condominiums versus apartments
- c. Width of roadway behind buildings L, K & J
- d. Fencing as opposed to brick wall as screening
- e. Additional screening including landscaping
- f. Dumpster location
- g. Construction noise
- h. Power lines and poles
- i. Large catch basin
- j. Concrete wall visible from yards
- k. Driveway to Buildings K & L

I. Lighting

Mr. Suer stated that he felt it was a good meeting and provided an opportunity to hear their viewpoints. He stated the meeting was held in one of the resident's driveways and lasted approximately two and a half hours.

Mr. Suer reported that as a follow up, he and Mr. Riblet walked through the back yards of some of the properties to get a closeup look at screening along the back perimeter of the properties. He said he felt it was a very productive exercise. He stated that at this time there are items being further investigated in discussions with the Development Team and Duke Energy. He stated the intent was to get back to the residents in a short amount of time on where the City stands.

Mrs. Harbison thanked Mr. Suer and Mr. Riblet for the time they spent with the residents and following through on their concerns.

Vice Mayor Margolis

Vice Mayor Margolis relayed his congratulations to Tracy Henao, the Riblet family and the Willenbrink family on the weddings that all took place on Saturday, October 20.

Vice Mayor Margolis reported that he spoke with Stuart Zanger of the Montgomery Farmers Market, the past Saturday regarding the status of the Farmers Market after opening during the pandemic. He stated that Mr. Zanger reported approximately 1,000 visitors and 30 vendors. He stated visitors were able to walk through the market wearing masks. He explained that Mr. Zanger reported that next year the Board was exploring adding food trucks at each market.

Vice Mayor Margolis added that the Montgomery Farmers Market Board was now comprised of all MCLA graduates.

Vice Mayor Margolis stated that the Haunted Trail event was another example of staff finding ways to put a new twist on things in this time that there was a large demand to get back to normal.

Vice Mayor Margolis reported that he attended the Quarterly Hamilton County Emergency Management Association and Homeland Security meeting on Monday, October 19. He stated that topics of discussion were as follows:

- Vaccination Plans that include securing freezers for vaccine storage, distribution methods and drafting a formal plan.
- Accreditation of the HCEMA & Homeland Security
- Disaster Recovery Framework
- PPE Distribution

Mayor Dobrozsi

Mayor Dobrozsi congratulated Chief Wright on his Distinguished Service award.

Mayor Dobrozsi also thanked everyone for their participation in the Haunted Trail. He stated that doing nothing is not an option and that staff continues to find ways to provide services to the community.

MINUTES

Vice Mayor Margolis moved to approve the October 7, 2020 Business Session minutes as amended. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

313
314 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was any other business to discuss. There was none.
315

316 Mr. Don Neyer was presented with a Proclamation celebrating his 90th birthday, contributions as a humanitarian
317 and friendship with the City.
318

319 Mayor Dobrozsi explained that he met Mr. Neyer in 1987 when he was working at Neyer as a coop student. He
320 stated that he learned so much from him in business and also in life as a man. He thanked Mr. Neyer for his service
321 to others.
322

323 Mayor Dobrozsi read and presented the Proclamation to Mr. Neyer and opened the floor to Council comments.
324

325 Council members all thanked Mr. Neyer for his service to the community and for his friendship to the City.
326 Members recalled their interactions with Mr. Neyer and shared their appreciation of his character and contributions
327 to all those he comes in contact with.
328

329 Jim Mayer, former Executive Director of Twin Lakes, was on the phone line to thank Mr. Neyer for being a
330 wonderful mentor and friend to all those at Twin Lakes and for his friendship with Mr. Mayer.
331

332 Lisa Zimmer, current Executive Director of Twin Lakes, shared her appreciation of Mr. Neyer's friendship and
333 outreach efforts at Twin Lakes.
334

335 Mr. Neyer thanked everyone present and on the phone lines for their wonderful comments and for the proclamation.
336 He stated that he was so grateful for his life, family, and the community he lives in. He stated he is not done yet.
337

338 **GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**
339

340 Mayor Dobrozsi stated that as there were no guests or residents present at City Hall, he would open the floor to
341 those who are present on the line. He asked for anyone on the line to state their name and address and to adhere to
342 the three-minute speaking rule.
343

344 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there were any guests or residents on the line. There was no response.
345


346 Mayor Dobrozsi closed the floor to public comment.
347

348 **ADJOURNMENT**
349

350 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none he asked for
351 a motion to adjourn.
352

353 Vice Mayor Margolis moved to adjourn. Mr. Suer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.
354

355 City Council adjourned at 8:27 p.m.
356
357
358
359



Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council