

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
August 22, 2018

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
John Crowell, Police Chief
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Tracy Roblero, Community Development Director
Katie Smiddy, Finance Director
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Faith Lynch, Community Engagement Coordinator
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
Kathi Ranford, 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

City Council convened in Council Chambers at 7:03 p.m. for the Work Session 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.

GUEST AND RESIDENTS

Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Drive, relayed his positive experience of observing Mayor's Court. Mr. Silverman was impressed with Mr. Gibson's professionalism and feels he is an excellent representation of Montgomery.

Mr. Margolis stated that he was on the Law and Safety Committee when Mr. Gibson was hired. Mr. Gibson has a great demeanor and is a resident of Montgomery. He is also a Montgomery Citizens Leadership Academy (MCLA) graduate.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

PENDING LEGISLATION

Rezoning a Portion of Montgomery Road North of Hopewell Road to The Residential C Single and Two-Family District with A Planned Development Overlay – (Mr. Margolis – 3rd Reading)

Mayor Dobrozsi explained that the applicant has requested that this legislation be tabled until the September 12, 2018 Work Session. Mayor Dobrozsi stated that this would require a motion.

Mr. Margolis moved to approve the motion. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

An Ordinance Establishing Regulations for Small Cell Facilities and Wireless Support Structures within the Right-of-Way

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there were any updates. There were none.

NEW LEGISLATION

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Humana Health Plan of Ohio, Inc.

to Provide Medical Insurance for Full-Time Employees

Mike Rogers, Public Works Supervisor, introduced the Health Care Benefits Committee (HCBC) team consisting of T.J. Shreve, Julie Prickett, Katie Smiddy, Patrick Morgan and Sharon Savitt.

Mr. Rogers also introduced Julie Tople with Horan Associates, the City's insurance broker.

Mr. Rogers explained that the decision to stay with Humana was an easy one. He stated that the Committee received quotes from United Health, Anthem and Aetna, but none of them were competitive. He added that Medical Mutual declined to quote. Mr. Rogers stated that the quotes showed an increase in out of pocket expenses and a \$1,000 deductible for prescription drugs. The City will have the same plan as last year with a zero percent increase. He explained that what has helped the City tremendously is the GO365 Wellness initiative. The City has had a very good participation rate in the program.

During the current benefit period, the City realized a savings of \$27,185 since October 2017, as a result of member participation in the GO365 program. Overall, the City has seen a savings of \$74,130 since September 2014, when participation in the Humana Wellness program began.

The HCBC recommends that the City stay with Humana. Mr. Rogers added the dental rate contract was for a two-year period, so it did not need to be quoted.

Mrs. Harbison stated the process of employee driven request for proposal for health care is incredible. She shared that she was with elected officials at a First Suburbs meeting and they talked about how the City handles this process. She stated that others had no idea that it could be done this way and were quite impressed.

Ms. Tople stated the City would not get this rate if they were not engaged in the Wellness program, as underwriters take this into consideration. She stated some clients do nothing for the health and welfare of their employees. The savings is tremendous, and it is because of GO365 Wellness and a testimony to the Committee's splendid work.

Mr. Suer stated that the work of the Committee every year is impressive, and Ms. Tople should be credited for her guidance over the years. She has done an excellent job.

Mr. Suer said between Ms. Tople and the employees, this process is in good hands. He feels this is a great outcome and with the Wellness program, although it is great to get a reduction in premiums, a healthier staff is more impressive. We have had very good buy-in from the employees who are involved in the Wellness program and it benefits the entire City.

Mr. Margolis stated that it is a great testimony to our culture. The City is "walking the talk" as a High-Performance Organization (HPO) and working from the bottom up.

Mr. Riblet stated that it is great to see everyone working together, not just on this team but all our task teams. This is our work culture and what we do, so thank you to the Committee for all your efforts.

A Resolution Establishing City Contributions for Health Care Benefit

Julie Prickett, Human Resources Manager, explained that the City has increased these "caps" annually by six percent (6%) for medical insurance and three percent (3%) for dental insurance. This practice allows for some increase in the cost of healthcare but also ensures that significant increased costs are shared between the City and its employees. The recommended caps for the upcoming 2018-2019 medical and dental insurance plan are already in place in existing FOP and AFSCME union contracts. IAFF contract provisions are yet to be finalized and are pending completion of collective bargaining negotiations.

There were no questions.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

1) Mr. Riblet, city manager, gave the following report

- City Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- Prior to the Business Session, a Public Hearing is scheduled at 6:15 p.m., to consider a request from the Planning Commission to consider a zoning map amendment which would rezone parcels on the east side of Montgomery Road from 10230 Montgomery Road to 10334 Montgomery Road and on the west side of Montgomery Road from 10265 Montgomery Road to 10391 Montgomery Road from 'A' Single Family Residential to 'C' Two Family and Single Family Residential. City Council did motion for the regular City Council meeting to begin immediately after the public hearing.
- As a reminder, City offices will be closed on September 3 in observance of Labor Day. Because of the holiday the City Council Committee meetings would be rescheduled for Tuesday, September 4.
 - Financial Planning has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
 - Planning, Zoning and Landmarks has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

The Law and Safety Committee has cancelled their meeting for September.

- Committee meetings for Monday, September 10, 2018 for Parks & Recreation, Government Affairs, and Public Works have no agenda items and are cancelled.
- The Neighborhood Leaders Forum Team met to begin preparations for the fall session and has identified several dates for City Council's consideration. They are:

Wednesday, October 17

Tuesday, October 23

Tuesday, October 30

The date of October 23 at 7:00 p.m. was identified as the target date.

The team has proposed a presentation on economic development, the branding campaign and a traffic law refresher presentation. Chris Ross with the fire department will discuss when and why the Fire Department uses sirens and lights on emergency vehicles with an emphasis on "Move Over, It's the Law."

- On Wednesday, August 22, 2018, Chief Crowell, Katie Smiddy and myself met with Dan Weekes from American Structurepoint to discuss the City's Comprehensive Building Assessment and Capital Needs Assessment Project for City owned facilities. It is anticipated we will receive the complete analysis and 15-year Capital Needs report, including cost estimates, by the end of September at which time we will share copies with City Council.
- On Thursday, August 23, 2018, Gary Heitkamp and Katie Smiddy will meet with Greg Doherty from Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) to discuss potential cost savings with the annual pool fill. The group is going to discuss deduct meter programs to measure outdoor water use that is not discharged into the sanitary sewer system.
- The Fire Department was awarded a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS in the amount of \$3,575. The department applied for the grant in February. The money will be used to

purchase new CPR manikins for their public education programs. The existing manikins are ten years old and are scheduled for replacement.

- The Sycamore Advisory Committee (SAC) will begin their meetings for the 2018-2019 school year in September. As you recall, Laith Alfaqih served on SAC for the 2017-2018 school year. The person who serves on this Committee is appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Sycamore Board Office at 7:30 p.m. The Mayor appointed Mrs. Bissmeyer to serve on this Committee for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Nick Miller is in Virginia this week attending the Leading, Educating and Developing (LEAD) training which is the foundation work for our HPO work culture. Nick is transitioning nicely into his new role as Construction & Compliance Inspector. I had the opportunity to speak with Nick today and he indicated Montgomery routinely comes up in the daily sessions as a leader in HPO.
- The construction contract with Traditions for the Vintage Club North Improvements was officially signed today. Law Director Donnellon and myself have had multiple conference calls and meetings over the past several weeks and as a result, the final agreement will reflect a reduction of \$44,990 from the original amount of the proposed contract.
- The Gertz Company has completed the 2018 Fire Hydrant replacement program. This is the fifth year of the program and this year a total of nineteen fire hydrants were replaced.
- The Hamilton County Pfeiffer Road Bridge project is also complete, aside from some minor punch-list items.
- Construction activity on the 2018 Street Resurfacing program continues. The completion date for the project is September 28, but they are on track to be completed several weeks prior to that.
- A contract was signed with Sycamore Community Schools for the School Resource Officer position at the Junior High School for a fixed amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the 2018-2019 school year. Officer James Martin has fully embraced his role there and is a great fit with staff and students.
- Effective August 13, Mike Rogers was appointed the Public Works Supervisor.
- In person interviews are completed and finalist are being selected for the Service Worker I position.
- The first round of interviews with nine candidates are scheduled for August 30 and 31 for the Finance Specialist position.
- A sure sign that summer is coming to an end is the Dogfest and the K-9 Kerplunk event that will be held on Labor Day. Staff and volunteers work very hard to make this a fun, family friendly event. New this year is the addition of the "Donuts for Dog" contest in which all donations will benefit Meals on Wheels for Pets.
- As a reminder, a budget review meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m. for a review of the 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets. Dinner will be provided for this working meeting as we hear presentations from all departments on their 2019 requests.
- On Friday, September 7, Chief Crowell and myself will be traveling to Montgomery, NY to participate in General Montgomery Day on September 8.
- The next Hamilton County Municipal League (HCML) meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 24 in Blue Ash beginning at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please let Connie know and she will get you registered.

- Law Director Donnellon has graciously volunteered to hold his annual Smokin' Irish barbecue luncheon in October. We have identified a couple of dates in which Terwilliger Lodge is available. The preferred date is October 19. The luncheon is usually held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The agreed upon date is Friday, October 19.
- We wish Council Member Harbison, a Happy Belated Birthday tonight as her birthday was on August 2 and a Happy Birthday to Vice Mayor Roesch as her birthday is August 27.

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Donnellon stated that the City is finally at the last step of the Vintage Club North project. We will deal with tax exemptions for the parcels, so as we go forward and the public improvements are built they will be exempt and as private improvements are built, the City will start collecting our service payments.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Margolis reported at the Landmarks Commission meeting there were two very interesting conversations. Ms. Kay Gaffney gave a presentation on ornaments where she noted there is a declining interest in purchasing the ornaments. The Montgomery Historic Preservation Association (MHPA) has about 1,500 in inventory and last year they only sold 107 ornaments. Compounding the issue is the supplier is in declining health and production will have to be outsourced, so there will not be an ornament this year. Ms. Gaffney is seeking guidance on how to proceed and was not sure if the Landmarks, Zoning and Planning Committee could provide direction. This can be discussed at the next Planning, Zoning and Landmark Committee meeting.

Mr. Margolis stated that the other topic discussed was the current use of the Wilder Swaim House and how to increase the use of the house. Ms. Gaffney referenced the Arts Commission's use of the Universalist Church for Live at the Uni concerts and how that asset was utilized. Mr. Margolis stated one suggestion is to have a visioning session with Planning, Zoning and Landmarks, which may offer some steps and encouragement.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that the branding initiative may be a source for future discussions on how to better utilize historic property.

Mr. Margolis asked the history of the ornaments.

Ms. Roblero stated that the ornaments have been sold for the past fifteen to twenty years. MHPA took the lead on the production of the ornaments and the City financed the project. MHPA has decided that they were no longer going to be involved. The City will need to meet with the Landmarks Commission to get a recommendation to take to the Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee to gauge the future of the project.

Ms. Roblero stated that she would like to see all landmarks buildings have an ornament. She explained that there is money available in that fund and staff could carry it forward. She recommended discussing it at the Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee meeting in October.

Mrs. Bissmeyer asked if we were looking for another artist.

Ms. Roblero stated that she is open to suggestions as the current artist is incapacitated and can no longer make them.

Mayor Dobrozsi questioned that it is not due to the artist, but because of the production of the ornaments.

Ms. Roblero reiterated that it is not the artist, but the production is the issue. All the line drawings were done by Dee Eberhardt many, many years ago. In production, the gentleman hand paints all the ornaments and it is quite a process. Unfortunately, his health is failing, and he will no longer be able to do it.

Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that she has received ornaments from Cincinnati for the past 20 years that are hand painted with scenes like the Roebling Bridge which was very beautiful. She did not know we already had something in place. Ms. Roblero stated that she was open to suggestions.

Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that she would send information to Ms. Roblero.

Mr. Suer stated that on Monday, August 13, he attended an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Synnovation Lab. He explained that the little theatre at Sycamore High School was transformed into a science facility and they have also renovated their science labs. It was an excellent improvement. There were a lot of people there and a lot of enthusiasm.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked him for attending the event and representing the City.

Vice-Mayor Roesch stated the Parks and Recreation Committee met and discussed the increasing demand for the use of soccer fields. She explained that two groups attended the meeting to request the use of soccer fields. The Greater Sycamore Soccer Association (GSSA) has historically been in charge of the soccer fields for 20 plus years and has done a good job. Sycamore Premier has quite a few Montgomery residents and wants to be able to use the fields as well. She advised that they come together to work out a schedule and follow up with the Committee. They met that evening and until she hears more from them, she believes that they worked it out.

Mrs. Harbison stated the items discussed at the Government Affairs Committee were surplus property disposals from several different departments, and discussion on the 2018-2019 bulletin and 2019 calendar cost. The Committee recommends the City contract with DMSink for the design and production of the 2018-2019 bulletin and 2019 calendar. Mrs. Harbison stated that due to increasing costs, and the City cannot fiscally sustain a monthly bulletin, and she feels that with the branding and imagining campaign beginning, we can get a clearer picture of what the community really wants. She stated the City will need to look at publishing the bulletin quarterly and online.

Ms. Lynch stated that there are different avenues we could go with. Ms. Lynch did an analysis that she included in a memo that proves there is significant savings if we move to a quarterly publication schedule. Essentially, the newsletter would not be the residents major source of information but a marketing piece to direct readers to the website for more details. She stated that this is the way information is being disseminated in the industry, especially using social media. She stated that she is increasingly posting more communications on social media.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was a substantial cost increase.

Mrs. Harbison stated that it continues to go up. Since the City moved from Cox Media, the costs have continued to rise. The amount for the 2018-2019 bulletin and the 2019 calendar is \$66,112. She stated that it is interesting to see how many residents read the bulletin in comparison to how many residents read online. The last survey said that people of all ages, even 20-year-olds wanted to read the bulletin in hand. That is starting to skew a little bit, although she believes that will change.

Ms. Lynch stated they will do another community survey in 2020, so we will find out soon how much things are changing and how more people are going on online or to social media for all of their news.

Mr. Vanderhorst stated that as a bridge from where we are now to a less frequent publication, we could reduce the article size, so we don't have a consistent sixteen-page bulletin which makes it so expensive. A goal is to reduce the bulletin down to eight pages. The bulletin should be kept simple with who, what, when, and where with a little bit of detail and the rest on the website. This would be a gradual weaning process over the next few years. Since the branding campaign is moving forward now is a good time to start that transition.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that the cost of the Enquirer has also gone up starting August 1.

Mr. Riblet stated that we received quotes for the lowest and best bid which indicates the price continues to go up. He stated that because the cost is \$50,000 staff will be bringing it to the September 12 Work Session for consideration.

Mrs. Harbison stated that the Governmental Affairs Committee recommends to City Council to continue with the bulletin as currently produced and consider at the September 12 Work Session. City Council unanimously agreed.

Ms. Lynch stated that the bulletin costs \$66,112 to publish and calendar is \$12,008.43. The total contract for both projects would be \$78,121. That was the lowest bid and the highest bid was \$86,146.

Mrs. Harbison reported that the Chamber of Commerce and the City will be hosting a Hot Dog event on September 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Neuilly-Plaisance Plaza.

Mrs. Harbison stated the Chamber of Commerce Award Dinner will be held on November 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Montgomery Inn. Julie Isphording will be the guest speaker. Ms. Isphording was an Olympic long-distance runner and is now involved with sports, charity events and the Turkey Trot.

Mrs. Harbison stated that the Arts Commission will be debuting Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Montgomery Park on September 1, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. She stated this is a free event.

Mrs. Harbison announced the dates for the Live at the Uni concert series will be October 8, October 22 and October 29. She stated that artists are being lined up.

Mrs. Harbison stated that the Holiday Concert will be held on December 9 and will feature Mandy Gaines.

Mrs. Harbison stated that the date for Bastille Day in 2019 will be July 13, 2019.

Mrs. Bissmeyer stated the Finance Committee met on Monday, August 20 with two representatives of the State Auditor's Office and received a glowing report regarding our audit. The Committee established authorization of three funds for the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA), one of which will serve as a fund to process the Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) money to go back to the schools.

Mr. Cappel stated that at the Public Works Committee meeting there was discussion regarding stormwater issues off Deerfield Road. The City is studying the issue.

Mr. Heitkamp said they have been contacted by several residents on Hunter's Knoll Court about a variety of storm drainage issues and are doing investigations to determine what some of the issues might be. All public storm systems were televised to make sure everything is in good repair, not clogged or blocked, and everything came back very good and functioning. He stated staff will look for opportunities to see how to address some of these issues. This may be more of a private property issue than public property improvements but that is to be determined.

Mr. Cappel stated that on Saturday, August 18, the monthly cardboard recycling was held at Public Works and was very well attended. The Boy Scouts were there to help with the collection.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that Thursday, August 16, Mrs. Harbison, Mr. Riblet and himself hosted the Community Roundtable with Sycamore Schools: Frank Forsthoefel; Blue Ash: David Walsh, Kelly Harrington and Mary Adamec; Sycamore Township: Greg Bigford and Trustee, Denny Conner. He stated they come together to share major events or new happenings. Mayor Dobrozsi shared that there was a major renovation of all the labs within the Sycamore High School. Increase in enrollment is minimal and appears to be steady. The Mayor reported to those in attendance the progress with our Diversity Initiative, our Branding and Imaging campaign, the Vintage Club and the GRA.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Chief Crowell and Mr. Riblet for going to Montgomery, New York on Saturday, September 8 to represent our City.

MINUTES

Mayor Dobrozsi requested a motion to approve the July 18, 2018 Work Session minutes and August 1, 2018 Business Session minutes as amended.

Mr. Margolis moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Application for an Economic Development (TREX) Transfer from Avalon Restaurant Group, LLC dba Toast & Berry.

Mr. Riblet stated that on June 18, 2018 the Planning Commission approved a new restaurant to go next to Stonecreek. He explained this application is an economic development transfer of a liquor license. He stated the applicant has met all the requirements and this is the first step to getting the liquor license. He explained we will need a motion to approve this step. It will then go to the State of Ohio and come back to City Council for City Council to determine if they want to hold a Public Hearing or not.

Mrs. Harbison asked if this would open the door for what Z 's has been wanting.

Ms. Roblero stated that it would not because that would require the entertainment district and we been holding off on creating that until the GRA is closer, because it is first come and first serve for those open liquor license.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked how many licenses we can get.

Mr. Donnellon stated that it would be one for every five acres in your district. A minimum of five, and a maximum of fifteen for the whole community. The debate has always been if we created a GRA district or Vintage club district. If we do that are we unfairly penalizing those in the central business district and do we create one large entertainment district for the whole community to open up fifteen more licenses. We have twelve now and if we open fifteen there could be some that could be grabbed but it may be the best approach to try to create the entertainment district. It requires an applicant who is a property owner to initiate it. It was more of an administrative issue and fee, which is why Z's declined to take the lead on that. It may be something we look at doing when we convert the GRA to be owned by the Montgomery Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) as a property owner and take the initiative on behalf of the City.

Mr. Cappel made a motion to file the application. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

MAYOR'S COURT REPORT

Mayor Dobrozsi reported that the total Mayor's Court collection for the month of July is \$16,015.

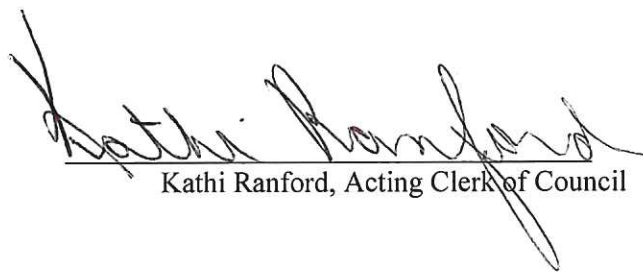
Mr. Cappel made a motion to accept the Mayor's Court report. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously accepted the collections.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was anything further to discuss. There being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

City Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Kathi Ranford, Acting Clerk of Council