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

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
/ Terry Donnellon, Law Director  
8 John Crowell, Police Chief  
9 Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director  
10 Tracy Roblero, Community Development Director  
11 Katie Smiddy, Finance Director  
12 Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director  
13 Paul Wright, Fire Chief  
14 Faith Lynch, Community Engagement Coordinator  
15 Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

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.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Council Member Margolis presented Kaye Gaffney with a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of her service on the Montgomery Historic Preservation Association (MHPA) as the Landmarks Ornament Project Coordinator.

City Council and staff expressed their appreciation to Ms. Gaffney for her dedication to the ornament program as well as the many volunteer hours she has given to the City as a past member of the Landmarks Commission and a current member of MHPA.

Vice Mayor Roesch presented Pamela McLaughlin with a Certificate of Appreciation as the winner of the 2018 Winter Seasons of Beauty Award. Members of the Beautification and Tree Commission, Jane Hohn and Shirley Freedman, were also in attendance to present Ms. McLaughlin with a framed photo of her home.

City Council thanked Ms. McLaughlin for their dedication in making her home and neighborhood a beautiful place to see in the City.

**GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Drive-Mr. Silverman explained to City Council that he attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on February 14, 2019. He stated that with the resignation of Pete Teitelman, there would be three openings of the seven on the Commission. He stated that at this meeting there were only four members of the Commission, so they were not able to conduct a meeting because of a lack of a quorum. He stated that he didn't understand how according to parliamentary procedure, when there were only four members, that they couldn't hold a meeting.

Mr. Donnellon stated that if there were four members of the seven present, that would constitute a quorum, and the meeting could be held.

Mr. Silverman stated the Commission expressed that they couldn't hold a meeting because there wasn't a quorum. He suggested that we speak with the staff member to make sure they understood there was enough in attendance to conduct a meeting.

58 Mayor Dobrozsi explained to Mr. Silverman that staff is actively working to fill the vacancies on that commission.

60 Mr. Silverman stated that the commission were told they couldn't conduct business, but he explained to the  
61 commission that they could hold the meeting because they had four members in attendance. He stated there was  
62 an individual in attendance that had attended three meetings and would be up for evaluation by the Parks and  
63 Recreation Committee of Council. His concern was that if five members were needed to have a quorum, this  
64 individual would need to be voted in or they couldn't conduct business. He stated that since Mr. Donnellon  
65 explained that there only needed to be four members to have a quorum, he thinks Mr. Donnellon can work with the  
66 City so the commission can continue to conduct business.

67

68 **ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR MARCH 6, 2019**

69

70 **New Legislation**

71

72 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Greve Chrysler Jeep Dodge for**  
73 **the Purchase of Three (3) 2019 Dodge Charger Sedans**

74

75 Chief Crowell explained that this Resolution, if approved, would authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract  
76 with Greve Chrysler Jeep Dodge for the purchase of three (3) 2019 Dodge Charger Sedans. He explained the  
77 purchase of three (3) police vehicles is part of a scheduled rotation program to replace older police vehicles in the  
78 Police Department's fleet. Funding for the vehicles is appropriated in the City's 2019 Police Department Operating  
79 and Capital Budget.

80

81 Mr. Margolis asked how the old cars would be disposed of.

82

83 Chief Crowell explained that a request to declare the old cars as surplus would be presented to the Government  
84 Affairs Committee and, if approved, would be listed an online auction site such as GovDeals.com.

85

86 Mr. Margolis asked if we typically stripped the cars before we sold them.

87

88 Chief Crowell stated that we have found that we receive more money for the vehicles if we leave all equipment,  
89 except for equipment specific to the City, on them.

90

91 **An Ordinance Accepting Dedicated Right-of-Way Along Kennedy Lane**

92

93 Mr. Donnellon explained that this Ordinance, if adopted, will accept a strip of land on the north edge of Kennedy  
94 Lane which was dedicated at the time the subdivision was platted many years ago, but was never accepted by the  
95 City. Acceptance of this property will allow the City to proceed with the sidewalk construction project along  
96 Kennedy Lane in cooperation with Sycamore Township.

97

98 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

99

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

101

- 102 • The City Council Business Session is scheduled for March 6 at 7:00 p.m.

103

104

- 105 • The Law and Safety, Financial Planning and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees will meet on  
106 Monday, March 4 at 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., respectively.

107

- 108 • The Government Affairs Committee will meet on Monday, March 11 at 4:30 p.m. The Parks and Recreation  
109 and Public Works Committees have cancelled their meetings for the month of March.

110

- 111 • Gary Heitkamp has received notice from Indian Hill of an upcoming Storm Drainage project on Weil Road  
112 beginning March 4 and lasting for approximately 8 weeks. Because of the required road closure, a detour  
113 route will include Hopewell, Montgomery and Weller Roads. Staff will be working to get this information  
114 out via our social media outlets.  
115
- 116 • Matthew and Faith have concluded all of the interviews for the 1999 tornado remembrance podcast. They  
117 met with Greg Leader, member of the Arts Commission, yesterday to start storyboarding the stories and  
118 episodes. The podcast is scheduled to be released on the morning of April 9. Greg will narrate the podcast.  
119 He has been an invaluable addition to the team.  
120
- 121 • On Tuesday, February 26, Tammy Bennett from the Curious Agency will be leading a training/workshop  
122 with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee on the topic of Implicit Bias from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in Council  
123 Chambers. This cultural competency program is designed to help participants enhance their cultural  
124 competencies, identify their personal biases and most importantly, provide de-biasing techniques to help  
125 improve intercultural relations. Thank you to our Public Works Department for handling the winter storms  
126 over the past two weekends.  
127
- 128 • An agreement with BAMSO was signed this week in the amount of \$27,500, for the term of March 1,  
129 2019 through February 28. The agreement includes the upcoming Spring Concert on March 10, the July 3  
130 Patriotic Concert and the Kindel Memorial Holiday Concert on December 1.  
131
- 132 • The first round of interviews for the assistant city manager position have been completed and a smaller  
133 number of candidates (six) are scheduled for second interviews in March.  
134
- 135 • A total of 27 qualified applications were received for the position of patrol officer. The Civil Service test  
136 for the position will be administered on March 2  
137
- 138 • A total of 101 applications for the customer service representative (City Hall front desk) position were  
139 received and will be reviewed later this week. An interview team has been assembled and telephone  
140 interviews will be conducted March 18 through 20.  
141
- 142 • MCLA Session 7, Parks Recreation and Public Works, takes place tomorrow at the Public Works Facility.  
143 Public Works staff are eagerly preparing a traditional “back yard” cookout for the class and are eager to  
144 share the great services they offer to the community.  
145
- 146 • The Hamilton County Planning Partnership will hold its next meeting on Friday, March 22 from 11:30-  
147 1:00 at the Blue Ash Cooper Creek Center.  
148
- 149 • The Hamilton County Municipal League Meeting will be held next Wednesday, February 27 beginning at  
150 6:00 p.m. at the Silverton Municipal Building. For both meetings please let Ms. Gaylor know if you  
151 would like to attend and she will reserve your spot for you.  
152

### **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

153 Mr. Donnellon reminded City Council that approximately a year and a half ago, the City joined a coalition with  
154 other cities in the State of Ohio to file suit contesting the State of Ohio forcing central collections through the Ohio  
155 Gateway online portal. He stated that the Court of Appeals recently ruled against municipalities, however, there is  
156 an expected appeal process to be filed with the Supreme Court. He stated that it would be prudent to expect that in  
157 the future we would need to adjust our Tax Ordinances.  
158  
159

### **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

161  
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163



164 **Mr. Margolis**

166 Mr. Margolis reported that he spent time at the Fire Department on February 15, riding along on emergency runs  
167 with the fire fighters. He remarked that it was a great experience and a great group of employees.  
168

169 Mr. Margolis reported that he attended a presentation made by the *Beyond Civility-Communication for Effective*  
170 *Governance* group. He stated the mission of the group is to find ways to diminish divisive communication in  
171 governance, and in the public arena, so that well-reasoned problem-solving can take place. He explained that the  
172 message of the discussion centered on how even when positions or beliefs are divided, useful conversations can still  
173 occur. Mr. Margolis stated the presentation was very informative and relevant in a time where social media has such  
174 a large presence in the world.  
175

176 **Mr. Suer**

177  
178 Mr. Suer concurred with Mr. Margolis's comments about the use of social media and how contentious it has become.  
179 He reported on the number of articles reporting on how much time children and young adults are spending on social  
180 media inhibits their abilities to interact personally with others.  
181

182 **Vice Mayor Roesch**

183  
184 Vice Mayor Roesch reported that the Beautification and Tree Commission will be sponsoring a Tree Academy in  
185 October of 2019 and again in April of 2021. She reported that the City will sponsor an annual Tree City Luncheon  
186 in April of 2021.  
187

188 Vice Mayor Roesch reported that the Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (BAMSO) Board will hold  
meetings on Sunday, February 24.  
189

191 **Mrs. Harbison**

192  
193 Mrs. Harbison reported that the Arts Commission voted to cancel the Spring Live at the Uni Concert Series due to  
194 lack of sponsorship. The Commission will now focus on the upcoming photo exhibit.  
195

196 Mrs. Harbison reported that the Sister Cities Commission held a Bastille Day planning meeting to begin planning  
197 the 2019 Bastille Day event.  
198

199 Mrs. Harbison stated that since this year will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bastille Day, the Commission has requested  
200 that a letter be sent to Neuilly-Plaisance to inquire about their participation in the event. Mayor Dobrozsi stated that  
201 he would work with staff prepare a letter.  
202

203 Mrs. Harbison reported that the Dinner Around the World event went well. She stated that feedback from those that  
204 attended the event reflected that February was a better month to hold it rather than October, as previously held.  
205

206 Mrs. Harbison stated that at the Government Affairs Committee meeting, they discussed the past community  
207 leadership forum and how to improve the format of the meeting in the future.  
208

209 Mrs. Harbison reported that at the Government Affairs Committee meeting the Committee discussed the naming of  
210 the Gateway Redevelopment Area (GRA). She stated that the Committee is recommending the name "Montgomery  
211 Quarter" for the GRA.  
212

213 Mr. Cappel made a motion to approve the naming of the GRA to Montgomery Quarter. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded.  
214 Council members Harbison, Margolis, Vice Mayor Roesch and Mayor Dobrozsi voted in favor of the name; Council  
215 Member Suer was opposed.  
216

217 **Mr. Cappel**

219 Mr. Cappel reported that the Environmental Advisory Commission held their monthly cardboard recycling event  
220 on Saturday, February 16.

221  
222 Mr. Cappel stated that he presented a Mayors Proclamation to Master Sergeant Gregory Boardman, Assistant  
223 Professor of Military Science at the University of Cincinnati, in recognition of his 17 years of active duty in the  
224 Army.

225  
226 Mr. Cappel reported that at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, staff discussed the following agenda  
227 items:

- 228 • Rental of the pool after hours and recent challenges with rentals. After discussion, the Committee made a  
229 motion to discontinue after hour pool rentals.
- 230 • Review of current rental rates for Terwilliger Lodge for both a resident and nonresident. Staff presented a  
231 rental comparison of similar lodges in the local area and recommended rates to be increased to cover  
232 increasing maintenance and cleaning costs.
- 233 • Recommendation to raise the cost of memorial gifts such as park benches, memorial trees in the parks, and  
234 engraved bricks to cover the cost of materials, shipping and installation. Mr. Cappel stated that the  
235 Committee made a motion to support raising the rates and fees as recommended by staff.
- 236 • Recommendation to discontinue the rental of Universalist Church in order to preserve the historic building.  
237 Mr. Cappel stated that the Committee made a motion to discontinue the rental of Universalist Church.

238  
239 **Mayor Dobrozi**

240  
241 Mayor Dobrozi presented a short video of an Ohio Kentucky Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments  
242 annual orientation conducted by Chief Executive Officer Mark Policinski. Mayor Dobrozi stated that he felt the  
243 video would provide a better understanding of what OKI does for the region and for local governments.

244  
245 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

246  
247 Mayor Dobrozi requested a motion to approve the January 6, 2019 Business Session minutes.

248  
249 Mr. Margolis moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

250  
251 **OTHER BUSINESS**

252  
253 Mayor Dobrozi stated that Council Members Cappel, Bissmeyer and himself were judging essay's for Boy Scout  
254 Troop #647's annual contest. The top three winners received discounts for summer camps.


255  
256 There was no other business to report.

257  
258 Mayor Dobrozi asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none, he asked  
259 for a motion to adjourn.

260  
261 Mr. Margolis moved to adjourn. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

262  
263 City Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council