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City of Montgomery  
City Council Business Session Minutes  
March 7, 2018

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Terry Donnellon, Law Director  
John Crowell, Police Chief  
Gary Heitkamp, Assistant 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

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 at 7:00 p.m. for the Business 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Kathy Lonneman was present to receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift in honor of her years of service on the Sister Cities Commission. Council Member Harbison read the certificate and presented Ms. Lonneman with her gifts.

City Council members thanked Ms. Lonneman for her many years of volunteerism to the Commission and for her countless hours of service in making Bastille Day the great event that it has become because of her collaborative efforts.

Tara Kressler, Senior Branch Manager at the Symmes Township Public Library provided an update to City Council regarding the Hamilton Council Public Library system, and more specifically the upcoming library levy placed on the May 8, 2018 ballot.

Ms. Kressler explained that in 2016, the Symmes Township Library ranked second in circulation within Hamilton County. She stated that libraries received the lowest in local funding from the State, which has been cut by 26% since 2000. She stated that the Hamilton County Library budget has not increased in 20 years. She stated that the operating budget for all Hamilton County libraries is 54 mill each year. She explained that seven of the County branches are now 100 years old and are in need of infrastructure improvements. She explained that the current levy is a 1-mill levy and the proposed levy would be a separate additional 1-mill levy that would cost homeowners about \$3 a month, based per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

City Council discussed their appreciation of the library and the need for the repairs and additional funding.

Ms. Kressler also explained that the additional funds would provide for enhanced social services by adding auditoriums, study rooms and the funds to bring in well-known lecturers.

Ms. Kressler noted that endorsements can be made online as well as support on social media and letters to the Editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer would also help to support this issue.

57 **GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

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59 Toni Lehmkuhl, 9853 Knollbrook Terrace-Ms. Lehmkuhl addressed City Council by explaining that she was a 43  
60 year resident in the city. She stated that she wished to speak with Council regarding three issues. The first was to  
61 give her support of the upcoming Fire Levy. She stated that she would like to see a presentation on the levy presented  
62 at some type of a public meeting.

63

64 Chief Wright stated that the Fire Levy Political Action Committee would be scheduling meetings to be held within  
65 the neighborhood associations and are waiting on the issuance of an issue number by the Hamilton County Board  
66 of Elections after which time yard signs will be printed and distributed. He also stated that a Neighborhood Leaders  
67 Forum scheduled for April 12, will feature a presentation by the Levy Committee.

68

69 Secondly, Ms. Lehmkuhl addressed her concerns about the tear down property at 7887 Mitchell Farm Lane. She  
70 stated that the builders have not been good custodians of the property. She stated that the home had a sliding door  
71 that was left open for two months. She stated once she called City staff that the issue was addressed by the builder.  
72 Since that time the house has been razed, but she feels that the builders must be held to a high standard during this  
73 process.

74

75 Lastly, she is concerned about the number of coyotes. She asked what the City is doing to address the situation. She  
76 stated that Blue Ash, Evendale and Indian Hills, all have formed task forces to address the issue. She stated that the  
77 City's website states that the City will not intervene and to contact 911 if there is a coyote that is being aggressive.  
78 She stated that if there is anything City Council could do, it would be appreciated. She noted that the numbers of  
79 coyotes seem to be increasing.

80

81 Mr. Riblet thanked Ms. Lehmkuhl for her comments. He encouraged her to attend the Neighborhood Leaders Forum  
82 and to look to schedule the Political Action Committee to visit her neighborhood to become better informed on the  
83 upcoming Fire Levy. He also explained that with the very wet winter weather it has been a challenge for the builders  
84 to keep their sites clean, but that staff will continue to monitor it. He stated that we appreciate residents call as staff  
85 cannot see every situation and it helps to have the extra eyes. Mr. Riblet addressed her concerns about the coyotes  
86 and explained that January through March is their mating season which will prompt the males to be more active. He  
87 stated that staff is also monitoring this based on the calls that are received. He stated that so far, the reports have  
88 only been sightings of coyotes. He noted that staff has been in contact with the Ohio Department of Natural  
89 Resources to monitor their reports and where the coyotes are traveling to.

90

91 Chief Crowell added that based on call logs there have been only six reported calls and all were in January, with no  
92 additional calls since then. All were reports of sightings only.

93

94 Mrs. Harbison added that it was important to consider that our neighboring townships have different policies  
95 regarding shooting on private property that we as a City cannot permit.

96

97 Mr. Margolis stated that the National Humane Society also offers strategies to deal with coyotes. He added that  
98 coyotes don't like to be around humans but that he understands residents are worried about their pets.

99

100 Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mrs. Lehmkuhl and the audience members for coming to City Council to share their  
101 concerns and to talk with staff on how the City is handling this issue.

102

103 **LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION TONIGHT**

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105 **Pending Legislation**

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107 An Ordinance Dedicating Real Property on Montgomery Road at the Safety Center for Public Use

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109 Mr. Margolis read the Ordinance by title only and moved for passage of the second reading. Mr. Cappel seconded.

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Mr. Margolis explained that information has been previously supplied on this Ordinance that, if approved, will authorize the dedication of real property on Montgomery Road at the Safety Center for public use. This Ordinance presented for first reading will dedicate land acquired by the City from Twin Lakes to a public use. This lot of approximately .40 acres lies immediately south of the Safety Center and is intended long-term to be incorporated into the Safety Center for parking or expansion of the building.

There were no updates.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Harbison, Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer, Margolis	(7)
NAY:	(0)
ABSENT:	(0)

A Resolution Approving a Contract for Employment for Brian K. Riblet, City Manager

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to add this legislation to the agenda.

Mr. Margolis moved to add the Resolution to the agenda. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Harbison moved to read the Resolution by title only. Mr. Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Harbison read the Resolution by title only and moved for passage. Mr. Cappel seconded.

Mrs. Harbison explained that a revised copy of this Resolution was at Council Members seats and is to correct an error on the original Resolution and Employment Contract included in the packet. She explained that, if approved, this Resolution will complete the process for the formal appointment of Brian K. Riblet as City Manager. This Resolution affirms the contract authorized by Resolution 4, 2018, which details Mr. Riblet's initial compensation and terms of employment.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

AYE: Bissmeyer, Harbison, Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer, Margolis, Cappel	(7)
NAY:	(0)
ABSENT:	(0)

New Legislation

An Ordinance to Amend Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of The City of Montgomery, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018

Mr. Suer moved to read the Ordinance by title only. Mr. Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Suer read the titled and moved for passage of the first reading. Mr. Cappel seconded.

Mr. Suer explained that, if approved, this Ordinance will amend the 2018 Annual Appropriation Ordinance to reflect changes in the initial budget requests as the result of an unforeseen grant received by the State of Ohio for police department training and for design services provided by Strand and Associates for various improvements as part of the reconstruction of the Ronald Reagan Highway and Montgomery Road Interchange. It is requested that the 2018 budget be amended in the amount of \$8,000 from the unappropriated Law Enforcement Assistance Fund to account 220.000.5300 Law Enforcement Assistance Fund-Training and \$735,632 from the unappropriated Downtown Improvement Fund to 480.000.5401 Downtown Improvement Fund-Special Projects.

165 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

166  
167 AYE: Harbison, Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer, Margolis, Cappel, Bissmeyer (7)  
168 NAY: (0)  
169 ABSENT: (0)  
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171 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

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173 Mr. Riblet gave the following report:

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- 175 • City Council Work Session is scheduled for March 21 at 7:00 p.m.
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  - 177 • The Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Public Works Committees have all cancelled their
  - 178 meetings for the month of March.
  - 179
  - 180 • The following meetings are requested to be scheduled:
  - 181
    - 182 ○ April 4- 6:00 p.m.- Public Hearing has already been scheduled for several items for consideration as
    - 183 recommended by the Planning Commission.
    - 184 ○ April 18-6:00 p.m.- Staff would like to request a public hearing prior to the City Council Work Session
    - 185 to consider the recommendation from the Planning Commission to rezone the property to 'C' Single
    - 186 and Two Family Residential with a PD Overlay.
    - 187 ○ May 2-6:00 and 6:15 Chair Updates followed by the Strategic Plan Update at 6:30 p.m.
    - 188 ○ May 23- Chair updates begin at 6:00 and last until 7:00pm
    - 189 ○ June 6- Chair updates begin at 6:00 p.m. and last until 7:00 pm.
  - 190
  - 191 • The Planning Commission met on Monday evening to consider two applications. The Planning
  - 192 Commission approved the first application for a new package for People's Bank which will be moving into
  - 193 the current American Savings Bank Location at 9813 Montgomery Road. The second application was from
  - 194 Robert Lucke Group for redevelopment of several single-family ranch homes from 10280 to 10320
  - 195 Montgomery Road between the Safety Center and Radabaugh Drive on the east side of Montgomery Road.
  - 196 The applicant is proposing rezoning the property to 'C' Single and Two Family Residential with a Planned
  - 197 Development Overlay. After much debate and consideration of the testimony provided at the public
  - 198 hearing, the Planning Commission recommended rezoning of the property to 'C' with a Planned
  - 199 Development Overlay by a 4-3 vote. The Planning Commission tabled consideration of the General
  - 200 Development Plan with the accompanying list of Conditions and Exceptions until their next meeting. Staff
  - 201 would like to request a public hearing on April 18 prior to the City Council Work Session at 6:00 p.m. to
  - 202 consider the recommendation from the Planning Commission to rezone the property to 'C' Single and Two
  - 203 Family Residential with a Planned Development Overlay.
  - 204
  - 205 • The Fire Levy Communications Team met on Monday to review the timeline of events and release of
  - 206 Bulletin articles. This team which comprises Matthew Vanderhorst, Katie Smiddy, Faith Lynch, Ben
  - 207 Shapiro, Paul Wright and myself is meeting every two weeks to review the FAQs and other items the City
  - 208 can release regarding the upcoming fire levy. The Fire Levy Action Committee is scheduled to meet for
  - 209 their second meeting on Monday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.
  - 210
  - 211 • Staff is optimistic that a Service Agreement for Vintage Club North Improvements could be signed by the
  - 212 end of this week. If we are successful in getting the Service Agreement signed we would ask the
  - 213 Development Team to attend the City Council Work Session on March 21 to provide an update and their
  - 214 approach to the development with City Council.
  - 215
  - 216 • Weather permitting, work to enhance the four corners at the intersection of Montgomery/Pfeifer/Radabaugh
  - 217 could begin. This work will include decorative retaining walls, brick paver areas, landscaping and lighting.
  - 218 This project stemmed from the Parks Master Plan several years ago and kept getting pushed back due to



- 216 projects at that intersection. This was discussed at the Public Works Committee of Council on March 13,  
217 2017.
- 218 • A contract was approved between the City and the Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra (BAMSO)  
219 in the amount of \$27,500. This contract commenced March 1 and will continue until February 28, 2019.  
220 This will account for the July 3 Patriotic Concert and two other concerts as determined by the City.
  - 221 • A contract was approved with Silco Fire & Security in the amount of \$12,045. This contract will cover fire  
222 and security monitoring for City facilities.
  - 223 • The first round of phone interviews for Construction and Compliance Inspector position is scheduled for  
224 March 16 and 19 with the ten external candidates. There are also three internal candidates for consideration.
  - 225 • One Patrol Officer candidate is currently through the post-offer screening stage and there are also four  
226 additional candidates scheduled for interviews on March 22.
  - 227 • The assessment center portion of the fire lieutenant examination process is scheduled for March 8 and 9 at  
228 City Hall. Four candidates (one full-time and three part-time FD employees) will be participating in the  
229 process. Currently there are no open fire lieutenant positions but retirements are anticipated later this year.
  - 230 • Collective Bargaining sessions between the City and the IAFF are scheduled for March 14 and 15.
  - 231 • The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy will meet this Saturday, March 10, at 8:00 a.m. for the  
232 "History and Development...the Art of Co-existence" session at Fellowship Baptist Church. Tracy Roblero  
233 will lead the class through a brief history of Montgomery, with assistance from former Mayor Gary  
234 Blomberg. Frank Davis will round out the team and lead one of three groups on the walking tour. This is  
235 the last session before the March 15 graduation.

236 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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238 Mr. Margolis moved to approve the February 21, 2018 Work Session as written. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council  
239 unanimously agreed.

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241 **MAYOR'S COURT**

242  
243 Mayor Dobrozsi reported that the total Mayor's Court collections for the month of February 2018 were \$13,875.

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245 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the Mayor's Court collections for the month of February 2018. Mrs. Bissmeyer  
246 seconded. City Council unanimously accepted the collections.


247  
248 **OTHER BUSINESS**

249  
250 Mr. Suer moved to reappoint Larry Schwartz to the Landmarks Commission with a term expiring 1/31/2021. Mr.  
251 Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

252  
253 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none, he asked  
254 for a motion to adjourn.

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

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258 City Council adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council