

City of Montgomery
Government Affairs Committee Minutes
May 11, 2020

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director
John Crowell, Police Chief
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director

City Council Committee Members Present

Gerri Harbison, Chair
Craig Margolis
Lynda Roesch

The Government Affairs Committee of Council convened its meeting for May 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. by telephone conference with Mrs. Harbison presiding. This remote access meeting was allowed by emergency legislation adopted last week 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.

Surplus Property Disposal (Police Department)

Chief Crowell explained to the Committee that the submitted list of firearms and equipment are requested to be declared surplus. He explained that the firearms were obtained either through departmental purchase, donation, or criminal seizure.

Chief Crowell stated that the majority of the firearms would be traded to a Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder to offset the cost of purchasing replacement weapons, holsters, and training ammunition. He stated that most of listed firearms were purchased in 2010 and are currently scheduled for replacement in 2020. These are typically traded into the FFL and then purchased back from the FFL holder by individual officers, who wish to purchase the firearm that they carried while working for the City. He added that some of the listed firearms are earmarked for destruction due to their limited value and are typically obtained through criminal arrest or through donation by individuals wishing to dispose of the firearm.

Chief Crowell explained the firearms safe, was purchased in 1999 and is scheduled for replacement in 2020 and is in poor condition. He stated that the department has required the services of a locksmith on several occasions to work on the safe.

Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to declare the submitted list of firearms and equipment as surplus, to be disposed of as specified by Chief Crowell. Ms. Roesch seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Surplus Property Disposal (Public Works)

Mr. Heitkamp explained to the Committee that the Public Works Department is requesting that a 2007 Vermeer BC 1000 XL Brush Chipper be declared as surplus and approve the trade in of the item on a new 2020 Vermeer 135 HP Gasoline Brush Chipper. He stated that this item, upon being declared surplus, will be traded-in for a fair value of \$10,000 to be applied towards the purchase of a new brush chipper from Vermeer Equipment which is included in the 410-709-5405 2020 Capital Budget. The total cost of the new chipper is \$48,113.83. Pending approval of the surplus and trade in, the final cost to the City would be \$38,113.83. This is under the \$40,000 budgeted for this item.

Vice Mayor Margolis asked if 13 years was the typical life of a chipper.

Mr. Heitkamp replied that typically it is about 10 years, but that staff has been able to extend the life of the equipment through proper maintenance.

Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to declare the 2007 Vermeer BC 1000 XL Brush Chipper as surplus and approve the trade in of the item on a new 2020 Vermeer 135 HP Gasoline Brush Chipper. Ms. Roesch seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Service to the Community Grant Recommendation

Mr. Vanderhorst explained that for this years' Service to the Community Grant three applications were received from the following organizations: Operation Give Back, Montgomery Farmers' Market, and Sidestreams Foundation. Mr. Vanderhorst explained that Sidestreams Foundation is a new applicant this year who provides education and materials for residents to raise chickens on their property. Mr. Vanderhorst stated that the Grant Team vetted all applications but felt that in light of the Covid crisis the community would benefit the most from supporting the Montgomery Farmers Market. He stated that Operation Give Back did indicate on their application that they largely serve the residents of the Olde Montgomery Apartment complex which is not in the city and they also received funding in 2019.

Mr. Vanderhorst stated that Staff recommends funding for the Montgomery Farmers' Market at \$2,000 which is a reduced amount in an effort to support them as well as observe cautious spending with City funds during this time.

Ms. Roesch stated that she felt that made good sense and supported the recommendation.

Vice Mayor Margolis stated he felt that was a good analysis of the applications and felt that residents are showing great support to the market in an effort to keep it.

Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to support staff's recommendation of awarding the Montgomery Farmer's Market with \$2,000 in grant funding. Ms. Roesch seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Other Business

July 3rd Concert

Ms. Roesch updated the Committee on details of a meeting with BAMSO regarding the July 3 Concert. She explained that the discussion pertained to offering a virtual concert that could be livestreamed and broadcasted to the Community. She explained that Percussionist Danny Franks has livestream software available to him and St. Paul of Madeira has offered to use their building. She explained that they discussed issues with the union, music licensing, and what platform to utilize for the live performance.

Mr. Vanderhorst explained that for the City the best platform would probably be Facebook Live. He stated that if Ms. Roesch would send him contact information, he could work with Mr. Franks or the appropriate person to discuss and facilitate how to broadcast the performance.

Ms. Roesch explained that being sensitive to social distancing restrictions, the performance would be performed in segments featuring a limited number of strings, brass, and percussionist on stage at one time. She stated that they would need to meet at the Church in order to determine spacing and logistics of broadcasting the performance on the stage.

Ms. Roesch noted that if recorded interviews with area Veterans could be conducted those could be used to stream during intermission time of musicians resetting for another performance. She added that is not a viable option that we could possibly obtain a picture and personal history of them that could be displayed and read.

Ms. Roesch stated that they discussed a "drive-in" style concert, but the group agreed that there was a space limitation for cars at any of the locations they could use. She stated that Mr. Franks did have a concern with the durability of the broadband at St. Paul failing to support the broadcast.

Ms. Roesch stated that they discussed the time of the broadcast and asked the Committee and staff for their feedback.

Mrs. Harbison thanked Ms. Roesch for working so hard to find an alternative for this performance that is a historical part of the July 4 holiday for the community. Mrs. Harbison stated she felt the performance should be held at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. which falls in line with past performances and allows people who are working to get home and settled in time to watch the performance.

Mr. Riblet stated that he thought 7:00 p.m. would be preferable and also thanked Ms. Roesch for taking on this issue.

Vice Mayor Margolis thanked Ms. Roesch for her efforts in trying to preserve this important community event.

Ms. Roesch stated that she would definitely like to see some form of recognition to honor veterans. She added that Michael Keen wrote an original hymn to honor First Responders that would be nice to add.

Ms. Roesch asked if Julie Machon or Sarah Fink could reach out to Mary Jo Byrnes regarding area

veterans to research doing interviews or obtaining pictures and information for readings. Ms. Roesch added that health care workers could also be honored from Twin Lakes, Meadowbrook, or CareCorp of Montgomery.

Mr. Riblet replied that he would follow up with Ms. Machon to ask her to reach out to Ms. Byrnes.

Recreation Programs and Events Update

Mr. Riblet explained that along with Tracy Roblero, Matthew Vanderhorst, and Gary Heitkamp met with Julie Machon and Sarah Fink to review all upcoming classes, activities, pool operations and City events. He stated that they are taking a systematic approach of meeting every week to determine how to move forward with all of these functions. He stated that he anticipates that by June 1 having a better idea of how to handle the July 4 parade and Bastille Day. He stated that Ms. Fink sent out a survey to the past participants of the parade, including Commission, to see if they would be interested in participating in the parade even if in a modified manner.

Other Updates

Mr. Riblet explained to the Committee that usually at this time of the year the Boards and Commissions would be presenting their yearly updates to City Council. He stated that in light of the situation that it may not be feasible to hold these in-person updates without the majority of the year passing and the updates seeming untimely at that point. He recommended to the Committee that the Boards and Commission Chairs be permitted to provide written summaries of their activities from 2019 to Ms. Gaylor to compile and send out to Council.

The Committee was agreeable to Mr. Riblet's recommendation. Ms. Gaylor will reach out the to Boards and Commission to coordinate the updates.

Mr. Riblet discussed the following recognition efforts:

- This week is National Police Week, however all safety services (Fire and Police) will be recognized on National First Responders Day in October.
- The week of May 17 is National Public Works Week and staff would like to move forward with recognition for the Public Works Department as Jim Stewart is retiring the end of May. He explained that this year's recognition will be held as a luncheon as compared to previous years breakfast celebrations in order to address scheduling issues. He stated that staff would exercise social distancing with the setup of the buffet line and seating to ensure safety to the staff. He added that Jim Stewart would be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation at the luncheon.
- Staff is working on recognition efforts for the City's Rumpke drivers for the trash, recycling, and yard waste collections. He stated that these drivers have provided exemplary service during an unprecedented time of additional waste due to the stay at home restrictions for residents. He stated that he anticipates using donated funds to purchase restaurant gift cards and thank you cards for each person to be sent to them through the City's Rumpke Government representative.

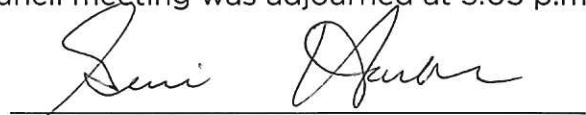
Mrs. Harbison stated that she was 100% in favor of this as she has seen the increase in items in trash, recycling, and yard waste throughout the city.

Minutes

Vice Mayor Margolis moved to accept the March 9, 2020 Government Affairs Committee minutes. Ms. Roesch seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Adjournment

Vice Mayor Margolis moved for adjournment. Ms. Roesch seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed. The Governmental Affairs Committee of Council meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.


Chair