

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
June 23, 2021

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.
John Crowell, Police Chief
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Katie Smiddy, Finance Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Dir.
Amy Frederick, Community and Engagement Coordinator
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Mayor
Craig Margolis, Vice Mayor
Lee Ann Bissmeyer
Mike Cappel
Ron Messer
Lynda Roesch
Ken Suer

City Council convened its Work Session for June 23, 2021 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

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to dispense with the roll call as all Council members were present.

Vice Mayor Margolis made the motion. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mayor Dobrozsi welcomed Tim Mettey, son of Reverend Wendell Mettey founder of Matthew:25 Ministries, along with Mr. Mettey's wife, grandchildren and Matthew 25 volunteers to the meeting to accept a proclamation and plaque with a Key to the City on behalf of Reverend Mettey.

Mayor Dobrozsi read the proclamation.

Mr. Messer stated that he was honored to present a plaque with a key to the city to Mr. Mettey as he has been a volunteer at Matthew 25 for the last 10 years. He stated that he thought it amazing the amount of courage and strength it took to start an organization such as Matthew 25 and that the community is truly blessed by the love that has been shown by the Mettey's and the organization.

Mayor Dobrozsi and Council Member Messer presented Mr. Tim Mettey with the proclamation and the plaque.

City Council and staff thanked Reverend Mettey, his family and staff for the amazing things they have accomplished and continue to do for the community and the world.

Mr. Tim Mettey thanked City Council for the great honor shown to his father by his hometown. He stated that his mother and father have lived in Montgomery for 40 years. He explained that his father moved here to become the pastor at the Montgomery Community Baptist Church. He stated that it was during a mission trip that he felt the calling to do something bigger. He stated it was all about helping just one person. Mr. Mettey thanked his mother, present in the audience, for her great support to his fathers' vision. He added that Matthew 25 would not have gotten off the ground without both their dedication and determination.

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.

LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING

There was no legislation for consideration at the meeting.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR JULY 7, 2021 BUSINESS SESSION

TABLED LEGISLATION

An Ordinance Agreeing to Adjust the Boundaries Between the City of Montgomery, Ohio And the City of The Village of Indian Hill, Ohio Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 709.37

Mayor Dobrozsi explained that this Ordinance has been tabled since the April 21 Work Session and asked Mr. Donnellon for an update.

Mr. Donnellon stated that there has been no progress at this time and recommended leaving on the table until there has been action taken or we recommend removing from the table or agenda.

PENDING LEGISLATION

There is no pending legislation on this agenda.

NEW LEGISLATION

A Resolution Adopting A Tax Budget For 2022

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that as Ms. Smiddy had just presented the 2022 Tax Budget at the previously held Public Hearing there were no updates to be given.

A Resolution Authorizing Internet Auction of Surplus Personal Property Through Govdeals.com

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mr. Messer.

Police Chief Crowell explained that this is an annual piece of legislation that, if approved, will designate GovDeals.com as internet auction agents for the disposal of surplus property for the period of August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022. He explained that Ohio law authorizes the City to dispose of surplus and abandoned personal property through internet auction. Section 50.02 of the Code of Ordinances sets forth a procedure for the sale and disposition of lost, abandoned, stolen, seized, or forfeited property ("Surplus Property") through internet auction agents. This Resolution will also authorize the City Manager to enter into appropriate contracts with GovDeals.com.

Mrs. Bissmeyer asked if there were smaller items if they could be donated to Matthew:25 Ministries.

Chief Crowell replied that any items that are determined to be of diminutive value do not have to go to auction and can be donated.

Mr. Donnellon added that the City has the right to donate nominal items to charity that serves the Montgomery community.

Mr. Suer added that using GovDeals.com has worked well for many years to dispose of surplus items and often these items go to communities who cannot afford them.

A Resolution Designating Records Managers And Training Designees For Public Officials In The City Of Montgomery

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mr. Messer.

Mr. Donnellon explained that, if approved, this Resolution would designate records managers and training designees for Public Officials for the City of Montgomery. This Resolution will designate the Clerk of Council, Connie Gaylor and alternately Finance Specialist Derek Morgan, as designated representatives of City Council to attend Ohio public records training and to serve as Records Managers for the City. Ohio law requires all public officials to either attend the training or to designate a person to attend on their behalf.

A Resolution Formally Adopting And Reaffirming Internal Control Policies Concerning The Local Law Enforcement Trust Fund And The Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

Ms. Smiddy explained that, if approved, this Resolution will formally ratify and approve the Internal Control Policies for the Law Enforcement Trust Funds managed by the City. She stated that these accounts receive funds from various forfeitures including federal forfeitures in cooperation with the Department of Justice. The management and use of these funds are controlled by the State and Federal programs, particularly the program for Equitable Sharing. This legislation formalizes those internal policies.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- The next City Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, July 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Law and Safety, Financial Planning, and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees have cancelled their meetings for July.
- The need for Council Committee meetings for Tuesday, July 12 will be updated at the July 7 Business Session.
- Gary Heitkamp reports that John R. Jurgensen (JRJ) continues to make great progress on the roundabout project as splitter islands, concrete sidewalk, streetlights and roadway pavement are being installed. The evening of Friday, June 25 into the morning of Saturday, June 26, the entire intersection will be closed from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. in order for JRJ to perform the "Phase 5" traffic switch. Message boards have been added informing the public of the scheduled temporary closure. Detour signage will be installed on I-71, Cross County, and Montgomery Road directing traffic around the closure.

- Indian Hill's contractor, JNT Excavating, began construction of the water main replacement in the Heritage District on Monday, June 21. They began work on Main Street south of Cooper Road and on Cooper Road between Montgomery Road and Main Street. Traffic is currently being maintained on Main Street in one direction (one-way north) during working hours, and Cooper Road will be closed between Montgomery and Main at times during the workday. Traffic will be detoured up to Remington Road when Cooper is closed.
- Tracy, Katie and he have been working with applicants on the second round of Montgomery Business Relief grants to ensure they meet the requirements established by the CDBG. The deadline is Friday, June 25 at noon, and we anticipate being at or near capacity for the grant dollars available.
- The City of Montgomery recently partnered with Cincinnati Bell to provide Smart City services and free public Wi-Fi at various places within the city. The collected data will help the City learn about foot traffic patterns (Days, times, locations, etc.) and other visitor demographics.

The service is currently active at:

- Dulle Park
- Swaim Park
- the corner of Remington Rd. and Montgomery Rd.

Outdoor access points will be installed near Montgomery Inn and Village Tavern by the end of this week. Two other public Wi-Fi access points will be installed in the Heritage District area and future expansion is planned for the Shelly Ln. parking lot and Montgomery Quarter.

- The BAMSO concert is scheduled for next Friday, July 2 in Montgomery Park beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- The July 4th Parade and festival is scheduled for Saturday, July 3 beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- City offices will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
- Save the Date- The 2021 TWP Celebration will be held on Friday, August 13 from 11-2 in Montgomery Park. Please mark your calendars to attend and help us celebrate a "3-Peat" win of the Top Workplace honor.
- Ms. Smiddy shared an award that was presented to the City from MVRMA (Miami Valley Risk Management Association). She stated that the 2020 Standard of Excellence Award presented to the Public Works Department for having zero losses for three years in a row. She stated that the department would be recognized with a breakfast or a lunch for this achievement.
- A ribbon cutting is anticipated in mid to late August for the completion of the roundabout construction. Mr. Riblet will provide options to secure a date for the ceremony.

Mr. Riblet wished Chief Crowell a Happy Birthday from his June 10th birthday.

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Donnellon stated he had no report but congratulated staff on being selected as a Top Workplace for the third year in a row.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Cappel

Mr. Cappel reported that the monthly cardboard recycling was held on June 19 and was well attended.

Mrs. Bissmeyer

No report.

Mr. Suer

No report.

Ms. Roesch

Ms. Roesch reported the following items:

- The Beautification and Tree Commission have selected the Spring Seasons of Beauty Winners and will present their Certificate of Appreciation at the July 21 Work Session.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee met and discussed pickleball courts. She stated there are four courts at Dulle Park, two permanent courts at Swaim Park and two courts will be converted at Weller Park.
- A meeting was held with staff and the Director of BAMSO for the final walk through of the July 2 Independence Day concert.
- Carol Gorley announced that she was stepping down as the Executive Director of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce on July 9.

Mr. Messer

Mr. Messer reported on the following items discussed at the June Government Affairs Committee meeting:

- Energy Aggregation was discussed at the request of a resident. Mr. Messer defined energy aggregation in its' simplest form is when a group or organization, in this case the City of Montgomery, brings a group of customers together to form a large buying group that has the potential to get better electric rate terms than can be realized on an individual basis. He stated that the Committee discussed the pros and cons of the "opt-in" or "opt-out" details. He stated that the "opt-out" program would have to go before the voters and an application filed by August 4 to go on the ballot. He stated that Mr. Riblet checked with other communities who provided little tangible benefits for supporting a ballot initiative for energy aggregation. Mr. Messer asked Mr. Riblet to expand upon his findings.

Mr. Riblet explained that in the early 2000's the rate differential between Duke Energy rates and aggregate rates were much more significant than they are today making it a less attractive option, however, residents like the jurisdiction doing the research for them. He stated that there were

communities that say its ok but are not seeing large savings and in fact some rates end up being higher than Duke Energy rates. He added that staff can monitor the rates and always revisit it in the future.

Mr. Suer shared that there was a conversation about energy aggregation in prior years in which conditions were different but now residents can do the research and chose their own energy provider on their own. He stated that he liked that option rather than the residents being automatically placed in a program and having to "opt-out". He stated that it is simple to switch providers and that he felt the Committee made the right decision.

- There will be an unveiling of a rendering for the Gerri Harbison Memorial project at the July 3 Festival. She added that the goal was to unveil the statute at the July 4th Festival in 2022.

Mr. Riblet added that Mr. Tsuchiya met with staff and provided a draft rendering of the statute. He quickly on-site made changes that brought the rendering closer to staff and Mr. Harbison's vision. Mr. Riblet added that a private fundraising committee was assembled with six to seven non-staff members being recruited. He stated there would be a kickoff meeting held later in the week.

- The City Council staff appreciation luncheon will be held on July 30 at Terwilliger Lodge.

Vice Mayor Margolis

Vice Mayor Margolis wished to thank Carol Gorley for doing a wonderful job at the Chamber. He stated that she brought new life and imagination to the Chamber.

Vice Mayor Margolis stated that regarding the aggregation issue that he felt the City could partner with residents the educate them on energy aggregation without telling them who to buy from.

Mayor Dobrozsi

Mayor Dobrozsi reported that he and Mr. Riblet participated in a virtual meeting with the Hamilton County Commissioners and provided an update on the City. He stated their presentation was well received with approximately 30 people participating in the meeting.

MINUTES

Mr. Cappel made moved to approve the June 2, Business Session minutes as written. Vice Mayor Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

MAYORS COURT REPORT

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to accept and dispense the May Mayors Court Collections in the amount of \$6,855.

Mr. Cappel made the motion. Vice Mayor Margolis seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

GUESTS AND RESIDENTS

Mayor Dobrozsi asked visitors at City Hall if they would like to speak.

Alex Elias, 9770 Zig Zag Road- Mayor Dobrozsi introduced Alex as a member of a local Scout Troop who had met with the Mayor along with his troop to earn their citizenship badges. Alex asked Mayor Dobrozsi how the mayor gets elected.

Mayor Dobrozsi explained the process of Council elections and then how the Mayor and Vice Mayor positions are chosen among Council members.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated as there were no other Guests or Residents in City Hall he asked if there were guests and/or residents on the phone line who would like to speak. He asked for them to state their name and address and to adhere to the three-minute speaking rule. There was no response.

There being no response he closed the floor to public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

City Council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Connie Gaylor", is written over a horizontal line.

Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council