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City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
March 24, 2021

5 Present

6 Brian Riblet, City Manager
7 Terry Donnellon, Law Director
8 Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.
9 John Crowell, Police Chief
10 Katie Smiddy, Finance Director
11 Paul Wright, Fire Chief
12 Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Dir.
13 Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

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

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City Council convened its Work Session for March 24, 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.

24 **ROLL CALL**

25
26 The roll was called, and all Council Members answered as present either in person or on the phone line.

27
28 **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

29
30 Officer Rich Riley was present to be honored for his heroic actions on January 9, 2021 in saving the life of Mary Thress.

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32
33 Mayor Dobrozsi presented Officer Riley with a proclamation noting the extraordinary events on the evening of January 9, 2021 leading up to the rescue of Mary Thress from her burning car by Officer Riley.

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35
36 City Manager Brian Riblet presented Officer Riley with a plaque holding a Key to the City. Mr. Riblet praised Officer Riley for his heroic actions and his positivity and selfless outlook.

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38
39 Police Chief John Crowell presented Office Riley with the Montgomery Police Department Valor Award. Chief Crowell thanked Officer Riley for his professionalism and concern for not only Ms. Thress but the community as well.

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42
43 Stiney Vonderhaar of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge #74 presented Officer Riley with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Vonderhaar recalled his experience in working with Officer Riley and thanked him for his service as a police officer.

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46
47 Mary Thress gave an emotional thanks to Officer Riley for his actions in saving her life. She stated that without his actions of tracking her vehicle and responding to the call, she would not be at the meeting that night. She stated to Officer Riley that she would honor his actions by paying forward his selflessness and kindness to others.

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51 City Council and staff extended their thanks to Officer Riley with thoughts of gratitude, pride and appreciation for his service that night and every day that he serves the residents of Montgomery.

52
53
54 Mrs. Riley thanked the City, specifically Assistant Chief Vonden Benken and Sergeant Davenport for contacting her, visiting the hospital, and for their continued follow up on Officer Riley's condition. She jokingly thanked them for making Rich stay off work for the two weeks as he wanted to come back to work the next day, discounting his injuries.

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58 Officer Riley humbly thanked everyone for all their comments and love. He thanked all the family, friends, and
59 coworkers for attending the meeting to share in this special recognition for him.

60
61 Mayor Dobrozsi stated that Council would be taking a short recess. Council went into recess at 7:31 pm.

62
63 Mayor Dobrozsi called the meeting back to out at 7:51 p.m.

64
65 **GUESTS & RESIDENTS**

66
67 Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to move the Guests and Residents portion of the agenda to the end of the agenda
68 after Other Business.

69
70 Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to move the Guests and Resident portion to after Other Business on the agenda.
71 Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

72
73 **LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING**

74
75 There was no legislation for consideration at the meeting.

76
77 **ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR APRIL 7, 2021 BUSINESS SESSION**

78
79 **PENDING LEGISLATION**

80
81 **An Ordinance Designating the Wooley-Hattersley Carriage House as A Montgomery Landmark**

82
83 Mayor Dobrozsi explained that this was the second reading of this Ordinance and asked if there were any
84 updates.

85
86 Ms. Henaio replied there were none.

87
88 **An Ordinance Agreeing to Adjust the Boundaries Between the City of Montgomery, Ohio And the City**
89 **of The Village of Indian Hill, Ohio Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 709.37**

90
91 Mayor Dobrozsi explained that this was the second reading of this Ordinance and asked Mr. Donnellon if there
92 were any updates.

93
94 Mr. Donnellon stated that there was an update regarding the Sycamore School and Indian Hill Exempted
95 School tax designation. He explained that the homeowners reached out to the Hamilton County Auditors
96 Office and were told that since the boundary was being adjusted between the Sycamore School District and
97 the Indian Hill School District, that both the School Districts and the Ohio Board of Education would be
98 required to consent. Mr. Donnellon stated that he explained to the homeowners that the legislation would be
99 moved forward to April but if they change their mind and need to stall it to let him know. He suggested that
100 we could, along with Indian Hill, pass legislation contingent upon passage of the required consent by the school
101 districts. He suggested to the homeowners to reach out to Beth Weber of Sycamore Schools and her counterpart
102 at Indian Hill to gain their consent. He stated that we should leave the legislation on the agenda until we hear
103 further and then consider if we need to amend the legislation with contingency language.

104
105 **An Ordinance Authorizing the Law Director to Initiate Proceedings to Appropriate Property for The**
106 **Purpose of a Road Improvement Project on Montgomery Road in The City of Montgomery, Hamilton**
107 **County, Ohio**

108

109 Mayor Dobrozsi explained that this was the second reading of the Ordinance and asked if there were any
110 updates.

111
112 Mr. Donnellon stated there were none.

113
114 **NEW LEGISLATION**

115
116 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into A Contract with Jake Sweeney Chrysler Jeep**
117 **Dodge Ram for The Purchase of Three (3) 2021 Dodge Charger Sedans**

118
119 Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mrs. Bissmeyer.

120
121 Police Chief Crowell explained that, if approved, this Resolution would authorize the City Manager to enter into a
122 contract with Jake Sweeney Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram for the purchase of three (3) 2021 Dodge Charger Sedans.
123 The purchase of three (3) police vehicles is part of a scheduled rotation program to replace older police vehicles in
124 the Police Department's fleet. Funding for the vehicles is appropriated in the City's 2021 Police Department
125 Operating and Capital Budget. Chief Crowell explained that normally the cruisers were purchased through the State
126 of Ohio Cooperative Bid program but through obtaining quotes this dealership came in lower and were local. He
127 explained this purchase followed the department's program of replacing three vehicles one year and one vehicle the
128 following.

129
130 Mrs. Bissmeyer asked if we would go out of state for purchasing cruisers as we have done in the past with the
131 Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program for fire equipment.

132
133 Chief Crowell stated that we normally don't for cruisers as we will often use the same dealership for service as well.

134
135 Mr. Suer asked Mr. Riblet to provide a update on the fleet analysis being conducting.

136
137 Mr. Riblet explained that staff has been researching a fleet analysis for some time and are working with a local
138 entity that deals with fleet management. He stated that the police fleet has a higher turn-over rate than the other
139 departments due to their mileage. He stated that the goal is to sell the vehicles while we still obtain a good return
140 on investments. He stated the focus of the fleet assessment has primarily been on the Public Works vehicles as we
141 tend to hold onto them much longer. He stated that the assessment should be completed within the next couple of
142 months and will be brought to the Financial Planning Committee for discussion.

143
144 Mr. Suer stated that he is interested to see what strategies the fleet study would present.

145
146 Mr. Messer asked how many cruisers the Police Department had.

147
148 Chief Crowell stated that he thought it was 10 marked and 5 unmarked vehicles.

149 Vice Mayor Margolis stated that he agreed with trying to buy local.

150
151 Mayor Dobrozsi stated that he was amazed three vehicles could be purchased for \$76,000.

152
153 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

154
155 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- 156
- 157 • The next City Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7.
 - 158
 - 159 • Mr. Riblet reminded City Council that Council Member Roesch has requested a Special Session prior to
 - 160 the City Council Business Session on April 7 beginning at 5:30 p.m.
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- A reminder that there is also a Public Hearing scheduled for April 7 at 6:30 to consider a request for the expansion of a conditional use and a General Development Plan with an equivalency for Sycamore High School. There was no motion to roll into the Business Session.
 - The Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees will meet on April 5 at 4:30 p.m. The Law and Safety, and Financial Planning Committees have cancelled their meetings for April.
 - Mr. Riblet stated that the Government Affairs Committee will meet on Monday, April 12 at 4:30 p.m. The Parks and Recreation and Public Works Committees have cancelled their meetings for April.
 - The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the expansion of a conditional use and General Development Site Plan approval for Columbia Chevrolet at their meeting on March 15. Staff would like to request a public hearing to consider the recommendation prior to the April 21 Work Session at 6:30 p.m.
- City Council approved the meeting. Vice Mayor Margolis motioned to commence with the Work Session at the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.
- Staff is working to schedule the Volunteer Walk of Fame Ceremony on May 19. As you recall, this ceremony was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. We would like to hold the ceremony just prior to the May 19 Work Session and hold it in Montgomery Park for added safety. There are 7 individuals that qualify to be inducted. Staff is reaching out to those who will be honored to confirm who can attend. Based on this feedback, staff will follow up with a recommended time at the next meeting.
 - The Fire Department placed a new Medic Chase Car in service this week. The new car is a Ford Explorer that's primary function is to provide a third paramedic to certain EMS responses.
 - On Thursday, March 25, a representative from the Hamilton County Health Department will be meeting with Chief Wright and Assistant Chief Shapiro at Montgomery Assembly of God to potentially coordinate a vaccination POD (Point of Distribution) for residents of Montgomery. The church has long been identified as a POD by the City and Health Department. If it looks feasible it is hoped to have a vaccination date sometime in the next three weeks. Vaccinations would be given by appointment only and it is unknown at this time how many doses could be expected.
 - On Wednesday, March 24, Chief Wright, Chief Crowell and Mr. Riblet met with Mr. Thomas of Indian Hill and he indicated that the Thomas Comprehensive Care Center has been open for just over a year and they have provided services to over 125,000 patients.
 - The Resident Survey is off to a good start as over 500 responses have been received in just over a week. The survey is scheduled to remain open through April 5, with additional reminders being sent out.
 - Terry Donnellon has offered to dust off his smoker and host a Barbecue on Friday, April 30 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
 - Staff is working on scheduling volunteers for Beautification Day, Saturday, May 15. City Council normally sponsors the beds in front of City Hall and the Annex. If you are able to participate that day could you let Ms. Gaylor know.

213 **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

214

215 **Mr. Cappel**

216

217 Mr. Cappel reported that cardboard recycling on March 20 went very well with multiple recyclable items collected
218 that the Environmental Advisory Commission members were handling the disposable of.

219

220 **Mrs. Bissmeyer**

221

222 Mrs. Bissmeyer reported that she attended a Sycamore Advisory Board meeting where they discussed the handling
223 of the pandemic looking into the new 2021-2022 school year. They also discussed the Superintendent search and
224 announced that they had reached the threshold of private donations to install the new football stadium at the High
225 School.

226

227 Mrs. Bissmeyer asked to be excused from the May 19 meeting to attend her son's graduation.

228

229 **Mr. Messer**

230

231 Mr. Messer reported that the Government Affairs Committee met and discussed the following items:

232

- 233 • Surplus of a van from Public Works and a printer from the Finance Department were approved for sale.
- 234 • 2021 Pool Season- the discussion entailed a recap of the 2020 season and the deficit of \$40,000 as well as
235 recommendations from Julie Machon, Recreation Director for the 2021 season. Those recommendations
236 are as follows:
 - 237 ○ Increase capacity of the pool
 - 238 ○ Sell packaged items at the front desk
 - 239 ○ Allow non-residents to attend the pool, with restrictions
 - 240 ○ Change time blocks on the weekends
 - 241 ○ End Pool Season on August 21, with Dog Swim on August 22
- 242 • Strategic Planning-An update of the process was presented by staff. The Resident Survey questions were
243 discussed. Mr. Messer added that while he has received and taken his survey, that some of his neighbors
244 had stated that they had not received theirs.

245

246 Mr. Riblet added stated that his feedback was appreciated. He explained that first class mail was initially
247 used in the hopes they would be received by everyone but that there will also be a second mailing of
248 postcards sent out to remind residents to take it.

249

- 250 • A memorial for Gerri Harbison-Mr. Riblet explained that initially after Mrs. Harbison's passing there were
251 quite a few people reaching out to find ways to honor her. He stated that he asked if everyone would hold
252 off on doing individual memorials to allow staff time to evaluate policies and garner feedback. Mr. Riblet
253 explained that a sub-committee was formed to collect ideas. He stated that this was discussed with the
254 Government Affairs Committee and he anticipated bringing recommendations to the April meeting that
255 would be based on a revised memorial policy as well as feedback from staff, Boards and Commission
256 members, and the Chamber of Commerce for the Committees consideration.

257

258 Mr. Riblet stated that in addition to the review of the memorial policy, staff is reviewing the Street/Park
259 Renaming policy. He stated that Mr. Suer had brought in his notes from 2002 and 2005 when updates had
260 been made. Mr. Riblet explained that as the policy is nearing 20 years old, it may be a good time to review
261 it. He stated that staff has met to review and would also bring recommendations to the April Committee
262 meeting for discussion.

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266 **Ms. Roesch**

267
268 Ms. Roesch stated that the Beautification and Tree Commission Basket Planting event is scheduled for April 6 at
269 the Public Works facility. She stated to observe safety guidelines the volunteers are scheduled in shifts.

270
271 Ms. Roesch stated that pansies are scheduled to be planted, same as in the hanging baskets.

272
273 Ms. Roesch explained that the Tree City Awards would be mailed this year and a virtual ceremony would be held.
274 She stated that ODNR and the City of Sidney will also include awards in conjunction with the City as the awards
275 were not held in 2020 or this year.

276
277 Ms. Roesch stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission is using a portion of their budget to defray the costs
278 of pickleball nets for Swaim Park.

279
280 Ms. Roesch reported that the Chamber of Commerce would be hosting Lunch-n-Learns at the City Parks.

281
282 Ms. Roesch reported that Julie Machon, Sarah Fink and Christine Genovese met with herself and Michael Chertock
283 to discuss themes for the July 3 Patriotic Concert, which they are hoping will take place outside at Montgomery
284 Park.

285
286 **Mr. Suer**

287
288 Mr. Suer stated that the Diversity and Inclusion Committee met with a presentation by Charleston "C.K." Wang
289 and Leo Chan, Head of the Miami Valley Asian-American Chamber addressing difficulties that Asian-Americans
290 face regarding prejudice. He stated that it was an important meeting. He stated that the D& I Committee will be
291 involved in better educating the community. He stated that this topic would also be a good Know Your Neighbor
292 Series.

293
294 **Mayor Dobrozsi**

295
296 Mayor Dobrozsi reminded Council that he would be out of town from March 27 through April 4. He thanked Vice
297 Mayor Margolis for acting on his behalf during that time period.

298
299 Mayor Dobrozsi stated that he received a pamphlet from Sycamore Schools that outlined the enhancements to each
300 building in the district as a result of the past levy. He stated it was a great form of outreach to the community.

301
302 Mayor Dobrozsi commented on the news of Constellation Insurance Holdings acquiring Ohio National. He stated
303 that he was happy to hear that they are committed to staying in Montgomery.

304
305 Mr. Riblet added that he had spoken with both Barbara Turner and Steve Chaney of Ohio National who both
306 reaffirmed the commitment to Montgomery. Mr. Riblet stated that there has been a tremendous relationship with
307 Ohio National and Ms. Turner and Mr. Chaney both are committed to continuing that relationship.

308
309 Mayor Dobrozsi asked about the status of the Income Tax-House Bill.

310
311 Mr. Donnellon explained that the Ohio Municipal League (OML) has taken a step back to study the bill. He
312 explained that traditionally income tax is withheld to the entity that you work in with the caveat for sub-contractors
313 that can work up to 20 days in a different entity without changing where their withholdings go. He stated that
314 because of Covid that threshold has been exceeded. He stated that if the threshold were changed and the
315 withholdings were to go to where someone lives, that many cities would be devastated. He stated that OML is pushing
316 to pause the House Bill so they can study the bill. He explained that until such time that the bill is passed, we collect
317 as we normally do.

318

319 Mayor Dobrozsi explained that following the process of the playbook used for the process of interviewing City
320 Council applicants, he wondered if we should create something similar for the Law Director and City Manager
321 evaluation.

322
323 Mr. Riblet reported that the Law Director and City Manager Evaluations as well as events that are usually sponsored
324 by City Council were discussed at the Government Affairs Committee meeting where it was agreed that staff would
325 cue the Government Affairs Committee when the processes were to begin and to schedule events such as the City
326 Council staff appreciation luncheon.

327
328 Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Riblet and stated he just did not want anything to get lost as those were items that
329 Mrs. Harbison used to handle.

330
331 **MINUTES**

332
333 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the March 3, 2021 Special Session, Public Hearing and Business Session minutes as
334 written. Mr. Messer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

335
336 **OTHER BUSINESS**

337
338 There was none.

339
340 **GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

341
342 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if the guests and/or residents in City Hall would like to speak. They declined.

343
344 Mayor Dobrozsi opened the floor to those who may be present on the line. He asked for anyone on the line to state
345 their name and address and to adhere to the three-minute speaking rule. There was no response.

346
347 Peter Fossett, 8160 Trabant Dr.- Mr. Fossett stated that he listened to the celebration for Officer Riley and hopes
348 the Police Department would give him a raise for his actions.

349
350 Mayor Dobrozsi closed the floor to public comment.

351
352 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

353
354 There was no executive session.

355
356 **ADJOURNMENT**

357
358 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none he asked for
359 a motion to adjourn.

360
361 Vice Mayor Margolis moved to adjourn. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

362
363 City Council adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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367



Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council