

City of Montgomery  
City Council Business Session Minutes  
November 3, 2021

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Terry Donnellon, Law Director  
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager  
Kevin Chesar, Community Dev. Director  
Greg Vonden Benken, Police Chief  
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director  
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Serv. Dir.  
Paul Wright, Fire Chief  
Katie Smiddy, Finance Director  
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 Business Session for November 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Mr. Cappel made a motion to dispense with the roll call. Mr. Messer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Ms. Henao introduced Kevin Chesar the City's new Community Development Director to City Council.

City Council welcomed Mr. Chesar and wished him great success in his new position.

**LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING**

**A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Labor Agreement With The Montgomery Firefighters IAFF Local 4391 For Wages And Benefits From April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024**

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that this piece of legislation would need to be added to the agenda this evening for consideration. He asked for a motion to add it to the agenda.

Mr. Cappel made a motion to add the Resolution to the agenda for consideration. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mrs. Bissmeyer.

Mrs. Bissmeyer moved to read the legislation by title only. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Bissmeyer read the title and moved for passage of the Resolution. Mr. Cappel seconded.

Mr. Riblet explained that, if approved, this legislation would authorize a labor agreement with the Montgomery Firefighters IAFF Local 4391 ("IAFF") from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024. He explained that labor negotiations with the IAFF began in April and went to mediation on July 28 of this year. He stated after a long process a contract was agreed upon on October 8 and ratified by the union on October 13. Mr. Riblet stated that the timing of the legislation is not typical, but staff was not able to include the legislation on the October Work Session agenda and it was prudent to pass the legislation this evening to have a contract in place with the IAFF union. Mr. Riblet stated he felt that the final contract was a win for both the City and the IAFF.

Mr. Messer asked if the contract included an inflation/escalation clause regarding wage increases.

60 Mr. Riblet replied that it did not and that the City does not normally include that in any of their bargaining unit  
61 contracts in an effort to keep all unions equal.

62  
63 Mr. Suer stated that although the process was a little rocky at the beginning, he was glad it did get worked out.

64  
65 Mayor Dobrozi asked for the roll to be called.

66  
67 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

68  
69 AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Suer, Dobrozi, Roesch, Messer, Margolis (7)  
70 NAY: (0)

71  
72 **PENDING LEGISLATION**

73  
74 **An Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of**  
75 **Montgomery, State of Ohio During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022**

76  
77 Mayor Dobrozi stated that he would recuse himself from the discussion and vote on this legislation. He explained  
78 that although he has no ownership interest in Neyer Properties, Inc. nor any in the limited liability companies in  
79 partnership to develop the Montgomery Quarter, he will continue to recuse himself from discussion and abstain from  
80 voting upon legislation related to the Montgomery Quarter project. He asked Vice Mayor Margolis to take over the  
81 meeting.

82  
83 Vice Mayor Margolis assumed management of the meeting.

84  
85 Mr. Suer moved to read the legislation by title only. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

86  
87 Mr. Suer read the title and moved for passage of the second reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Cappel seconded.

88  
89 Mr. Suer explained that, if approved, this Resolution would establish the City's budget for fiscal year 2022. These  
90 documents were presented to and reviewed with the Financial Planning Committee of City Council at their  
91 September 7 meeting. City Council conducted its formal review of the 2022 Operating and Capital Budget with Four  
92 Year Forecast and 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program, on Thursday, September 9.

93  
94 Mr. Suer asked if there were any updates.

95  
96 Ms. Smiddy replied there was one change to the appropriations and explained that to eliminate a single point of  
97 failure and add resiliency to the City network and telephone system, staff had discussions with Sycamore Community  
98 Schools and Cincinnati Bell about moving the current phone system to Cincinnati Bell instead of our current shared  
99 system.

100  
101 Ms. Smiddy stated that Cincinnati Bell proposed a hosted telephone system that will eliminate the need to purchase  
102 and maintain capital equipment and to have fiber optic connections installed at Public Works and the Safety Center  
103 that would connect to Cincinnati Bell's Fiopics network. In the event of a network failure, our network devices  
104 would automatically fail over to the Cincinnati Bell fiber network and reroute the traffic back to City Hall to ensure  
105 uninterrupted service.

106  
107 Ms. Smiddy explained that the total cost of both services is \$24,000 per year, with a one-time charge of \$2,600 in  
108 2022. This amount considers the elimination of \$200 per month to Sycamore for telephone support and \$500 per  
109 month to Cincinnati Bell for two PRI circuits. These circuits would no longer be needed since we won't maintain  
110 our own on-premises telephone system. Existing City phone numbers would not change.

112 Ms. Smiddy concluded by recommending that City Council consider amending the 2022 Annual Operating budget  
113 by decreasing appropriations in 101.712.5363 from \$17,000 to \$14,600 for the reduction in monthly costs to the  
114 Sycamore School District and increasing the appropriations in (101.715.5305) from \$30,000 to \$54,000 for the  
115 proposed telephone service and fiber optic connection for network resiliency.

116 .  
117 Mr. Suer stated that this was discussed at the November 1 Financial Planning Committee meeting and felt it was a  
118 good decision to go with Cincinnati Bell as it provided redundancy in service and newer technology.

119  
120 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

121  
122 AYE: Bissmeyer, Suer, Roesch, Messer, Margolis, Cappel (6)  
123 NAY: (0)  
124 ABSTAIN: Dobrozsi (1)

125  
126 Mayor Dobrozsi resumed management of the meeting.

127  
128 **An Ordinance Approving A Planned Development Overlay For Property Owned By Twin Lakes Located On**  
129 **Montgomery Road At Schoolhouse Lane**

130  
131 Mr. Messer stated that he would be recusing himself from this legislation due to a professional conflict of interest.

132  
133 Vice Mayor Margolis moved to read the Ordinance by title only. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously  
134 agreed.

135  
136 Vice Mayor Margolis read the title and moved for passage of the second reading. Mr. Cappel seconded.

137  
138 Vice Mayor Margolis explained that, if approved, this Ordinance will establish a Planned Development overlay  
139 district for the property located at 10120 Montgomery Road owned by Twin Lakes Senior Living Community. This  
140 Ordinance approves a Planned Development Overlay with certain conditions and exceptions as recommended by the  
141 Planning Commission and presented at the September 1, 2021 Public Hearing.

142  
143 Vice Mayor Margolis asked if there were any updates.

144  
145 Ms. Henao replied there were none.

146  
147 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

148  
149 AYE: Suer, Dobrozsi, Margolis, Cappel, Bissmeyer, Suer, Dobrozsi (6)  
150 NAY: (0)  
151 ABSTAIN: Messer (1)

152  
153 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

154  
155 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- 156  
157 • City Council Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.  
158  
159 • Prior to that meeting, an Open House is scheduled to honor the retirement of Council Member, Lynda Roesch  
160 beginning at 6:15 p.m.  
161

- 162       • The Government Affairs Committee will meet on Monday, November 8 at 4:30 p.m. The Parks and  
163 Recreation and Public Works Committees of Council have cancelled their meetings for the month of  
164 November.  
165  
166       Ms. Roesch reminded the Committee and staff that she would not be present for the Government Affairs  
167 Committee meeting.  
168  
169       • Congratulations to Mayor Dobrozsi, Council Members Lee Ann Bissmeyer, Ron Messer and Ken Suer; and  
170 to Sasha Naiman for being elected to serve on City Council. On behalf of staff, he stated we look forward  
171 to working with all of you.  
172  
173       • 102 people attended the second Live at the Uni concert this past Monday inside Sycamore High School’s  
174 Theater. Participants heard Tom Steele and his guests perform. The last concert will be held on Monday,  
175 Dec 6 and will feature Cincinnati Jazz Hall of Famer Mandy Gaines.  
176  
177       • On Wednesday, the Fire Department took delivery of their new ambulance. This vehicle was ordered last  
178 October and was part of the Capital Improvement Program and replaces the 2006 Horton ambulance. This  
179 unit is practically identical to the other Braun ambulance purchased four years ago as the layout has worked  
180 very well for the paramedics.  
181  
182       • Members of American Legion Post 630 and other volunteers will be meeting at Hopewell Cemetery this  
183 Saturday at 10:00 to mark approximately 390 veteran graves with flags. No registration or sign up is  
184 required. If you would like to attend, please dress for the weather as the flag placement will be held rain or  
185 shine. We thank the members of Post 630 for their continued support of this annual project.  
186  
187       • As we celebrate Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, we would like to thank all of our veterans for  
188 their service to our Country.  
189  
190       • As a reminder the annual Chamber Awards Dinner is next Thursday, November 11 at Montgomery Inn from  
191 5:30-7:30 p.m. Several Council members and staff will be attending. Please let Ms. Gaylor know if you  
192 would like to attend.
- 193       Mr. Riblet added that The Diversity & Inclusion Committee is one of the nominees for the newly created  
194 “Gerri Harbison Spirit Award”.
- 195       • The First Suburbs Consortium is meeting on Saturday, November 13 from 10 a.m. to noon. The group will  
196 discuss how to navigate through the State Capital Budget process as it relates to applying for funding  
197 opportunities.

198       **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
199

200       Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to approve the October 20, 2021 Work Session minutes.  
201

202       Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to approve the October 20, 2021 Work Session minutes as written. Mr. Cappel  
203 seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
204  
205  
206

207 **MAYOR'S COURT REPORT**

208  
209 Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to disburse the October Mayor Court collections in the amount of \$7,965.00

210  
211 Mr. Cappel moved to disburse the October Mayor Court collections. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council  
212 unanimously agreed.

213  
214 **OTHER BUSINESS**

215  
216 Vice Mayor Margolis reported on the following items:

- 217
- 218 • Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee meeting-Vice Mayor stated that the Committee recommended  
219 the continuance of the Historic Matching Grant and Waiver of Solar Fees through 2023. He added that staff  
220 also proposed a Commercial Exterior Matching Grant program for one year to help those businesses who  
221 were hurt by the pandemic make façade improvements to their buildings. He stated the Committee also made  
222 a motion to add this new program to the next CIC agenda along with the Historic Matching Grant program.  
223
  - 224 • Ohio Public Works Commission-Vice Mayor Margolis reported that he would be serving on an Integrating  
225 Commission in District 2. He explained that the Committee would be overseeing the disbursement of over  
226 30 million dollars of sales tax revenues used for improvements.  
227

228 City Council made remarks about the election process and the positivity they heard from the community at the polls  
229 regarding the functions of the City.

230  
231 Mr. Suer reported that Ms. Roesch, Mayor Dobrozsi and himself met with staff and the group from Human Nature  
232 to further the progress of the roundabout landscape/hardscape design. He stated they were making good progress on  
233 this project.

234  
235 Mayor Dobrozsi provided remarks on the election and encouraged City Council to continue working together in a  
236 nonpartisan manner in order to further the good work done by Council and staff.


237  
238 **ADJOURNMENT**

239  
240 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none he asked for  
241 a motion to adjourn.

242  
243 Mr. Messer moved to adjourn. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

244  
245 City Council adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

246  
247

  
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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council