

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
February 16, 2022

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
Kevin Chesar, Community Dev. Director
John Crowell, Police Chief
Terry Willenbrink, Asst. Public Works Director
Katie Smiddy, Finance Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Dir.
Amy Frederick, Communications and Engagement Coord.
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

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

Council Member Absent

Sasha Naiman

City Council convened its Work Session for February 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Margolis presiding.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Margolis explained that Mrs. Naiman had previously reported her absence for this meeting and asked for a motion to excuse her. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer made a motion to excuse Mrs. Naiman. Mr. Messer seconded. City Council agreed.

The roll was called and showed as follows:

PRESENT: Margolis, Bissmeyer, Dobrozsi, Cappel, Messer, Suer (6)
ABSENT: Naiman (1)

GUESTS AND RESIDENTS

Katie Smiddy, Finance Director, introduced Jessica Hunt as a new Finance Specialist in the Finance Department.

City Council welcomed Ms. Hunt to the City staff team and wished her great success in her new role with the City.

Sean Deschene- 8340 Hopewell Road, Mr. Deschene explained that with him that evening was his daughter, Jill, who is a part of Pack 227 and is working to earn her Arrow of Light badge. He stated that this badge entailed learning how to make the world a better place and one of the requirements was to meet with a government leader.

Ms. Deschene asked City Council and staff if there were requirements to recycle building materials and trees when they were torn down for construction.

Ms. Henao replied that while there is no Code requirement about recycling that it is strongly encouraged, and most builders do donate salvageable items to organizations like Habitat for Humanity or Cincinnati Reuse Center. She added that the City also has a Sensitive Infill Award that encourages builders to recycle.

Mr. Willenbrink explained that as a Tree City USA member that the City always plans to plant 100 trees a year and for the last thirty years, it has been doubled to at least 200 each year. Mr. Willenbrink added that a house on Pfeiffer Road that will be tore down will have all the mechanicals, windows, doors and cabinets recycled.

LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING

There was no legislation for consideration at the meeting.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR MARCH 2, 2022 BUSINESS SESSION

PENDING LEGISLATION

An Ordinance Establishing an Excise Lodging Tax

Mr. Suer explained that information has been previously supplied on this legislation that, if approved, would establish a lodging excise tax within the City of Montgomery. He stated that the Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) § 5739.08 allows a municipal corporation to levy an excise tax of up to 3% on transactions by which the hotel provides lodging to transient guests.

Mr. Suer asked Mr. Donnellon if there any updates

Mr. Donnellon replied there were no updates, but one correction was made to change a word in Section 1, paragraph C, to change the word from *operating* to *operator*. He explained that the correction has been made to the Ordinance and will be reflected in the March Business Session packet.

NEW LEGISLATION

A Resolution Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into A Contract with J.K. Meurer for the 2022 Street Resurfacing Program

Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Cappel.

Mr. Willenbrink explained that it is requested that City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with J.K. Meurer for the annual Street Resurfacing Program. This year's 2022 Street Resurfacing Program includes resurfacing 2.73 centerline miles of roadways. The project is programmed in the 2022 Capital Improvement Program 410-261-5470 account. It is requested that this project be approved in the amount of \$949,870.00 to include the Base Bid and Alternates #1 and #2. The amount of the recommendation includes \$24,971.70 in project contingency funding, which is an amount equal to 2.7% of the total of the Base Bid and Alternates #1 and #2 amount.

Mr. Cappel stated that he supports the street resurfacing program because it shows that we are taking care of the city streets.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- The next City Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2 immediately following a Public Hearing scheduled for 6:30 p.m. A reminder that there is an Executive Session scheduled at 5:30 that evening as well.
- The Law and Safety and Financial Planning Committees will meet on Monday, March 7 at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., respectively. The Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee has cancelled their meeting for March.
- Mr. Riblet stated for the March 14 Committee meetings the Government Affairs Committee has agenda items, but the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Committees do not have agenda items. He stated he will provide an update at the March 2 meeting.

- A CIC Meeting is requested to be held on March 23 at 6:45 to present the 2021 CIC Financial information and Tax Statement. If Council is so inclined, a motion can be made to commence with the Work Session at the conclusion of the CIC meeting. Mr. Dobrozsi made a motion to commence with the Work Session immediately following the completion of the CIC meeting. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.
- Staff is putting the final touches on the development of the Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies and anticipates bringing it to Council for the April Work Session.
- Last week, the Ohio House concurred on HB51 which includes an amendment to extend the authority of local governments to hold virtual meetings until June 30, 2022. The bill will now head to the Governor's desk for his signature. Due to an emergency clause, this amendment would become effective as soon as the bill is signed.
- As a reminder, City Council is invited to attend a UC Blue Ash Luncheon on March 3 at Cooper Creek Center in Blue Ash. Please let Ms. Gaylor know if you would like to be registered to attend this event.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Cappel

Mr. Cappel thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts during the past snow/ice event that made roads treacherous all across the Tri-State.

Vice Mayor Bissmeyer

Vice Mayor Bissmeyer echoed Mr. Cappel's comments on treatment of the streets by the Public Works Department. She praised them for their diligence in making the streets safe for the community.

Vice Mayor Bissmeyer reported as a member of the Hamilton County Library Board, through the library's locations throughout Hamilton County there were 100,000 Covid tests administered, and 525,000 meals and snacks provided in 2021. She stated that all 52 branches remained opened during that time. She added that the Board voted to no longer charge fines as the increase in digital usage has increased. She explained that a new branch will be opened in Forest Park as the old branch will be used by the City of Forest Park as one of their facilities. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer stated that the Cincinnati Library was the second most used library in the country and the Symmes location was the busiest. She stated the Library Board will be focusing on Mental Health this year and she expressed interest in the City collaborating with them on this effort in some way.

Mr. Dobrozsi

Mr. Dobrozsi also reported that at the February 7 Government Affairs Committee meeting a request for the approval of a new event by the Sister Cities Commission was presented. He explained that the new event was called "Soiree En Blanc" and was intended to replace the Dinner Around the World event that is very similar to the Diversity Dinner. He explained that the theme is to mimic a dinner in France in which everyone dresses in white, is held outside at dusk with lights and to encourage community members to dine together. He added that the event is requested to be held on May 7 at Pioneer Park. He stated that the Commission is estimating 100 people for the first year of this event. He stated that the Committee made a motion to approve the new event.

Mr. Dobrozsi also reported that at the Government Affairs meeting a request was made to declare the Trolley as surplus. He explained that Committee approved declaring it as surplus as it was cost prohibitive to restore it to a safe and viable vehicle. He stated it would be placed on GovDeals.com for auction.

Mr. Dobrozsi reported that at the Sister Cities Commission was also very busy with Bastille Day planning and were working with food vendors and bands. He stated that the headliners this year would be The Mistics and the band Hotel California.

Mr. Dobrozsi distributed a list of calendar events that Mr. Riblet had prepared for the year. He explained that the list included events and meetings outside of the normal Council, Committee and Commission meetings in order to give all of Council advanced notice for planning purposes. He thanked Mr. Riblet for compiling the list as it would be very helpful.

Mr. Suer

Mr. Suer stated that at the Financial Planning meeting held on February 7 Ms. Smiddy presented a annual review of the City's financials including all revenue and expense totals. He stated that once again he is happy to report that the City is in strong fiscal shape.

Mr. Messer

Mr. Messer explained that at the Law and Safety Committee meeting held on February 7 Chief Wright provided an overview of the Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) which provided an outline of Council responsibilities and the role of staff with their assignments. He thanked Chief Wright for a very insightful and helpful update.

Mr. Suer added that the main intent of the update was to clarify Council's roles. He added that staff created a very detailed plan and conducts frequent staff training. He added that he thought it was also very important to get residents engaged in being prepared for various scenarios.

Mayor Margolis

Mayor Margolis reported that he attended a Hamilton County EMA and Homeland Security meeting in which Director Nick Crossley reported that they are conducting a communications flow study to determine how the flow of distribution of masks, hand sanitizer and personal protection equipment was being handled.

Mayor Margolis reported that he participated in a Community Roundtable meeting which featured an update from Sycamore Community Schools regarding milestones reached throughout all their current construction projects. He added that he was particularly excited about the addition of a Community Theater as he thought it would be great for the community.

Mayor stated that he would be out of town from March 3 through March 13 and that Vice Mayor Bissmeyer would be acting mayor in his absence.

MINUTES

Mr. Cappel moved to accept the February 2, 2022 Business Session minutes as written. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dobrozsi stated he would be out of town from February 23 through February 27.

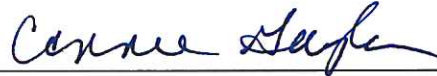
Mr. Cappel stated he would also be out of town on those dates.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

City Council adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Connie Gaylor", written over a horizontal line.

Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council