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2 City of Montgomery  
3 City Council Work Session Minutes  
4 July 20, 2022

5 Present

6 Brian Riblet, City Manager  
7 Terry Donnellon, Law Director  
8 Greg Vonden Benken, Asst. Police Chief  
9 Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director  
10 Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Serv. Dir.  
11 Ben Shapiro, Asst. Fire Chief  
12 Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager  
13 Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

Craig Margolis, Mayor  
Mike Cappel  
Chris Dobrozsi  
Ron Messer  
Sasha Naiman  
Ken Suer

Council Members Absent

Lee Ann Bissmeyer, Vice Mayor

14  
15  
16 City Council convened its Work Session for July 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, with Mayor Margolis presiding.

17  
18 **ROLL CALL**

19 Mayor Margolis asked for a roll call.

20  
21  
22 All members were present except for Vice Mayor Bissmeyer. Mayor Margolis asked for a motion to excuse Vice  
23 Mayor Bissmeyer due to illness.

24  
25 Mr. Cappel made a motion to excuse Vice Mayor Bissmeyer. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. City Council unanimously  
26 agreed.

27  
28 **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

29  
30 Chip Harrod, Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Commission explained that he felt the most polarizing issue in  
31 this world today was partisan politics and he felt this was one of the biggest wedges dividing the country today. He  
32 stated that because of this he invited representatives from Braver Angels to speak at a Diversity and Inclusion  
33 Commission meeting. He stated that he applauds the organizations efforts to depolarize this issue. He introduced  
34 Beverly Horstman and invited her to provide an overview of the organization's efforts.

35  
36 Beverly Horstman with Braver Angels provided an overview of the nonprofits mission and philosophy to depolarize  
37 and unify American politics. Ms. Horstman gave background on how the organization was formed five years ago  
38 and how they are seeking change through grassroots efforts with local communities, civic, educational and religious  
39 institutions. Ms. Horstman explained that while they are known for their Red-Blue Workshops they also conduct  
40 workshops, seminars and debates to teach leadership skills that focus on tone, active listening, role play and  
41 discussion to allow people to find common ground no matter their differences.

42  
43 City Council thanked Ms. Horstman and discussed their thoughts about the importance of Council remaining  
44 nonpartisan for the good of the community and to work to remain a unified body despite their personal viewpoints.  
45 Council asked various questions about the success of the Braver Angels efforts according to their data and how a  
46 workshop would look if conducted with Council members and then possibly as a community forum.

47  
48 Mr. Riblet stated that he felt it was key to focus on leadership, communication skills to depolarize conflicting point  
49 of view.

50  
51 Mr. Harrod thanked Ms. Horstman and Council for the discussion and stated that he would work with Mr. Riblet  
52 and the Diversity and Inclusion Commission to determine future steps.

53  
54 **GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

55  
56 There were no additional guests or residents.  
57

58 **ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR AUGUST 3, 2022 BUSINESS SESSION**

59  
60 **PENDING LEGISLATION**

61  
62 There was no pending legislation

63  
64 **NEW LEGISLATION**

65  
66 **A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into Contract with Morton Salt Inc. pursuant to a joint**  
67 **purchasing bid with Hamilton County for 2022 – 2023 Deicing Rock Salt**

68  
69 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Cappel

70  
71 Mr. Heitkamp explained that, if approved, this Resolution would authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract  
72 with Morton Salt Inc. pursuant to a joint purchasing bid with Hamilton County for 2022-2023 de-icing rock salt.  
73 The purchase of deicing rock salt for the 2022-2023 winter season is included in the City budget in the 261.000.5380  
74 Street Maintenance, 265.000.5380 State Highway Fund, and 266.000.5380 Permissive MVL Fund. If approved,  
75 the request would authorize a maximum purchase of 1100 tons of deicing rock salt in the amount of \$88,297.00  
76 (\$80.27 per ton).

77  
78 Mr. Messer asked how many tons of salt the City typically used.

79  
80 Mr. Heitkamp replied that while it fluctuates each year, he would estimate an average of 1,200 tons a year.

81  
82 **A Resolution Establishing City Contributions To Employee Health Savings Accounts And Health**  
83 **Reimbursement Accounts**

84  
85 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Dobrozsi.

86  
87 Mr. Riblet explained that, if approved, this Resolution would continue the City's incentive contribution to  
88 employees' Health Savings Accounts (and to Health Reimbursement Accounts for employees who, as a result of  
89 being enrolled in Medicare, are no longer eligible for a Health Savings Account) for the period beginning September  
90 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. The City's contribution to employees' Health Savings Accounts is recommended  
91 to be continued at \$1050 for a family plan and \$750 for a single plan for the twelve-month period of September 1,  
92 2022 through August 31, 2023. In addition to the base City incentive contribution, it is recommended that the City  
93 continue to match the employee's contribution to his/her Health Savings Account in an amount up to \$700 for  
94 employees with family plans and up to \$500 for employees with single plans. The City's contribution to employees'  
95 Health Reimbursement Accounts is recommended to be continued at \$1050 for a family plan and \$750 for a single  
96 plan for the twelve-month period of September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. Employees cannot make  
97 contributions to Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA's); therefore, no matching employer contribution is  
98 recommended for HRA's.

99  
100 **A Resolution Establishing A Special Fund To Receive And Manage Local Government Settlement Proceeds**  
101 **From The OneOhio Opioid Settlements**

102  
103 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Messer.

104  
105 Mr. Donnellon explained that previously the City joined the OneOhio alliance of local governments to negotiate  
106 settlements with the various opioid manufacturers and distributors which have been sued by the Ohio Attorney  
107 General. A number of settlements have been negotiated with the different manufacturers and distributors, and the  
108 first such settlement has been funded to the State. Consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding which the  
109 City accepted as part of OneOhio, 30% of the settlement funds are to be allocated to local governments to be used

110 for specific approved purposes. An initial settlement distribution from McKesson, Cardinal and Amerisource  
111 Bergen has been received and is being disbursed from the Ohio Attorney General. Consistent with the formula  
112 applied to the local government distribution, approximately \$4,250.63 has been allocated to the City. He stated that  
113 the Auditor of State has requested each community to establish a special revenue Fund to receive these monies and  
114 to restrict distribution of the monies. This payment is the first of what may be 18 payments to be funded to the City.  
115

116 Mr. Donnellon explained this Resolution establishes the special revenue Fund and identifies the allowable list of  
117 expenditures from the Fund. Council in the future will need to specifically appropriate funds to match these purposes  
118 once an expenditure is identified by the Administration. The City also is entitled to recapture previous expenditures  
119 consistent with this list of allowable uses, which again may be appropriated once the City has received the funds.  
120

121 Mr. Messer asked what the allowable expenses are for these funds to be used for.  
122

123 Mr. Donnellon cited Section 2 of the Resolution and read a list of purposes the funds could be used for.  
124

125 Mr. Messer stated that he felt an education program on the used of opioids would be a very prudent and timely use  
126 of the funds.  
127

128 Mr. Suer explained that at a recent Law and Safety Committee meeting Police Chief Crowell provided a very  
129 informative update provided through an annual report prepared by the Hamilton County Addiction Response  
130 Coalition on the state of the Addiction Crisis. Mr. Suer stated that he agreed that an educational program with the  
131 schools and the community would be a vital use of the funds.  
132

### 133 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

134

135 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:  
136

- 137 • The next City Council Business Session is scheduled for August 3, 2022.
- 138
- 139 • The Financial Planning Committee will meet on Monday, August 1 at 4:30 p.m. The Law and Safety and  
140 Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees have no agenda items and are requested to cancel for August.  
141
- 142
- 143 • The status of the August 8 Committee meetings (Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Public  
144 Works) will be updated at the August 3 Business Session. Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he would be out the  
145 week of August 8. Mr. Riblet stated that he would look for alternate dates in which the Government Affairs  
146 Committee could meet and follow up with the Committee members at the August 3 Business Session.  
147
- 148 • The Public Works department has been providing mutual aid to Goshen Township in cleanup efforts after  
149 the EF2 tornado on July 6. Several staff members have volunteered their own time to also support the  
150 community. We thank the department and staff for their compassion shown during this devastating time in  
151 the Goshen community.  
152
- 153 • Midseason pool memberships went on sale on July 15 and to date 799 memberships have been sold for  
154 the pool season which is 80 more memberships as compared to 2019.  
155
- 156 • An update on the Vintage Club North development was provided. The second condominium building is  
157 nearing completion and all foundations have been poured and walls constructed for Building C of the  
158 development.  
159

- 160 • A contract was signed with Strawser Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$28,391.58 for the 2022 Annual  
161 Crack Sealing Program. This year's program includes 12 streets and is anticipated to begin later this  
162 summer.

163  
164 Under Human Resources, Mr. Riblet reported:

- 165 • **Service Worker I** – Finalists are being screened and a conditional offer has been extended to one  
166 candidate. There are two Service Worker I positions to fill.  
167 • **Customer Service Representative (front desk)** – Final interviews have been completed and finalists are  
168 going through screening steps.  
169 • **Patrol Officer** – initial interviews with five candidates are completed. A second round of interviews are  
170 being scheduled to advance four of the candidates in the process.  
171 • **Police Sergeant** – promotional examination announcement has been posted. Six employees have applied  
172 to take the written examination scheduled for July 29.  
173 • **Finance Specialist (Tax)** – Initial interviews were conducted with two candidates. (Only two individuals  
174 applied.) This position will be vacant when Cindy Abner retires.  
175 • **Firefighter/Paramedic** – Advertising of the exam announcement/hiring process will  
176 begin July 24. Currently we have five new firefighter/paramedic positions to fill.  
177

178 Mr. Riblet reported the following upcoming events to City Council:

- 179 • Recreation and Public Works staff are hosting an outdoor movie at Montgomery Park at dusk on Friday,  
180 July 22 and the movie "Encanto", rated PG, is featured.  
181 • A reminder of a retirement luncheon scheduled for Cindy Abner on Thursday, July 28 from 11:30 a.m. to  
182 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.  
183 • A reminder of the City Council Staff appreciation luncheon being held on Friday, July 29 at Terwilliger  
184 Lodge. The luncheon runs from 11:00 to 1:00 pm.

185 Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session for matters related to personnel and the employment of a public  
186 employee.

187  
188 **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

189  
190 Mr. Donnellon stated he had no report.

191  
192 **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

193  
194 **Mr. Cappel**

195  
196 Mr. Cappel moved to appoint Ellen Hall to the Environmental Advisory Commission with a term ending January  
197 31, 2024. Mr. Dobrozi seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

198  
199 **Mr. Dobrozi**

200  
201 Mr. Dobrozi reported that the Sister Cities Commission did a great job along with staff in planning and holding  
202 this year's Bastille Day. He thanked all those involved in making it a great event.

203  
204 Mr. Dobrozi reported the Arts Commission is working to finalize the Live at the Uni's concerts for the fall. He  
205 stated that they would be held back at the Universalist Church this year rather than the high school. He stated that  
206 there are four concerts planned, two in October, one in November and a holiday concert with Mandi Gaines.

207  
208 He reminded everyone that he would be out the week of August 6 to August 13.

209  
210 **Mrs. Naiman**

211  
212 Mrs. Naiman explained that the Beautification and Tree Commission held a successful Garden Tour with a good  
213 turnout.

214  
215 Mrs. Naiman reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission is planning a Star Party to be held in Weller Park.

216  
217 **Mr. Suer**

218  
219 Mr. Suer also thanked everyone for their involvement in Bastille Day.

220  
221 **Mr. Messer**

222  
223 Mr. Messer echoed the other Council members comments on Bastille Day.

224  
225 Mr. Messer reported that other than the opioid update provided by Chief Crowell, Fire Chief Wright provided an  
226 update on a proposed revision to the hiring process of firefighters.

227  
228 **Mayor Margolis**

229  
230 Mayor Margolis stated that at the last Hamilton County EMA and Homeland Security meeting they worked on their  
231 5 Year Strategic Plan. He added that this would be their second strategic plan.

232  
233 Mayor Margolis reminded Council of the Partners in Preparedness meeting on September 28 held at the Sharonville  
234 Convention Center.

235  
236 **MINUTES**

237  
238 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the July 6, 2022 Business Session minutes as written. Mr. Suer seconded. City Council  
239 unanimously agreed.

240  
241 **MAYORS COURT REPORT**

242  
243 Mayor Margolis asked for a motion to accept the June Mayors Court collections in the amount of \$10,486.50.

244  
245 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the Mayors Court collections for the month of June in the amount of \$10,486.50. Mr.  
246 Messer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

247  
248 **OTHER BUSINESS**

249  
250 Ms. Henao provided an update on a project by several students from Mr. Cole's Sycamore High School Government  
251 class. She explained that two students were doing a project on breakfast places in Montgomery that serve Goetta.  
252 She explained that she facilitated a meeting with the students and Janet Korach formally with the Montgomery  
253 Historic Preservation Association. She stated that they were working on a script to create a travel video based on  
254 their research. Ms. Henao also explained that another student was doing a project on the history of Montgomery  
255 Road. She stated that after he was done, she would like to add his work to the history page on the City's website.

256  
257 Mayor Margolis stated that it would be nice to recognize the students at a future council meeting.

258

259 Mayor Margolis asked if there was any other business to discuss. There being none, he stated there was a request  
260 by Mr. Riblet for an Executive Session for matters related to personnel and the employment of a public employee.  
261 He stated that there were no further agenda items to discuss in public session and anticipated no discussion or vote  
262 once it returned to public session.  
263

264 Mr. Cappel made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for matters related to personnel and the employment  
265 of a public employee. Ms. Naiman seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
266

267 The roll was called and showed the following vote:  
268

269	AYE: Cappel, Dobrozsi, Margolis, Naiman, Suer, Messer	(6)
270	NAY:	(0)
271	ABSENT: Bissmeyer	(1)

272  
273 City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.  
274

275 City Council reconvened into Public Session at 9:06 p.m.  
276

277 Mayor Margolis asked if there was any other business to discuss. There being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.  
278

279 Mr. Cappel made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Messer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
280

281 City Council adjourned at 9:06 p.m.  
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283  
284

  
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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council