

City of Montgomery  
Government Affairs Committee Minutes  
March 14, 2022

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Serv. Dir.  
Shawn Cooper, Customer Service Rep

City Council Committee Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Chair  
Ron Messer

City Council Committee Member Absent

Sasha Naiman

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The Government Affairs Committee of Council convened its meeting for March 14, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. with Mr. Dobrozsi presiding.

New Business

Service to the Community Grant Recommendations

Mr. Vanderhorst explained this grant is awarded every year. This year there was only one applicant, The Montgomery Farmers' Market. The Farmer's Market was awarded the Service and Engagement Grant in 2020 in the amount of \$2,000 and again in 2021 in the amount of \$2,500.

For the 2022 grant cycle, the Montgomery Farmers' Market requested a \$2,500 grant to cover the costs of their engagement activities. The activities include musicians, the Kids Tasting Event, and the Kids Peas Game scavenger hunt.

Mr. Vanderhorst explained the 2022 application is the third in a row for the Montgomery Farmers' Market. However, the grant guidelines stipulate that a recipient can receive a grant more than two years in a row if there are no other applications.

Mr. Messer asked if there were other organizations that would apply that did not.

Mr. Vanderhorst answered that he was not aware of any.

Mr. Riblet explained in past years, staff has tried to recruit groups to apply. He explained that there have been other organizations in the past, such as boy scout groups, the Schools, and Operation Give Back, but sometimes there are not many who apply.

Mr. Vanderhorst further explained that while the Montgomery Farmer's Market has received the grant several times, they were not awarded in the years when there were other applicants.

Mr. Vanderhorst stated the Community and Information Services Department recommends funding for the 2022 grant request. The Montgomery Farmers' Market has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the Montgomery community's betterment, continued its services through the pandemic, and provided much-needed resources during difficult times. This grant requests will help the Market continue to provide outstanding community services through 2022.

Mr. Messer moved to approve the grant. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Discussion of Street Sign Brand Implementation

Mr. Riblet explained in 2018, City Council authorized an agreement with Rasor Marketing and Kolar Design to lead the city through a re-branding campaign. Their efforts included significant feedback from City Council, City staff, MCLA Graduates, Community Leadership Forum, and a public input session held at Montgomery Inn. This campaign included all items related to our city brand, including our logo, tagline, lamp post, images for boards and commission, and other miscellaneous items.

Mr. Riblet stated the re-branding campaign was a thorough and tedious process that took until early 2020 to complete. Many of the digital/electronic modifications to our new brand identity have been incorporated. A master list of other items that required budget considerations were compiled and incorporated into the City budgets.

Mr. Riblet explained this years' budget includes funds to replace all the street name signs and the few illuminated street name signs in the city.

Mr. Riblet shared mockups of the assorted options to choose from for the city street signs and requested feedback from the Committee.

Mr. Dobrozsi asked if all the other street signs would remain the same and if all the signs were on the painted pole with the wood frame or just stop signs.

Mr. Riblet stated only the stop signs were in the wood frame. He explained the regulatory signs were on four-by-four posts, framed out and painted gray. Mr. Riblet said there are discussions moving forward, especially in the Montgomery Quarter and Montgomery corridor, to phase out the old signs and replace them with a powder-coated black signpost for speed limit signs, direction signs, etc., to be consistent and also have a more modern look.

Mr. Messer asked what the budget impact would be.

Mr. Riblet answered there is \$50,000 budgeted for the street signs. This does not include the seven larger illuminated signs. Mr. Riblet stated, overall, the budget is somewhere around \$80,000. He explained that next year's budget will include replacing many of the larger buildings and park signs. Currently, City Hall does not have a sign, and the Safety Center is using a temporary sign that is not good. The park signs will also be updated to match the new brand and color.

After discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed that their recommendation is the sign with just the sunburst with a lamp pole and a white outline. (top right image) All agreed it would be nice to have "City of Montgomery" in the logo, but it would not be readable, and the white line around the logo helps it stand out.

Mr. Dobrozsi asked if we would sell the old signs.

Mr. Riblet answered that in the past, the City used to make signs as a fundraiser and could look into this and would keep that in mind.

### Board and Commission Training

Mr. Riblet explained a year ago modifications were made to the Board and Commissions training. The first change is that all board and commission members would receive a brief orientation by the council liaison and the commission chair upon appointment. The second change was regarding professional attire at meetings.

He explained in the past, pre-covid, an orientation meeting would have been held in the evening with Terry Donnellon, council, and staff. He added that a lot of work went into the preparation, and the turnout was very few people – on average, 7-8 would show. Mr. Riblet explained a couple of years ago, it was decided that the Commission Chair would take a few minutes at the already scheduled meeting to highlight specific items, which would be a good refresher for current members as well.

Mr. Riblet asked if the Committee would be agreeable with chairs adding this to the meeting agenda to go over or would it be preferred to have a separate meeting as in years past.

Mr. Messer commented he feels the Council Liaison could do it with it being an agenda item. He mentioned during commission meetings, members seem to want to hear from staff and council liaisons, so this would be a good avenue.

Mr. Dobrozsi asked if all new board and commission members were given the orientation packet.

Mr. Riblet answered yes, but the training is to make sure the most important topics are covered.

Mr. Dobrozsi asked if the liaison could be given specific items to highlight to make sure they cover what needs to be covered. Mr. Riblet replied that they could and stated that staff could reserve the right to hold a special meeting should something polarizing or essential come up.

Mr. Riblet stated staff would get the Council Liaisons bullet points to cover and target the commission meetings in May or June.

### Other Business

Mr. Messer gave a quick recap of his recent training with the OML (Ohio Municipal League). He said the training was very informative and he is glad he went.

Mr. Messer asked if there was a list of the new businesses and recent closings within Montgomery.

Mr. Riblet commented we do have this information and will get it from Ms. Henao, Assistant City Manager, and distribute.

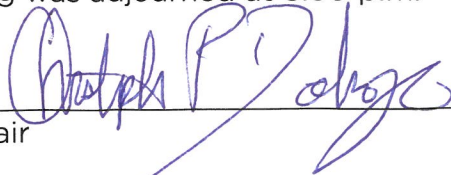
### Minutes

Mr. Messer moved to approve the February 7, 2022, Government Affairs Committee minutes. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

### Adjournment

Mr. Messer moved for adjournment. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

The Governmental Affairs Committee of Council meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

  
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Chair