

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
March 23, 2022

Present

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

City Council Members Present

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

City Council convened its Work Session for March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, with Mayor Margolis presiding.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Margolis asked for a motion to dispense with roll call as all members were present.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Vice Mayor Bissmeyer presented Mark Stella with a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service on the Landmarks Commission. Mayor Margolis gave a few remarks thanking Mr. Stella for his contributions to the City of Montgomery. Mr. Dobrozsi commented he also appreciated Mr. Stella's passion for his work and thanked him for all he had done.

Mayor Margolis presented John Devore with the Montgomery Farmer's Market a check in the amount of \$2500 for the Community Service Grant they were awarded.

Mr. Devore thanked Council and said the money will help the Farmer's Market continue with their work especially with their outreach programs such as the Food Snap program.

LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING

A Resolution Establishing Compensation for The City Manager

Mayor Margolis asked for a motion to add the legislation to the agenda for consideration. Mr. Cappel made the motion, and Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Dobrozsi.

Mr. Dobrozsi moved to read by title only. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Dobrozsi moved for passage of the Ordinance. Mr. Cappel seconded.

Mr. Dobrozsi explained this Resolution if approved, will authorize an amendment to the current employment agreement with Mr. Brian Riblet as the City Manager of Montgomery. This Resolution is the result of the recent performance appraisal of the City Manager conducted by City Council. The Government Affairs Committee of City Council has recommended adopting this Resolution.

58 Council members made a few remarks stating the City is lucky to have Mr. Riblet, and all are looking forward to
59 continuing working with him.

60
61 The roll was called, and showed the following vote:

62
63 AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Dobrozsi, Margolis, Naiman, Suer, Messer (7)
64 NAY: (0)
65

66 A Resolution Approving Participation in Region 2 Governance Structure Under the OneOhio Memorandum Of
67 Understanding

68
69 Mayor Margolis asked for a motion to add the legislation to the agenda for consideration. Mr. Cappel made the
70 motion, and Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

71
72 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

73
74 Mr. Suer moved to read by title only. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

75
76 Mr. Suer moved for passage of the Resolution. Mr. Cappel seconded.

77
78 Mr. Suer referred to Mr. Donnellon for an explanation.

79
80 Mr. Donnellon stated that this Resolution is added to the agenda this evening because the Hamilton County Board
81 of County Commissioners is asking all communities to approve by March 31. Mr. Donnellon explained that, if
82 adopted, this would approve the City's support for the Region 2 Governance Structure to manage the opioid settlement
83 through OneOhio. OneOhio was the cooperative effort among many jurisdictions throughout the State to join together
84 to negotiate settlements in the complex opioid litigation. Most, if not all, of the litigation has now been brought to a
85 close. We are being asked to endorse the Governance Structure for Region 2 which will include representatives from
86 local communities and subject matter experts in managing opioid abatement programs.

87
88 Mr. Donnellon explained the Resolution puts the structure in place, and as the funds start to come in, the Board will
89 take applications and disperse the funds. There is no determination as to how much money will come into Hamilton
90 County or when.

91
92 Mrs. Naiman asked if the City of Montgomery plans to participate on the Board.

93
94 Mr. Donnellon replied that individuals will apply for different representation on the Board. Other local communities
95 plan to participate, and likely we will as well.

96
97 The roll was called, and showed the following vote:

98
99 AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Dobrozsi, Margolis, Naiman, Suer, Messer (7)
100 NAY: (0)
101

102 **ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR APRIL 6, 2022 BUSINESS SESSION**

103
104 **PENDING LEGISLATION**

105
106 An Ordinance Establishing an Excise Lodging Tax

107
108 Mr. Suer explained that information had been previously supplied on this legislation that, if approved, would
109 establish a lodging excise tax within the City of Montgomery. He stated that the Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) §

110 5739.08 allows a municipal corporation to levy an excise tax of up to 3% on transactions by which the hotel provides
111 lodging to transient guests.
112

113 Mr. Suer asked Mr. Donnellon if there were any updates.
114

115 Mr. Donnellon replied there were none.
116

117 **NEW LEGISLATION**

118
119 **An Ordinance Establishing Schedules of Municipal Compensation**

120
121 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Dobrozi.
122

123 Mr. Riblet explained that this Ordinance, if approved, would establish a new Schedule of Municipal Compensation
124 for non-bargaining unit employees. It is necessary to establish a new Schedule of Municipal Compensation as the
125 current Schedule does not specify any wage rate adjustments for July 2022 or beyond. A new schedule is also needed
126 to provide for title changes to address organizational needs.
127

128 Mr. Messer asked if the wage increase always mirrored the Fire and Police increases.
129

130 Mr. Riblet answered that traditionally this is what has been done. He mentioned that he anticipates a few adjustments
131 as some job studies are being made.
132

133 Council members unanimously agreed the City Staff all do an amazing job, are appreciated, and this is needed to
134 remain competitive in the job market.
135

136 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

137
138 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:
139

- 140 • The next City Council Business Session is scheduled for April 6.
- 141
- 142 • A CIC Meeting is requested to be held on April 6 at 6:45 p.m. to consider two Commercial Exterior
143 Renovation Grant applications. If Council is so inclined, a motion can be made to commence with the
144 Business Session at the conclusion of the CIC meeting. Mr. Cappel made a motion to commence with the
145 Business Session immediately following the completion of the CIC meeting. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer
146 seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.
147
- 148 • The Financial Planning and the Planning, Zoning, and Landmarks Committees will meet on Monday, April
149 4 at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. The Law and Safety Committee has cancelled its meeting for April.
150
- 151 • Mr. Riblet stated for the April 11 Committee meetings, at this time, the Parks and Recreation, Government
152 Affairs, and Public Works Committees do not have agenda items. He stated he would provide an update at
153 the April 6 meeting.
154
- 155 • Last week, Plattenburg and Associates arrived to perform the City's annual audit. The two representatives
156 completed the necessary fieldwork in two business days, and all follow-up will be conducted via email
157 correspondence.
158

- 159 • Staff are preparing for the Playground Open House which will be held on Thursday, March 24, from 5:00
160 to 7:00 p.m. in Swaim Lodge. Concept designs of the Swaim Park Playground will be on display.
161
- 162 • The City of Springdale is hosting the 2022 Tree City USA Awards Program on Friday, April 22, at the
163 Springdale Community Center, beginning at 11:00 a.m. and concluding about 2:30 p.m. Space is limited
164 this year, so we're working through the logistics and will let Council know if there is an opportunity to
165 attend.
166
- 167 • The HCML Quarterly meeting will be held on April 18 at the Deer Park Branch Library, 3970 E. Galbraith
168 Rd, 45236. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., followed by speakers Kent Scarrett, Executive Director of Ohio
169 Municipal League, and Mayor Aftab Pureval, City of Cincinnati, at 7:00 p.m. Please let Ms. Gaylor know
170 if you would like to be registered.
171
- 172 • Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session to discuss confidential information of an applicant for economic
173 development assistance.

174
175 **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

176
177 Mr. Donnellon stated he had nothing additional to report at this time.
178

179 **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

180
181 **Mr. Cappel**

182
183 Mr. Cappel thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts regarding the cardboard recycling event the
184 previous weekend.
185

186 **Vice Mayor Bissmeyer**

187
188 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer reported that on March 9, she and Mr. Messer attended the Landmarks Commission meeting.
189 The only item on their agenda was Rapid Signs seeking approval for their signage at the Crane Conklin House, and
190 it was approved.
191

192 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer also reported the Landmarks Commission chose this year's holiday ornament – Jonathan
193 Crain House.
194

195 **Mr. Dobrozi**

196
197 Mr. Dobrozi reported the Arts Commission met on February 28. The annual photo contest is well underway, with
198 the deadline for entries being March 31. The Exhibition and Awards Ceremony will be held at Terwilliger Lodge
199 again this year, allowing for more space. The Exhibition is Saturday, April 9, with the awards ceremony taking
200 place on Sunday, April 10.
201

202 Mr. Dobrozi also reported the Arts Commission is still seeking this year's Holiday Card Contest entries.
203

204 Mr. Dobrozi reported that the Arts Commission had budgeted \$50,000 to do an Arts Commission project. This will
205 happen this year, and discussions are happening now as to what the project will be.
206

207 Mr. Dobrozsi reported the Sister Cities Commission met on March 22. The first Soiree en Blanc is scheduled for
208 Saturday, May 7, at Pioneer Park. Registration is now open and being sold by the table. Advertising will come in
209 the April Bulletin any day, on social media, and the website.

210
211 Mr. Dobrozsi also reported Bastille Day planning is underway for July 16.

212
213 Mr. Dobrozsi mentioned he will be out of town April 18-23 and will miss the April 20 Work Session.

214
215 **Mrs. Naiman**
216

217 Mrs. Naiman stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission met on March 10. There was a good discussion on
218 reviewing the pickleball scheduling and availability, which is an ongoing discussion.

219
220 Mrs. Naiman reported the Beautification and Tree Commission met on March 7. Many events are coming up with
221 Basket Planting, Garden Tour, Spring Plant Swap, and Beautification Day. The Bee Pollinators Talk is on April 27
222 at Terwilliger Lodge.

223
224 Mrs. Naiman also reported the Diversity and Inclusion Commission met on March 22. There was an excellent
225 presentation from Police Chief John Crowell of an overview of the Police Department.

226
227 Mrs. Naiman stated two Know your Neighbor Series presentations are coming up, with the first one on April 26
228 with speakers Rosa and Juan Molina to share an overview of the Hispanic culture. On August 18, Priya
229 Viswalingham will present the topic, Understanding Indian Culture and Hinduism.

230
231 **Mr. Suer**
232

233 Mr. Suer congratulated Mr. Riblet and the City for their award for the roundabout and commented once it gets
234 landscaped, it will be even more impressive.

235
236 Mr. Suer remarked it would be interesting to create a list of all the City's awards and post it on the website or in the
237 Bulletin. The City has won quite a few, and it might be nice to share this.

238
239 **Mr. Messer**
240

241 Mr. Messer explained that the Law and Safety Committee met on March 7 and discussed the engine brake noise
242 complaints at the Ronald Reagan/Montgomery Road area near Kennedy Lane that were brought up previously. CT
243 Consultants sampled for a full day on February 17 and found out of 117 trucks; not one used an engine brake. They
244 found the complaints were unfounded but will continue to monitor. Currently, there is no need for any additional
245 signage.

246
247 Mr. Messer stated he and Mrs. Naiman attended the OML training and learned quite a bit, especially regarding Joint
248 Economic Development Districts. It was great training. Mrs. Naiman also commented she thought it was very
249 valuable and learned a lot.

250
251 **Mayor Margolis**
252

253 Mayor Margolis commented that the City of Madeira made front news regarding their Diversity and Inclusion
254 meeting protests. He stated that the stark contrast in the progress of the City of Montgomery's Diversity and
255 Inclusion Commission is a testament to our leadership and residents. Mayor Margolis said the cities have similar
256 ideas but totally different tactics, and the outcome speaks for itself.

257

258 Remarks from other Council members also agreed that the leadership and methods of communication the City of
259 Montgomery uses have made our Diversity and Inclusion Commission successful.

260
261 **MINUTES**

262
263 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the March 2, 2022, Public Hearing and Business Session minutes as written. Vice
264 Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

265
266 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

267
268 Mayor Margolis asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none he asked for
269 a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential information of an applicant for economic
270 development assistance.

271
272 Mr. Messer made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss confidential information of an applicant for
273 economic development assistance. Mr. Cappel seconded.

274
275 Mayor Margolis stated that it is not anticipated that Council will be taking any votes or discussing anything
276 further in Public Session after the conclusion of the Executive Session.

277
278 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

279
280 AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Dobrozsi, Margolis, Naiman, Suer, Messer (7)

281 NAY: (0)

282
283 City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.


284
285 City Council reconvened into Public Session at 9:14 p.m.

286
287 Mayor Margolis asked if there was any other business to discuss. There being none, he asked for a motion to
288 adjourn.

289
290 Mr. Cappel made a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

291
292 City Council adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

293
294
295
296



Shawn Cooper, Acting Clerk of Council