

City of Montgomery
Government Affairs Committee Minutes
November 14, 2022

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Committee Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Chair
Ron Messer
Sasha Naiman

The Government Affairs Committee of Council convened its meeting for November 14, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. with Mr. Dobrozsi presiding.

New Business

Surplus Equipment Public Works

Mr. Heitkamp explained that the Committee is asked to consider declaring a list of equipment as surplus to be sold through GovDeals.com. Mr. Heitkamp explained that included in the list are the following pieces of equipment:

- a. Meyer Snowplow Parts (Miscellaneous) with a total value of \$1,200
- b. Traffic Signal Mast Arm Poles (10 total) with a total value of \$6,000
- c. Exmark Mower with a value of \$3,950
- d. Cub Cadet Big Country mower with a value of \$2,275

Mr. Messer asked if the equipment that is fixed on the traffic mast poles was purchased by the City.

Mr. Heitkamp replied that the city does purchase the poles as well as the lights and traffic controllers. He stated those all attached items have been removed.

Mrs. Naiman moved to declare the list of items as surplus to be sold through GovDeals.com. Mr. Messer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Proposed Cemetery Redemption Policy

Mr. Donnellon explained that it is requested that the Government Affairs Committee of Council consider proposed updates to the Hopewell Cemetery Internal Policy approved by the Committee on July 8, 2019 relating to the repurchase of grave spaces from owners or legal beneficiaries of grave spaces. He explained that historically the City has offered a grave repurchase option to owners or beneficiaries of gravesites within Hopewell Cemetery at the original purchase price. This is still the current practice as sited under Control of Graves in the attached policy. With many of the graves being purchased decades ago, some of the graves were purchased for as low as \$25.00, making the option of selling the graves back to the City by survivors or beneficiaries an unviable option.

Staff has experienced increasing requests by these individuals (many of them out of state) to aid them in the sale of the gravesites which can be time consuming and cumbersome to the owners and staff. This often results in the owners choosing to leave the graves unused. The City currently has approximately 60 gravesites left available for purchase. Mr. Donnellon stated that Staff recommends

that the Committee consider adjusting the grave repurchasing program to \$500.00 for the repurchase of any gravesite with an original purchase price less than \$500.00. The City will continue to repurchase any gravesite of \$500.00 or higher at the original purchase price in order to simplify the process for gravesite owners as well as increase the number of available gravesites within the cemetery. Staff also recommends raising the transfer fee from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per transfer to offset staff's time in preparing assignment and transfer documents as well as facilitating the process between all parties.

Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he felt assigning a base refund of \$500 is fair. He asked if there should be a term for a refund.

Mr. Riblet replied that he anticipates raising rates at some point so putting a value term on it now may change in the future. Mr. Riblet explained that if agreed upon by the Committee and Council that the changes to the policy would not take effect until January 1, 2023.

Staff and the Committee discussed the frequency of purchasing graves and the number of graves left in the cemetery.

Mrs. Naiman made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the cemetery policy. Mr. Messer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Publication of Passed Legislation

Mr. Donnellon explained that due to a request for publication of legislation, staff requested a review of the rules for publication. Mr. Donnellon explained that Section 7.03 of the Charter requires each Ordinance and Resolution that is passed to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the City or by posting a copy of such legislative action in a conspicuous public place. Council is required to designate from time to time what that public place may be. For the past several years, our public place has been the City's website, although periodically a summary of legislation is posted in the Newsletter. He stated that Council made motions years ago to designate the bulletin board at Kroger's as a source for publication, but one would not know that is the site without searching the Minutes rather than looking in the Code of Ordinances available on the internet.

Mr. Donnellon stated that it is recommended that Council, consistent with Section 7.03 of the Charter, formally designate the City's website as a public place for publicizing legislative action. This is an easy and convenient forum and reaches everyone within the community. For those who may not have access to the internet, it is recommended that Council designate the bulletin board at the Safety Center as a secondary location for publication of legislative action. This bulletin board is available 24/7/52 and it is secured and publicly accessible.

Mr. Riblet advised the Committee to also report this to City Council for an overall motion to approve as well.

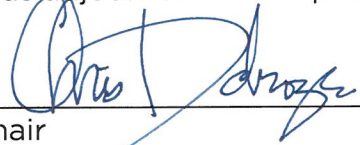
Mrs. Naiman moved to approve designating the website as well as the Safety Center bulletin board as a public place for publicizing legislative action. Mr. Messer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment

Mrs. Naiman moved for adjournment. Mr. Messer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed. The Governmental Affairs Committee of Council meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.



Chair