

City of Montgomery  
Government Affairs Committee Minutes  
October 17, 2022

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager  
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Serv. Dir.  
Julie Machon, Recreation Director  
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Committee Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Chair  
Ron Messer  
Sasha Naiman

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The Government Affairs Committee of Council convened its meeting for October 17, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. with Mr. Dobrozsi presiding.

New Business

2022 Holiday Card Selection

Ms. Machon presented several suggestions for consideration as the 2022 Holiday Card. After review and discussion, Mr. Messer moved to use a photo of Neuilly-Plaisance Plaza with the decorated Christmas Tree for this year's holiday card. Mrs. Naiman seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

2023 Community Leadership Forum Discussion

Mr. Riblet explained the history and original intent behind the Community Leadership Forum as a program initiated by City Council years ago to provide a forum for those who served in leadership roles with the City as boards and commission members, neighborhood leaders and MCLA graduates to be provided with updates on City processes, finances, development and partnerships with Sycamore Schools and local corporate representatives. Mr. Riblet stated that in past discussions with the Committee, it was determined that the previous format of the forum had become stale and was no longer as effective as originally designed. He stated that it was determined to only hold a forum if there was a specific topic or relevant issue that would be valuable to the community. Mr. Riblet added that the pandemic also prevented a forum to be held for the last two years but he feels that it would be acceptable to hold a forum at this time. Mr. Riblet explained that he felt there was potential to hold a Mental Health Fair. He explained that this would be different from the typical format but that it would fall in line with the current mental health initiative the City is focusing on. He asked the Committee to consider the topic of mental health as the basis of the forum, opening it up to the public, and also to consider holding it at a later date than the normal February event.

Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he agreed that we should not hold a forum just to have one. He asked if there is a feedback format to this or is it more output.

Mr. Riblet replied that while the format or agenda has not been formally vetted, he anticipated the format would be for short presentations and a panel discussion from mental health practitioners, local treatment centers/organizations and the Schools. He added that having these organizations placed at tables around the room so that attendees could get more information would be a large component of it that would provide the feel of a Mental Health Fair rather than just a speaker format.

Ms. Henao added that this was timely for this year but that in 2024 the forum could be conducted as more of a discussion with feedback from attendees to present a new Comprehensive Community Plan.

Mrs. Naiman stated that the mental health fair could be a good idea although it is definitely more output and not “leadership” per se. She stated that she still gets questions regarding leaf collection, traffic, pickleball and the MQ development. She stated she had no preference between a Forum or a Fair as they both would be valuable events.

Mr. Messer stated that he felt the Fair may not draw as many attendees. He explained that some of the topics like traffic could be addressed in the monthly bulletin and may be seen by more people. He stated that he was in favor of conducting a Forum or similar event again.

Mr. Riblet suggested that we view the event as a Community Forum and not necessarily a leadership forum and open it up to other communities who may be interested. He stated that there would be a limit to attendees however due to the final venue selection.

The Committee approved staff to continue to develop a format and plan for a Mental Health Fair.

Mr. Riblet stated that staff would begin work on it and provide an update at a future meeting.

### Surplus Equipment Public Works

Mr. Riblet explained that the Committee is asked to consider declaring a 2006 GMC 2500 Truck as surplus to be used as trade-in on a replacement truck. Mr. Riblet explained that this vehicle was outside of the Enterprise Fleet Management contract due to the timing of ordering the new truck being done prior to the contract with Enterprise being approved by City Council. He explained that with the exception of the large vehicles such as dump trucks and emergency fire apparatus, all regular vehicles would now be ordered through Enterprise.

Mrs. Naiman made a motion to declare the 2006 GMC 2500 Truck as surplus to be used as a trade in on a new replacement truck. Mr. Messer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

### Law Director Review Process

Ms. Gaylor distributed a proposed timeline for the Law Director Review process to the Committee. Mr. Dobrozsi explained the process to the Committee and after discussion provided direction to adjust the timeline. He stated that he would send out evaluation forms to staff that were participating as well as to City Council in the upcoming weeks.

### Other Business

Mr. Riblet provided a brief update on the MQ Development regarding restaurants, the hotel and apartment construction. He explained that Bru Burger was targeting opening before Thanksgiving but with the delay in materials it could be early December. He explained that they are cautious about

opening during the holidays based on staffing so they may wait until after the holidays to open. He stated that The Livery is targeting February of 2023, Genke Ramen (which is changing their name to Kazoo) is targeting opening the end of January 2023 and that there has been a Letter Of Interest (LOI) executed for a fourth restaurant that he hopes to be able to share soon.

Mr. Riblet explained that the hotel construction will begin in March of 2023 with an anticipated opening in July of 2024. He added that the apartments are expected to be completed in May or June of 2023 but that the pre-leasing will begin in January of 2023. He stated that the construction of both garages in Sequence three would be wrapped up in November.

### Adjournment

Mr. Messer moved for adjournment. Mrs. Naiman seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed. The Governmental Affairs Committee of Council meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

  
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Chair