

City of Montgomery  
City Council Work Session Minutes  
January 18, 2023

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Terry Donnellon, Law Director  
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager  
Chris Bigham, Interim Finance Director  
Kevin Chesar, Community Dev. Dir.  
John Crowell, Police Chief  
Mike Rogers, Asst. Public Works Director  
Paul Wright, Fire Chief  
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Serv. Dir.  
Amy Frederick, Communications and Engagement Coord.  
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present  
Craig Margolis, Mayor  
Lee Ann Bissmeyer, Vice Mayor  
Mike Cappel  
Ron Messer  
Sasha Naiman  
Ken Suer

Council Member Absent  
Chris Dobrozsi

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City Council convened its Work Session for January 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Margolis presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Margolis asked for a roll.

The roll was called and showed everyone present except for Council Member Dobrozsi. Mayor Margolis explained that Council Member Dobrozsi was out of town for business and asked for a motion to excuse his absence from the meeting.

Mr. Cappel made a motion to excuse Council Member Dobrozsi's absence. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Riblet performed the Swearing In ceremony of newly promoted Sergeant Jeff Barger and newly hired patrol officers Andre Jones and Rasheed Kasseem. City Council congratulated Sergeant Barger for his promotion and thanked him for his continued service to the Community. City Council also welcomed officers Jones and Kasseem and their families to the Montgomery family and thanked them for their service.

Council Member Naiman presented Chris and Mary Canarie with a Certificate of Appreciation as the 2022 Beautification and Tree Commission's Fall Seasons of Beauty Winners

**LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING**

There was no legislation for consideration at the meeting.

**ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2022 BUSINESS SESSION**

**PENDING LEGISLATION**

There was no pending legislation.

**NEW LEGISLATION**

**A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company To Provide Financial Advisory Services To City Employees**

Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

58

59 Mr. Riblet explained that, if approved, this Resolution will authorize a contract with Equitable Financial Life  
60 Insurance Company to provide an additional opportunity for employees to discuss various financial options that are  
61 available. There is no financial commitment and/or liability required from the City of Montgomery, and we can opt  
62 out at any time. The program will be completely voluntary for employees who wish to interact with representatives  
63 from Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company.

64

65 Mr. Messer asked if employees would invest on their own or if this was in addition to retirement.

66

67 Mr. Riblet replied that this was another opportunity for staff to obtain guidance on investing and they could  
68 transfer their there deferred compensation funds to this company where they would manage the investment  
69 of the funds. Mr. Riblet reiterated that this was completely voluntary and if the employee decides to pursue  
70 their services it would be at their own cost. He added that our physical wellness program and mental health  
71 initiative, this provides support to an employees financial wellness.

72

73 Mr. Messer asked if there were any risks.

74

75 Mr. Riblet said there was no risk to the City as there was no cost to the service being available. He added  
76 that it may take some time to gain interest and if after some time there didn't seem to be enough then the  
77 program could be discontinued by either party.

78

79 Mr. Messer asked why the City chose this company.

80

81 Mr. Riblet stated that it was suggested that we look at this company from an employee who has a spouse in  
82 another municipality that is working with them. He stated after searching for other companies with equal  
83 services with public entities he was not able to find any.

84

85 Mr. Suer explained that this was discussed at a Financial Planning Committee meeting and he felt that it was  
86 a good idea because this company is already working with other entities and is familiar with public fund  
87 programs such as deferred compensation.

88

89 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer stated that she felt this was another tool for employee retention and recruiting adding  
90 to overall wellness.

91

92 Mayor Margolis stated that he agreed that this is something that added to an individual's quality of life.

93

94 **A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Contract With Donald J. Schonhardt &**  
95 **Associates, Inc. For Professional Management Consulting Services**

96

97 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

98

99 Mr. Bigham explained that, if approved, this Resolution will contract with Donald J. Schonhardt & Associates for  
100 technical accounting and management oversight in the preparation of the 2022, 2023 and 2024 Annual  
101 Comprehensive Financial Report.

102

103 Mr. Suer stated that the City has worked with this firm for some time and is comparable to other firms that we have  
104 worked with that the long standing relationships produces quality work and efficiencies in their processes.

105

106 **A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Contract With Ela Holding Corporation,**  
107 **D/B/A Turnkey Technology, For A Security Camera System**

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109 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Vice Mayor Bissmeyer.

110  
111 Mr. Riblet explained that, if approved, this Resolution will authorize a contract with Turnkey Technology for  
112 purchase and installation of a camera system throughout City buildings and other identified locations and a door  
113 access system at several City-owned buildings for an amount of \$282,999.38. Funds for this project are included  
114 in the 2023 Budget in the "215" Law Enforcement Operating and Capital requests.

115  
116 Mr. Riblet explained that in April 2022 the City of Montgomery submitted a Congressionally Directed Spending  
117 (CDS) grant application requesting \$200,000 to assist with this project. Since that time, staff has met with several  
118 vendors regarding various camera manufacturing options the capabilities of multiple systems. Over that period of  
119 time staff found the cameras produced and manufactured by Verkada and installed by Turnkey Technology met the  
120 needs for the city and provided the best value. In recent weeks, the City of Montgomery was notified that the CDS  
121 grant application of \$200,000 was approved as part of the final spending bill approved in 2022 by Congress and  
122 signed by President Biden.

123  
124 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

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126 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

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- 128 • The next City Council Business Session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 immediately following a  
129 CIC meeting scheduled at 5:45 p.m., to hold the annual meeting of Members and Trustees. He added that  
130 Council had previously made a motion to commence with the Business Session immediately following the  
131 CIC meeting.
  - 132
  - 133 • The Financial Planning and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees will meet on Monday, February  
134 6 at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., respectively. The Law and Safety and Committee has cancelled their meeting for  
135 February.
  - 136
  - 137 • Closure of the Cooper Road bridge over 71 between March 1 to June 1 for ODOT to replace the parapet  
138 walls and vandal fencing. From what we understand this was preferred by Sycamore Schools as they have  
139 a tight window this summer to demolish and remove the Jr. High building. Initial detour was Kenwood to  
140 Pfeiffer to Montgomery Road, however, we are working with ODOT to change the detour to Kenwood to  
141 Ronald Reagan to Montgomery Road. A communications plan is being put together and will be finalized  
142 next week.
  - 143
  - 144 • The Finance Department closed the books on FY 2022 and I'm happy to report that our FY 2023 beginning  
145 balance is approximately \$1.8 million higher than projected. This is due to a combination of an increase in  
146 earnings tax, property tax, permit fees, interest income and departmental savings. Great job by all staff for  
147 being good stewards of our finances.
  - 148
  - 149 • Mr. Riblet reported that he and Chief Wright are on the Steering Committee for the Non-Profit  
150 "Neighborhood Brides-Sycamore" and was happy to announce that they processed \$142,174.71 in  
151 donations to students in the Sycamore School District in 2022.
  - 152
  - 153 • Mr. Riblet reported that former employee Kathi Ranford passed away suddenly on Sunday January 15. A  
154 Celebration of Life service will be held this coming Saturday. Please keep her family in your thoughts and  
155 prayers during this very difficult time.
  - 156
  - 157 • Session #2 of MCLA will be held at the Twin Lakes Clubhouse on Arborcreek Court on Thursday. This  
158 session will feature a discussion by Braver Angels.
  - 159

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- A reminder about the State of the County address being given by Hamilton County Commission President Alicia Reese on January 25. The event is being held at Memorial Hall and will begin at 6:00 p.m.
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- 162
- There is a First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio membership meeting scheduled for January 30 at which time Liz Blume with Blume Community Partners will be in attendance to present on affordable housing, Hamilton County's housing plans, and community engagement. The event is being held at the Village of Silverton Municipal Building from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
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168 **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

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170 **Mr. Cappel**

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172 Mr. Cappel reported that at the Public Works Committee meeting staff presented the streets for the 2023 Steet Resurfacing Project which will go out to bid the second week of February. He added that staff also provided an update on the Huntersknoll Storm Water Management project.

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176 Mr. Cappel reported that cardboard recycling would be held on Saturday, January 21.

177

178 Mr. Cappel stated that he would like to reappoint Alice Aguilar and Donna Schwartz to the Environmental Advisory Commission with terms ending January 31, 2026. He stated that these reappointments are a recommendation from the Public Works Committee that met on January 9, 2023 and therefore do not a second.

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182 City Council unanimously agreed to the reappointments.

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184 **Vice Mayor Bissmeyer**

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186 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer stated that she would like to make a motion to reappoint Barbara Steinebrey to the Planning Commission with a term ending on January 31, 2027. She explained that the reappointments have not been discussed at the Committee level so they would need a second.

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190 Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

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193 **Mr. Dobrozi**

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195 In Mr. Dobrozi's absence Mr. Riblet stated that he would like to make a motion to reappoint the following Commission members to their respective Commissions as follows:

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197

198 Rosie Ritchie to the Arts Commission with terms ending January 31, 2026.

199

200 Jody Ballah, Dina Schmid and Jack Wild to the Sister Cities Commission with terms ending January 31, 2026.

201

202 Mr. Riblet stated that the reappointments have not been discussed at the Committee level and would need a second. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed to the reappointments.

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204

205 **Mrs. Naiman**

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207 Mrs. Naiman made a motion to reappoint Shirley Freedman and Darla Hall to the Beautification and Tree Commission with terms ending on January 31, 2026. She explained that the reappointments have not been discussed at the Committee level so they would need a second. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

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211 Mrs. Naiman made a motion to reappoint Tammy Moore and Ben Linser to the Parks and Recreation Commission  
212 with a term ending on January 31, 2026. She explained that the reappointments have not been discussed at the  
213 Committee level so they would need a second. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed,  
214

215 **Mr. Suer**  
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217 Mr. Suer made a motion to reappoint Gary Blomberg and Ed Steinebrey to the Board of Tax Review with a term  
218 ending on January 31, 2025. He explained that the reappointments have not been discussed at the Committee level  
219 so they would need a second. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
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221 Mr. Suer made a motion to reappoint Brett Macht and Stephen Schmidlin to the Landmarks Commission with a  
222 term ending on January 31, 2026. He explained that the reappointments have not been discussed at the Committee  
223 level so they would need a second. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
224

225 **Mr. Messer**  
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227 Mr. Messer made a motion to reappoint Benny Miles to the Civil Service Commission with a term ending on January  
228 31, 2026. He explained that the reappointments have not been discussed at the Committee level so they would need  
229 a second. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
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231 **Mayor Margolis**  
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233 Mayor Margolis thanked Staff for a wonderful kick-off to this year's MCLA program.  
234

235 **MINUTES**  
236

237 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the January 4, 2023 Business Session minutes as written. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer  
238 seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
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240 **OTHER BUSINESS**  
241

242 Jim Brooker-a resident shared his concerns about the safety of the crosswalks at the intersection of the four-way  
243 stop Remington and Zigzag roads. He stated he felt it was most dangerous during the rush hour and asked if  
244 something could be done to make it safer.  
245

246 Mr. Riblet responded that he has sent some information to Mr. Brooker in a previous email but would resend it to  
247 make sure he received it that explained regulations the City must follow since it is a four-way stop but he felt there  
248 was enhancements to the signage that could be done to raise awareness to the crosswalk. He stated that staff would  
249 be meeting internally to discuss the options available.  
250

251 **ADJOURNMENT**  
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253 Mayor Margolis asked if there was any further business to discuss in Public Session. There being none he asked for  
254 a motion to adjourn.  
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256 Mr. Cappel moved to adjourn. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
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258 City Council adjourned at 7:06 p.m.  
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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council