

City of Montgomery
Financial Planning Committee Meeting
April 3, 2023

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
Maura Gray, Finance Director
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

Council Committee Members Present

Ken Suer, Chair
Lee Ann Bissmeyer

Council Committee Members Absent

Mike Cappel

The Financial Planning Committee of Council convened its meeting for April 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall with Mr. Suer presiding.

March Income Tax Report

Ms. Gray reported for the month of March, the City's total income tax receipts were \$1,168,147 which is an increase of \$941 or 8.76% when compared to the 2022 March collections of \$1,074,039. Year-to-date revenue is down slightly; however, March collections are well above 2021 and 2020 numbers.

Ms. Gray reported in March 2023, net profits from businesses located within or doing business within Montgomery were \$96,344. This is an increase of \$29,725 or 44.62 when compared to March 2022 collections of \$66,619. The variance is partly due to the fact that a higher volume of payments was received in March, 2023 when compared to March 2022.

Ms. Gray reported revenues of \$172,013 were collected in March 2023 from residents living in Montgomery, which is an increase of \$57,435 or 50.13% when compared to March 2022 collections of \$114,578. The majority of the increase is due to a large estimated tax payment remitted by one individual resident. Staff has also reported that returns are coming in earlier than usual this year.

Ms. Gray reported that March 2023 withholding collections were \$899,790; an increase of \$6,949 or .78% when compared to March 2022 collections of \$892,790. Collections are in-line with 2022 revenue and well above the amount estimated for 2023.

Mr. Riblet stated that while revenues have been on an incline for the last couple of years he anticipates they will begin to plateau then will bump up again when the Montgomery Quarter fills the tenant office spaces. He stated that he feels that a 7-10% margin of increase will be the norm for a period of time.

Minutes

Mrs. Bissmeyer moved to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting of the Financial Planning Committee as written. Mr. Suer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Other Business

Mr. Suer provided background regarding the upcoming contract with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). He explained to Ms. Gray that after much discussion regarding contracting with RITA for income tax processing and management that it is the Committee's desire to retain a personal approach with the residents. He stated that the Committee and all of Council wishes to work in a hybrid manner with RITA which would retain one finance staff member as a tax representative that people could still meet with. He stated that while some snags at the beginning are expected, he hoped that we would be able to manage those in order for the partnership to work.

Mr. Suer explained that the City has a Board of Tax Review that meets when requested to handle taxpayer disputes. He explained the structure of the Board with three Council appointees and two City Manager appointees. He discussed the

open vacancy and asked Ms. Gaylor to follow up with the existing City Manager appointees to discuss the possibility of them being interested in the vacant spot.

Ms. Gaylor reported she has reached out by email but would follow up with phone calls to try to reach them. She reported that she had one applicant interested in the vacancy and would forward his information to the Committee to review.

Mr. Suer also shared that in the Strategic Plan, Finance Goal, there is a strategy item regarding developing materials to help the public understand the cities finances. He stated that he would like to see something that was simple and easy to understand that included graphics. He stated that this document would be something that could be posted on the website, available at the front desk, or even distributed through the new mobile unit or "info-squad" as he termed it.

Mr. Riblet reported that staff have recently applied for two grants. The first is with Hamilton County Public Health and is a Community Mini-Grant. He explained that the conversion of the out of service ambulance into a mobile information unit was submitted as it would serve several purposes but largely community engagement. He stated that if the City was awarded the grant, it would cover almost all the costs of the conversion.


Mr. Riblet explained that the second grant is a grant also issued by Hamilton County Planning and is a Small Event Grant that is to promote economic development through the support of smaller, community-focused events. He stated that the Vegas in the Village event was staff's focus when applying for this grant.

Mr. Riblet replied that he is aware of additional SORTA funding coming available next year and would keep the Committee and Council abreast of all grants applied for as well as those awarded to the city.

Adjournment

Mrs. Bissmeyer moved for adjournment. Mr. Suer seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

The Financial Planning Committee of Council was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



Chair