

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

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager
Kevin Chesar, Community Development Director
John Crowell, Police Chief
Maura Gray, Finance Director
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director
Connie Gaylor, 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 October 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Margolis presiding.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Cappel made a motion to dispense with roll call as all members were present. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mayor Margolis stated that in light of current global events he would like to take a moment of silence to consider the lives lost and families who were affected.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Hamilton County Commission Vice President Denise Driehaus presented an update to City Council on projects and initiatives in the county.

GUESTS AND RESIDENTS

LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING

There was no legislation for consideration at the meeting.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 1, 2023 BUSINESS SESSION

PENDING LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Montgomery, State of Ohio During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024

Mr. Suer stated that this would be the second reading of this Ordinance and asked if there were any updates.

Ms. Gray replied that as discussed at the Financial Planning meeting, it is anticipated there may be updates presented prior to the final approval request on December 6.

NEW LEGISLATION

A Resolution Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Messer.

57 Chief Wright explained that, if approved, this Resolution would formally adopt the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard
58 Mitigation Plan to comply with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established rules and
59 regulations under 44 CFR Parts 201.6. He stated that in August of 2022 after receiving a FEMA grant to assist in
60 the process, a core group of community leaders and government agencies with the knowledge and authority to help
61 the community organize a plan was assembled to develop the mitigation plan. A survey form was sent to the 49
62 local governments in Hamilton County which requested each local government to rank the six hazards (flooding,
63 severe storms, tornados, landslides, earthquakes, and drought) and provide additional requested information. From
64 that survey results the information was compiled into the new plan now presented to City Council. Chief Wright
65 recommended City Council adopt the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan by way of a resolution in
66 order to comply with the FEMA requirement in order to expedite eligibility for federal disaster mitigation funding
67 in the event of a natural disaster effecting the City of Montgomery.
68

69 Mr. Suer stated that with the vicinity of the three interstates surrounding the city, the possibility of a hazardous
70 material leak is more significant for the City. He asked Chief Wright how the fire department knew what a tanker
71 would be hauling in the event of an accident and subsequent spill.
72

73 Chief Wright explained that on those types of tankers there are three placards that indicate what the tank is hauling.
74 He stated that, if available, the driver would also have a bill of lading that would state what type of materials were
75 inside the tank. Chief Wright stated that he felt each year there is better information and training on how to handle
76 these kind of accidents. He added that Hamilton County has a HazMat Team available that would be utilized in the
77 instance of a serious accident.
78

79 Mr. Messer asked Chief Wright how the Mitigation Plan was different from an Emergency Operation Plan.

81 Chief Wright stated that the Mitigation Plan was compiled to know how to prevent or decrease the seriousness of
82 hazards whereas an Emergency Operations Plan is all about responding to something that has occurred.
83

84 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with SwimSafe Pool Management,**
85 **Inc. for Professional Services Related to the Operation and Management of the Montgomery Municipal**
86 **Pool**
87

88 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mrs. Naiman.
89

90 Mr. Heitkamp explained that, if approved, this Resolution will authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement
91 with SwimSafe Pool Management, Inc. that will manage the pool, all staffing (including guards, swim lesson
92 instructors and swim team coaches) and concessions. Two proposals were received from pool management
93 companies and based on staff's analysis, it is recommended that SwimSafe Pool Management, Inc. be awarded the
94 contract to provide the management services for the 2024 and 2025 swim seasons that also includes option years
95 for 2026-2027. Funds for this contract have been programmed into the 275.000.5365 account for the 2024 budget
96 cycle. Mr. Heitkamp added that while SwimSafe may not be the lowest bidder, staff feels their customer service
97 and proven reliability with the City makes them the best choice. He explained that during the pandemic in 2020
98 and 2021, SwimSafe worked closely with staff to modify their contract due to reduced operations. He explained
99 that several of the staff members at SwimSafe are Sycamore teachers who are familiar with the community and
100 residents and extend the professionalism the City values.
101

102 Mr. Messer asked if the proposed 2024 budget includes the funds to absorb the difference in the bids.
103

104 Mr. Heitkamp stated that it did. He stated that the bid amount was the same as the amount from the last year of
105 SwimSafe's contract and was programmed into the 2024 Budget.
106

107 Mr. Suer stated that there are other firms that the City has stayed with even with slight increases because of the
108 relationship and trust that has been established. He stated that this type of consistency works well for the City.

109

Mrs. Naiman asked if the City has worked with Cincinnati Pool Management in the past.

110

111

112

Mr. Heitkamp replied that we have but Staff believes our history with SwimSafe makes them the better option for this contract. He stated that it has been prior to SwimSafe and estimated around 14 years ago. He stated that while the feedback on that experience was not as positive, he could not provide an opinion on their operations at this time.

113

114

115

116

Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he feels SwimSafe is an excellent provider of service and is in favor of staying with them.

117

118

119

Vice Mayor Bissmeyer stated that she felt the addition of the pool heater and the management by SwimSafe have worked well for the pool. She asked Mr. Heitkamp if the contract would cover any raises in lifeguard salaries if we were faced with a situation like we had in 2022 of having to increase the contract in order to hire lifeguards.

120

121

122

123

124

Mr. Heitkamp stated that is considered and built into the contract for 2024 and 2025. He stated if there was an extreme issue, staff would discuss that with Council.

125

126

127

Mr. Cappel stated that SwimSafe is doing well and gave staff kudos for recommending to keep them.

128

129

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

130

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

131

132

- City Council Business Session is scheduled for November 1 immediately following a Public Hearing scheduled at 5:30 p.m.

133

134

135

- The Law and Safety, Financial Planning and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees meeting for the month of November are cancelled.

136

137

138

- An update for the scheduling of the Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Public Works Committees will be provided at the November 1 Business Session.

139

140

141

- Ms. Gray reports that the conversion to RITA was conducted earlier today.

142

143

- On Friday, October 20 the annual Rib Lunch sponsored and prepared by Law Director Terry Donnellon will be held from 11-1 at Public Works.

144

145

146

- There are 33 people registered to attend the Lanterns and Landmarks Historic Walking Tour and Reception on Saturday, October 21 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

147

148

- On Monday, October 23 the Kevin Hines presentation is being held at Good Shepherd. We have 500 people registered. Doors open at 6:00 with the presentation beginning at 7:00.

149

150

151

- The second Live at the Uni concert will be held on Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. inside Universalist Church. This concert is sold out with 110 signed up to attend. Carmon Deleone and Friends will be presenting "Celebrating Four Great Jazz Piano Trios."

152

153

154

155

- 156 • On Friday, October 27, the First Responders Breakfast honoring our safety services personnel will be held
157 at the Safety Center beginning at 7:00 a.m.
- 158
- 159 • On Friday, October 27, the Fifth Third Private Bank Fall Festival will be held from 4:00-6:00 in their
160 offices. Festivities include a chili cook-off, Chick fila for the kids, Face Painting and Bracelet Making.
161 RSVPs are necessary.
- 162
- 163 • On Saturday, November 4, the American Legion Post 630 will once again be holding a Veteran Grave
164 marking ceremony at Hopewell Cemetery. Please plan to arrive by 10:00 a.m. to participate.
- 165
- 166 • On Saturday, November 4, The EAC will hold a Catch Basin Labeling event. Volunteers are meeting at
167 Weller Park to meet with a Hamilton County Soil and Water representative before traveling to the north
168 end of town to inspect and replace the worn labels. This project is done every 5-7 years depending on the
169 condition of the labels that informs of “No Dumping Allowed” into the storm sewer drains.
- 170
- 171 • On Saturday, November 11, the annual Blue Ash Veterans Day ceremony will be held beginning at 10:30
172 and will last approximately 1 hour. Please let Ms. Gaylor know if you plan to attend and if you will attend
173 the luncheon that follows. The cost of the luncheon is \$7. The deadline for reservations is 10/30.
- 174

175 Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session for matters related to negotiations with a collective bargaining unit.

176 LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

177
178
179 Mr. Donnellon reported that he attended an OML Crisis Communications meeting where the discussion was on the
180 types of dangers or threats that municipalities face. He stated that it was a very good discussion and was timely
181 considering the multi-hazard mitigation plan legislation.

182 CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

183 Mr. Cappel

184
185
186
187 Mr. Cappel reported that cardboard recycling would be held on Saturday, October 21 at Public Works from 10:00
188 to 1:00 p.m. He added that the EAC would be conducting a Catch Basin Labeling event on Saturday, November 4
189 at Weller Park.

190
191 Mr. Cappel stated that although he wasn't able to attend the Harvest Moon Festival, he seen that it was well attended
192 despite the rainy weather and thanked staff and volunteers for continuing to hold this family event.

193 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer

194
195
196 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer echoed Mr. Cappel's comments regarding Harvest Moon and thanked staff for their efforts.

197
198 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer also commented on the Grand Opening of Contrast Studios and how impressed she was by
199 the owner, Patrick Coyne, and the facility.

200 Mr. Dobrozsi

201
202 Mr. Dobrozsi reported the Arts Commission will host the second at the Live at the Uni concert on October 24.

203
204
205 Mr. Dobrozsi praised staff for the Harvest Moon Festival. He stated it is always a great event.

206 Mr. Dobrozsi reported that at the last Government Affairs meeting, the Committee selected the Holiday Card,
207 discussed with staff that a commercial Christmas Tree had been purchased to be set up on the fountain at the MQ
208 Park and also that a Menorah lighting was being researched to be added for next year's Hannukah season. Mr.
209 Dobrozsi added that a list of equipment from the Fire Department was declared surplus and approved to be sold on
210 GovDeals.com.

211
212 Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he would not be at the November 1, 2023 Business Session due to a work trip.

213
214 Mr. Dobrozsi also added that it is time for the Law Directors evaluation so he would be reaching out to Council and
215 Staff to complete his 360 evaluation.

216
217 **Mrs. Naiman**

218
219 Mrs. Naiman stated that she wanted to commend the staff for all the wonderful activities that are held for residents.
220 She stated that the Amazing Race, Plant Swaps and the last presentation by Diversity & Inclusion member Juan
221 Molina on the *Day of The Dead* all offered different opportunities for the community to get involved in different
222 ways.

223
224 **Mr. Suer**

225
226 Mr. Suer praised staff for their great job at Harvest moon.

227
228 **Mr. Messer**

229
230 Mr. Messer echoed all of Council's comments regarding the Harvest Moon Festival. He asked if staff were able to
231 garner any input on the comprehensive community plan from those who attended.

232
233 Ms. Henao replied that yes, there was a lot of good feedback on the Montgomery Quarter and the roundabout.

234
235 **Mayor Margolis**

236
237 Mayor Margolis stated that he feels the residents and community are taking notice of the valuable events that the
238 City is offering.

239
240 Mayor Margolis reported that he participated in a Joint Trench Rescue Training at Public Works which was very
241 educational and reflective of the professionalism of the staff.

242 Mayor Margolis reported that he attended a Hamilton County Emergency Management Association meeting on
243 Monday, October 16. He stated that they discussed the Mitigation Plan that was presented on the agenda this
244 evening. He added that at this meeting they also discussed preparation for the April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse
245 that will be occurring in this region. He stated they expected tourism to increase as this area would be in the path
246 of the eclipse.

247
248 **MINUTES**

249
250 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the October 4, 2023 Business Session minutes as written. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer
251 seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

252
253 **OTHER BUSINESS**

254
255 There was no other business.

256
257

258
259
260
261
262
263
264
265
266
267
268
269
270
271
272
273
274
275
276
277
278
279
280
282
283
284
285
286
287

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Margolis stated that there would be a short recess before adjourning into Executive Session. Council adjourned into recess at 7:12 p.m.

City Council came out of recess at 7:25. Mayor Margolis asked for a roll call to adjourn into Executive Session for matters related to negotiations with a collective bargaining unit.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Dobrozi, Margolis, Naiman, Suer, Messer (7)
NAY: (0)

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Council reconvened from Executive Session into Public Session at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Margolis asked if there was any further business to discuss in the Public Session. There being none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Cappel moved to adjourn. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

City Council adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council