

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
September 20, 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
Amy Frederick, Community Engagement Coordinator
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

Craig Margolis, Mayor
Lee Ann Bissmeyer, Vice Mayor
Chris Dobrozsi
Ron Messer
Sasha Naiman
Ken Suer

Council Member Absent

Mike Cappel

City Council convened its Work Session for September 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Margolis presiding.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with all members present except for Mr. Cappel. Mr. Dobrozsi moved to excuse Mr. Cappel's absence. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Beth Sullebarger was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her years serving as a consultant to the Landmarks Commission.

GUESTS AND RESIDENTS

LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING

There was no legislation for consideration at the meeting.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 4, 2023 BUSINESS SESSION

PENDING LEGISLATION

There was no pending legislation for consideration at this meeting.

NEW LEGISLATION

A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by The Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to The County Auditor

Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

Ms. Gray explained that, if approved, this Resolution will accept the rates and amounts determined by the Hamilton County Budget Commission. As a State of Ohio taxing authority and pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, the City is required to adopt an annual tax budget. City Council adopted the Tax Budget on July 5, 2023, and then submitted it to the Hamilton County Auditor for review by that office and the Hamilton County Budget Commission. Those reviews did not generate any questions and the proposed Tax Budget was accepted by the Budget Commission and Auditor. City Council is requested to act to accept the Budget Commission's rates and amounts, which would result in the estimated collections as specified in the City's 2024 Tax Budget. This action will then permit the Budget Commission to collect property taxes at the rates established for the upcoming year.

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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

Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

Ms. Gray explained that, if approved, this Ordinance will establish the City’s budget for fiscal year 2024. These documents were presented to and reviewed with City Council at the September 14 Budget Review meeting. As a result of these discussions, any changes to the budget will be forthcoming and will be presented to City Council prior to the final reading on December 6, 2023.

Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he will recuse himself from the discussion and vote on this legislation as it includes funding for the Montgomery Quarter development which he recuses any and all legislation related to the development.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- City Council Business Session is scheduled for October 4 at 6:00 p.m.
- Several staff members will be travelling to Austin, Texas on the normally scheduled Committee meetings on Monday, October 2. He explained that there were no items for Law and Safety or the Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees, and requested that if Financial Planning were to be held it could be rescheduled to the October 9 Committee meeting date.
- An update for the scheduling of the Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Public Works Committees will be provided at the October 4 Business Session.
- Staff are requesting that a Public Hearing be scheduled for Wednesday, November 1 prior to the City Council Business Session beginning at 5:30 p.m. to consider three items. City Council approved and Vice Mayor Bismeyer made a motion to commence with the Business Session immediately following the conclusion of the Public Hearing. Mrs. Naiman seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.
- Ms. Frederick reports that MCLA 2024 registrations are up to 12, she continues to recruit candidates.
- Public Works are in their second week of fall chipping. They are also in the process of replacing all the summer flowers with mums. They have 800 yellow and 300 red mums to plant.
- The construction for the Rambler Hotel officially began this week.
- The Development Team reports that the Pepsi Company will be relocating from the Mason area to occupy half of the first floor of building 2B at the MQ. The Fortune 100 Company will bring 80-85 executive employees to the space. They are planning to occupy their new offices in March 2024.

Human Resources

- New Firefighter/Paramedics, Jeffrey Wurtz and Tyler Billman, began their employment with the City this week.

108 Events

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- 110 • The Environmental Advisory Commission will hold its annual One Stop Drop recycling event this Saturday
111 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Public Works Facility. A reminder that this event will not include shredding
112 services.
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 - 114 • The Annual Car Show rolls in to town this Saturday. This popular event will be held at the Montgomery
115 Square Plaza from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.
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 - 117 • A Know Your Neighbor presentation will be held on Thursday, September 28 at 6:00 pm at Terwilliger
118 Lodge. Juan Molina, Montgomery resident and member of the Diversity and Inclusion Commission, will
119 share information about the true meaning of the Mexican celebration *Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead*.
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 - 121 • The First Annual Amazing Montgomery Race will be held on Saturday September 30, from 2:00-5:00 pm
122 beginning at Weller Park.
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124 Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session to consider the employment of a public employee.

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126 **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

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128 Mr. Donnellon reported that as the referendum period has passed for the amendment to the development agreement,
129 the kickoff to Stage 2 of the MQ development is taking place.

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131 **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

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133 **Mr. Cappel**

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135 Mr. Cappel was absent from the meeting.

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137 **Vice Mayor Bissmeyer**

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139 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer thanked staff for a wonderful Vegas in the Village event.

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141 **Mr. Dobrozsi**

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143 Mr. Dobrozsi reported the Arts Commission met and are working on Live at the Uni concerts. He stated they are
144 scheduled for October 10, October 24, and November 14. He added that there would also be a holiday concert
145 featuring Mandy Gaines. The Arts Commission is continuing to plan a Food Tour in hopes of holding it next year.

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147 Mr. Dobrozsi reported that Sister Cities met and is looking at the Soire en Blanc event that was cancelled and is
148 discussing rebranding it to a different type of event, held at a different time in the year in hopes of drawing in more
149 attendance.

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151 Mr. Dobrozsi reported that at the last Government Affairs meeting, the Committee discussed with staff scheduling
152 all council meetings to be the first and third Wednesdays of each month rather than changing the Work Session
153 meeting dates on five-week months. He stated that holidays would certainly be observed but this change would
154 reduce confusion on when the Work Sessions were being held. He stated that the Committee agreed on this and it
155 was a Committee recommendation. He asked City Council for a motion of support.

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157 Mr. Messer made a motion to schedule all Work Session meetings on the third Wednesday of each month unless a
158 holiday falls on that Wednesday which then could be rescheduled. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council
159 unanimously agreed.

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Mrs. Naiman

Mrs. Naiman stated that she attended a Sycamore Advisory Council meeting, the first of the school year.

Mrs. Naiman reported that the Beautification and Tree Commission met and are planning the Fall Plant Swap being held on Saturday, September 30 at the Montgomery Farmers Market. She added that they are also working on the planning for the October B & T Talk.

Mrs. Naiman reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission met. She explained that they recently held two events: a Movie in the Park at Weller Park and also the Star Party, both were very successful events. She added that they are working on the final details of the Amazing Montgomery Race.

Mrs. Naiman reported that the Diversity and Inclusion Commission is holding a Know Your Neighbor Presentation on Thursday, September 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Terwilliger Lodge.

Mr. Suer

Mr. Suer asked for details about the Amazing Race as he was asked to be a judge.

Ms. Tammy Moore, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission was in attendance and provided details of the event.

Mr. Suer also complimented staff on the efficient Budget Review meeting and process.

Mr. Messer

Mr. Messer echoed Mr. Suer's sentiments on the Budget Review meeting and process.

Mr. Messer provided details of a Hamilton County Partners in Preparedness meeting he attended along with Mayor Margolis and Fire Chief Paul Wright largely focused on hazardous materials.

Mayor Margolis

Mayor Margolis reported that he attended an International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Cincinnati Chapter, meeting held at the Montgomery Quarter. He explained that Mr. Riblet and Mr. Mike Doty of Brandicorp presented on the Montgomery Quarter project. He stated the presentation included a tour of the apartments and development and was a great representation of the City's vision.

MINUTES

Mr. Messer moved to accept the September 6, 2023; Business Session minutes as written. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

MAYORS COURT REPORT

Vice Mayor Bissmeyer made a motion to accept the August 2023 Mayors Court Report to disburse \$7,205. Mr. Messer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Margolis stated that there would be a short recess before adjourning into Executive Session for matters related to the employment of a public employee. Council adjourned into recess at 6:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Council reconvened from Executive Session into Public Session at 7:09 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.

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

City Council adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council