

City of Montgomery  
City Council Work Session Minutes  
November 15, 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  
Mike Cappel  
Chris Dobrozsi  
Ron Messer  
Sasha Naiman  
Ken Suer

City Council convened its Work Session for November 15, 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.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

The Health Care Benefits Committee was in attendance to make a presentation to City Council on the recent quote process for group medical and dental insurance coverages.

Julie Prickett, Human Resource Manager, introduced the members of the Health Care Benefits Committee present. They were Mike Young (Fire Department), Tony Brothers (Public Works Department), T.J. Shreve (Police Department) and Maura Gray (Finance Department). Ms. Prickett also mentioned a special thanks to Jessica Tice of the Finance Department for her administrative support to the Committee. Also, in attendance was Amy Smith with Hub-Horan, the City's Health Care Broker.

Ms. Prickett explained the Committee has the responsibility to evaluate group insurance proposals and to make recommendations on the insurance renewal coverage options. She explained that the Committee believes this recommendation for the upcoming policy period offers the best combination of service and value for the City and the employees. She explained that earlier this year, Humana announced that it was leaving the group medical insurance market. In addition, the IRS announced that 2024 minimum deductibles for embedded high deductible health plans (HDHP's) would be increasing from \$3000/single and \$6000/family to \$3200/single and \$6400 family. These two announcements made it obvious that changes to both the carrier and the plan design would be unavoidable for 2024.

The City's loss ratio for the period from June 2022 through May 2023 was good at 74.02%; however, the loss ratio for the prior period from June 2021 through May 2022 was a concerning 110.48%. The Committee evaluated the proposals which showed a 22.1% increase from Aetna (closely matched current plan design); 29.3% increase from UnitedHealthcare (with higher than minimum deductibles and higher co-pays); 29.6% increase from Medical Mutual of Ohio (with higher than minimum deductibles); and four plan design options from Anthem.

The HealthCare Benefits Committee considered two of Anthem's options. The first Anthem option closely matched current plan design (but with higher out of pocket maximums) and was quoted at a 16.9% increase. The second Anthem option did not closely match current plan design (20% copays and higher out of pocket maximums) and was quoted at a 10.7% increase over current premium costs.

57 Through negotiations with HUB-HORAN, Anthem countered with a 12.2% increase for the first option and a 6.3%  
58 increase for the second option. Both of Anthem's revised proposals required "bundling" Anthem's group dental  
59 and voluntary vision insurance plans with its group medical plan.  
60

61 The Health Care Benefits Committee decided to recommend Anthem's first plan option, which closely matches  
62 current plan design and would represent a 12.2% increase over current premium costs. Anthem's first plan option  
63 meets the IRS 2024 mandated changes for High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP) with \$3,200/\$6,400 deductibles  
64 (with prescriptions covered after meeting out of pocket maximums of \$4,000 single/\$8,000 family.) The  
65 recommended plan would result in monthly premium costs of \$594.94 for Single coverage, \$1308.87 for  
66 Employee/Spouse, \$1,130.39 for Employee/Child(ren), and \$1903.81 for Family coverage.  
67

68 Historically, the annual percentage premium changes for medical insurance over the last fifteen years have ranged  
69 from a decrease of 6.9% to an increase of 25% as the following shows:

| 70 | Year | Percentage Increase | Provider            |
|----|------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 71 |      |                     |                     |
| 72 | 2008 | 18%                 | Medical Mutual Ohio |
| 73 | 2009 | 21%                 | Medical Mutual Ohio |
| 74 | 2010 | 25%                 | Medical Mutual Ohio |
| 75 | 2011 | 15%                 | United Health Care  |
| 76 | 2012 | 6%                  | Anthem BC/BS        |
| 77 | 2013 | 5%                  | Anthem BC/BS        |
| 78 | 2014 | 6.9% decrease       | Humana              |
| 79 | 2015 | 5.0% decrease       | Humana              |
| 80 | 2016 | 5.68%               | Humana              |
| 81 | 2017 | zero                | Humana              |
| 82 | 2018 | zero                | Humana              |
| 83 | 2019 | 9.0%                | Humana              |
| 84 | 2020 | zero (15 months)    | Humana              |
| 85 | 2021 | 14%                 | Humana              |
| 86 | 2022 | 6.0%                | Humana              |
| 87 | 2023 | 12.2% (proposed)    | Anthem              |
| 88 |      |                     |                     |

89 Ms. Prickett explained that factoring in the proposed 12.2% increase for the new contract period, the average annual  
90 premium increase for the 16 contract periods would be 7.81%. Moving forward, the Health Care Benefits Committee  
91 intends to research creative cost-saving approaches to help reduce rising health care cost trends. In addition, more  
92 employee education regarding cost-effective strategies when utilizing health care benefits will be offered.  
93

94 Ms. Prickett explained that with Anthem's requirement to bundle group dental insurance with the group medical  
95 insurance proposal, the Health Care Benefits Committee recommends Anthem for group dental insurance for the  
96 upcoming contract period. She stated that it should be noted that Anthem's group dental insurance plan matches the  
97 current Humana group dental plan, and it represents a 3.63% decrease in annual premium costs. Ms. Prickett added  
98 that the City currently contracts with Reliance Standard for group term life and AD&D insurance. Reliance Standard  
99 has agreed to a rate hold (current rates have been in place for three years and represented a 35.8% decrease from  
100 the prior carrier's rates.) There is no need for a recommendation for legislative action for group life insurance at  
101 this time.  
102

103 Mr. Cappel stated that he really likes the process of staff working together to quote out the insurance as he felt it  
104 provides buy-in from staff.  
105

106 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer thanked the Committee for their work on obtaining the quotes and making the  
107 recommendation on behalf of staff.  
108

109 Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he loved the employee input.

110

111 Mrs. Naiman thanked the Committee for their work and obtaining employee input. She stated that she is hearing of  
112 the rise in health care costs across the board from others.

113

114 Mr. Suer explained that the employees do an excellent job, along with Horan, in soliciting the best possible package  
115 that can be obtained. He stated that there are of course limitations on what staff can do. He stated he thought it was  
116 great to begin thinking about cost saving measures as the cost would more than likely not go down.

117

118 Mr. Messer asked if this was a one year contract.

119

120 Ms. Prickett replied it was.

121

122 Mr. Messer asked why Humana left the commercial market.

123

124 Ms. Amy Smith of Horan explained that they are going into the Medicare market.

125

126 Mr. Messer stated that, as we are seeing, inflation is at 3.5% but hopes that it will begin to go down.

127

128 Mayor Margolis thanked the Committee for their process. He stated that it is unheard of with most entities and  
129 companies to include their staff from all departments in a process such as this.

130

131 **GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

132

133 **LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION THIS EVENING**

134

135 There was no legislation for consideration at the meeting.

136

137 **ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 6, 2023 BUSINESS SESSION**

138

139 **PENDING LEGISLATION**

140

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

143

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

145

146 Ms. Gray provided the following updates to the Appropriation Ordinance:

147

148 • An increase in health insurance costs exceeding the 10% proposed budget amount by \$34,702.

149

150 • The proposed Rumpke contract, if approved by City Council, exceeds the budgeted amount which will  
151 result in an increase of \$130,000.

152 • The Historical Trust Fund will be reestablished in 2024 with anticipated revenues of \$22,000 and a  
153 placeholder of \$10,000 for expenditures.

154

155 • An additional \$15,000 to support oversight of events and services in the Montgomery Quarter.

156

157 • The proposed cost to update the Safety Center will require an appropriation adjustment of \$200,000. A  
158 request for an additional \$150,000 in the Fire Fund and an additional \$50,000 in the Police Department  
159 Capital Fund.

- The Brent Spence construction project has prompted a reassessment of the potential implications for the availability and cost of road repairs. As a result, there is a recommendation to shift the estimated appropriation for street repair for the year 2025 to the appropriation for 2024. This would lead to an increase of \$1.2 million in the 2024 appropriations in the Street Repair Fund and elimination of \$1.2 million of appropriations in 2025. This was discussed at a previous Financial Planning Committee meeting.

|                                 | Original             | Proposed             | Difference          |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 101 General Fund                | 13,697,709.00        | 13,861,195.00        | 163,486.00          |
| 219 Community Oriented Policing | 165,661.00           | 166,043.00           | 382.00              |
| 223 Fire                        | 5,348,694.00         | 5,511,501.00         | 162,807.00          |
| 261 Street Maintenance and Repa | 1,231,135.00         | 1,234,162.00         | 3,027.00            |
| 410 Ccapital Improvements       | 5,016,990.00         | 6,266,990.00         | 1,250,000.00        |
| 836 Historical Trust Fund       | -                    | 10,000.00            | 10,000.00           |
| <b>Total All Expenditures</b>   | <b>34,467,753.00</b> | <b>36,057,455.00</b> | <b>1,589,702.00</b> |

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| GF Healthcare Ins                     | 18,486.00           |
| Rumpke                                | 130,000.00          |
| GF Mont Quarter Events                | 15,000.00           |
| Comm Oriented Policing Healthcare Ins | 382.00              |
| Fire Safety Center                    | 150,000.00          |
| Fire Healthcare Ins                   | 12,807.00           |
| Streets Healthcare Ins                | 3,027.00            |
| 2025 Paving                           | 1,200,000.00        |
| Police Safety Center                  | 50,000.00           |
| Historical Trust Expense              | 10,000.00           |
|                                       | <u>1,589,702.00</u> |

Mr. Cappel stated that he thought it was brilliant that staff projects the budget forward for five years. He stated that this forecast enables to shift funds to different years to be able to save the City money.

Vice Mayor Bissmeyer thanked staff for being agile in the planning of projects to make recommendations that save the City money and time.

Mr. Dobrozsi echoed what Mr. Cappel and Vice Mayor Bissmeyer had said.

Mrs. Naiman asked in the bigger picture how the increases, more directly the Street Resurfacing project changes, would affect the budget and reserves.

Ms. Gray replied that it would not be significant.

Mr. Suer stated that he appreciated that staff has the foresight to anticipate issues and to provide direct input on what needs to be done.

Mr. Messer agreed that the Brent Spence Bridge project will affect local resurfacing projects.

Mr. Riblet explained that the update tonight would be reflected in the packet on December 6 as well as updated budget pages.

211 Mayor Margolis thanked staff for their efforts in providing the update and anticipated the final budget documents  
212 at the December 6 meeting.

213  
214 **NEW LEGISLATION**

215  
216 **A Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for The City of Montgomery**

217  
218 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

219  
220 Ms. Gray explained that the City's proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Program was reviewed by City  
221 Council as a companion piece to the proposed 2024 Operating and Capital Budget with Four Year Forecast and  
222 represents a comprehensive planning tool for capital investment in the community over the next five years. She  
223 explained that the aforementioned changes to the appropriation ordinance would be included in the capital budget  
224 pages of the budget book.

225  
226 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Community Insurance  
227 Company d/b/a Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield to Provide Medical Insurance and Dental  
228 Insurance for Full-Time Employees**

229  
230 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Dobrozsi.

231  
232 Mayor Margolis stated that as Ms. Prickett had just provided a presentation there is no need for further explanation.

233  
234 **A Resolution Establishing City Contributions for Health Care Benefits**

235  
236 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Dobrozsi.

237  
238 Ms. Prickett explained that, if approved, this Resolution will establish the City's maximum contribution limits  
239 (caps) for a 12-month period beginning January 2024 for medical and dental insurance. The caps determine  
240 the amount of money the employees must contribute toward the cost of their health and dental insurance  
241 coverages. Typically, the City has increased these "caps" annually by six percent (6%) for medical insurance  
242 and three percent (3%) for dental insurance. It should be noted that the recommended caps for medical and  
243 dental insurances are already in place in AFSCME, FOP and IAFF collective bargaining agreements.

244  
245 Mrs. Naiman asked if there would be vision insurance provided for staff.

246  
247 Ms. Prickett explained that vision insurance is purely voluntary and paid for by the employees.

248  
249 Mr. Messer asked what an employee would pay as far as their contributions to health and dental insurance.

250  
251 Ms. Prickett replied that for instance the City would pay \$1,767 for a family with Anthem then the \$19.03  
252 monthly difference would be split between the City and the Employee.

253  
254 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with CT Associates, Inc. For  
255 Professional Services Related To General Engineering And Architectural Services For Calendar Year  
256 2024**

257  
258 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Messer.

259  
260 Mr. Heitkamp explained that this is an annual renewal for engineering and architectural services for the  
261 calendar year 2024. He explained that the City has contracted with CT Consultants to provide civil, traffic,

262 structural, electrical and storm water engineering services. CT Consultants has provided a competitive fee  
263 structure for 2024 including slight hourly rate increases for engineering services. As was provided in previous  
264 years, CT Consultants has deleted the line item for billing of the "Principal" from the fee schedule. If for any  
265 reason the Principal Engineer provides engineering services during the contract year for development/design  
266 review or project design/review, that work would be billed at the hourly rate of a "Senior Manager." Funding  
267 for this professional services contract is included in the City's 2024 Operating Budget in both the Public  
268 Works and Community Development operating budgets.

269  
270 Mr. Suer stated that it is valuable that CT offers a wide range of services and expertise.

271  
272 Mayor Margolis stated their long standing relationship with the City and their expertise has saved the City  
273 money.

274  
275 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Contract With National Inspection Corporation For**  
276 **Professional Services To Serve As Building Official And To Provide Plan Review And Field Inspection**  
277 **Authority And Services For The City's Building Department For The Calendar Year 2024**

278  
279 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Messer.

280  
281 Mr. Chesar explained that, if approved, this legislation will authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract  
282 with National Inspection Corporation for professional services to serve as Building Official and to provide  
283 plan review and field inspection authority and services for the City's Building Department for the calendar  
284 year 2024. The City has contracted for approximately 20 years with National Inspection Corporation to  
285 provide plan review and field inspection authority and services for the City's building department and the  
286 City continues to be very satisfied with their ability to perform each of these duties.

287  
288 **A Resolution Declaring A Moratorium On The Collection Of Building And Zoning Permit Fees For**  
289 **Solar Installations**

290  
291 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Vice Mayor Bissmeyer.

292  
293 Mr. Chesar explained that, if approved, this Resolution would declare a moratorium on the collection of  
294 building and zoning permit fees for solar installations. City Council approved Resolution 31 2021 waiving  
295 building and zoning fees for solar installations with a cap of \$1,000 for 2022 and 2023. Staff requests to  
296 renew this moratorium beginning on January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2025. The waiver would  
297 be promoted as an incentive to our residents and businesses to adopt a more environmentally friendly source  
298 of power and to continue to promote Montgomery as a progressive community in the region and the State.  
299 Mr. Chesar explained that there have been 12 installations in the last 2 years and while that was not a large  
300 number it did provide an added benefit to the homeowner to install solar systems.

301  
302 **A Resolution Accepting A Bid And Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Contract With**  
303 **Rumpke Of Ohio, Inc. For Waste Collection Services within the City Of Montgomery For Calendar**  
304 **Years 2024, 2025, and 2026**

305  
306 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Dobrozi.

307  
308 Mr. Riblet explained that, if approved, this Resolution would authorize a contract with Rumpke for all current  
309 waste collection services for 2024 through 2026. A bid opening was held on November 2 with Rumpke  
310 being the only bidder. The results of the bid reflect an overall increase of 25% in 2024 and 6% increase for

311 the subsequent years. Adjustments to increase the general fund budget for waste collection will be reflected  
312 in the 2024 Budget Appropriation Ordinance.

313  
314 Mr. Riblet added that as Rumpke was the only bidder, he proposed committing to a three-year contract in  
315 consideration of lowering the extended unlimited yard waste and holiday greenery fees. These contract  
316 options are within the City Manger's check authority without rebidding. Rumpke responded indicating they  
317 would complete the additional 3-week fees for unlimited yard waste and only charge for 2 weeks and keep  
318 this price fixed for the proposed three-year term. In addition, Rumpke indicated they would reduce the  
319 amount for holiday greenery to a fixed \$4,000 for the proposed three-year term. These savings combined  
320 will result in savings of \$30,469.15 over the three-year term or a total of 3%. He stated that it is important  
321 to note that from 2018 through 2022 the City's contract with Rumpke included 0% annual increases and a  
322 12% increase in 2023 which equates to an average annual increase of 2% for that six-year period.

323  
324 Mr. Riblet stated that like the health care renewal legislation the cost for waste collection services will likely  
325 continue to increase and that consideration will need to be given to other funding options for the next contract  
326 period. He stated that staff would work to identify options but that it may be a consideration of looking for  
327 buy-in from the residents.

328  
329 Mr. Cappel stated that in his viewpoint waste collection is a public health initiative that makes Montgomery  
330 attractive due to the level of services that are provided.

331  
332 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer asked if the contract were treated as a subscription service that residents would be  
333 responsible for, would that cost more.

334  
335 Mr. Riblet explained that it would be more expensive as the service provider, in this case Rumpke, would  
336 have to manage those subscriptions. He stated that charging a small flat fee to each resident would help to  
337 offset the overall cost. He explained this could be added to their water bill.

338  
339 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer stated that since the fees have been flat for the last five years, that this was not  
340 unexpected.

341  
342 Mr. Dobrozsi stated that this was an effect of inflation and that he supports providing the service that residents  
343 expect.

344  
345 Mrs. Naiman agreed with Mr. Dobrozsi's comments and supports continuing with the service that the  
346 residents expect.

347  
348 Mr. Suer stated that he felt that Rumpke has a firm hold on business and what Montgomery residents expect.  
349 He stated that overall, the system works well.

350  
351 Mr. Messer stated that he felt like it was wise to go with a three year contract.

352  
353 **An Ordinance Modifying the List of Conditions and Exceptions for the Vintage Club Planned Unit**  
354 **Development District and Rezoning a Portion of the District from a Multi-Family D-3 District to a**  
355 **Limited Business L-B District**

356  
357 Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Vice Mayor Bissmeyer.

358  
359 Mr. Chesar explained that, if approved, this legislation will approve a zone change to a portion of the Vintage  
360 Club Planned Development from 'D-3' – Multi-family to 'LB' – Limited Business. The project was

361 unanimously recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, and a motion made for approval at  
362 the November 1, Public Hearing by City Council. Staff would like to request that City Council consider  
363 adding this legislation to the Business Session agenda on December 6, holding the first reading and making  
364 a motion to suspend the second and third readings maintaining the 30-day referendum period.  
365

366 Mr. Suer stated that with this final development at the Vintage Club he feels the City is in a good position in  
367 completing the project.  
368

369 Mr. Dobrozsi stated that he hoped the economy would allow the McNair project to be successful.  
370

371 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer explained that while there have been concerns over the McNair project, she feels it  
372 is crucial to the completion and that residents will be happy to see it done.  
373

374 Mr. Cappel stated the he as excited to see the entire project come to completion. He inquired if an  
375 Entertainment District would be established to allow for liquor licenses.  
376

377 Mr. Donnellon replied that a category could be added to the entertainment district to support licenses in the  
378 Vintage Club businesses.  
379

#### 380 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

381  
382 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:  
383

- 384 • City Council Business Session is scheduled for December 6 at 6:00 p.m. Prior to that meeting City Council  
385 is scheduled to hold the City Council Swearing-In Ceremony and Organizational Meetings on Wednesday,  
386 December 6 at 5:15 p.m. There will be a short reception prior to the Business Session meeting.  
387
- 388 • The Financial Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 4:30 p.m. The Law  
389 and Safety and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees meeting for the month of December is  
390 cancelled.  
391
- 392 • An update for the scheduling of the Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Public Works  
393 Committees will be provided at the December 6 Business Session.  
394
- 395 • Congratulations to Catherine Mills-Reynolds for being elected to City Council and to Mr. Margolis and Mr.  
396 Suer on being re-elected.  
397
- 398 • 2024 OKI Board of Directors Nomination Forms due December 1, 2023. Mr. Cappel made a motion for  
399 Mr. Dobrozsi to remain as the Council representative on the OKI Board of Directors for 2024. Mr. Messer  
400 seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

#### 401 Human Resources

- 402 • Firefighter/Paramedic – Oral exams began today for five candidates. The Civil Service Commission will  
403 meet on November 29 to certify the results and establish an eligible list.  
404
- 405 • Patrol Officer – The first round of interviews is scheduled for next week. Nine candidates are participating  
406 in the hiring process.  
407



- 408       • Service Worker I – The first round of interviews with 10 candidates are being scheduled for the last week  
409           in November.  
410  
411       • Front Desk position to replace Evelyn Dumont – Applications for this position were accepted through today.

412   Events

- 413       • Thanksgiving- City offices will be closed next Thursday and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving  
414           holiday.  
415  
416       • December 2- Holiday in the Village = Join us as we celebrate the holiday season! We kick the evening off  
417           with our Holiday Tree Lighting at 5:00 p.m. at Neuilly Plaisance Fountain  
418  
419       • December 3- Kindel Memorial Holiday Concert- BAMSO will be held at Summit City Church (formerly  
420           known as Montgomery Assy of God) begins at 7:00 p.m.

421   **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

422  
423   Mr. Donnellon explained that at everyone’s seat there was a draft copy of legislation for updates to the Income Tax  
424   Ordinance that includes language mandated by the State regarding income tax collections. He stated that the changes  
425   were needed to mirror the process and collections as conducted by RITA (Regional Income Tax Agency). He stated  
426   that this legislation would need to be added to the December 6 Business Session agenda to be passed that evening.  
427

428   Mayor Margolis assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

429  
430   Ms. Gray provided a brief overview of the main changes which include:

- 431       • Minors under 18 are exempt from filing municipal income taxes effective for 2024 earnings.  
432       • Net profit tax for remote work  
433       • Late filing fees are capped at \$25.00  
434       • Various language changes  
435

436   Mr. Donnellon explained that the Montgomery Historical Preservation Association met with its membership and  
437   three main principals, Janet Korach, Kaye Gaffney and Gary Blomberg to dissolve their 501-C3 and asked the City  
438   to take over all the property within the organization. He explained that this would also include the contents of the  
439   Wilder Swaim House. The City already has placed the Universalist Church with the Wilder-Swaim House in the  
440   Historical Trust. He explained that Council are the trustees of that Trust, and he would need a motion to accept the  
441   property as a donation to the City. He explained that this would also include all cash, a catalog of all property  
442   including historical documents and items. He stated that in the agreement with MHPA the City has the option to  
443   retain, recycle or dispose of any items not deemed to be kept. He explained that there is currently \$22,000 in their  
444   account and that they would use some of that for dissolution fees, but the City will receive over \$20,000. He added  
445   that this money cannot be used for general fund expenses but will be added to the Historical Trust Fund. He  
446   explained the process of categorizing the items from the MHPA then any items to be disposed will need to come  
447   before Council on three separate dates before being disposed.  
448

449   Mr. Cappel made a motion to accept all property from the MHPA in recognition of their dissolution. Vice Mayor  
450   Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.  
451

452   **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

453  
454   **Mr. Cappel**  
455

456 Mr. Cappel reported that cardboard recycling would be held on Saturday, November 18 at Public Works from 10:00  
457 to 1:00 p.m.

458  
459 Mr. Cappel reported on items discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting held on November 14. He  
460 explained that residents from the Terwilliger Run Subdivision were in attendance regarding No Parking signs added  
461 along their road.

462  
463 Mr. Cappel thanked City Council and staff for the reception recognizing his retirement from City Council. He  
464 explained that while he believes in term limits that he will stay involved and may run again for Council in the future.  
465 He shared his appreciation for the top notch operations at the City and the quality staff that work hard to provide  
466 high level services to the Community. He thanked his fellow Council members for their collaboration and  
467 mentorship over his last two terms.

468  
469 **Vice Mayor Bissmeyer**

470  
471 Vice Mayor Bissmeyer reported on the Hopewell Cemetery Veterans Grave Marking Ceremony that was very well  
472 attended. She also participated in the Blue Ash Veterans Day Ceremony.

473  
474 **Mr. Dobrozi**

475  
476 Mr. Dobrozi thanked Mr. Cappel for handling the Public Works Committee meeting in such a professional manner.

477  
478 Mr. Dobrozi reported that at the last Government Affairs meeting, the Committee approved an Arts Commission  
479 Food Tour event. He stated that it is expected to be held in April of 2024. The Service to Community Grant was  
480 discussed and a recommendation to provide an annual stipend to the Montgomery Farmers Market in the amount of  
481 \$2,500 was made. Staff will rework the guidelines to simplify them and to better market to applicants. Computer  
482 equipment surplus was approved to be placed on Govdeals.com. A Mental Health Fair was approved in place of a  
483 Community Leadership Forum in 2024.

484  
485  
486  
487 **Mrs. Naiman**

488  
489 Mrs. Naiman reported that at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting pickleball was discussed. She explained  
490 that those in attendance included residents near Dulle and Swaim Parks and a representative of the pickleball players.  
491 She explained that staff made a proposal to move all pickleball to Weller Park. She stated that in the 2024 budget  
492 funding includes realigning the existing pickleball court to include three courts. She stated that staff identified grant  
493 funding opportunity that if awarded would allow the installation of up to six courts and added parking. She stated  
494 that this would also include the removal of pickleball from Dulle and Swaim Parks.

495  
496 **Mr. Suer**

497  
498 Mr. Suer reported on a meeting regarding the roundabout landscaping. He explained that final materials were  
499 chosen and that next steps were to put the project out to bid in January. He stated that the timeline was to begin in  
500 late Spring with construction during the Summer. The committee discussed managing traffic during the  
501 construction process. He stated the focus would be on the roundabout and landscape in the downtown area while  
502 the areas on Ronald Reagan and I-71 would be revisited.

503  
504 **Mr. Messer**

505  
506 Mr. Messer reported that the Civil Service Commission met to certify the process of two fire fighter/paramedics  
507 and three police officers.

508  
509 Mr. Messer stated how well the Hopewell Cemetery Veteran Marking Ceremony went and thanked Ms. Gaylor for  
510 arranging this annual event.

511  
512 Mr. Messer reported he also attended the Blue Ash Veterans Day Ceremony and that Secretary of State, Frank  
513 LaRose, was the speaker.

514  
515 **Mayor Margolis**

516  
517 Mayor Margolis stated that he did not have a report as he had been out of town but thanked Mr. Cappel again for  
518 his service on Council.

519  
520 **MINUTES**

521  
522 Mr. Cappel moved to accept the November 1 Public Hearing and Business Session minutes as written. Vice Mayor  
523 Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

524  
525 **OTHER BUSINESS**

526  
527 There was no other business.

528  
529 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

530  
531 Mayor Margolis asked for an Executive Session for matters related to the appointment of a public official. Mr.  
532 Cappel seconded.

533  
534 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

535  
536 AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Dobrozi, Margolis, Naiman, Suer, Messer (7)  
537 NAY: (0)

538  
539 Council adjourned into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

540  
541 **ADJOURNMENT**

542  
543 Council reconvened from Executive Session into Public Session at 8:43 p.m.

544  
545 Mayor Margolis asked if there was any further business to discuss in the Public Session. There being none he asked  
546 for a motion to adjourn.

547  
548 Mr. Cappel moved to adjourn. Vice Mayor Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

549  
550 City Council adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

551  
552  
553  
554  
555

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council