

1 City of Montgomery
2 City Council Special Session Minutes
3 March 21, 2020
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5 Staff Members Present

6 Brian Riblet, City Manager
7 Terry Donnellon, Law Director
8 Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.
9 Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
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City Council Members Present

Chris Dobrozsi, Mayor
Craig Margolis, Vice Mayor
Lee Ann Bissmeyer
Mike Cappel
Gerri Harbison
Lynda Roesch
Ken Suer

14 City Council convened in Special Session per teleconference on the order of the Mayor with Notice to all
15 Council Members. Mayor Dobrozsi presided. Mayor Dobrozsi stated that the purpose for calling this
16 meeting was to address emergency legislation.

17 **ROLL CALL**

18 Mayor Dobrozsi asked for the roll to be called.

19 The roll was called with all members answering as present.

20 Mr. Donnellon explained that this meeting is setting a precedence for being the first City of Montgomery
21 Council meeting to be held through teleconference. He explained that through an Opinion issued from
22 Governor DeWine and Attorney General Yost that during this time municipalities can hold, under Statute
23 121.22, meetings remotely. He stated that we may need to perform intermittent roll calls to ensure that a
24 connection has not been lost with a Council member as that would jeopardize our quorum. Mr. Donnellon
25 advised City Council to only address legislation that is an emergency. He stated there was a need for City
26 Council to consider the following Resolution to Declare an Emergency.

27 Mr. Donnellon also explained that there may need to be a time in which an emergency meeting will need
28 to be scheduled without advanced notice. He explained that advanced notice was given for this meeting but
29 with the Opinion issued by the Governor and Attorney General, we would be covered under law if an
30 emergency prohibited the 24-hour notification period. He asked that City Council make a motion to waive
31 advanced notice of this meeting.

32 Mr. Cappel made a motion to waive advanced notice of meetings if needed as an emergency. Mr. Bissmeyer
33 seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

34 Mr. Donnellon explained that every meeting has a public access component to the meeting. He stated that
35 when the meeting was published the phone number and access code was provided. He stated that the
36 Attorney General also allows public participation with a narrow control of speaking if there were to be
37 public comment before public vote.

38 **LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

39 **NEW LEGISLATION**

40 **A Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency in the City of Montgomery due to the COVID-19**
41 **(Corona Virus) Outbreak.**

42 Mr. Cappel made a motion to add the Resolution to the agenda. Vice Mayor Margolis seconded. City
43 Council unanimously agreed.

44 Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the Resolution to Mrs. Harbison.

45 Mrs. Harbison moved to read the Resolution by title only. Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council
46 unanimously agreed.

47 Mrs. Harbison read the title and moved passage of the Resolution. Mr. Cappel seconded.

48 Mr. Donnellon explained that following the actions of the President and Governor DeWine in declaring
49 State of Emergency's, we are now declaring a State of Emergency in the city. He stated by declaring this
50 action we are vesting powers to the City Manager and the Mayor. He stated by doing this we are better able
51 to tap into resources quickly. He explained that although we don't anticipate expenditures exceeding normal
52 expenses, we are extending the existing \$50,000 threshold to \$100,000 in case of an unforeseen number of
53 expenses. He stated that when we are out of the state of emergency we will go back and ratify anything that
54 was done during that time.

55 Mrs. Harbison asked Mr. Riblet to confirm that he was online.

56 Mr. Riblet replied he was.

57 Mrs. Harbison stated that she has complete faith in the city manager. She stated that she gives her complete
58 support to the city manager and mayor that they will do what is right.

59 Mr. Suer stated that he thinks it is smart to do this at this point as it will set staff up for future actions. He
60 stated that he felt the city manager and mayor will be careful with their actions.

61 Mr. Cappel asked if the State of Emergency would expire of if legislation would have to be passed to end
62 it.

63 Mr. Donnellon replied that it will apply during the Governor's declaration unless we want to add a phrase
64 "when it is terminated by Mayor or Governor".

65 Ms. Roesch stated that she felt we should leave it as is.

66 Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there were any further comments from City Council. There were none. He asked
67 for any comment from any public who may be listening. There were none heard.

68 The roll was called and showed the following vote:

69 AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Harbison, Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer, Margolis, Cappel (7)

70 NAY (0)

71 **OTHER BUSINESS**

72 Mr. Riblet explained that staff is closely monitoring this situation as it develops and making decisions with
73 the goal to protect the safety of employees while providing services to the community. He explained that
74 staff evaluated essential services with first responders then with other positions within City Hall. He
75 explained that beginning on Monday March 23, the Fire Department would be rotating their staff to perform
76 duties and work remotely. Mr. Riblet reported that the Police Department would continue their 24/7
77 operations and that they would be looking to modify schedules to separate employees to minimize the
78 spread of the virus. Mr. Riblet reported that Public Works would be similar to the Police Department in
79 that they would keep parks open and begin implementing a rotating schedule. He added that the Fire
80 Department Administrative Assistant beginning midday Monday would begin working remotely from
81 home. He stated that the Fire Department would continue to operate as a 24-hour operation and separate
82 as best as they can.

- 83 Mr. Riblet stated that he does anticipate the Governor moving forward with a Stay-at-Home order. He
84 explained that although City Hall has remained open, the traffic coming in the building has diminished to
85 almost none. He stated that other than outside deliveries or appointments, that it has almost come to a halt.
- 86 Mr. Riblet explained that the Montgomery Day Camp, that was being ran by Julie Machon and Sarah Fink
87 of the Recreation Department for City Employee's children, has been terminated effective on Friday, March
88 20. He explained that the three to four employees who were utilizing the camp were anticipating the closing.
89 He stated that Julie and Sarah would now be working remotely from home.
- 90 Mr. Riblet stated this situation would continue to evolve but the primary goal is to protect the employees.
- 91 Mrs. Bissmeyer asked if Tax Department employees that were furloughed were being paid as normal.
- 92 Mr. Riblet explained that all employees will continue to get paid and are aware that they may be required
93 to come into the office and are also required to work remotely.
- 94 Vice Mayor Margolis stated that the Federal Government had delayed the tax filing deadline into the future.
95 He asked if the City is contemplating doing the same for their deadline. He stated he had seen negative
96 comments on social media regarding this.
- 97 Mr. Riblet stated that the City follows the State guidelines and deadlines on tax filings. He explained that
98 he assumes the Governor will follow suit but as of Friday, March 20 the tax filing date was the same. He
99 stated he expects that to change soon.
- 100 Mr. Donnellon added that we are required to follow what is dictated by State Statute.
- 101 Mrs. Harbison asked that looking into the future, if we continue to meet utilizing teleconference as our
102 meeting format that we consider how would we handle public access if there was a need for an Executive
103 Session.
- 104 Mr. Donnellon replied that it was a good question. He stated we would have to examine technology. He
105 stated that there are some platforms which indicates who is participating in the teleconference and we would
106 have the ability to terminate those calls. He stated that we have some time to investigate the options.
- 107 Mr. Riblet stated that he felt if we were to move into an Executive Session that he felt we could adjourn
108 from the regular session by ending the call then use a separate number and access code for staff and City
109 Council. He stated that the City has a Zoom video conference account that can also be used.
- 110 Mrs. Bissmeyer stated that in reference to the tax filing deadline, could staff address the comments on
111 Facebook by adding a statement to the post regarding following the State statute.
- 112 Mr. Riblet stated that staff is aware of the post and are working to update that information.
- 113 Mrs. Harbison stated that the City is making history with this phone meeting today.
- 114 Mr. Donnellon agreed and stated that this is unprecedented and that the State would be looking to make a
115 modification to the current Open Meeting Act requirements.
- 116 Mayor Dobrozi asked if there was any additional other business.
- 117 Mrs. Bissmeyer asked if there were any updates to the Gateway Project.

118 Mr. Riblet replied that he was not aware of any delays to the Roundabout project. He stated he was not
119 aware of any restrictions that would impede work. He stated that Jurgenson anticipated moving ahead
120 beginning on March 30.

121 Mr. Riblet stated that the Development Team held a phone conference meeting on Thursday, March 19 in
122 which they discussed the strategy of issuing bonds. He stated that the team anticipates construction prices
123 coming down and being able to take advantage of low interest rates. He stated that everyone was on board
124 with moving forward with the project.

125 Mr. Riblet stated that he would like to commend City Council for their forward thinking, support and
126 guidance during this time. He also commended employees who have been incredible. He stated that the
127 staff was second to none and that it was heartwarming to work with our staff.

128 Mayor Dobrozi stated that these were surely unprecedented times. He stated that Council is currently set
129 to meet Wednesday, April 1 and that we will be prepared to meet. He added by thanking staff, Mr. Riblet
130 and Mr. Donnellon to ensure that the City remains committed in providing services to the community.

131 Mayor Dobrozi asked if there was any additional other business. There being none he asked for a motion
132 to adjourn.

133 Mr. Cappel moved to adjourn. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

134 City Council adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council