

1 City of Montgomery
2 City Council Public Hearing Minutes
3 June 17, 2020
4

5 **Present**

6 Brian Riblet, City Manager
7 Terry Donnellon, Law Director
8 Tracy Roblero, Assistant City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.
9 John Crowell, Police Chief
10 Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
11 Katie Smiddy, Finance Director
12 Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director
13 Paul Wright, Fire Chief
14 Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council
15

City Council Members Present

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

16
17 City Council convened its Public Hearing for June 17, 2020 at 6:45 p.m. in a hybrid meeting at City Hall and by
18 telephone conference with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding. This remote access meeting was allowed by emergency
19 legislation adopted by the Ohio General Assembly and approved by the Governor. The emergency legislation
20 added language to RC Section 121.22 allowing public meetings by telephone conference during the current
21 pandemic and declared State of Emergency. As required by the statute, notice of the telephonic meeting was
22 publicized more than 24 hours in advance to allow public access through the same conference call in service. The
23 public was also given a backup number to call in the event there were technical difficulties. This Notice was
24 posted on the City's website and a similar Notice was sent to The Cincinnati Enquirer.
25

26 **ROLL CALL**

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28 The roll was called, and all Council Members answered as present.
29

30 **GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

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32 Mayor Dobrozsi explained that in an effort to better manage the teleconference meeting he would like to move
33 this portion of the agenda to the end of the agenda and allow any public participating in the call to speak at that
34 time. He stated that comments will be allowed but asked that all questions be forwarded by email to City Manager
35 Brian Riblet. He stated that all comments will be limited to three minutes in total.
36

37 Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to move the Guests and Residents item to the end of the agenda. Mr. Cappel
38 seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.
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40 **2021 Tax Budget**

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42 Ms. Smiddy explained that as a part of the preparation required for the 2021 annual operating and capital budget is
43 the approval and submission of the City's Tax Budget. The Ohio Revised Code requires City Council to pass a
44 resolution approving the Tax Budget by July 15 and must submit the approved budget to the County Auditor
45 before July 20 of each year. She stated that failure to approve and submit the Tax Budget by the required deadline
46 could jeopardize the City's share of Local Government Funds.
47

48 Ms. Smiddy explained that currently the City has two funds which derive money from property taxes: The
49 General Fund and the Fire Levy fund. She provided a detailed explanation of the following:
50

51 **Assessed Valuation:**

52 It is estimated that the total assessed valuation for the year 2020, collected in 2021, for the City of Montgomery is
53 estimated to be \$587 million. This is an estimated .17% increase property values from the assessed valuation for
54 tax year 2019 of \$586 million.
55
56
57

58 General Fund:

59 The General Fund collects 4.5 mills (3 mills inside, 1.5 mills outside) on real property. It is estimated that
60 \$2,615,000 will be collected in property taxes in 2021 for the General Fund; this is an increase of 1% over the
61 2020 anticipated collections.

62
63 Income tax collections in the General Fund are estimated to be \$7,672,727 of the total income tax collection of
64 \$9.4 million estimated for 2021; the assumption is that total income tax revenues are estimated to increase 1%
65 over the amount collected in 2020. The amount of income tax revenues allocated to the General Fund is 80% in
66 2020. It is estimated that the General Fund will have a cash balance of approximately \$13.0 million at the end of
67 fiscal year 2021.

68
69 Other General Fund revenues are estimated to remain relatively flat due to the economy. Total revenues of the
70 General Fund for 2021 are estimated at \$11,590,000 as compared to \$11,510,944 estimated for 2020. This is an
71 increase of \$78,720 or approximately .68% which is attributed to the conservative increase in income and property
72 tax revenues.

73
74 Expenditures of the General Fund are estimated to be \$12,517,507 in 2021, as compared to \$12,320,836 in 2019.
75 This is an increase of \$196,671 which can be attributed to increased allocations to capital outlay.

76
77 Fire Levy Fund:

78 The Fire Fund consists of two permanent levies with no expiration date. The 5.55 mill levy was passed in 1999
79 and a 6.0 mill levy was approved by the voters in May of 2018. Total revenues in the Fire Levy Fund are
80 estimated to be \$5,732,528 in 2021 keeping estimated revenues at 2020 levels.

81
82 Total expenditures for the 2021 Fire Levy Fund are estimated at \$4,680,805, as compared to \$4,578,079 estimated
83 for 2020. This is an increase of \$102,726 or 2.24%.

84
85 The estimated ending cash balance for the Fire Levy Fund for 2021 is \$8,766,835. This is \$1,051,723 higher than
86 the estimated 2020 ending cash balance. This is an operating reserve of 22 months, which meets the City's fund
87 balance reserve policy of 6 to 12 months.

88
89 Other Operating Funds:

90 The other operating funds addressed in the 2021 Tax Budget are estimated to be continuations of current budget
91 spending levels with adjustments made for healthcare and personnel costs by labor contracts.

92
93 Capital Projects Spending:

94 Capital spending is projected at \$6,510,000 being spent on permanent improvements. These projects were taken
95 from the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program and are projects which were reviewed and approved by
96 Council on an individual basis. The presentation of these projects in this Tax Budget is intended to indicate a
97 level of spending for capital outlay.

98
99 Debt Service:

100 A schedule of Outstanding Debt is presented in the 2021 Tax Budget. It is estimated that the City will have
101 approximately \$22.5 million outstanding in debt as of January 1, 2021 for Special Obligation and Special
102 Assessment debt. Debt service payments for this debt in 2021 will be \$615,000 for principal repayment and
103 \$548,433 for interest expense.

104
105 The City has not had any outstanding General Obligation Debt since 2014.

106
107 Ms. Smiddy concluded her presentation and asked for any questions.

108
109

110 Mr. Suer stated that the Finance Committee has reviewed the Tax Budget at a previous meeting and found
111 everything to be in order.

112
113 Vice Mayor Margolis asked Ms. Smiddy if capital expenditures have been appropriated.

114
115 Ms. Smiddy replied that for 2020 capital expenses have been appropriated but not for 2021. She stated that would
116 not be done until the 2021 Budget is approved.

117
118 Vice Mayor Margolis followed up by asking for confirmation that capital funds could not be legally appropriated
119 because the Tax Budget had not been approved and submitted to the County.

120
121 Ms. Smiddy replied that was correct.

122
123 Vice Mayor Margolis asked if the assumptions of revenues were conservative enough.

124
125 Ms. Smiddy replied that the City always budgets with a very conservative perspective in order to prepare for
126 situations like we are in. She stated that she was hoping for better revenue numbers in the 4th Quarter.

127
128 Mayor Dobrozi asked if there were any further questions or comments related to the Tax Budget.

129
130 There being none, he closed the floor to public discussion of the Tax Budget.

131
132 **GUESTS AND RESIDENTS**

133
134 Mayor Dobrozi explained that the Guests and Residents portion of the agenda was moved from the beginning of
135 the agenda. He asked if there were guests and residents on the line to please state their name.

136
137 No Guests or Residents responded.

138
139 Mayor Dobrozi stated that as there was no additional business to conduct in the Public Hearing, a motion would
140 be needed to close the Public Hearing.

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142 Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Mrs. Harbison seconded. City Council
143 unanimously agreed.

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145 The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Connie Gaylor
Clerk of Council