

1 City of Montgomery
2 City Council Work Session Minutes
3 August 19, 2020
4

5 Present

6 Brian Riblet, City Manager
7 Terry Donnellon, Law Director
8 Tracy Roblero, Asst. 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 Dir.
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 City Council convened its Work Session for August 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting at City Hall and by
17 telephone conference with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding. This remote access meeting was allowed by emergency
18 legislation adopted by the Ohio General Assembly and approved by the Governor. The emergency legislation added
19 language to RC Section 121.22 allowing public meetings by telephone conference during the current pandemic and
20 declared State of Emergency. As required by the statute, notice of the telephonic meeting was publicized more than
21 24 hours in advance to allow public access through the same conference call in service. The public was also given
22 a backup number to call in the event there were technical difficulties. This Notice was posted on the City's website
23 and a similar Notice was sent to The Cincinnati Enquirer.
24

25 ROLL CALL

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27 The roll was called, and all Council Members answered as present either in person or on the phone line.
28

29 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

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31 Michael Karaman and Jeanette Keith of James Free Jewelers were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation as
32 the Spring Seasons of Beauty Winners.
33

34 Ms. Roesch provided background on the Beautification and Tree Commission Seasons of Beauty Award and
35 explained that James Free was the first business to be considered for this award. She thanked them for always
36 providing such a beautiful display of flowers and décor throughout the year at their building at 9555 Main Street.
37

38 City Council provided comments and thanked Mr. Karaman for the care of his building which has been a mainstay
39 for business in Montgomery since 1998.
40

41 Noah Stern was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his service with the City as an intern
42 in the Community Development Department.
43

44 Tracy Roblero thanked Mr. Stern for volunteering 190 hours of time to the Community Development Department.
45 She praised him for his quest for knowledge and information and wished him the best as he completed his degree
46 in City and Regional Planning. Ms. Roblero presented Mr. Stern with a City of Montgomery Challenge Coin.
47

48 City Council thanked Mr. Stern for his drive and ambition. They shared well wishes in all he did in the future.
49

50 GUESTS & RESIDENTS

51
52 Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to move the Guests and Residents portion of the agenda to the end of the agenda
53 after Other Business.
54

55 Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to move the Guests and Resident portion to after Other Business on the agenda.
56 Mr. Cappel seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.
57

58 **ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 BUSINESS SESSION**

59
60 **PENDING LEGISLATION**

61
62 There is no pending legislation.

63
64 **NEW LEGISLATION**

65
66 Mayor Dobrozsi explained that the Health Care Benefits Committee were in attendance to explain the first two
67 pieces of legislation relating to health care. He assigned both pieces of legislation to Mrs. Harbison.

68
69 **A Resolution Establishing City Contributions for Health Care Benefits**

70
71 Ms. Julie Prickett of the Health Care Benefits Committee (HCBC) explained to City Council that this Resolution
72 will establish the City's maximum contribution limits (caps) for medical and dental insurance which determines the
73 amount of money the employees must contribute toward the cost of their health and dental insurance coverages.
74 She explained that typically, the City has increased these "caps" annually by six percent (6%) for medical insurance
75 and three percent (3%) for dental insurance. This practice allows for some increase in the cost of healthcare but
76 also ensures that significant increased costs are shared between the City and its employees. The recommended caps
77 for the upcoming 12-month period of October 2020 through September 2021 for medical and dental insurance are
78 already in place in existing FOP and IAFF union contracts. AFSCME contract provisions are pending completion
79 of collective bargaining negotiations.

80
81 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into A Contract with Humana Health Plan of Ohio, Inc.
82 To Provide Medical Insurance for Full-Time Employees**

83
84 Ms. Prickett explained that the HCBC is recommending that City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into
85 a contract with Humana Health Plan of Ohio, Inc. for medical insurance coverage for the City's full-time employees.
86 Each year, the City must seek quotes for its medical insurance coverage. The proposals are evaluated by the Health
87 Care Benefits Committee, which takes into account benefit levels and coverage costs to make a recommendation as
88 to the desired provider of medical insurance coverage, as well as any changes to current benefit levels to achieve
89 cost savings. The Health Care Benefits Committee is recommending that the City remain with Humana, the current
90 medical insurance carrier. The health care plan being recommended would continue to provide full-time employees
91 one High Deductible Health Plan with a Health Savings Account (HDHP/HSA) with deductible levels of
92 \$3,000/\$6,000 (single/family) with four levels of coverage: single, employee with child(ren), employee with spouse
93 and family. The Humana proposal represents a zero percent increase in premium costs for a 15-month period from
94 October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. (Typically group health insurance proposals are for a 12-month
95 period.) In addition to the zero percent increase in premium costs, it should be noted that participation in Humana's
96 employee and family members wellness program (Go365) has resulted in savings on premiums for the City. Since
97 January 1, 2020, the City has realized a savings of \$22,445 as a result of member participation in the Go365 program.
98 The City has realized a total savings of \$159,414 since September 2014 when participation in the Humana Go365
99 wellness program began.

100
101 Mr. Riblet praised the HCBC and Horan for their great work in obtaining competitive quotes and in negotiating 0%
102 increase and to hold that rate for 15 months.

103
104 City Council also thanked the HCBC for working hard on behalf of their fellow employees to obtain the best possible
105 benefit package for all. They added that the Committee reflects the collaborative culture of the City and staff
106 members.

107
108 **A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into A Contract with Strand Associates, Inc. For
109 Professional Services Related to Engineering Services for The Pfeiffer/Deerfield Road Intersection
110 Modification Project**

111
112 Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mr. Cappel

113
114 Mr. Heitkamp explained that, if approved, this legislation would authorize the City Manager to enter into a Contract
115 with Strand Associates, Inc. for professional engineering services associated with the HAM-CR284-1.33 Pfeiffer
116 Road & Deerfield Road Roundabout Project. The proposed contract, which covers services from Stage 2 Design
117 through Final Tracings, is anticipated to begin October 1, 2020 and is scheduled for completion April 1, 2022. The
118 total contract for these services, which takes the project through completion, is not to exceed \$165,031.00. The
119 project is scheduled to be publicly bid for construction in April 2022, with construction beginning as early as July
120 2022.

121
122 Vice Mayor Margolis explained that at the last Public Works Committee meeting the residents that were in
123 attendance seemed to be on board with the roundabout.

124
125 Mr. Suer asked that in conjunction with the roundabout, if consideration to the function of the traffic signals at
126 Montgomery and Pfeiffer and Storybook and Pfeiffer would be reviewed for possible adjustment.

127
128 Mr. Heitkamp replied that Jay Korros, Traffic Engineer with CT Consultants, could conduct a review of timing of
129 the signals to see if the management of the traffic through the roundabout would require a change. Mr. Heitkamp
130 added that a review would also be done of other intersections to make sure that we are not shifting the congestion
131 to another area.

132
133 Vice Mayor Margolis asked Mr. Heitkamp if he has had other input from other residents, positive or negative.

134
135 Mr. Heitkamp replied that while he has received many positive remarks, the biggest negative was the management
136 of pedestrian traffic. He stated that a refuge island was added to make it safer for pedestrians to cross through the
137 roundabout. He explained that pedestrians would also only be dealing with one direction of traffic so their attention
138 could be placed on one direction of traffic.

139
140 **A Resolution Authorizing A Contract with Patented Acquisition Corporation D/B/A Think Patented for**
141 **Design and Production Services**

142
143 Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mrs. Harbison.

144
145 Mr. Vanderhorst explained that this Resolution would authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with
146 Patented Acquisition Corporation D/B/A/ Think Patented for design, production, printing, and mailing of the
147 monthly newsletter and annual calendar for 2020-2021 for \$60,105.00. After reviewing several proposals, staff has
148 recommended the work of Think Patented as meeting the high professional quality expected by the City at an
149 effective price. Funds for these services are budgeted in 101.715.5390.

150
151
152
153 **A Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to An Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City and The**
154 **Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District**

155
156 Mayor Dobrozsi stated that as with any legislation that was related to the Montgomery Quarter, he would recuse
157 himself at such time that discussion and vote of the legislation would take place.

158
159 Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

160
161 Mr. Riblet explained that this legislation is an amendment to the 2019 Intergovernmental Agreement with Hamilton
162 County Transportation Improvement District relative to House Bill 26 funds in the amount of \$250,000 for Fiscal
163 Year 2021. The City was awarded an additional \$250,000 for fiscal year 2021 to offset construction costs for the

164 Montgomery Road/Ronald Reagan Interchange Improvements Project. This Resolution authorizes an amendment
165 to the prior Intergovernmental Agreement to allow the City to accept such funding and to commit the City to the
166 specific requirements for receiving and using such funding for the Project.
167

168 City Council thanked Mr. Riblet and staff for continuing to seek opportunities to apply and obtain grant funding.
169

170 **ADMINISTRATION REPORT**
171

172 Mr. Riblet reported the following items:
173

- 174 • The City Council Business Session is scheduled for September 2, 2020 immediately following the Public
175 Hearing scheduled at 6:45 p.m. to consider a recommendation by the Planning Commission for a conditional
176 use permit for Cincinnati Institute of Esthetics and Nails at 10700 Montgomery Road to allow for the
177 operation of a private school in the 'O' – Office District.
178
- 179 • The Financial Planning Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 8 in a hybrid meeting at City Hall and
180 also using teleconferencing at 4:00 p.m. The Law and Safety and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks
181 Committees have cancelled their meetings for the month of September.
182
- 183 • At this time, the Parks and Recreation, Government Affairs and Public Works Committees have cancelled
184 their meetings for the month of September. An update of these meetings will be provided at the September
185 2, Business Session.
186
- 187 • Mr. Riblet stated he signed a contract with Response Technologies in the amount of \$23,978.00 to provide
188 multiple sources of security devices for various City owned buildings.
189
- 190 • A reminder of the events that will be coming up:
191
 - 192 ○ City Council Appreciation Lunch – Friday, August 28 (11:00 am to 1:00 pm)
 - 193 ○ 2021 Budget Review- Wednesday, September 9 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.-Terwilliger's Lodge
 - 194 ○ As previously mentioned, City offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, in recognition of the
195 Labor Day holiday.
 - 196 ○ Labor Day also marks the end of the Municipal Pool season. While not being the same as in past years,
197 this year's closing will still feature a K9 Kerplunk event that will be held in two sessions from 4:00–
198 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Registration is required for this event. Thank you to our Recreation
199 staff who continue to adjust and offer memorable programs for our community.
200
- 201 • Mr. Riblet wished Happy Birthday to Council Member Harbison whose birthday was August 2, Council
202 Member Roesch and Gary Heitkamp whose birthdays are August 27.
203

204 Mr. Riblet requested an Executive Session in matters related to compensation of a public employee.
205

206 **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**
207

208 Mr. Donnellon stated that there is still lots of work being done on the Montgomery Quarter. He also thanked
209 everyone for their thoughts, prayers and friendship following an injury he sustained.
210
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215

216 **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

217
218 **Mr. Cappel**

219
220 Mr. Cappel explained that the EAC hosted a Community Wide Garage Sale on August 8 and received very positive
221 feedback on it.

222
223 Mr. Cappel explained that the EAC One Stop Drop Recycling Event is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 from
224 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He stated that there would be more information to come as the event grew closer.

225
226 **Mrs. Bissmeyer**

227
228 No report.

229
230 **Mrs. Harbison**

231
232 Mrs. Harbison provided an update on the following Committee and Commission meeting agenda items:

- 233
- 234 • Government Affairs Committee
 - 235 ○ 2021 Calendar Cover was approved based on Tree City themes
 - 236 ○ MCLA 2021 was discussed with a final decision to be made in November
 - 237 ○ Surplus items were approved for the Fire Department and the Community Information Services
 - 238 Department
 - 239
 - 240 • Sister Cities Commission
 - 241 ○ Bands are being researched for Bastille Day 2021
 - 242 ○ Dinner Around the World is anticipated to be held on January 31, 2021
 - 243 ○ The Commission is planning to be involved in the Halloween Haunted Trail
 - 244

245 **Ms. Roesch**

246
247 Ms. Roesch provided an update on the following meeting agenda items:

- 248
- 249 • The City of Blue Ash cancelled the BAMSO Labor Day concert but are planning to hold virtual Veterans
 - 250 Day and Holiday concerts
 - 251 • The Beautification and Tree Commission are working to select the Summer Seasons of Beauty Winner
 - 252 • The Parks and Recreation Commission will have a pickleball instruction from Mary Jo Byrnes at their next
 - 253 meeting.
 - 254

255
256 **Mr. Suer**

257
258 Mr. Suer referenced Mrs. Harbison's report regarding the upcoming MCLA program and added that he felt the
259 public would understand having a gap year rather than facing the challenges of putting it on in 2021. He shared that
260 he felt that we did need to decide soon so that we could provide information to those who are interested as well for
261 planning purposes.

262
263 **Vice Mayor Margolis**

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265 Vice Mayor Margolis relayed that he anticipates being out of town from September 12 through September 20.

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267 Vice Mayor Margolis explained that the Landmarks Commission met on August 12 and approved outdoor dining
268 for Napa Kitchen.

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Mayor Dobrozi

Mayor Dobrozi added that he also felt that MCLA would not be the same is modified to a smaller scale and that he would understand if staff recommended to defer it until 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Dobrozi stated that as Mr. Riblet had discussed, the 2022 Budget Review meeting has been scheduled for September 9 at Terwilligers Lodge. He explained that he would like to confirm the Council Members would attend the meeting for planning purposes. He stated that it was important to meet in person if Council Members feel safe in doing that.

All Council Members confirmed that they would attend the meeting in person.

Mayor Dobrozi asked if there was any other business to discuss. There was none.

GUESTS AND RESIDENTS

Mayor Dobrozi stated that as there were no guests or residents present at City Hall, he would open the floor to those who are present on the line. He asked for anyone on the line to state their name and address and to adhere to the three-minute speaking rule.

Roberto Rivera made note that he was listening on the Council Call and complained in general about high taxes. He neglected to give his address, but it is believed he is a resident of Sycamore Township.

Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Drive- Mr. Silverman stated that he had two comments to make. He stated that first, he had spent approximately 35 minutes on Thursday, August 13 speaking with City Manager Riblet regarding the five items (as well as a couple of other things) that he had brought up during the Council meeting on August 5. He thanked Mr. Riblet for his time during that call.

Mr. Silverman stated that while it was nice to congratulate James Free Jewelers for their landscaping, he felt the City should mourn the loss of Stafford Jewelers for three decades of business in Montgomery.

Mayor Dobrozi thanked Mr. Silverman for his comments and asked if there were any other guests or residents on the line. There was no response.

Mayor Dobrozi closed the floor to public comment.

Mayor Dobrozi stated that Mr. Riblet has requested an Executive Session for matters related to compensation of a public employee. He explained that the teleconferenced public meeting would end. He stated that it was not anticipated that there would be further business when City Council came back into Public Session and advised that the Public Session would reconvene on the same phone number if anyone was interested in phoning back in for the completion of the public meeting.

Vice Mayor Margolis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for matters related to compensation of a public employee. Mr. Cappel seconded.

The roll as called and showed the following:

- AYE: Harbison, Dobrozi, Margolis, Suer, Bissmeyer, Cappel, Roesch (7)
- NAY: (0)

322 Council adjourned in Executive Session at 8:17 p.m.

323

324 City Council reconvened into Public Session at 9:23 p.m.

325

326 **ADJOURNMENT**

327

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

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

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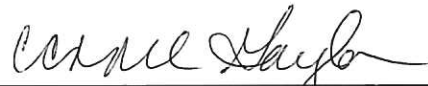
333 City Council adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council