

City of Montgomery
City Council Work Session Minutes
January 22, 2020

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Terry Donnellon, Law Director
John Crowell, Police Chief
Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director
Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir.
Katie Smiddy, Finance Director
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director
Paul Wright, Fire Chief
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

City Council Members Present

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

City Council Members Absent

Lynda Roesch

City Council convened in Council Chambers for the Work Session at 6:53 p.m. with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Dobrozsi conveyed that Council Member Roesch previously notified City Council she would be unable to attend and asked for a motion to excuse her from the meeting.

Mr. Cappel moved to excuse Council Member Roesch's absence. Mr. Suer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

GUESTS & RESIDENTS

Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Dr - Mr. Silverman stated in a post made on NextDoor.com after the election there was a continuing concern regarding the codes for new home construction. He explained that Vice Mayor Margolis responded to the post and advised that there would be new developments coming from the Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee of Council, in particular to builders who take advantage of the process. Mr. Silverman asked when there would be any development on this issue and is anything available for review.

Ms. Roblero replied that there have been several meetings held with the Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees in relation to this topic. She stated that the Community Development Department conducted a survey regarding teardowns in which they received good response. She explained that there are three main focuses as a result of the survey feedback which are: a review and revision to the Noise Ordinance, the creation of a Sensitive Infill Award that is to incentivize the builders to be more responsible and creative in their construction process, and the requirement that all demolition sites be watered down. Ms. Roblero stated that the watering requirement went into effect the beginning of January. She stated that staff is targeting the next Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee meeting to present recommendations on the Noise Ordinance and the Sensitive Infill Award.

Mr. Silverman asked if there would be any changes to prevent the flooding of basements.

Ms. Roblero replied that there are no changes to water regulations as the City's code follows Hamilton County Water regulations.

Mayor Dobrozsi thanked Mr. Silverman for his comments.

ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2020

PENDING LEGISLATION

There is no pending legislation.

NEW LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Estimating the Probable Amount of Public Monies to be Deposited, Setting a date for the Designation of Public Depositories and Authorizing Notice

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Mr. Suer.

Ms. Smiddy explained that City Council is asked to consider this Resolution to estimate the amount of public monies to be deposited in Public Depositories and set a date for the designation of Public Depositories for a five-year period. She explained that the City's current Memorandums of Agreement with various banking institutions will expire on May 31, 2020 and that the State of Ohio requires that municipalities select public depositories for the deposit of active and interim funds. She stated the State also requires that each financial institution within the corporate limits of a municipality be contacted to submit a proposal for banking and financial services. She added that if City Council adopts this Resolution, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will then be sent to all financial institutions within the corporate limits of the City. The RFP will require bidding institutions to supply information on various banking services, investments, the institution's financial strength, and other related banking information. She explained the City Council will then be asked to consider adoption of a Resolution designating various financial depositories at the May 6, 2020, Business Session.

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if we utilize multiple banks.

Ms. Smiddy replied that we currently use three banks.

Mr. Cappel stated that as we are required to send Requests for Proposals (RFP) to all banks within the City, are we allowed to also include banks from outside the city.

Ms. Smiddy replied that we can use a bank outside of the city but only after we have sent out an RFP to all the local banks.

Mrs. Bissmeyer asked if we include investment banks.

Ms. Smiddy replied that we did.

Mr. Margolis asked what services we require in the RFP?

Ms. Smiddy stated there were approximately 40 services but some of the main ones were deposits, Automatic Clearing House (ACH), investments, wiring fees, overdraft services, payroll, taxes and lockbox services.

Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Dr. – Mr. Silverman asked which three banks were selected after the last RFP.

Ms. Smiddy replied they were WesBanco, PNC, and Fifth Third.

Mr. Silverman asked if credit unions were included.

Ms. Smiddy replied that those within the city limits were.

A Resolution Declaring a Moratorium on The Collection of Building and Zoning Permit Fees for Solar Installations

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Vice Mayor Margolis.

Ms. Roblero explained that, if approved, this Resolution would declare a moratorium on the collection of building and zoning permit fees for solar installations. She explained that any property within Hamilton County is eligible for participation in the program, which provides a free solar assessment, discounted rates and financing. She stated that at the January 6, 2020 Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committee meeting of City Council, it was

recommended to pass a Resolution waiving building and zoning fees for solar installations with a cap of \$1,000 beginning on February 6, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2021. The waiver would be promoted as an incentive to our residents and businesses to adopt a more environmentally friendly source of power and to continue to promote Montgomery as a progressive community in the region and the State.

Vice Mayor Margolis asked if there was a federal incentive for solar installations as well.

Ms. Roblero stated that there was however the amount of the incentive is going down each year.

Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Dr. – Mr. Silverman stated that he had watched a program on PBS regarding solar panels and their installation. He stated that a desert installation lasts on average three years and the disposal of the panels is considered high hazardous waste. He asked Mr. Cappel if the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) had reviewed this.

Mr. Cappel replied that he personally has had solar panels on his home for 10 years and the guarantee on the panels is for 20 years. Mr. Cappel stated that the waiver was discussed with the EAC and that they were supportive of it. He stated that the EAC did not discuss the disposal and that he felt that would be considered residential waste.

An Ordinance Amending the Land Usage Code to Enact New Regulations for The Heritage Overlay District

Mayor Dobrozsi assigned the legislation to Vice Mayor Margolis.

Ms. Roblero explained that, if approved, this Ordinance would amend Chapter 151.14 of the Code of Ordinances and would enact new regulations for the Heritage Overlay District. She stated that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the text amendments to Chapter 151 of the Land Usage Code as recommended by the Landmarks Commission. Ms. Roblero explained that the Landmarks Commission has been working on revisions to Chapter 151.14 regarding awnings and street furniture in the Heritage District and to update the acceptable building materials to be in line with current standards. She stated during this review that Mr. Walker came to Landmarks with a proposal to install solar panels at the James Ayers building. She stated that solar panels were not originally addressed in the review but have been added to the revisions.

Mr. Cappel asked if these revisions would allow for updated materials that are durable, cost effective and keep with the same look.

Ms. Roblero stated that was correct. She stated that the street furnishings and awnings were added in general as opposed to considering them on a case by case basis.

Steve Silverman, 7504 Golf Green Dr. – Mr. Silverman asked how many times this Ordinance would be read.

Mayor Dobrozsi replied that it would be read three times.

Mr. Silverman asked that since this Ordinance will not be approved until after the Montgomery Community Improvement Corporation Historic Matching Grant program is, will those homeowners that apply have to wait a full year for a matching grant.

Ms. Roblero replied that if any applications are received for any of the items covered in the amendment that they would have to wait for the changes to be approved and take effect in May.

Mr. Silverman asked Ms. Roblero if letters were sent to the homeowners about the amendments and the Historic Matching Grant program.

Ms. Roblero replied that she did.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Riblet reported the following items:

- The City Council Business Session is scheduled for February 5, 2020 immediately following a CIC meeting scheduled to begin at 6:45 p.m.
- A Montgomery CIC meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2020 at 6:45 p.m. to hold the Annual Meeting of Members and Trustees.
- The Financial Planning and Planning, Zoning and Landmarks Committees of Council will meet on Monday, February 3 at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., respectively. The Law and Safety Committee has cancelled their meeting for February.
- The Government Affairs Committee will meet Monday, February 10 at 4:30 p.m. The Parks and Recreation and Public Works Committees have cancelled their meetings for February.
- With the announcement of Jim Stewart's retirement to occur in May, staff will be starting a hiring process for a Service Worker I position.
- Staff will also be requesting the Civil Service Commission to authorize a new exam process for firefighter/paramedic to provide additional candidates for consideration for the six new fulltime positions authorized in the 2020 budget.
- Paula Brehm-Heeger, with the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has requested to make a special presentation about the Library's Facilities Master plan, at the February 19 Work Session. We anticipate her presentation to take approximately 10-15 minutes.
- Mr. Riblet was recently contacted by the Hamilton County Commissioners who wish to conduct their evening Commission meetings throughout various communities in Hamilton County. He stated that they have asked if they could hold their meeting on July 16, 2020 in City Hall Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The Montgomery Citizens' Leadership Academy session, Montgomery, Our Town, will be held Thursday, January 23 in City Hall Council Chambers, starting at 5:45 p.m. Next Thursday evening the Taxes & TIF's session will be held at Ohio National beginning at 5:45 p.m.
- The Community Leadership Forum will be held on Saturday, February 8, starting at 9:00 a.m. Currently there are 27 expected guests for this event to be held at the Twin Lakes Davies Center.
- As a reminder, the Dinner Around the World event is scheduled for February 9 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Terwilliger Lodge.

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Donnellon had no report.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Cappel

Mr. Cappel reported that at the Public Works Committee meeting on January 13, a Committee recommendation was made to reappoint Alice Aguilar and Donna Schwartz of the Environmental Advisory Commission for another three-

year term expiring on January 31, 2023. He stated that as this was a Committee recommendation, he would not need a second but asked for a voice vote of support. City Council unanimously agreed.

Mr. Cappel reported there was a record collection of stranded light collection at the monthly cardboard recycling event in spite of the nasty weather.

Mrs. Bissmeyer

Mrs. Bissmeyer reported that at the Sycamore Advisory Board Committee meeting, Paul Balent was appointed to the School Board to fill the vacant seat left open by the resignation of Diane Adamec. She stated that he would fill the remaining term until December 31, 2021 and then would have to run for election after that time.

Mrs. Harbison

Mrs. Harbison reported the following items from the Sister Cities Commission meetings:

- A letter was drafted to Mayor Demuynck of Neuilly-Plaisance, France to invite them to participate in an exchange program in October.
- Dinner Around the World is scheduled for February 8 and at that time 48 people have registered to attend. She stated that Frédéric Maniet and Anne Cappel would be conducting cooking demonstrations during the course of the evening.
- Marcallene Shockey and Frédéric Maniet will appear on an episode of Cincy Lifestyle on February 9 to discuss the Dinner Around the World program.
- Election of Officers was held at the meeting and there were no changes in the officer's positions.

Mrs. Harbison reported First Suburbs meeting in January will feature Pete Metz from the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce presenting on the Metro Bus transportation expansion project. She stated this would be the same presentation he made to City Council at the end of 2019.

Vice Mayor Margolis

Mr. Margolis reported that the Hamilton County Emergency Management Association will conduct a training regarding incident management on February 11 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Mayor Dobrozsi

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that Tom Carroll, Village Administrator for the Village of Silverton, spoke at the recent OKI Board Meeting regarding their economic development efforts.

Mayor Dobrozsi stated that he was invited to join the Committee for the Move Forward Campaign for Issue 7 with Pete Metz and has accepted the invitation. He stated they have their first meeting on Thursday, February 11.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Dobrozsi asked for a motion to approve the December 18, 2019 Public Hearing and Work Session minutes as well as the January 8, 2020 Business Session minutes.

Mr. Cappel made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

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

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

City Council adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council