

MEETING MINUTES  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
October 8, 2024

The October 8, 2024, Montgomery County Council Meeting was held at 9:00 am at the Community Meeting Room of the Montgomery County Government Center. In attendance were Council Members Jake Bohlander, Gary Booth, Brett Cating, Joyce Grimble, Steve Loy, and Matt Nelson. Auditor Mindy Byers, Commissioner Jim Fulwider, and Attorney Dan Taylor were also present.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Council Vice President Bohlander called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer.
- II. CONSENT AGENDA:
  - A. Council Member Nelson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Grimble. Motion carried 6-0.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: Chief Public Defender Bryan Donaldson spoke regarding adjustments to his department's employees' 2025 compensation. He stated that the Deputy Defender being paid from the Supplemental PD Fee fund should be a level 2. He also asked that the percentage increase be verified; he felt that there was one who was only receiving 1% when s/he should be receiving the 3% increase.

IV. MONEY MATTERS:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

| Fund   | Fund Description             | Dept # | Department Description | Account | Account Description                      | Additional Amount Requested |
|--------|------------------------------|--------|------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2100   | Supplemental Adult Probation | 0235   | Probation              | 30050   | Contractual Services                     | \$4,000.00                  |
| 9126   | 2025 MCDFC LCC Grant         | 0235   | Probation              | TBD     | Probation Officer Field Safety Equipment | \$8,818.91                  |
| 7304   | Innkeepers Tax               | 0000   | CVC                    | 41519   | Program Grants                           | \$61,500.00                 |
| 7304   | Innkeepers Tax               | 0000   | CVC                    | 30079   | Legal Services                           | \$3,800.00                  |
| TOTAL: |                              |        |                        |         |                                          | \$74,118.91                 |

- A. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Probation Department's additional appropriation requests. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson and carried 6-0.
- B. Council Member Grimble moved to approve the Convention and Visitor Commission's additional appropriation requests. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson and carried 6-0.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS:

| Fund   | Fund Description | Dept # | Department         | From Account | Account Description           | To Account | Account Description | Transfer Amount Requested |
|--------|------------------|--------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1222   | Statewide 911    | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11403        | Dispatcher                    | 12005      | MED/SS/PERF         | \$1,500.00                |
| 1222   | Statewide 911    | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11406        | Dispatcher                    | 12005      | MED/SS/PERF         | \$5,000.00                |
| 1222   | Statewide 911    | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11406        | Dispatcher                    | 12050      | Group Insurance     | \$5,000.00                |
| 1222   | Statewide 911    | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11005        | Additional Duty Pay           | 12065      | H S A               | \$1,885.00                |
| 1235   | PSAP LIT         | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11212        | Dispatcher                    | 11237      | Dispatcher          | \$8,000.00                |
| 1235   | PSAP LIT         | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11212        | Dispatcher                    | 11203      | Dispatcher          | \$8,000.00                |
| 1235   | PSAP LIT         | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11830        | Dispatcher                    | 11813      | Dispatcher          | \$3,500.00                |
| 1235   | PSAP LIT         | 0303   | MCCCC              | 11830        | Dispatcher                    | 11021      | OT                  | \$10,000.00               |
| 1000   | County General   | 0068   | Commissioners      | 11121        | Economic Development Director | 13000      | Wellness Center     | \$40,000.00               |
| 1000   | County General   | 0380   | Jail               | 11485        | Jail Officer                  | 11498      | Jail Officer        | \$26,000.00               |
| 1000   | County General   | 0380   | Jail               | 11493        | Jail Officer                  | 11630      | Jail Officer        | \$26,000.00               |
| 1170   | PS LIT           | 0005   | Sheriff            | 11250        | Sheriff's Deputy              | 11200      | Sheriff's Deputy    | \$20,000.00               |
| 1170   | PS LIT           | 0005   | Sheriff            | 30079        | Legal Services                | 24201      | Office Supplies     | \$3,500.00                |
| 1000   | County General   | 0308   | Weights & Measures | 30001        | Travel Expenses               | 24201      | Office Supplies     | \$32.00                   |
| TOTAL: |                  |        |                    |              |                               |            |                     | \$158,417.00              |

- A. Council Member Booth moved to approve the transfers requested by the MCCCC. The motion was seconded by Council Member Loy, and carried 6-0.
- B. Council Member Nelson moved to approve the transfer requested by the Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimble, and carried 6-0.
- C. Council Member Booth moved to approve the transfers requested for the Jail and Sheriff's Department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Loy, and carried 6-0.
- D. Council Member Nelson moved to approve the transfer requested by the Weights & Measures Department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimble, and carried 6-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Chief Deputy Auditor Jennifer Andel presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report. The report showed that expenditures for the County's largest funds were staying within budget estimations while some were revenues were exceeding forecasted amounts. Specifically, the County's interest income was much larger than anticipated, creating additional cash in County General.
- B. Discussion regarding the Compensation study continued. Council Member Cating discussed the longevity chart, and that employees are to receive longevity separately, at the same time as the second pay in January. Council Member Bohlander pointed out that the committee had accomplished what it had set out to do, but at a higher cost than originally anticipated. Council Member Loy pointed out the importance of making sure public safety roles are paid competitively and thinks that the committee has addressed that fairly well so far. Council Member Booth also pointed out that the road officers are excluded from the longevity chart because that is already built into their pay matrix. Commissioner Fulwider asked to verify that the CCC's adjustments had been made correctly, also. Requests to verify 2025 compensation were made by various department heads.
- C. Attorney Taylor presented Ordinance 2024-1 – Record Perpetuation Fund Usage for Recorder Expenses – for its final reading. A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Council Member Loy, seconded by Council Member Cating. Motion carried 6-0.
- D. Upon presentation for Budget Adoption, Council Member Nelson moved that the Montgomery County Solid Waste 2025 Budget be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Council member Grimbale. Motion carried 6-0.
- E. Upon presentation for Budget Adoption, Council Member Cating moved that the adoption of the Montgomery County 2025 Budget be tabled until October 28th at 1:00 p.m., and that Auditor Byers provide an updated 2025 Budget that includes all of the adjustments mentioned earlier in the meeting and a Salary Ordinance containing the longevity chart by October 18. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimbale, and carried 6-0.
- F. Attorney Taylor then presented Ordinances 2024-2 & 2024-3, the 2025 Salary and Appropriations Ordinances, respectively, for their first readings. The discussion that followed included possible changes to Wheel and Surtax in order to increase county revenues for the Highway Department. The discussion centered around raising those fees from the current level, which is 80% of the cap, to the maximum allowed by statute. Commissioner Fulwider informed the Council that the Commissioners are often told at their conferences that the State expects counties to use the tools they have been given before requesting additional State road funding. No decision was made on that matter, but more information about revenue possibilities will be requested of Jeff Peters, and a usage plan from Highway Director Jake Lough. Council Member Loy requested that the Ordinance take the Wheel and Surtax to the cap. Attorney Taylor told the Council that he could have an Ordinance ready for that at the next meeting.
- Council Member Loy invited Montgomery County Community Foundation CEO Kelly Taylor to provide an update to the Council on the Early Learning Center (ELC). She reported that the ELC was getting close to completion, as it is now in the drywall stage of construction. She also reported that the project had been featured by the US Department of Commerce and that other communities across the nation are looking to replicate it. The ELC had also received positive mentions by the Washington Post and Mitch Daniels. Council Member Booth expressed some concerns about possible impacts the ELC might have for other local child care establishments, and their ability to compete for employees. He is concerned that the problems the county is experiencing today with the lack of help will only get worse. CEO Taylor added that the Community Foundation had been providing child care training and grant support for the other child care providers in the county for many years. She went on to say that there would be vouchers to help lower income persons.
- Council Member Grimbale added that the local CTE organization would be providing training for young people interested in a career in child care, which would increase the number of available professional child care employees. Council Member Booth stated that he also disagreed with the idea of funding the ELC with \$125,000 in tax dollars a year for the next five years. He said that while he appreciates what the Community Foundation is doing, but tax dollars are not what should be used to help fund it. Council Member Loy reminded Council Member Booth that this was an investment in the future, and can help all of the other providers, with the CTE program, bringing more help to all providers. Council Member Booth also expressed concerns about the curriculum. Council Member Grimbale advised Council Member Booth that all providers have to follow the same quality standards. Council Member Booth advised that the Council needs take a good hard look at the budget and make sure they are not spending at a rate that is not sustainable. Council Members Loy and Grimbale thanked CEO Taylor for her efforts and the report.
- Auditor Byers pointed out that the current Cumulative Bridget Rate for 2025 was still set at 7.5 cents, but Peters' financial forecast put it at 5.5. Attorney Taylor reported that the Commissioners would be considering an ordinance decreasing the rate to 5.5 cents the following Monday.

Council Member Booth again cautioned the Council about raising property taxes, since they have been raising each year, and this budget is spending more than it is bringing in, questioning the long-term possibilities. Council Member Loy asked for a breakdown of revenues versus expenditures by major fund for analysis.

Council Member Bohlander thanked the Council and CEO Taylor for all of the good discussion on the budget and ELC.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VII. REPORTS:

A. Funded Organizations, Department Heads, Elected Officials:

1. Treasurer Heather Laffoon reported that the at the Tax Sale had taken place, and 33 out of 34 delinquent parcels had been sold and the taxes paid, plus surplus.

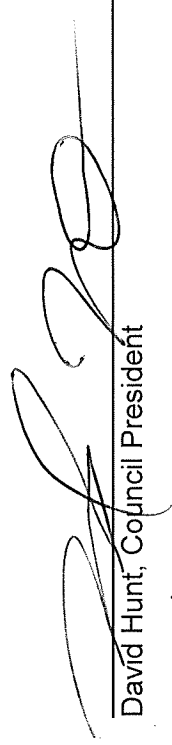
B. Councilors:

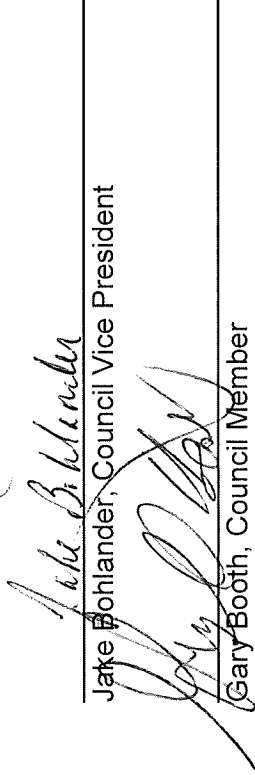
1. Council Member Cating reported that items were being collected at various locations in the county to be either flown or trucked to hurricane victims. Health Department Director Adrienne Northcutt provided additional information about items that are being requested and locations that they can be dropped off.
2. Council Member Grimble thanked the Compensation Committee for their time and hard work.
3. Council Member Loy stated that the Compensation Committee's work was not yet finished; the work would be ongoing with ranges and other adjustments.
4. Council Member Booth reported that the RDC has been working on the Nucor TIF district water project. The original plan of having Indiana American Water put the new lines in did not work out, so the RDC will be taking on that task. He also reported that there were going to be changes made to the interchange at Comfort Drive, and other RDC projects are in the works around the county, including analysis for a bypass around the southwest side of Crawfordsville.
5. Council Vice President Bohlander reminded the Council that the special meeting continuing the 2025 Budget Adoption would be held on Monday, October 28 at 1:00 p.m.

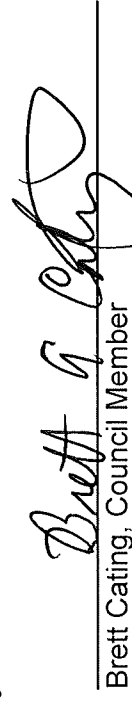
VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

IX. NEXT MEETING: Special Budget Adoption meeting on October 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row – Room E109. The next regular Council meeting will be on November 12 at 9:00 a.m. at the same location.

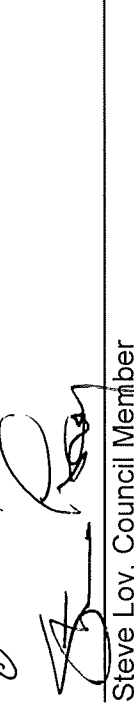
X. ADJOURN: Council Member Grimble made a motion to adjourn the regular Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Booth. Motion carried 6-0, tabling budget adoption until the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

  
David Hunt, Council President

  
Jake Bohlander, Council Vice President

  
Brett Cating, Council Member

  
Joyce Grimble, Council Member

  
Steve Loy, Council Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Nelson, Council Member

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mindy Byers, Auditor  
 Jennifer Andel, Chief Deputy

