

MEETING MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
April 9, 2024

The April 9, 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 Gary Booth, Brett Cating, Joyce Grimble, David Hunt, Steve Loy and Matt Nelson. Auditor Mindy Byers, Commissioner John Frey, County Administrator Tom Klein and Attorney Dan Taylor were also present.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Hunt 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 Loy. Motion carried 6-0.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.
- IV. MONEY MATTERS:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:							
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount Requested	
8301	Lead & Healthy Home Grant	0610	Health Department	30350	Training/Education	\$10,700.00	
8301	Lead & Healthy Home Grant	0610	Health Department	24202	Supplies	\$8,604.00	

- A. Council Member Loy moved to approve the Health Department’s federal grant funding additional appropriation request. Council Member Nelson seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

TRANSFER of APPROPRIATIONS:								
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department	From Account	Account Description	To Account	Account Description	Transfer Amount Requested
4900	MCCCC	0303	Central Communications Center	37070	Rent	33500	Seminars/Training	\$1,859.95
1222	MCCCC	0303	Central Communications Center	11403	Dispatcher	11021	OT	\$7,500.00
TOTAL:								\$9,359.95

- A. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Central Communication Center’s transfer requests to cover shortfalls in Training and Overtime, due to turnover. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cating and carried 6-0.

- V. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Treasurer Heather Laffoon had requested Council guidance for determining the base pay for the vacant position of Chief Deputy and Deputy Treasurer positions. The current Chief Deputy had filled that position since 2019, and is moving to another office. Due to several adjustments that had been made over her tenure, three different options were presented to the Council to consider for the new Chief Deputy’s base/starting pay. Those options were summarized in the following table:

		OPTION 1					OPTION 2	OPTION 3
	Series & Grade	Base Pay from 2019 Job Classification Document	2020 Pay 2% Raise	2021 Pay 2% Raise	2022 Pay 2% Raise	2023 Pay 2% Raise	2024 Pay 10% Raise	2024 Budgeted Amount
Chief Deputy Treasurer	6,2.32	38,284	39,050	39,831	40,627	41,440	45,583	45,584
Deputy Treasurer	3,2.35	30,500	31,110	31,732	32,367	33,014	36,316	34,390
Recorder	8,2.32	42,758	43,613	44,485	45,375	46,283	50,911	52,967

After expressing concerns about making an adjustment that might run contrary to the salary study that is in-process, several Council Members agreed that option 2 would be fair, and bring that salary in line with several others. Option 2 is basically the 2019 base pay, plus the cost of living increases from the intervening years. A motion to approve Option 2 (as shown on the above spreadsheet)

was made by Council Member Cating, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried 5-1, with Council Member Booth casting the “nay” vote.

- B. County Administrator Tom Klein presented a similar case to the Council regarding the Recorder’s position. The current Recorder, Jennifer Purcell has resigned, resulting in a vacancy that will be filled by a caucus. Again, due to adjustments while Recorder Purcell held office, there are different options to consider for the new Recorder’s starting salary. Referring to the same table used to provide options for the Treasurer positions’ starting salaries, the consensus was to follow the same method for determining the new base rate. A motion to select Option 2 from the Recorder line of the above table was made by Council Member Cating, seconded by Council Member Grumble. Motion carried 5-1, with Council Member Booth casting the “nay” vote.
- C. The Commissioners had asked Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates (WIS) to expedite the compensation review for the new position of Project Coordinator. The WIS recommendation was a salary range: \$55,381 - \$67,688. County Administrator Klein went on to add that the Commissioners had budgeted \$50,000 in the General Fund for the position, and that the discussion at the 2024 Budget Hearings had been to supplement that amount with Riverboat funds, if necessary. Council Member Cating asked if the position would have a provided vehicle, and Administrator Klein said that was not yet known, but perhaps, depending on what was recommended for the position. A motion to accept the initial salary range of \$55,381 - \$67,688 for the Project Coordinator position was made by Council Member Loy, seconded by Council Member Booth. Motion carried 6-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None

VII. REPORTS:

- A. Funded Organizations, Department Heads, Elected Officials:
1. Sheriff Needham reported to the Council that the replacement chiller approved at last meeting had been ordered and is expected to be received in late May and installed in June of this year. He also reported that some of the roof repairs had been completed, certified and were working great. He is looking forward to being able to get the remaining areas fixed as well as do some updating to the Jail’s kitchen. Sheriff Needham also reported that the County will be losing three Deputies next year, and he has already started looking for candidates to fill those positions. So far, he has four candidates for those three positions. He mentioned that the City is getting ready to implement a pay raise, which could increase competition for candidates. Council Member Cating asked Sheriff Needham to share the City’s proposal when he knows it, and the Sheriff agreed to do so.
 2. County Assessor Sherri Bentley reported that her office’s Ratio Study was approved and that Form 11’s would be mailed soon. She reported that statewide values for non-ag land had been audited, and that the land values, and location cost multipliers (from the DLGF) had changed from prior years. She also reported that trending values were changing for the 2024 pay 2025 calculations as well.
 3. Auditor Mindy Byers reported that the State Board of Accounts had contacted her about getting started on the State/Federal audit for 2023 soon. She also reported that there was a great deal of legislation affecting property tax deductions that was being considered during this year’s session, and to stay tuned for updates on that.
 4. County Administrator Tom Klein reported construction had started on the Purple Heart Parkway (PHP) extension and reminded those present that the construction manager actually has a temporary office here in the Government Center. He also reported that Dell Wilson was celebrating 20 years with the County and thanked her for her service. He reminded those present that the following week is Telecommunicator’s Week, announced that Jennifer Watson had won the NCAA Men’s Basketball tourney bracket between county employees, and Chad Hodges had won the countywide bracket competition. Administrator Klein reported that there had been a meeting between the Judges, Commissioner Frey, Council Member Bohlander, and Building Commissioner Bonwell to discuss finer points of the Courthouse renovation project. Finally, Administrator Klein reported that an updated Capital Projects handout would be circulated soon. Chief Probation Officer Andria Geigle asked that the Probation building project(s) be added to that Capital Projects handout.
- B. Councilors:
1. Council Member Grumble reported that she was proud of the Boilermakers and their performance in the NCAA tournament. She also reported that she and Council Member Loy had visited the 4th graders at Sommer Elementary.
 2. Council Member Hunt thanked the Sheriff, City officers and EM-HS for their efforts the day before with the solar eclipse traffic.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

IX. NEXT MEETING: May 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 1580

Constitution Row – Room E109.

- X. ADJOURN: Council Member Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Cating. Motion carried 6-0.

David Hunt, Council President

Jake Bohlander, Council Vice President

Gary Booth, Council Member

Brett Cating, Council Member

Joyce Grumble, Council Member

Steve Loy, Council Member

Matt Nelson, Council Member

Attest:

Mindy Byers, Auditor

