

MEETING MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
June 11, 2024

The June 11, 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, David Hunt, and Steve Loy. 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 Booth moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Bohlander. 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
9111	2024 Women's Legacy Grant	0235	Probation	21919	Participant Incentives	\$3,000.00
1238	Opioid Unrestricted Portion	0610	Health Department	30050	Contractual Services	\$30,000.00
8003	2024 READI Grant	0068	Commissioners	30050	Contractual Services	\$2,033,333.00

- A. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Probation Department's Grant fund additional appropriation request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Loy and carried 6-0.
- B. Council Member Loy moved to approve the Health Department's user fee fund additional appropriation request, which is needed to partial support of the Drug Free Montgomery County Coordinator position. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimble, and carried 6-0.
- C. Council Member Loy moved to approve the Commissioner's additional appropriation request for the READI Grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bohlander and carried 6-0.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS:

Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department	From Account	Account Description	To Account	Account Description	Transfer Amount Requested
1217	Elected Officials' Training Fund	0000	Multiple Departments	30064	Contractual Services	21001	Travel Exps/Food/Lodging/Fuel	\$5,000.00

A. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Auditor's transfer request for the Elected Officials Training fund. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bohlander, and carried 6-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. The Board of Trustees for the Crawfordsville District Public Library announced that Mr. Brian Keim is retiring from their board, and they need to have a new board member appointed. Members of the Board had requested that the Council consider Dr. Crystal Benedicks to the four-year board position with a term beginning July 1, 2024. A motion to do so was made by Council Member Grimble, seconded by Council member Cating. Motion carried 6-0.

B. County Administrator Tom Klein asked the Council to provide guidance to County staff on the amount to budget for compensation increases in 2025. He provided the Council with the Consumer Price Index for April, which showed an increase of 3.4%. Based upon that, as well as the fact that the compensation review will not be complete before the July 1st deadline, Council Member Cating moved to have Department Heads use an increase of 3% for 2025 budgets. This was seconded by Council Member Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.

C. At the work session of the Council and Commissioners, there was a request from the Commissioners for an additional appropriation in the General Fund that would be used by the Redevelopment Commission. The revenue source would be some of the interest income above the amount budgeted as revenue for the 2025 budget. Essentially, a request was made for \$500,000 to be appropriated from the County General fund in order to be used by the Redevelopment Commission in a Non-TIF fund, to be used for projects that were not located in an allocation area. Council Member Loy made a motion in favor of the transfer of funds, and this was seconded by

Councilman Bohlander. Council Members Cating and Booth requested that this be analyzed by Jeff Peters prior to making the actual transfer of funds. Council Members Loy and Bohlander amended their motion and second to include Jeff Peters' fiscal review prior to the fund transfer. The amended motion carried 6-0.

D. Auditor Mindy Byers reported that the County had received a supplemental LIT distribution in the amount of \$755,384 for the County General fund, and \$523,816 for the Public Safety LIT. These amounts were not used as part of the 2024 budgeting process, so the suggestion is that the Council consider utilizing the distributions for projects such as the Jail repair, which has an estimated cost of over \$600,000 or the housing program, which would use approximately \$500,000. Council Member Loy asked that this be added to the list of items for Jeff Peters to weigh in on at the next meeting.

E. Attorney Taylor presented a Resolution 2024-2: Resolution of Need for the Courthouse Project. As part of the funding timeline for the project, the Council would need to make this determination. Attorney Taylor has been working with Ice Miller to determine the lease schedule. Council Member Cating asked about the length of amortization for this bond. He would like to see a short repayment time to save on interest. Attorney Taylor said that Jeff Peters would discuss this at the July Council meeting, and that he would be working with underwriters to see what worked best. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Council Member Cating, seconded by Council Member Grimble. Motion carried 6-0.

F. Council Member Grimble reported that the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District Board had approved the Conservation Director's application for a grant to implement conservation practices in the Upper Sugar Creek Watershed. Now, Conservation Director Kristen Latzke was asking for the Council to provide a letter of support for the endeavor. Council Member Cating moved that the Council voice support and gave Council President Hunt permission to draft a letter saying so. This was seconded by Council Member Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.

G. Attorney Taylor then presented the Council with a summary of new legislation that might be of concern to County Councils:

Summary of 2024 Legislation of Interest to County Councils

1. Prohibition of Central Bank Digital Currency: SEA 180 prohibits local governments from using, accepting as payment, or requiring payment in Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). In 2022, the Federal Reserve initiated a discussion regarding the possible issuance of CBDC as an alternative to cash and coin. The Federal Reserve has not taken action to issue CBDC, and an act of Congress would be necessary for the issuance. Indiana banned CBDC in 2023 by changing the definition of "money" in the Uniform Commercial Code to specifically exclude CBDC. In the most recent session of the State Legislature, Indiana went a step further in this prohibition. Advocates of the bill argue that such digital currency would allow the federal government to monitor consumer spending. Eight other states have passed such bans. Earlier this year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill which would prohibit the Central Bank from issuing CBDC, but the Senate has not taken up the bill.

2. Exemption of Mobile Homes and Manufactured Homes from Property Taxes: SEA 183 allows county councils to exempt mobile homes and manufactured homes from property taxes if they wish to do so. If the Council wishes to adopt an ordinance establishing such a local exemption, it must publish notice and conduct a public hearing prior to voting on the ordinance.

3. Courtroom Expenses Rate for Public Safety LIT: SEA 33 authorizes county councils to impose a tax rate for expenses incurred for the expenses of court operations. The tax rate cannot exceed 0.2% and cannot extend for more than 25 years. The revenues used cannot exceed 50% of the operational expenses of the courts.

4. Public Defender Misdemeanor Reimbursement Program: SEA 179 authorized a pilot program for 12 counties and makes them eligible for 40% reimbursement for misdemeanor case expenses. Under prior law, state reimbursement applied only to felony cases. This program will extend over a 5-year period.

5. Increased Disabled Veteran Property Tax Deduction: HEA 1120 increases the AV limit for DAV residential deductions from \$200,000 to \$240,000.

6. Stipends for Auditors and Voter Registration Officer: HEA 1328 allows county councils to provide a \$2,500 stipend for the Auditor and a \$2,500 stipend for the Voter Registration Officer (for years in which a general election is conducted).

7. Open Door Law Changes Regarding Committees: HEA 1338 was enacted in order to address the issue of when a committee appointed by a governing body is subject to the Open Door Law. The Public Access Counselor had taken the position that any committee which was appointed by a governing body to receive information, deliberate, and make recommendations to the governing committee was subject to the Open Door Law. This law exempts such

committees from the Open Door Law if not more than one member of the governing body serves as a member of such committee.

8. **Rules for Conduct of Meetings:** HEA 1338 also authorized governing bodies to adopt reasonable rules for the conduct of meetings, including rules for time limits for public comment and procedures for removing disruptive members of the public from meetings.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None

VII. REPORTS:

A. Funded Organizations, Department Heads, Elected Officials:

1. Highway Director Jake Lough reported that the Department had applied for a 2025 Community Crossings Grant in the amount of \$1,635,271.87. The requirement for the County is that we come up with a 25% match. That is something that will need to be addressed as we move ahead with the 2025 budgets.
 2. County Administrator Klein reported that Purple Heart Parkway was progressing as scheduled. He also reported that County Councils would need to begin streaming meetings live beginning in January of 2025, so all would need to get in the habit of using the microphones, and arrangements to make sure the County was compliant with this will need to be considered.
 3. Commissioner Frey thanked Treasurer Heather Laffoon for all of her hard work in making sure the County's funds earned interest.
 4. Sheriff Needham reported that the new chiller had been installed at the Jail and that they would soon have the invoice for that; he plans on using Public Safety LIT funds to pay it. He would be bringing an additional appropriation for that before the Council soon. He also talked about some of the extra community programs that the Sheriff's Deputies were participating in such as reading to kindergarteners and working with neighborhoods and various community members to strengthen relationships county-wide.
- B. Councilors: Nothing to report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

IX. NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row – Room E109.

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



David Hunt, Council President



Jake Bohlander, Council Vice President



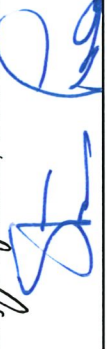
Gary Booth, Council Member



Brett Catling, Council Member



Joyce Grimble, Council Member

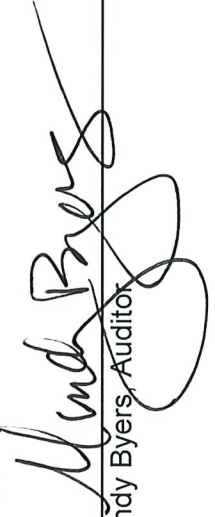


Steve Loy, Council Member



Matt Nelson, Council Member

Attest:


Mindy Byers, Auditor

