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

The July 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 Jake Bohlander, 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 Bohlander moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Grimble. Motion carried 7-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

IV. MONEY MATTERS:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount Requested
TBD	2025 MCDFC (LCC Grant)	0235	Probation	30181	Drug Court Incentives	$3,500.00
TBD	2025 MCDFC (LCC Grant)	0235	Probation	30351	Drug & Alcohol Education &	$1,500.00
TBD	2025 MCDFC (LCC Grant)	0235	Probation	30179	Juvenile/Young Adult UDS	$2,240.00
TBD	2025 MCDFC (LCC Grant)	0235	Probation	30184	Emergency & Transitional Hc	$2,750.00
TBD	2025 MCDFC (LCC Grant)	0235	Probation	30902	Cognitive Behavior Program (	$3,000.00
TBD	2025 MCDFC (LCC Grant)	0235	Probation	31221	Veteran's Treatment Court Ir	$1,500.00
					TOTAL:	$14,490.00

A. Council Member Nelson moved to approve the Probation Department's Grant fund additional appropriation requests. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimble and carried 7-0.

TRANSFER of APPROPRIATIONS:

Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department	From Account	Account Description	To Account	Account Description	Transfer Amount Requested
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	11212	Dispatcher	11021	O.T.	$10,000.00
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	11613	Dispatcher	12005	MED/SS/INPRS	$12,000.00
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	11414	Dispatcher	12005	MED/SS/INPRS	$17,500.00
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	11313	Dispatcher	12005	MED/SS/INPRS	$7,500.00
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	12095	Worker's Comp	12005	MED/SS/INPRS	$400.00
1176	Highway Unrestricted	0529	Highway	11010	County Highway Engineer	30193	Liability/Prevention	$21,000.00
							TOTAL:	$68,400.00

A. Council Member Cating moved to approve the MCCCC transfer requests for the PSAP LIT fund. The motion was seconded by Council Member Loy, and carried 7-0.

B. Council Member Booth moved to approve the Highway's transfer request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bohlander, and carried 7-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. The Council had received a written request from Kurt Homann, on behalf of the Animal Welfare League, for an additional disbursement of funds in the amount of $4,500 from the County Dog Tax fund. Once he had verified that there was an ample cash balance, Council Member Loy moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cating and passed 7-0.

B. County Administrator Tom Klein reminded the Council that there has been an analysis of the county-imposed Wheel Tax for the last several summers, and asked if they would be entertaining a change for 2025. Auditor Byers presented the YTD revenue, and Attorney Taylor provided the limitations to what could be imposed. Some discussion ensued which weighed raising Wheel Tax during this time of inflation against the need for more Highway funding. Council Member Cating made a motion to maintain the current Wheel Tax levels for 2025, and this was seconded by Council Member Grimble. The motion carried 4-3, with Council Members Loy, Booth and Bohlander voting against.

C. Jeff Peters, from Peters Franklin Ltd, provided an update to the strategic financial plan and analysis that had originally been provided in March. He provided the following synopsis of the updates to the plan:

The Fiscal Plan has been updated to provide a more accurate projection, prior to the 2025 budget process, utilizing financial and other data as of June 30, 2024. In summary, General Fund revenues are expected to outpace expenditures by ~$1.75 million annually. The MVH Fund expenditures are expected to outpace revenues by ~$140,000 annually. The MVH Restricted Fund expenditures have been revised to utilize all available cash and allocate remaining ongoing expense back to the MVH Fund. The Public Safety LIT Fund revenue is expected to approximately equal expenditures (including Communication transfers to balance those revenues to expenditures). Also, the General, MVH, and Public Safety LIT Funds have established substantial cash reserves.

In regard to revenue, we have revised some of the annual estimates based on June 30, 2024 financial and other data. Most notably, Interest on Investments, Supplemental LIT, MVH Distributions, Wheel Tax / Surtax, LR&S Distributions, and Health Fees. For the Interest on Investments, the first half 2024 collections support the same amount as 2023 revenue. Years after 2024 have been assumed to see investment rate reductions equal to last month's FED estimated target rate reductions of 1.0%, 1.0%, and 0.5%, respectively. In regard to Supplemental LIT, the State Budget Agency has used the same methodology for 5 years in a row, thus we have assumed those to continue after 2024 imputing the same methodology as used by the State Budget Agency. Barring a recession, these distributions should be made. Regarding MVH and LR&S revenues, we have looked at the first half collections of 2024 and the last half of 2023 to adjust those amounts. In respect to Wheel Tax / Surtax, we looked at the increase in the first half of 2024 versus the first half of 2023 and applied that growth rate to the second half of 2023 to adjust that amount. In regard to Health Fees, we have doubled the first half "Permit & Fees" amount as first half 2024 revenues have significantly outpaced first half 2023 revenues.

In reference to expenditures, we have included added Public Safety LIT Fund Expenditures which we omitted from the March 8 update. We apologize for the omission. We have included additional appropriations per the June 30, 2024 financial reports, and included the $500,000 General Fund additional appropriation for RDC.

We have included proposed 2025 budgets for the Cumulative Bridge, MVH, MVH Restricted, and LR&S Funds. We have revised the expenditures and reimbursements for the MVH and MVH Restricted Fund to more clearly reflect the use of MVH Restricted monies to offset MVH Personal Services costs. Further, we have reallocated expenditures, including CIP, between MVH and MVH Restricted due to available revenue. We find these 2025 proposed budgets to be acceptable for the Fiscal Plan, but does consume ~$140,000 annually in the out year of the projection, and the $500,000 annual grant match for Community Crossing is within the General Fund for 2025 through 2027. The County might consider raising the Wheel Tax / Surtax to better cover all these expenditures or budget some MVH capital expenditures from the General Fund.

In regard to the jail repairs, we recommend they be paid from the cash balance of the Public Safety LIT Fund.

In regard to the current estimate for the Courthouse Debt Funding, Page 15 shows its repayment across 19 years which results in a total 2026 property tax rate of $.4953. If the estimated rate were raised to the 2024 rate of $.5078, then the amortization period would fall to 7 years, the total interest cost would be expected to decrease by ~$1.56 million and the anticipated increase in property tax to a $250,000 homestead would be estimated at ~$12 annually. If the estimated rate were raised to the 2023 rate of $.5340, then the amortization period would fall to 3 years, the total interest cost would be expected to decrease by ~$2.03 million and the anticipated increase in property tax to a $250,000 homestead would be estimated at ~$36 annually.

Following Mr. Peters' presentation, the Council Members discussed concerns about, road funding, prospective salary increases, and the utilization of interest income as well as other cash balances. Council Member Loy asked Mr. Peters if he could run scenarios on salary increases; Mr. Peters agreed to build it into the next report model. Council President Hunt then turned the discussion to the debt funding for the Courthouse Project. Due to the lease schedule for that project, Mr. Peters and Mr. Taylor need to know what type of amortization schedule the Council wishes to pursue. Council Member Cating moved to maintain the same County tax rate as 2024, and pay off the Courthouse Project Lease Rental in seven years. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount Requested
1000	County General	0068	Commissioners	41521	RDC Funding from County	$500,000.00
4850	RDC NON TIF Fund	0701	Redevelopment Commission	30069	Contractual Services/Capital	$500,000.00

D. Attorney Taylor presented a Resolution 2024-5: Authorizing Transfer of Funds to Redevelopment Commission and Appropriating Funds. Several Council Members and Commissioners have identified a need to provide cash to a Redevelopment Commission (RDC) Non-TIF fund in order to help with development opportunities outside the County's Allocation areas, and allow the RDC to act quickly, if necessary. The Resolution authorizes the appropriation of $500,000 from County General, into the RDC NON TIF fund, and requires that the Auditor proceed with the fund-to-fund cash transfer. Council President Hunt moved to approve Resolution 2024-5. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bohlander. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Attorney Taylor presented the 2024 Payable 2025 Tax Abatement Compliance Resolutions:
   1. Resolution 2024-6 – Crawfordsville 5 Solar Array
   2. Resolution 2024-7 – Darlington Solar Array
   3. Resolution 2024-8 – Steel Technologies'

   A motion to approve the three Abatement Resolutions was made by Council Member Loy, and was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried 7-0.

F. Auditor Byers presented the 2025 Budget Calendar and timeline. Some of the highlighted items were:
   1. DLGF Budget Workshop at 11:00 a.m. on 7/30.
   2. 2025 Budget Presentation at the August 13 Council Meeting.
   3. Internal Budget Workshops at 6:00 p.m. on 8/26 and 8/27.
   4. Public Hearing of the Budget and introduction of the Appropriation and Salary Ordinances at the September 10 Council Meeting
   5. Budget Adoption and second reading of the Appropriation and Salary Ordinances at the October 8 Council Meeting.

G. Kent Irwin and Addie Rooker from Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates (WIS) provided those present with the results of their extensive compensation study. In the very in-depth study, WIS had divided all of the diverse County positions into several categories and had made salary comparisons from internal and external (market) sources. Mr. Irwin and Ms. Rooker also updated the Council on upcoming FLSA rule changes and job designations. They also presented suggestions for providing longevity pay to County employees. WIS had prepared Ordinances for the Council and Commissioners which they could use for adopting all of the updated job descriptions, should they choose. Council President Hunt thanked WIS for providing the comprehensive study. He said that there was a great deal of information to digest, and the Council would take their recommendations under advisement. County Administrator Klein offered to make all of the information and spreadsheets from the WIS presentation available on the County's internal file server for all employees to see. He also asked that department heads analyze results for their teams and notify him of any possible concerns.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None

VII. REPORTS:

A. Funded Organizations, Department Heads, Elected Officials:
   1. Chief Public Defender Bryan Donaldson announced that he and a representative from the State Public Defender's Commission would soon bring the Council information about the State's reimbursement program. He reported that some of the criteria had changed and it did not appear as though the County would have to hire a large number of public defenders in order to participate and receive reimbursements.
   2. Don Orr, from the Health Department, introduced the three summer interns from Wabash College; they were from Zionsville, Dallas and Nigeria. The young men are helping the department with vector control.

B. Councilors:
   1. Council Member Cating asked for an update on the Courthouse Project. County Administrator Klein reported that the team was working on the final bid documents.
   2. Council Member Grimble reminded those present that the County 4-H fair would be starting later in the week.
   3. All Council Members thanked all those who contributed information and worked with WIS for their thorough work on the compensation study.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

IX. NEXT MEETING: August 13, 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 Grimble. Motion carried 7-0.

David Hunt, Council President

Jake Bohlander, Council Vice President

Gary Booth, Council Member

Brett Cating, Council Member

Joyce Grimble, Council Member

Steve Loy, Council Member

Matt Nelson, Council Member

Attest:

Mindy Byers, Auditor

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