

MEETING MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
March 11, 2025

The March 11, 2025 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, Matt Nelson and Mike Warren. Auditor Mindy Byers, County Administrator Tom Klein, and Attorney Dan Taylor were also present.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President David 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 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
1000	County General	0235	Probation	11273	Salary	\$250.00
TBD	2025 OCRA Owner-Occupied Rf	0088	Commissioners	30500	Contractual Services	\$450,000.00
1237	Opioid Restricted Fund	0610	Health Department	20450	Education/Prevention	\$2,420.00
1237	Opioid Restricted Fund	0610	Health Department	31031	Intervention & Treatment	\$35,083.17
TOTAL:						<u>\$487,753.17</u>

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

B. Council Member Booth moved to approve Commissioners' additional appropriation request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Loy and carried 7-0.

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

V. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Chief Public Defender Bryan Donaldson and Derek Mason from the Indiana Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys discussed the steps Montgomery County would have to take to qualify for participation in the Commission's State reimbursement program. According to estimations, Montgomery County could net as much as \$192k in reimbursement per year of participation. In order to comply with the reimbursement program's requirements, the County would need to increase the Chief and Deputy Chief Public Defenders salaries to match those of similar positions in the Prosecutor's office, move the salary expenses for one of the Deputy Public Defenders out of the Supplemental PD fund and add another Public Defender position. The Council made no motion on the topic, Council Member Cating suggested that there be a committee to look into the budget and compensation impacts.

B. Clerk Sondra Sixberry had requested that one of her Deputy positions be changed so that two part-time people would share the single full-time position. She had also requested that another part time position be for scanning and archiving of documents through the end of 2025. The alternate status and additional part time position had not been part of the 2024 compensation study. Council Member Cating expressed displeasure at the request to change the office staff lineup and number of deputies immediately after the completion of the compensation study. He also pointed out that Clerk Sixberry had already hired the two part time people that were performing the duties of the former full-time deputy position, which is not the usual order of business. Clerk Sixberry apologized, but pointed out that she was not aware of the process to which she should have adhered.

Council Member Booth moved to approve the first request, splitting the single full-time Deputy position into two part-time positions. This was seconded by Council Member Cating, and carried 7-0. Council Member Hunt moved to table the second request, which adds a new part-time position to the Clerk's staff. That motion was seconded by Council Member Grimble, and carried 7-0.

- C. The Council appointment to the Economic Development Commission has not yet been filled. Council Member Loy approached Jordan Foland about being willing to serve on that commission and he has agreed. A motion to appoint Jordan Foland to the board was made by Council Member Grimbale, seconded by Council Member Loy. Motion carried 7-0.
- D. Linden Carnegie Public Library Director Kathy Watkins has requested that the Council re-appoint Steve Burkle to their library board for another term, expiring March 22, 2029. A motion to do so was made by Council Member Grimbale, seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried 7-0.
- E. Chief Deputy Auditor Jennifer Andel presented the 2024 4th Quarter financial report. In summary, the report reflected very good adherence to the 2024 County Budget for all funds and departments, and revenues received at the amounts expected or greater -- both of those points being positive results for the County for the year.

VII. REPORTS:

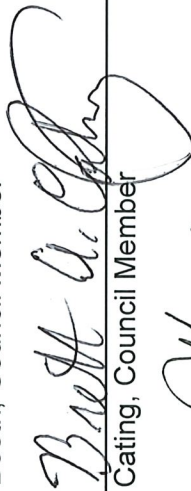
- A. Purdue Extension Director Monica Nagele provided the Extension Office's 4th Quarter report. She reported that 41 individuals had been Serve Safe certified over the course of the year. She also reported about the 4-H members' day at the Statehouse; 16 local 4-H members attended. They received a tour of the Statehouse, participated in breakout sessions and learned about proposed legislation. Director Nagele reported that there had been 8 participants in Annie's Project for Cut Flower Growers six-week course. Also, she reported that the "Leaving a Lasting Legacy for Midwestern Farm Women" virtual class, Ag Women Engage Conference and Young Ladies in Ag conference in Fort Wayne had been great successes.
- B. County Administrator Tom Klein reported on several items:
1. Purple Heart Parkway is mostly complete; the crews are just finishing up some concrete work as the weather permits.
 2. The Nucor Water Project is ongoing. That, along with other work happening along Nucor Road will be taking that road down to one lane for some time. An automated signal is being installed to assist with traffic flow.
 3. The Courthouse Project is moving forward. Currently, work is being done on the roof, as well as converting the former Council meeting space into offices, and painting on the first floor.
 4. He also reported that a Transit Study information-gathering meeting would be held on March 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Fusion 54.
- C. Chief Deputy Auditor Jennifer Andel presented the Council with an in-depth report of 2024 expenditures and revenues for all of the local criminal justice departments and how those compare to their 2025 budgets.
- D. Council Member Cating reminded the Council that some of the proposed State legislation could have large fiscal impacts for the County, so all need to stay aware of which ones are moving forward in the approval process.
- E. Council Member Loy reported that he and Commissioner Bohlander had attended the NAMI summit in Indianapolis, where discussions were held on mental illness and its effects on communities. He also reported that he had met up with Auditor Byers and County Administrator Klein to discuss current and future budgets.
- F. Council Member Grimbale reported that there would be an open house at the new Early Learning center on April 6th.
- G. Council Member Hunt reported that the Council is looking into tablets or laptops to use for meetings in order to cut down on paper use.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

- IX. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: A motion to approve the \$1,494.50 claim from Taylor, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter and the \$725.59 claim from Peters Franklin, LTD was made by Council Member Cating. The motion was seconded by Council Member Grimbale and carried 7-0.
- X. NEXT MEETING: April 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County Community Center (1580 Constitution Row, Room 109E).
- XI. ADJOURN: Council Member Cating made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Grimbale. Motion carried 7-0.



Gary Booth, Council Member



Brett Cating, Council Member



Joyce Grimbale, Council Member



David Hunt, Council Member



Steve Loy, Council Member

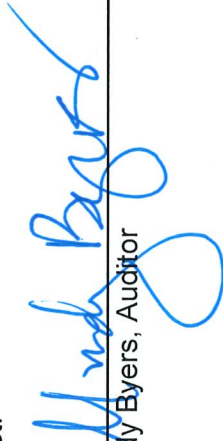


Matt Nelson, Council Member



Mike Warren, Council Member

Attest:



Mindy Byers, Auditor

