

MEETING MINUTES  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 8, 2021

The June 8, 2021 Montgomery County Council Meeting was held at 9:00 am at the County Council Chambers. In attendance were Council President Tom Mellish and Councilmen David Hunt, Gary Booth, Don Mills, Mark Davidson and Jake Bohlander. Auditor Jennifer Andel was present, along with County Administrator Tom Klein. County Attorney Dan Taylor sent Tyler Nichols as proxy.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Mellish called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer given by Mellish.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 11, 2021
  - a. Councilman Booth made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Hunt. Motion carried 6-0.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:
  - a. Chuck Smith with Cabins & Candlelight spoke in opposition to an increase to the Innkeeper's Tax.
- IV. MONEY MATTERS:
  - a. Councilman Booth made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriations in the County General Fund, seconded by Councilman Mills. Motion carried 6-0.
  - b. Councilman Hunt made a motion to approve the Health Department Additional Appropriations, seconded by Councilman Mills. Motion carried 6-0.
  - c. Councilman Booth made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation to the VASIA Grant, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.
  - d. Councilman Booth made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriations for the Probation Department, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.
  - e. Councilman Hunt made a motion to approve the Superior Court 2 Transfer of Appropriations, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.
  - f. Councilman Davidson made a motion to approve the CCC Transfer of Appropriations, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:								
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description		Additional Amount Requested	
	1000 County General	0380	Jail	11055	Part Time Maintenance		\$3,000.00	
	1000 County General	0011	Extension Office	30016	Copier Lease		\$436.14	
	8109 Community Vaccine Grant	0610	Health	21001	Travel		\$2,363.61	
	8109 Community Vaccine Grant	0610	Health	22019	Supplies		\$13,393.81	
	8109 Community Vaccine Grant	0610	Health	22019	Supplies		\$11,533.39	
	8109 Community Vaccine Grant	0610	Health	30050	Contractual Services		\$7,878.71	
	8109 Community Vaccine Grant	0610	Health	30160	Other Services & Charges		\$3,939.37	
	8109 Community Vaccine Grant	0610	Health	44500	Equipment		\$2,363.61	
	8903 Community COVID Testing Grant	0610	Health	11105	Salary		\$48,848.02	
	9104 VASIA Grant	0202	Superior Court 2	30055	Adult Guardianship Services		\$30,800.00	
	9167 DOC DC Grant	0235	Probation	11105	Salary		\$19,474.00	
	9167 DOC DC Grant	0235	Probation	12005	MED/SS/INPRS		\$4,490.50	
	9167 DOC DC Grant	0235	Probation	12050	Group Insurance		\$3,888.00	
	9167 DOC DC Grant	0235	Probation	30037	Cell Phone		\$300.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	11113	Salary		\$26,240.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	11225	Salary		\$21,619.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	12005	MED/SS/INPRS		\$8,860.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	12050	Group Insurance		\$5,937.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	20006	Class Materials		\$300.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	21000	Fuel Oil		\$1,000.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	21909	Staff Incentives		\$800.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	21919	Participant Incentives		\$1,250.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	21960	Vehicle Supplies		\$250.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	21965	Preventative Mtc Supplies		\$100.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	30037	Cell Phone		\$600.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	30086	Vehicle Insurance		\$437.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	30090	Transportation		\$1,291.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	30196	Lodging		\$1,875.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	32100	Dues & Subscriptions		\$200.00	
	9168 DOC Grant	0235	Probation	33500	Seminars & Training		\$900.00	
TOTAL:							\$224,368.16	
TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS:								
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department	From Account	Account Description	To Account	Account Description	Transfer Amount Requested
	1000 County General	0202	Superior Court 2	30057	Law Clerk	30051	Interpreter	\$1,200.00
	1222 Statewide 911	0303	CCC	11830	Dispatcher	30050	Contractual Services	\$9,000.00
TOTAL:							\$10,200.00	

- V. NEW BUSINESS:
  - A. Wheel Tax Resolution: Council President Mellish will introduce action at July meeting.
  - B. Resolution 2021-3 – Steel Technologies LLC Property Tax Abatements

- a. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Booth. Motion carried 6-0.
- C. Resolution 2021-4 – Nucor Property Tax Abatement
  - a. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.
- D. Resolution 2021-5 – Crawfordsville 5 Solar Array LLC Property Tax Abatement
  - a. Councilman Bohlander made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Booth. Motion carried 6-0.
- E. Resolution 2021-6 – Darlington Solar Array LLC Property Tax Abatement
  - a. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.
- F. Resolution 2021-7 – IMPA (Waynetown) Property Tax Abatement
  - a. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Booth. Motion carried 6-0.
- G. Innkeeper's Tax Discussion:
  - a. Councilman Mills doesn't care for taxpayer money, via County General, being used for tourism when there's a mechanism in place to pay for it. He presented a map showing two-thirds of the state with an Innkeeper's Tax Rate at 5%, explaining it is a pass-through tax.
  - b. Councilman Bohlander reaffirmed the tax is not paid by the owner, rather passed down to the occupant.
  - c. Councilman Booth stated that he didn't feel like it should be increased unless and until there is a need.
  - d. Councilman Davidson stated that raising the Innkeeper's Tax shouldn't hit the bottom line in the long run if you consider the increase in tourism that it should create.
  - e. Councilman Hunt echoed Booth's comments. If there is a need, it should be looked at. If not, there is no need.
  - f. Council President Mellish stated the ARP funds could be used to help tourism. He asked Councilman Bohlander to work with Commissioner Frey and Heather Shirk, Visitors and Convention Bureau, to gather more input from other tourism businesses in the county. He suggested a follow-up discussion at the next meeting.
  - g. Attorney Nichols added that it is a state felony for a qualifying business to not pay Innkeeper's Tax.
  - h. Councilman Davidson asked Nichols to advise on those checks and balances during the next discussion.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Budget Timeline: Council President Mellish announced he will be sending out dates for department head budget presentations in August.
- B. ERPS Committee Report – Prosecutor's Paralegal Licensing/Certification (tabled in May)
  - a. David Hunt, on behalf of the ERPS Committee, gave a favorable recommendation to raise the Series and Grade for the Paralegals to 3.0/2.7.
  - b. Councilman Hunt made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 5-1-0, with Councilman Booth in opposition.

#### VII. STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

- a. Tom Klein, County Administrator, made several announcements:
  - i. Tempur Sealy will be building a manufacturing center in the county, expecting to employ around 300 people. They anticipate to begin production in 2023.
  - ii. There will be a joint meeting between the council and the commissioners on June 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the financial plan. Jeff Peters will be facilitating.
  - iii. Tox-Away Day will be on July 10 from 8am-1pm at North Montgomery High School. They are still in need of volunteers.
  - iv. The government center (aka: annex) is on schedule for a mid-November completion.
  - v. Clayton Photography will be on site today, after the meeting, to take employee photos for the website.
- b. Attorney Tyler Nichols shared that Dan Taylor will be discussing new, pertinent legislation in the near future.
- c. Jennifer Andel, Auditor, had two announcements:
  - i. June settlement has been submitted to State for approval. She hopes to be able to distribute by end of week.
  - ii. The State and Federal audits have begun for 2020.

#### VIII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- a. Shari Harrington, EMA Director, introduced Jessica Burget as her new Administrative Assistant. Jessica comes with several certifications that will benefit EMA and the County.
- b. Amber Reed, Health Administrator, announced the vaccination clinic has been moved back to 308 W Market and thanked EMA, the Highway Department and Probation for their help in that move.
- c. Jim Peck, County Engineer, provided an update on the current road and bridge projects. He also shared that he has been asked to present to the Federal Highway Administration, highlighting the Montgomery County Safety Plan.

IX. FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS: None.

X. COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS

- a. All members shared their excitement over the Tempur Sealy announcement and thanked everyone who worked on the project. Council President Mellish rounded out the comments by stating it was a great opportunity for the county and congratulated the commissioners and staff for the accomplishment.
- b. Don Mills reminded everyone about the need for volunteers for Tox-Away Day.
- c. Gary Booth congratulated Jim Peck on being nationally recognized.

XI. CLAIMS

- A. \$1,224.00 to Taylor, Chadd, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter for services through 05/18/2021.
  - a. Councilman Hunt made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. \$4,746.07 to Peters Municipal Consultants, LTD for services through 05/24/2021.
  - a. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Booth. Motion carried 6-0.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Robin Smith, Cabins & Candlelight, spoke against raising the Innkeeper's Tax. She feels it will negatively affect their bottom line because of per diem rates, increased costs in cleaning, etc. She also suggested changing the ordinance to include campgrounds in the collections.

XIII. COUNCIL CALENDAR:

- A. Council/Commissioner Joint meeting with Jeff Peters regarding Financial Plan – Monday, June 14, 2021 at 9:30 at the City Building.
- B. Next regular meeting – July 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at County Council/Commissioners Chambers, Courthouse.
- C. Discuss future of virtual meetings; new state guidelines.

XIV. ADJOURN: Councilman Davidson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Bohlander. Motion carried 6-0.

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Tom Mellish, President

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David Hunt, Vice President

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Jake Bohlander, Councilman

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Don Mills, Councilman

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Gary Booth, Councilman

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Mark Davidson, Councilman

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Mark Smith, Councilman

Attest:

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Jennifer Andel, Auditor

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