

MEETING MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
July 18, 2023

The July 18, 2023, 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 President David Hunt and Council Members Jake Bohlander, Gary Booth, Brett Cating, Joyce Grimble, Steve Loy and Matt Nelson. Auditor Mindy Byers was present, along with Attorney Dan Taylor, Commissioner John Frey, and County Administrator Tom Klein.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Council President Hunt called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.
- II. CONSENT AGENDA: Council Member Nelson moved to approved consent agenda, including the claims from Peters Franklin and Taylor, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter, Q2 Commissary Report and Same-Series Transfer Report. Motion was 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
2500	County User Fee Fund	0235	Probation	21919	Incentives (4 requests)	\$1,838.48
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	47382	Radio Loan Principal	\$56,692.18
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	47383	Radio Loan Interest	\$17,137.59
1173	MVH-Restricted	0529	County Highway	20016	Bituminous	\$101,100.00
1237	Opioid Restricted Grant	0610	Health Dept	20450	Education & Prevention	\$36,740.79
1237	Opioid Restricted Grant	0610	Health Dept	30131	Intervention & Treatment	\$36,740.79
1237	Opioid Restricted Grant	0610	Health Dept	30132	Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice	\$36,740.79
1237	Opioid Restricted Grant	0610	Health Dept	30199	Harm Reduction	\$36,740.80
1238	Opioid Unrestricted Grant	0610	Health Dept	30154	Grant Match Dollars	\$62,517.06
GRAND TOTAL:						\$386,248.48

- A. Council Member Booth moved to approve the County User Fee Fund additional appropriation request for the Probation Department. This motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Council Member Loy moved to approve the PSAP LIT additional appropriation requests from the Central Communication Center; this was seconded by Council Member Cating. Motion carried 7-0.
- C. Council Member Cating moved to approve the MVH Restricted additional appropriation request the Highway Department. This was seconded by Council Member Booth. Motion carried 7-0.
- D. Council Member Loy moved to approve the Opioid Restricted and Unrestricted Settlement additional appropriation request for the Health Department. This was seconded by Council Member Grimble. The Health Department was representing the requests brought about by the Drug Free Montgomery County Leadership Plan – who were commended by several Council Members. Motion carried 7-0.

REDUCTION OF APPROPRIATIONS:						
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department	Account	Account Description	Amount Requested
1173	MVH-Restricted	0306	County Hwy Engi	11010	County Highway Engi	\$94,000.00
1173	MVH-Restricted	0306	County Hwy Engi	12000	SS & Medicare	\$7,100.00
TOTAL:						\$101,100.00

- A. Council Member Booth moved to approve the budget reduction request from the Highway Department. The request was a result of the additional appropriation request for the same amount, and required by the State to move appropriatians from the Engineering to the Highway’s Budget. This was seconded by Council Member Cating. Motion carried 7-0.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS:								
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	From Account	Account Des	To Account	Account Description	Transfer Amount
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11404	Supervisor	11102	Director	\$7,000.00
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11404	Supervisor	11233	Asst. Director	\$6,500.00
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11404	Supervisor	11303	Supervisor	\$6,000.00
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11404	Supervisor	11730	Supervisor	\$6,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	30148	Phone & Tru	30050	Contractual Services	\$10,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	33500	Seminars &	30050	Contractual Services	\$5,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	32100	Dues & Sub	30050	Contractual Services	\$2,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	30230	Attorney Fee	30050	Contractual Services	\$2,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	30098	Recording S	30050	Contractual Services	\$846.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	30035	Utilities	30050	Contractual Services	\$1,236.18
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11043	Dispatcher	11414	Dispatcher	\$6,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11043	Dispatcher	11313	Dispatcher	\$4,500.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11043	Dispatcher	11203	Dispatcher	\$4,500.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11237	Dispatcher	11613	Dispatcher	\$4,500.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11237	Dispatcher	11212	Dispatcher	\$4,500.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11237	Dispatcher	11813	Dispatcher	\$4,500.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11237	Dispatcher	11413	Dispatcher	\$4,500.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11237	Dispatcher	11307	Supervisor	\$6,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11414	Dispatcher	11021	O.T.	\$4,000.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11414	Dispatcher	11307	Supervisor	\$1,877.50
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	11414	Dispatcher	11005	Additional Duty Pay	\$3,750.00
1000	County General	0380	Jail	11224	Jail Deputy	11497	Jail Sergeant	\$1,500.00
1176	MVH-Unrestricted	0529	County Highway	11642	Area Leader	20016	Bituminous	\$25,000.00
1000	County General	0750	Soil & Water	30122	Office Storage	12000	SS & MED	\$191.00
1000	County General	0750	Soil & Water	30122	Office Storage	11364	Soil & Water Board Members	\$2,500.00
TOTAL:								\$124,400.68

- A. Council Member Cating moved to accept the transfer requests in the Statewide 911 and MCCCC funds from the Central Communications Center; this was seconded by Council Member Grimble. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Council Member Loy moved to approve the transfer requests in the County General fund from the Jail. Motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson, and carried 7-0.
- C. Council Member Grimble moved to approve the transfer requests in the MVH Unrestricted fund for the Highway Department. This was seconded by Council Member Nelson; motion carried 7-0.
- D. Council Member Cating moved to accept the transfer requests in the County General fund from the Soil and Water Conservation District. Motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson, and carried 7-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Auditor Byers presented the Crawfordsville District Public Library’s Board of Trustees’ appointment request. The Board had requested that Owen Bennett be appointed to said board for a 4-year term. Council Member Booth moved to accept the Library Board’s request and appoint Owen Bennett. This motion was seconded by Council Member Bohlander. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Animal Welfare League attorney Kurt Homann had requested that the Council allocate \$4,000 from the spring Dog Tax collections of to the AWL. Auditor Byers reported that the current cash balance of the fund was \$5,368.90, and the office had received an inquiry regarding an animal kill reimbursement. Noting this, Council Member Booth moved to table the request until the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Bohlander, and carried 7-0.
- C. Sheriff Needham reported that a new dryer was needed at the Jail. He asked the Council’s permission to pay for it out of the Commissary fund. A motion to approve the purchase was made by Council Member Booth; seconded by Council Member Bohlander. Motion carried 7-0.
- D. County Administrator Klein brought forward the ERPS Committee’s recommendations from their latest meeting. Sheriff Needham had requested increases in the compensation matrix for the Sheriff’s Merit deputies. The requested matrix is:

Sheriff Pay	1	2nd/3rd	4th/5th	6th/7th	8th/9th	10th/11th	12th/13th	14th/15th	16th/17th	18th/19th	20+
Deputy	60,000	61,500	63,000	64,500	66,000	67,500	69,000	70,500	72,000	73,500	75,000
Sergeant	X	64,500	66,000	67,500	69,000	70,500	72,000	73,500	75,000	76,500	78,000
Lt.	X	X	X	69,500	71,000	72,500	74,000	75,500	77,000	78,500	80,500
Captain	X	X	X	X	X	75,000	76,500	78,000	79,500	81,000	82,500
Major	X	79,000	80,500	82,000	83,500	85,000	86,500	88,000	89,500	91,000	92,500

Sheriff Needham explained that retention and recruitment of officers becomes more and more

difficult each year due to increased salaries for them at all levels of government. The State Police had recently raised their base rate to \$70,000, so that just made the competition for interested and able recruits more intense. Administrator Klein reported that the ERPS Committee had made a favorable recommendation for the Sheriff's request. Council Member Loy moved to approve the Sheriff's request, effective the first pay of August. The motion was seconded by Council Member Nelson, and carried 7-0.

- E. A discussion was had regarding Wheel & Surtax rates for 2024. County Administrator Klein presented a report from Jeff Peters showing what various increase options would net. After some discussion, Attorney Taylor was asked to prepare the necessary paperwork to increase the charges for both to 75% of the maximum charge, to be considered at meetings in August.
- F. Auditor Byers requested that the Council determine dates for the 2024 Budget meetings. The Council decided that the internal budget presentation meetings would be held on August 29th and 30th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community meeting room. Also, that the 2024 Budget Hearing would be on Tuesday, September 12th and the Budget Adoption meeting would be on October 10th at the normal Council meeting time and location. Auditor Byers agreed to advertise accordingly.

VI. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VII. REPORTS:

- A. Central Communications Director Sherri Henry reported that the office had been advertising job openings on the radio. She reported that some prospective employees had said that the County's health insurance costs were too high for them, so they had passed. She asked that it be taken into consideration in upcoming budget discussions.
- B. Chief Probation Officer Andria Geigle reported that there was currently an opening at in her office for a Probation Officer.
- C. Highway Director Jake Lough reported that there were 4 openings in that department.
- D. Sheriff Needham also reported that there were several openings in his department. He also reported that the Department had been participating in the CTE program for full and part time candidates, and encouraged other department heads to do the same, if possible.
- E. Auditor Byers reported that the SBOA had finished their audits and the exit conference would be on the 20th. She also reported personnel changes in the office and that during the hiring process had offered open positions to 3 qualified candidates who had turned them down due to pay.
- F. Council Member Booth shared the challenges facing the Redevelopment Commission. There have been 1,000 jobs added to our region, and he would like to see the County benefit from that via income tax. In order to do that there need to be available homes in our community, and that is a challenge that is being addressed.
- G. Council Member Grumble agreed with Booth and added that the growth in Boone County will also lead people to reside here, if it there is housing available.
- H. Commissioner Frey agreed with that, and noted that the County is realizing progress in housing developments, as there are several currently being planned and permitted.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Deantha Wright-Thornburg reiterated that the Council does have tough job in determining compensation for County employees. She asked that consideration be taken to increase starting wages, citing an example of a new employee making \$30,000 per year. She noted that often in County jobs the pay is well below the level of responsibility, and asked that the Council consider the level of responsibility in making fair determinations. Council President Hunt thanked her for her comments and reiterated that the plan is to budget a 4.9% increase across the board, in hopes that it helps with retention and recruitment.
- IX. NEXT MEETING: Taxing Unit 2024 Budget Recommendations and Regular Council Meeting, August 8 at 9:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row – Room E109.
- X. ADJOURN: Council Member Booth made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Bohlander. 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

