

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.**

The City Council Meeting was called to order by President Sylvia Lawson at 7:00 P.M. The invocation was given by Mr. Cook and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Cook, Mrs. Lingo, Mr. DeBruler, Mr. Roetting, and Mr. Custer. A motion to excuse Miss Reusch and Mr. Lombardo was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Auditor Jill Claire, Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Mayor George Rouse, Treasurer Deb Schaefer, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes as printed was made by Mr. DeBruler and seconded by Mr. Cook. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Lawson received a letter about Space Day 2005 at Scarlet Oaks on April 29 from 6-9 P.M. This is supported by Lockheed Martin. It is a family-friendly event and anyone who is interested should see the letter on President Lawson's desk.

President Lawson also received a memo from the Mt. Healthy Business Association, who are busy with all different types of work in our community. They are putting together a "raising ideas" committee about fundraising for the Business Association. Their next meeting is April 12, 6:30 P.M. at Just One More.

Mayor Rouse read a letter from Chief Schaefer commending Sgt. Donathan, Sgt. Wert, Patrolman Seiter, Detective Nolte, and Patrolman Wurtz for their professionalism and teamwork in arresting two armed suspects in a robbery and hostage taking event on March 29. No hostages were injured. Chief Schaefer congratulated the officers on a job well done. Mr. Kocher added that neither of the suspects is a Mt. Healthy resident.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Lizzie Vollmar of the Hamilton County Park District addressed Council about this summer's celebration of the **75th anniversary of the park district**. She passed out park passports to everyone as part of that celebration and described some special events that will happen in July. July 9 there will be a bluegrass festival at Parky's Farm; July 16 there will be an ice cream social, car show, and big band concert also at Winton Woods; July 23 at Miami Whitewater there will be a radio-controlled boat regatta, oldies concert, and fishing clinics for kids; July 30 at Woodland Mound there will be a concert of 80's music, a disc golf demonstration, a Frisbee canine golf demonstration, and a demonstration by skate sport athletes. Ms. Vollmar also described two recent park district projects--the new Glenwood Gardens and Highfield Discovery Garden, and the link up to the Little Miami Scenic Trail.

Jim Teufel had planned to address Council about the **curbs on Kemper**. However, Mayor Rouse said that the city had sent out the contract for that work yesterday and it should be done in May. Mr. Teufel was pleased.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Parks Committee went over plans to phase in the park projects using Community Development funds that will be available this year. We hope to support this work with grants in the next couple of years as well. They received the plans today, and now need to cost them out to line the plans up with the funding. Mr. Kocher hopes that these plans will be in the next Council packet.

Work on the city policy manual continues to bring it in line with Bureau of Workers' Compensation policies on drug testing. The whole manual (several hundred pages) should be ready for Council review in the next packet, since it has not been revised since 1996 and is basically a whole new manual.

Mr. Kocher is working with Ms. Claire on ideas to reduce the city's costs for Workers' Compensation insurance, including a drug testing policy and a ten-step program that will each provide a 10% discount. Our Workers' Comp costs are high enough this year (\$70,000) that the discounts available for those programs may be worth their costs. Mr. Kocher hopes that this is the peak year for Workers' Comp costs and that we should see decreases as we become eligible for pools and improve our ratings.

Mr. Kocher met with the Mayor about Phase II of the Elizabeth Street project. The Ohio Public Works Commission has approved the Elizabeth Street Phase II project in the amount of \$320,000. The city will provide matching funds of \$80,000. Mr. Kocher and the Mayor plan to meet with Mr. Stapleton and the engineers first and actually walk the area that will be worked on, then present details of the proposed project to Council (trees that will need to be removed, how wide the street will need to be for fire lane purposes, etc.). Existing sidewalks that are in good shape will not be replaced. The funding will be available July 1, so the project will be bid in June.

Our request for municipal road funds for Clovernook between Compton and Adams was turned down. Only 14 of 39 requests were approved, in a process that is frequently somewhat political. Mayor Rouse commented that we may need to postpone the Elizabeth Street project and work on other streets instead, but the SCIP funding will go away.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Steve Tolbert, Mt. Healthy's prosecutor, is now Chief Deputy for Hamilton County. He will stay on at Mt. Healthy at least through the end of the year. If he decides to stop working as Mt. Healthy's prosecutor, Lisa Robanes would be interested in the position. Ms. Robanes has filled in as Mt. Healthy's prosecutor on occasion. She has worked in the Hamilton County prosecutor's office in the past and is now in private practice. She is also a graduate of Mt. Healthy High School. The magistrate and Susan Law, who have worked with Ms. Robanes, would like to continue to work with her.

AUDITOR’S REPORT:

The 2003 gap report has finally arrived. Ms. Claire is happy to show it to anyone who is interested. Now work starts on the 2004 gap report, and they will need the CIC documents for 2004. Those will be available in June 2005. Ms. Claire explained that Mt. Healthy (and other municipalities also) hires the state auditor to prepare these reports, which are basically a conversion from cash basis to accrual. There is no conflict of interest because our outside audit (required by Ohio rules every 2 years) is not done by the state. Our outside auditors are going to get started on 2003.

TREASURER’S REPORT: None.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Kocher said that we will need a Finance Committee meeting to check in on the budget once the county tax revenue is received for the first quarter 2005. Probably the first week or so of May would be a good time for this meeting.

Mr. Wolf asked, since Heritage Days will not happen this year, whether the city would object to the Business Association holding a dance in the city park and selling beer. Mr. Kocher thought that the additional cost for a rider to the city’s insurance for a one-night event would be less than for Heritage Days, which was pretty pricey. There is also a car show under discussion. As long as the insurance is arranged, it sounds like there is no problem from the city’s side.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Custer and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council