

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.**

The City Council Meeting was called to order by President Sylvia Lawson at 7:02 P.M. Mr. Cook gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the July 19 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Lawson noted receipt of the Mt. Healthy Business Journal; which reminds the community that Wheels, Mt. Healthy's first car show, will happen on Saturday the 17th of September on Harrison between Compton and Adams. Registration is from 9 to noon and the show will be from 12 to 4. There will be food and crafts booths in the parking lot behind Mt. Healthy Hardware. For more information, contact Dr. Nick Parthenakis or Rocky Stelatano.

The Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church will hold an information fair entitled "Helping Hands Across Our Community" on Saturday, September 17 in the parking lot of the church's north building. If your organization is interested in participating, or if someone would like to be there on behalf of the City Council, see President Lawson or call the church office.

President Lawson received a letter from Arlington Memorial Gardens about the American Heroes Day Parade on September 11. Participants can park in the CVS lot on Perry, and should gather at 1:15 at Hamilton and Hastings. The parade will start at 2 and will go south on Hamilton then west on Compton to Arlington Memorial Gardens for a closing ceremony. Transportation back to the starting point will be available. President Lawson said that Mr. Custer has offered to let Council use his trailer for this parade; everyone will need to bring a chair.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Steve Harness of the **Mt. Healthy School Board** addressed Council to say that the school district received a rating of Continuous Improvement in state proficiency testing this year, which is a step forward and shows that we are continuing to improve our educational system. They are still making progress on the new football stadium; the bleachers are installed and they are working on the layout for the new concession stands and team rooms. They continue to prepare for membership in the Ft. Ancient athletic league, which will take effect in fall of 2006. Football games will still be at Morse Field this year.

Mary Lou Hilvers of Rambler Place addressed Council to ask whether there had been any resolution of the **concerns about the AHEPA housing** raised at last month's meeting by Mr. McCauley. The weeds on both sides of the fence are very high. The completed project does not match the plans she saw at the public meeting. The mound of dirt was to have been a small parklike area with chairs and bushes. There was to be a sidewalk from the building out to Compton Road. The area behind the building was supposed to be built up some to reduce visibility but people on Rambler can see everything. The fence was supposed to be a nice scalloped one but it is chain link. The gate is always open. Does someone in the city keep an eye on whether projects are completed according to the plans? Also, there are bright lights in the back that are left on all day. This is wasteful, especially on days when CG&E says we need to cut power use to avoid brownouts. The lights are also very bright and a nuisance at night.

Mayor Rouse responded that the city is looking into it. Mr. Kocher has talked to the owners of the property on both sides of the fence about the weeds. In the past, whenever the city has called the owners of the AHEPA property with a concern, they have responded. The street has not been dedicated yet, and Mayor Rouse is sure there will be a "walkthrough" before the dedication.

Mr. Kocher said that he has talked to representatives of the developer and of AHEPA. They are working to arrange a meeting to discuss these concerns. The plans that Ms. Hilvers saw in the public meeting were conceptual and are not the same as the final, approved plans. Buffer plantings along the back of the property and the "mound" are issues that they will discuss. Mr. Kocher will report back at the next council meeting. The building inspector approves the final plans and checks whether projects are completed according to the approved plans. Mr. Kocher does not tell people when they can turn their lights on or off.

Robert Hall of the Mt. Healthy Business Association reminded people about the **car show**. This is a fundraiser for the Mt. Healthy Business Association since they did not hold Heritage Days this year. They have used funds raised by Heritage Days for improvements to the business district. Chief Schaefer is donating his time for this event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Members of Council received a letter from Karen Arnett expressing various concerns. Mr. Kocher has talked with her, and in response to this conversation has adjusted the timer of the tennis court lights. He said that they are being used for tennis but also for general park lighting until the new park lighting is installed. He explained to her how most of the work on Elizabeth Street is funded through Community Development Block Grants, and they have agreed to disagree about the trees. He told her that the city will try to replace the trees on Elizabeth Street with ones that work well on streets and don't tear up sidewalks as they grow.

The pool will close on August 21 as planned. Mr. Kocher has discussed with Mr. Peters the possibility of staying open the weekend of August 27/28 but for staffing and economic reasons they have decided not to do so. The pool season went well, with only 3 or 4 days lost to bad weather. The pool has closed early a few evenings because there was no one there. It looks like revenue from the pool this summer will be more than planned.

The city renewed their health insurance contracts on August 1. Costs increased 13.95% instead of the planned 10%, which translates to a \$4700 higher than planned cost. About \$1950 of that will fall in this year's budget, which can absorb it. Mt Healthy is part of a Center for Local Government insurance purchasing group and therefore was able to offer three different plans to employees, including a Health Savings Account. In this way, we were able to keep the increase to 13.95% instead of 20-25%. The dental insurance plan will renew on September 1 and it looks like the cost increase will be slightly less than expected.

There is a letter from Rumpke in the packets about House Bill 66 and resulting increases in our bill from Rumpke. We are already paying 25% of that increase, so the actual increase in cost will be \$378/month. The city can absorb that for now, but should look at this issue and scheduled rate increases for next year.

Four of five candidates passed the part time police officer test, which was returned to candidates on August 6. This is actually pretty good, as it is getting harder and harder to attract part time officers. In September we will start interviewing the four who passed and hopefully hire as many as we can. We have lost three part time officers since December of last year; this is pretty typical since most people would rather have a full time position.

The benefit dance on August 6 went well and they are already talking about doing this again next year. Perhaps we can arrange something in the park every month. The money the city receives from the concert (probably around \$550) will be earmarked for the park. Chief Schaefer and Officer Joe Howell donated their time for the event and Ross Bittner donated the food.

The project to put up banners recognizing serving military personnel has taken a while but they are ordered and we will get them up as soon as they come in. Mayor Rouse thanked the Marker Committee for their donation to sponsor the first four flags, and said that thanks to another gentleman, plus a commitment from the American Legion and from two or three other organizations to sponsor some more flags, the city has not needed to purchase any of these banners so far. Mayor Rouse expects more sponsors to come forward once there is some publicity about this project. Mr. Kocher has talked to the Finance Committee about purchasing some Welcome to Mt. Healthy flag banners to "balance" the serving military ones and to be used in future summers. This will need to be taken care of in the housekeeping ordinance at the end of the year. Probably we will give the serving military banners to the families when we are finished displaying them. The plan is to recognize residents of the Mt. Healthy school district, not just the city, or former residents—people with some tie to Mt. Healthy. Right now, we will display these banners on the decorative light poles with white fiberglass poles, but Mr. Kocher is looking into budgeting for some permanent decorative brackets and possibly some spring banners as well.

ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS: None

Because there are not enough Council members present to suspend the Three Reading Rule and the resolutions need to be passed before the next meeting, a special meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 18 at 7 P.M. in Council chambers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Roetting asked whether we can identify the differences between the conceptual and final drawings of the AHEPA housing in order to clarify the situation. Mr. Kocher said that we can,

and he will report back to Council on the situation. We have already issued a final occupancy permit and people are living there.

Mr. Cook asked whether the city was able to resolve the concerns that Mr. Ridenower expressed last meeting. Mr. Kocher said that Mr. Ridenower came to court as scheduled and that the magistrate ruled that he has a certain number of days to remove the vehicles. Mr. Kocher sent a letter to Mr. Ridenower about the zoning of his property. It is zoned residential by the Mt. Healthy zoning commission, whatever the auditor's site may say. Ms. Hilvers said that there used to be a dairy there, which would clearly be a commercial use of the property, and asked when the zoning changed. Mr. Wolf said that the dairy was there long before Mt. Healthy started zoning in the early 1950s, so it was probably "grandfathered" but when the dairy closed, the residential zoning would take effect for any future owners.

Ms. Hilvers also commented that there are three or four different sets of addresses on Rambler Place and she would like the city to put up a sign about which addresses are in which direction. This numbering is due to part of the street once being in Springfield Township, which uses a different numbering system than Mt. Healthy does.

NEW BUSINESS: None

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf provided an update on the state of the new sexual predator residence requirements that he mentioned in June. The police department contacted the one person who was identified as being in violation of the new requirement and he moved by August. Now he is living on Colerain. The city was notified of two more people in violation of that requirement. One of them is not actually in Mt. Healthy, and Chief Schaefer has notified the other, who just moved in on Clovernook and now will have 30 days to move again. The city then will write a letter to Joe Dieters's office saying that the requirement has been complied with. Distances are measured from the property line of the school. Day cares, including the one at Trinity Lutheran, are not covered by these requirements.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

The July month end report is in the packets. The state auditor has produced a draft of the 2004 gap report, but there are some more details that will need to be plugged into the final version. The 2003/2004 audit by J.L. Uhrig is in process.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Schaefer stated that she balanced with the Auditor and the bank for the month of July. The tax report is in the packets, and the Tax Department continues to work on non-filers.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council