

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 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. Custer and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Cook, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. DeBruler, Miss Reusch, Mr. Roetting, and Mr. Custer. Mrs. Lingo was not excused since she was expected soon.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the November 15 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. DeBruler and seconded by Miss Reusch. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Lawson noted that there will be a holiday party December 22 for city employees and there is an invitation on everyone's desk.

CG&E sent a letter informing us that they will file for a rate increase with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in December of 2005. They have already done so.

President Lawson read the attached letter from Del and Julie Robinson, thanking the Mt. Healthy Fire Department for their prompt, efficient, and careful response to a fire in the Robinsons' home.

Mrs. Lingo arrived at 7:05 P.M.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The city held a preconstruction meeting for the Elizabeth Street Phase II work, and have set a tentative schedule. Work will start after January 1 as outlined in the letter on everyone's desk. This letter will also go to Elizabeth Street residents. Mr. Kocher is pleased to be getting started right away on this work in 2006.

Mr. Kocher spoke with Chief Lawson about the fire lanes that were proposed at the last meeting, and asked specifically if there are any streets that fire trucks are unable to get down. There are not; these lanes would make the Fire Department's job easier but the trucks are able to drive on these streets. Mr. Kocher said that he will retain this list as a guide to use if any residents ask for fire lanes, but that he is recommending that we not establish these fire lanes until residents ask for them. He has asked Chief Lawson to tell him right away if there are any places that are inaccessible to fire trucks. Chief Lawson is okay with this. Mrs. Lingo asked whether the residents will be notified of this decision. No. Mr. Lombardo asked whether we will be in

violation of any rule or regulation. No. Mr. Wolf said that if we do designate a fire lane, it is required to have a certain width, but we are not required to designate it. Mrs. Lingo asked whether not having these fire lanes will create problems for the snow plows. Mr. Kocher said that any plow problems should be addressed with snow emergency lanes. Mr. Wolf added that the idea is to restrict citizens as little as possible; fire lanes prohibit parking at all times but snow emergency lanes only prohibit parking during snow emergencies. He also said that some cities prohibit parking in certain areas when there is more than a certain depth of snow. This relieves them of the necessity to designate and communicate “snow emergencies.”

Mr. Kocher said that the city has hired a new police clerk, Jeanette Crawford. She comes to us highly recommended by the chiefs of Golf Manor and Amberley Village, and Chief Schaefer is happy to not be acting as the clerk any more. Ms. Schaefer commented that he had done a good job as clerk.

Mr. Kocher pointed out the copy of a letter to Ms. Heath about a fence at the end of Maple that was included in the packets. The city is offering to put a gate across the city right-of-way that would connect to a fence that the residents would put up on the adjacent private property.

LAW DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf distributed copies of a Post article about Suzanne Farrell receiving a Kennedy Center Honor this weekend. Ms. Farrell was born in Mt. Healthy and studied at CCM. She is known as choreographer George Balanchine’s greatest dancer. She is now director of the Suzanne Farrell Ballet company.

AUDITOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher said that the 2004 gap report is done, although we are still waiting for the final review. He also noted that when Ms. Claire started as auditor, we usually received a thick report with lots of recommendations. Last year, there were six suggestions, and this year, there are three minor ones. Ms. Claire is doing a great job.

TREASURER’S REPORT: None.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1469** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 39 of the Mt. Healthy Code of Ordinances Regarding the Municipal Income Tax. Mr. Kocher noted that we need to either pass this tonight or have enough people present next meeting to pass this. This ordinance received its second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1470** An Ordinance Making Temporary Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kocher said that this ordinance allows us to operate into 2006, but that the final 2006 appropriations ordinance should be ready by the first or second meeting in January. This ordinance received its second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1471** An Ordinance Amending the 2005 Appropriations, and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kocher commented that this ordinance has been reviewed in detail with the Finance Committee. It looks like a lot of money, but there is more than \$20,000 of revenue in the general fund and \$18,000 in the street fund to offset it. These numbers have been adjusted up a little to ensure that we won’t have to do this twice. If all of the money is not spent, it will just roll over into 2006. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Cook and

seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. A motion to adopt this ordinance was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1472** An Ordinance Vacating an Alley Located Between 7404 Perry Street and 7408 Perry Street. Mr. Kocher commented that this is a grass alley that has been maintained by the residents for years. Mr. Abbot had the legal description and survey done. There was some last minute confusion because the city is required to split the alley between the two homeowners, but because one of them doesn't want it Mr. Abbot had prepared the documents as though the entire alley would go to Mr. Abbot. The other homeowner can deed his part of the alley to Mr. Abbot after this process is completed, if he wants to. This ordinance received its first reading.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. **05-947** Resolution Authorizing the City of Mt. Healthy to Contract for Public Health Services and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kocher said that we do this every year. It arranges for the county to prepare birth and death certificates for us, and is in the budget. Normally it happens a little later in the year, but the county has sent the paperwork out early this year. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Custer. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Miss Reusch. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The installation of new Council members is usually on New Year's Day but that is a Sunday this year. We will hold it at the first council meeting of 2006 instead, at 7 P.M. The installation will be followed by a reception, and then the regular meeting. Mr. Wolf said that a new mayor needs to be sworn in first thing, but that Council members just need to be sworn in before the first meeting. Mayor Rouse has asked Judge Stockdale to do the swearing-in, but a judge is not required.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Miss Reusch. An aye vote carried the motion, and Council went into executive session at 7:34 P.M. President Lawson called the meeting to order again at 8:08 P.M.

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday the 12th at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Cook noted that this year we are beginning to save up for equipment replacement.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Custer and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council

Del & Julie Robinson
1466 Adams Road
Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231

November 28, 2005

Mt. Healthy City Hall
7700 Perry Street
Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231

To Whom This Concerns:

On the afternoon of Saturday, October 15, 2005, we were faced with the horrifying experience of a fire in our house. Fortunately, one family member was home and was able to report the fire just as it began. And also "fortunately" we live in the small community of Mt. Healthy where the fire department is only blocks away. We had just located and removed our pets from the house when the first fire truck was already pulling up (a matter of minutes). What a helpless feeling it is to stand and watch the smoke pouring from our house not knowing how much of our house and possessions are being consumed by the flames.

We were quite relieved when we were finally ushered into the house. The fire damage had been contained to only the bathroom where the fire started. The rooms on either side of the bathroom had only ceiling damage where the firefighters cut the holes. Almost no personal property was lost! We noticed that some items had been moved that would have sustained damage had they not been moved. Our family was most appreciative of the speed, efficiency, and care of the firefighters. The police officer who first arrived on the scene was very reassuring and kept us updated on what was happening inside our burning home. Although we hope never again to have to utilize the services of the Mt. Healthy Fire or Police Departments, our family is grateful for what they did that Saturday afternoon and we feel a sense of security as a result of our experience.

The repairs are just being completed on our home and we are about to return to normal. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf; we really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Del and Julie Robinson