

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President pro tem Ross Bittner at 7:00 P.M. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Lombardo, Mrs. Lingo, Mr. Wolf, Mrs. Moody, Mr. Bittner, Ms. Brandy, and Mrs. Cole.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Auditor Jill Claire, Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Mayor Joe Roetting, Treasurer Deborah Schaefer, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

MINUTES:

Mrs. Lingo noted that Mrs. Moody had moved to adjourn the previous meeting, not Mr. Lombardo (who was not present.) The list of council members present also needed correction. A motion to adopt the minutes of the February 8 Council meeting as amended was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Wolf. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

CITIZENS/SPECIAL GUESTS:

Scott Neudecker was sworn in as a Mt. Healthy police officer. He returns to the department after six months in the Carolinas.

Debbie Hardman addressed Council about an empty house on Seward. Erosion from a tree on that property is filling her drain with mud and she would like to know the status of the city's efforts. Mr. Kocher said that the city has condemned the house and given notice that it is to be made habitable. The deadline is the end of February. If nothing is done, the city will eventually tear the house down. Mr. Kocher was not aware of the erosion problem and will look into it. Ms. Hardman should feel free to call him for updates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Business and School Liaison Committee** held an organizational meeting this evening. Ms. Cole will be responsible for keeping up with the library, Mr. Bittner for the schools, and Mr. Lombardo for the Business Association. They plan to meet monthly. Mr. Bittner attended an emergency School Board meeting this evening. The construction schedule for the high school is slipping, which causes difficulties because the state is involved. They had been hoping to open the high school in Fall 2010 but are now looking at January of 2011. They are looking into the financial implications of opening late, including extra staff that would still be needed for the last part of 2010. The green initiative and bid process / estimates review board are the primary reasons for the schedule change. They are looking at moving the entrance to the light by Standard Publishing to alleviate potential traffic problems. The plan is to break ground for the elementary schools in spring 2009.

The **City Gateway, Streets, and Utilities Committee** met February 9. Mr. Bittner will act as the city's liaison with the traffic engineer. The committee discussed some ideas for signage and beautification. Ms. Cole will attend the Beautification Committee meeting tomorrow. The committee also discussed traffic concerns on Hamilton Avenue, and possibly pursuing widening Hamilton Avenue north of Mt. Healthy.

Mr. Crank is Council's representative to the ICRC (Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission.) Council does not currently have an OKI representative.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Bob Parsons, a Compton resident and friend of Mayor Roetting, will serve on the Planning Commission. Mayor Roetting requested an executive session to discuss real estate issues.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher said that planning is underway for this year's Celebrate Mt. Healthy event on September 13. A contest to design a logo is planned.

Mr. Kocher mentioned a discussion with Steve Harness, who is frustrated by flood plain issues. The FEMA flood plain map that Mt. Healthy adopted a few years ago designates a corner of Mr. Harness's mother's property as part of the flood plain, which has caused them insurance headaches. Mr. Kocher recommended that the city keep an eye out for similar issues in the future.

The server migration is mostly going well, but an issue has arisen with the utility billing program. Even though the city just purchased it in 2005, it would be expensive to migrate to the new server and would require continuing licensing and maintenance fees. The city plans to purchase three licenses for QuickBooks as a temporary solution, possibly a permanent solution if it works well. This will cost about \$600, as compared to the \$5,000 that it would cost to move the current software to the new server.

City staff are cleaning out the house on Adams that the city purchased from HUD. John Peters is obtaining quotes for windows and other work on that house. Mr. Kocher will be out next week at the OCA conference.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

The January month end report is in the packets.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Schaefer reported that she balanced with the bank and the auditor for the month of January. The January bank reconciliation is in the packets.

ORDINANCES: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution **08-965** A Resolution Requesting the County Auditor to Make Advance Payments of Taxes Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §321.34. This resolution received its second reading.

Resolution **08-966** A Resolution Supporting the Annexation of the “Standard Publishing” Site into the City of Mt. Healthy. Mayor Roetting commented that he fully supports this annexation and hopes that Council will pass this resolution tonight. The schools and city have strong historical ties. Mrs. Moody commented that Council members had received a letter from Springfield Township objecting to the annexation and that she respects their position but agrees with the annexation. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Moody asked about the “No Engine Braking” signs that are posted at some highway exit ramps. Noisy engine braking is a problem at the westbound Reagan Highway exit. Mr. Kocher will investigate who can post these signs.

A motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate issues was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0, and Council went into executive session at 7:42 P.M. Council returned to regular session at 8:15 P.M.

Mr. Kocher read his reply to Springfield Township’s letter about the annexation. He will continue to follow Council’s direction and stay in touch. Their letter raises the issue of township police and fire aid to the city; Mr. Kocher looked up the 2007 statistics and Mt. Healthy responded to 61 police and 12 fire calls in the township. The township responded to 74 police and 30 fire calls in the city. The township is larger than Mt. Healthy, so it is natural that they would have responded to more calls than the city. He will send the township a copy of the resolution passed tonight.

Mr. Kocher will meet with the School Board and their attorney about this. There would need to be a parcel division since the city can’t annex the entire property. The School Board would need to petition for the annexation; if they do so, it happens automatically. Mr. Kocher commented that Springfield Township lost the tax revenue when the school district purchased the property. The schools don’t pay property tax and the township cannot currently collect income tax unless the business agrees to it. A Joint Economic Development district would allow Mt. Healthy and the township to share the income tax revenue, but by the time the agreement expired, Mr. Steve Wolf expects that the township would have some mechanism in place to collect income taxes. Annexation removes this uncertainty for Mt. Healthy.

Mr. Wolf asked that if Council members receive requests to talk to the press on this topic, they coordinate their responses through Mr. Kocher.

Mayor Roetting reminded everyone about upcoming spaghetti dinners on March 1. The high school band dinner is 4-7 PM in the high school cafeteria, and the Fire Department's is from 5-7:30 in Assumption's cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Wolf. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Donald Crank, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council