

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 4, 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, Mr. Lombardo, Mrs. Lingo, Mr. DeBruler, Miss Reusch, Mr. Roetting, and Mr. Custer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Auditor Jill Claire, Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Director of Parks John Peters, Mayor George Rouse, Police Chief Al Schaefer, Treasurer Deb Schaefer, Director of Public Works Preston Stapleton, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the December 21 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. DeBruler and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher noted that he had distributed a slight revision to the budget rollup from last meeting. In this version, the police computer fund has been eliminated as a separate fund and that money rolled into the general fund.

Mr. Cook asked for clarification on the 880 loans/rents/leases forecasted revenue—that is transfer out of the general fund.

Mr. Custer asked about the reduction of 818 hours in the police budget. It is mostly cutbacks in part time officers working “power shifts” on Thursdays through Sundays, which would be an extra officer running a radar gun. There will still be at least two officers on each shift. Chief Schaefer said that the police department “can work with it.” Mr. Custer also asked about part time members of the police department working essentially full time hours. Mr. Kocher said that no part time officer worked more than 2080 hours last year, although some may have worked some 40-hour weeks to cover vacation or sick time for full time officers. Also, part time officers doing tax warrant delivery come from a different part of the budget and may work 40 hour weeks while that delivery is going on.

Mr. Custer asked whether the street department “repairs” line item that is being cut from \$14K to \$7K is realistic. It appears that this is actually for street signs, and we will not need to do as much replacement of street signs this year as last year.

Mr. Custer also asked about the road salt line item being reduced from \$17K to \$12K. Are we just hoping for the best? Yes. Mr. Kocher said that we spent \$9000 on salt for the recent storm,

and this expense will go in January's budget. We have about 15 tons of salt in storage now, and \$4000 for salt in the state highway budget. Mr. Custer said again that the city should look at obtaining the equipment to spray calcium brine. It would cost \$8700 to equip all of the city's salt spreading equipment with brine sprayers, according to Mr. Stapleton, but Mr. Custer believes that it would cause us to use less salt and spend less time spreading salt, and save the city money in the long run. Mr. Kocher noted that this budget includes \$25000 being put away for the future purchase of a front end loader that the city desperately needs.

Mr. Custer commented that this is a limping budget. One big emergency and the city will be borrowing money. Mr. Kocher said that we are doing the best we can with what we have. In the case of an emergency, the city would not borrow money but would make budget cuts as necessary. Mr. Custer said that we need to take part of the credit. We don't want to be bad guys and not plow the streets but this is more of an emergency than just getting by.

Mr. Roetting asked about the Compton Road \$24,000. Ms. Claire answered that we didn't appropriate any expenses towards that money so it is not in the appropriations ordinance. We are still waiting to hear from the state about it.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf said that he had received a letter from the Block Watch folks saying that Mt. Healthy Auto Body has agreed to donate Block Watch street signs for the city and they are looking for information on how they can receive a tax deduction for this donation. The city would have to put up these signs but perhaps they can donate the money to the city, which is a nonprofit organization. Mr. Wolf and Mr. Kocher will discuss this.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Claire is working on year-end processes. She hopes that the 2004 year-end numbers will be final by next meeting. The state auditor's office is understaffed and they still have some issues about Mt. Healthy's debt to iron out. The appropriations ordinance for 2005 is on the table for discussion tonight.

Mayor Rouse noted that if we want to put the tax levy back on the ballot in May, Council needs to decide to do that in the near future. Mr. Roetting recommended that the city take the time to put together a good plan if we decide to do this again—he would hate to see us rush back in without being well prepared. Mr. Wolf commented that the 2005 budget will provide a good basis for this discussion now that it is prepared.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. **04-1455** An Ordinance Approving 2005 Expenditures. This ordinance received its first reading. Ms. Claire commented that it can be modified, and also that we have until March 31 to pass it. The grand total on the signature page of this ordinance is \$3,900,188. The total expenditures in the top of the summary table plus the transfers in the bottom table add up to this total.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Lingo said that she was at the high school yesterday and that the Athletic Director, Tina Tuck, would like for Council and the city to spread the word that we support them. They are doing really well this year. They have posters of their athletic schedules but have had trouble finding businesses who will put the posters up in their windows.

The Safety Committee scheduled a meeting for 6:30 P.M. before the next Council meeting on January 17. They will discuss the streets that need fire lanes. Mayor Rouse has a list of these streets.

President Lawson commented that the Street Department did a fine job with the snow and that we appreciate all the time they put into it. The city got lots of phone calls but people need to realize what is possible and what is not. Mr. Custer commented that other roads in Springfield Township were much worse, and that as late as Friday, Bypass 4 in Fairfield was not cleared. The street department did a great job.

President Lawson noted that because there were no microphones out last meeting, the television broadcast of the meeting was unintelligible.

Mr. Kocher requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues. A motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Custer. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. Council went into executive session at 7:44 P.M. Council went back into regular session at 8:10 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Custer and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council