

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 19, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President Sylvia L. Lawson at 7:00 P.M. The invocation was given by Mr. James Wolf and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Cook, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. DeBruler, Mr. Roetting, Mr. Wolf, and Mrs. Moody. A motion to excuse Mrs. Lingo was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Cook. 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 of the May 15 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Lawson noted receipt of a letter from Duke Energy informing the city of their intent to file with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for a 5.8% rate increase to cover replacement of cast iron and bare steel gas main lines. This filing will also propose a new rate structure. The Clerk of Council has this letter in case anyone would like to read it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Finance Committee met this evening with the Safety Service Director to review the city's revenues to date. We have received less than anticipated in income and inheritance taxes and Mr. Kocher is developing a contingency plan for places to cut the city budget.

The Parks Committee reported that about 45 people attended the movie. Popcorn and pop were served. There will be bingo next Wednesday; see the city's website for other upcoming events. The park looks wonderful!

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher thanked Arlington Gardens for providing fill for the park projects. Council will need to hold an executive session to discuss the police contracts; probably there will be an ordinance about them next meeting.

The city has two Community Development Block Grants right now, for audible traffic signals and for the park. It looks like we will spend slightly less than proposed on the first phase of installing audible traffic signals, so Mr. Kocher will seek approval to shift the extra grant funds to the park project. He will work with Clovernook and the residents who originally proposed the project to determine the best place to put these signals.

The street projects are winding up and should be complete in the next month or two. We need to discuss whether to pursue State Capital Improvement Program funding next year or proceed with grinding and overlay. Thursday Mr. Kocher will tour Mt. Healthy with the engineers to see what street work is needed. We would need to fund the engineering for a SCIP project before applying for funding for the project.

The city's health insurance is up for renewal in August. The city currently offers two plans, one of which is a high-deductible plan. Six or seven employees use this plan and feedback has been positive. This plan costs the city enough less than a traditional plan that we can afford to fund part of the deductible. We will need to pass an ordinance about health insurance in July.

Mr. Kocher sent Council an email about Werner. We haven't received anything from the mortgage company. We will need legislation to put this on the tax bill. The city is working with the property owners whose siding was damaged by the burn on Hamilton. Due to insurance complexities, it will be cheaper for the city to pay for this out of the fire department fund. Wal-Mart still hasn't closed on the property on Hamilton due to easement issues. Closing is currently scheduled for September.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

May month end reports are in the packets. The 2008 tax budget is on the web site. We need to adopt it tonight. We will need ordinances to transfer money between accounts as well.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The May bank reconciliation is in the packets. Ms. Schaefer stated that she balances with the Auditor's office and with the bank for the month of May.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Debbie Conradi read a letter from the Mt. Healthy Business Association categorically opposing the proposed changes to the property maintenance code. The Business Association believes that there are already enough property maintenance requirements in effect, that the existing requirements should be enforced uniformly and fairly, and that the proposed changes inflict undue hardships on the city's businesses and residents. The Business Association strongly suggests that the city hold public forums to discuss this with residents.

Kim Cremeans described an example of apparent unfair enforcement of the property maintenance code. Last July, she was cited for paint, an air conditioner on the porch, and a fence. She thought she had addressed all of the issues but was cited again for the fence. She called Bill Knight, who said that the fence in question is behind her house. Ms. Cremeans explained that that fence is not on her property. Almost a year later, nothing has been done with that fence. Why is the city not enforcing the property maintenance code on the neighbor who owns the fence? Mr. Roetting asked whether the city will look into this; it will, and Ms. Cremeans should call Mr. Kocher in a few days for an update.

TAX BUDGET:

A motion to adopt the proposed 2008 tax budget was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance **07-1507** (*originally assigned 07-1503 but this ordinance number was already used*) An Ordinance Amending Sections 153.02, 153.15, 153.26, 153.31, 153.33 and 153.36 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Revisions to the Property Maintenance Code, and Declaring an Emergency.

Mrs. Moody said that there had been good input on this, and that there is a problem with repeat offenders. Mr. James Wolf commented that this ordinance has been under discussion for more than 40 days. Mayor Rouse said that the current ordinance has no teeth, and that people will clean up a problem temporarily and then do the same thing again. A motion to adopt this ordinance was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mrs. Moody. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0, with Mrs. Lingo absent.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution **07-958** Resolution Adopting the Hamilton County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and Declaring an Emergency. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. Cook. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mrs. Lingo absent.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion to go into executive session to discuss the police contract was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mrs. Moody. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mrs. Lingo absent. Council went into executive session at 7:27 P.M.

Council returned to regular session at 7:39 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Sylvia L. Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council