

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President Don Crank at 7:00 P.M. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Lombardo, Mrs. Lingo, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Bittner, and Mrs. Cole. A motion to excuse Mrs. Moody and Ms. Brandy was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**MINUTES:**

A motion to adopt the minutes of the March 4 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

President Crank read an announcement of the Brian “Hangtime Hays” Foundation “Miles for Melanoma Walk” to raise funds for melanoma research. Registration for the walk begins at 12 P.M. on May 4 in the Mt. Healthy park and the walk begins at 1 P.M. RSVP at 513.825.6375.

Energy Alliances provided information on their fuel aggregation programs for municipalities. See President Crank for more information.

**CITIZENS/SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Phil and Carolyn Sayer addressed Council about the vacant house on Seward that they own. They have had problems with raccoons repeatedly making holes in the roof, have employed a professional to deal with them, and have been advised that it is not worthwhile to attempt a permanent repair to the roof until after raccoon mating season ends in late March. They have a work permit from Mt. Healthy and contracts with several other professionals in place. They stated that this house is their life savings, requested that the city not tear it down, and said that they will do whatever it takes to save the house.

Bill Knight said that this process has been going on since 2006 and that there has been more progress in the last two weeks in the previous two years. He talked with the roofer and there is no signed contract with them. Mr. Knight believes that a total survey of the interior is needed.

Mr. Kocher stated that the city wants the house inhabited, and for Mr. Knight and the Health Department to inspect the interior of the house. Mrs. Sayer would like to be present for the inspection and to defer this inspection until the utilities are turned back on and some of the work is completed. The city has repeatedly sent certified letters that the Sayers have not accepted. The city wants to see the Sayers work with Mr. Knight and show significant progress.

Debbie Conradi addressed Council to suggest a cleanup of Heritage Park. The drainage is blocked and there are old tires, a bumper, and other trash. The Adopt a Highway group in which she participates is willing to do the cleanup, and would like help from the city with hauling away the trash. President Crank indicated that the city would be happy to help. Ms. Conradi will put together a more specific proposal.

Mrs. Moody arrived at 7:20. She offered to arrange for junior high school students to help as a community service project.

Karen Arnett addressed Council about plans for reducing congestion on Hamilton Avenue. A lot of people were concerned about some of the options presented in the comprehensive plan, and Ms. Arnett asked for an update. Mr. Kocher replied that traffic on Hamilton remains a problem but it will take significant funding and coordination to address it; no work is underway at the moment. Mr. Steve Wolf added that the issue is on the back burner for now and that people will hear when the city begins actively working on it. There is no “behind the scenes” work going on. Mayor Roetting said that everything possible will be done in the light of day and residents will be notified well in advance. Whatever we decide to do, it will be expensive.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Bittner reported on the activities of the **Business, School, and Library** committee. Mr. Bittner talked to the Hamilton County Engineer, who sent him to Ohio Department of Transportation, who say that there are no plans to widen Hamilton north of Mt. Healthy. However, they sounded surprised when they looked up the traffic count and didn't know about plans to move the high school entrance, so perhaps they will think about it. Mr. Kocher will follow up with them once in a while.

Mr. Lombardo met with the Business Association last week; they're working on Celebrate Mt. Healthy, which will happen in September. They are in the early stages of planning a Business Expo in which businesses will present themselves to residents.

Mr. Wolf reported that the **Parks** committee is looking at summer schedule options and plans to have the final schedule prepared within the next month or two.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Roetting requested an executive session to discuss real estate issues, as well as a work session after the meeting. He thanked the Street Department for the great job they did with the recent snowfall. He will be talking with the Beautification Committee on Thursday about what they and the city can do together. He said that there will be new things on the park calendar this summer and thanked the committee for their hard work.

Matthew Fay commented that Mt. Healthy did the best job of snow removal of the nearby communities and asked how many citations were issued associated with the snow emergency. Mr. Kocher said that there were two snow emergencies this year; for the first one he didn't know offhand how many citations were needed but it was less than last year's 90; for the second snow emergency, maybe one citation was issued. He received numerous calls and emails about the great job the street department did. We purchased salt from Springdale on two occasions.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kocher said that after about four and a half years with the department, Nick Michaels is resigning to move to the Forest Park police department. We will be advertising and working towards replacing him.

We budgeted \$110,000 for road improvements this year. The majority of this was planned for matching funds for municipal road funds to redo Clovernook, but (for the third year) we did not receive this funding. Plan B is to undertake Elizabeth Street type projects on Werner and Maple. We will do the first phase, engineering, this year, and save the rest of the money. Next year we will request SCIP funding to complete the work in 2009. We will save some of this year's money for use as matching funds.

**LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** None.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT:**

The 2005-06 audit is complete, and bound copies have been distributed. Work has started on the 2007 GAAP report, and the draft should be ready by late summer or early fall. The February month end report is in the packets.

Mr. Steve Wolf added that he read through the audit and it shows that Ms. Claire and Ms. Schaefer did a great job.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Shaefer stated that she balanced with the Auditor and the bank for the month of February.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate issues was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mrs. Cole. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Ms. Brandy absent, and Council went into executive session at 7:45 P.M. Council returned to regular session at 8:02 P.M.

**ORDINANCES:**

Ordinance **08-1521** Ordinance Authorizing the Safety Service Director to Purchase the Real Property at 7621 Perry Street and Declaring an Emergency. 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, 6-0, with Ms. Brandy absent. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0.

Ordinance **08-1522** An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of Notes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$500,000 by the City of Mt. Healthy, Hamilton County, Ohio in Anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds for the Purpose of Financing the Acquisition of Real Property in the City, and Declaring an Emergency. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Ms. Brandy absent. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Bittner and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0.

Mayor Roetting thanked Mr. Kocher for getting this together so quickly, and thanked the council members who attended the meeting despite illness.

Ordinance **08-1520** Establishing Provisions for Competitive Video Service Authorizations, Establishing Fees, Defining Certain Terms and Authorizing the Safety Service Director to Provide Certain Notice to the Video Service Providers Offering Video Service in Mt. Healthy, Ohio Pursuant to State Authorization. This ordinance received its second reading.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ms. Claire clarified that council members do not need to worry about deleting their email. Emails are being recorded separately to meet Ohio recordkeeping laws.

President Crank noted that city employees have been instructed that city computers are not to be used for browsing YouTube or similar activities.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Finance Committee scheduled a meeting for April 15 at 6 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mrs. Cole. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 P.M. The meeting was followed by a work session.

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Donald Crank, President of Council

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Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council