

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**

The City Council Meeting called to order by President Sylvia Lawson at 7:00 P.M. The invocation was given by Mr. DeBruler and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Cook, Mr. Lombardo, Mrs. Lingo, Mr. DeBruler, Miss Reusch, and Mr. Wolf. A motion to excuse Mr. Roetting was made by Mr. DeBruler and seconded by Mr. Wolf. An aye vote carried the motion.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Auditor Jill Claire, Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Mayor George Rouse, Police Chief Al Schaefer, Treasurer Deb Schaefer, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

MINUTES:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rouse swore in **Brandon Goff, Stephen Griffith, Scott Neudecker, and Aylward “Whit” Geier** as **part time Mt. Healthy police officers**. Chief Schaefer commented that all of these folks qualified yesterday on firearms with Sgt. Donathan. Chief Schaefer has known Mr. Griffith for 15 years; he operates a business providing motorcycle escorts for funerals and works part time as a park ranger. He has been a police officer since 1982. Mr. Neudecker lives in Middletown and works full-time at Model Graphics. Mr. Goff lives in Cleves and works in security at Northgate Mall and Sears. Mr. Geier has lived in Colerain Township, is self-employed, and has been involved in police work since 2003.

Mr.Kocher explained that when the city administered the police test in August, four people passed the test out of five who took it and of those people, one was hired, one declined an offer, and two withdrew. The city has worked with Clemans Nelson and the Civil Service Commission to make these “provisional” hires, since we were unable to find as many people as we wanted through the state-required process. Seven or eight people were identified and we decided to hire these four.

Chief Schaefer said that the department now has eleven full time and eight part time officers, and that the young guys are doing a good job. Everyone welcomes their enthusiasm. The Mt. Healthy police have made several drug apprehensions lately, which has the welcome side effect of providing extra money to the department. One car sold for \$5700, which was used to provide tasers for the full time officers. The tasers should help avoid civil litigation since their effects are very strong but brief. All of the officers have experienced these effects. The department has also purchased a laser radar. Three people are certified to operate it, and everyone will be soon. It can be used for traffic accident measurements (for example) as well as speed measurements. The police are keeping an eye on several businesses, and have arrested a couple of people in one Hilltop Plaza business for drug sales. Chief Schaefer may come to Council for authority to close down one or more businesses in the city where there are problems. The Secret Service visited

Joseph St. on Friday. Assumption School was “locked down” for a couple of hours as a precaution. The Secret Service were acting on a Crime Stoppers tip that a counterfeiter was staying at that address. She was not found, but the person who was there has multiple warrants out against him and he was arrested.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The folks at McMakin Lodge have asked that the city put up signs designating the 2 or 3 parking spaces in front of the lodge as handicapped-only during their meetings on Tuesday nights, so that some of their members will be able to attend meetings. They are willing to pay for the signs. The city has installed similar signs before in similar cases, and will go ahead and put up these signs. No legislation is required. The signs will be permanent metal ones, but they will only limit parking from 8-10 PM on Tuesday nights.

Mr. Roetting will be attending classes on Tuesday nights for the next eight weeks and has asked whether we can move the meeting time to 7:30 so he can get here in time. Council decided to keep the meeting time at 7 P.M.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Fire Chief Steve Lawson was hospitalized last week for a viral infection in his brain, which is causing double vision and dizziness. He should recover, although exactly how long this will take is unknown.

Mr. Kocher has been looking into the possibility of allowing alcohol in the community building in the park, since he thinks that this restriction turns away a lot of potential renters. He has talked to some other municipalities and is working on a proposal for Council to consider.

Mr. S. Wolf gave a brief history of the current process for allowing alcohol in the park. It was an issue of great concern 20 years ago, and the current process is a compromise that was worked out then. The process allows alcohol for Heritage Days and the 4th of July fireworks (and, more recently, city-sponsored dances) if a list of conditions are met and Council then makes a motion to allow it. Mr. Wolf said that this process is nonsensical since the city administration is responsible for making sure the conditions are met and Council merely certifies that the administration has done so. He recommended that the city change the process to allow alcohol in the park by a permit issued by the Mayor. The city will retain the right to cancel a permit if necessary and will write a policy to attach to the application. The city’s insurer is not very concerned with events that are not sponsored by the city. Mr. Cook suggested that a credit card imprint be required for a deposit instead of a check.

Mr. Kocher said that he has been meeting with the contractor who is working on Elizabeth Street the first Monday of each month. Not much has happened since last month due to the weather. However, they plan to start digging for the curbs on Friday or Monday and the asphalt plants should be opening for the season soon. The project may be done by mid-April.

The Compton Road project fund will be used this year to do some road surface patching on Compton and to put down hot tape for the lines on the entire section of the road within Mt. Healthy. Hot tape lasts longer than paint. We have signed the PO for it, but it probably won’t happen until June since the road surface needs to warm up first.

The Board of Zoning Appeals rules say that all members must be Mt. Healthy residents. Mr. Kocher has proposed that we change the rules to allow long-time Mt. Healthy business owners to participate even if they are not residents. This will allow Richard Parsons to remain the fifth person on the board, since he has recently moved out of the city, and will also be useful in retaining an important perspective on the board in the future. Dan Glynn, who talked to Council about wood chips for the sides of Cross County highway a while ago, will join the board in place of Joe Bobinger. The city is scheduled to provide mulch at the end of the month, and one of the Eagle Scout candidates who was here last month for the community involvement badge will help Mr. Glynn.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf commented that he had noticed a gentleman in a wheelchair at the bottom of the westbound exit ramp from Cross County this evening. This could be a traffic hazard and the city will ask him to stop. If he needs help, the Methodist Church (and others) have resources available. Chief Schaefer commented that the police had talked to someone else who was panhandling and arrested him for the crack cocaine that was in his pocket.

Mr. Roetting arrived at 7:40 P.M.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Claire said that we have the final official hard copy of the 2003-2004 audited reports. Everyone is welcome to look at them, and she will get copies for anyone who wants one.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Lawson commented that the Fire Department's spaghetti dinner was well attended and raised \$1000 for the department, after expenses.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Parks Committee scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, March 14th at 7 P.M in the new room near Council chambers.

Mr. S. Wolf noted that the Mt. Healthy Athletic Boosters will hold a dance at Assumption on Saturday the 18th.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council