

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 20, 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:**

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Auditor Jill Claire (at 7:10), Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Mayor Joe Roetting, and Treasurer Deborah Schaefer.

**MINUTES:**

A motion to adopt the minutes of the May 6 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. Bittner and seconded by Mrs. Cole. An aye vote carried the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The School Board invited Council to hear construction updates on the new school buildings on Thursday, May 29 from 6-8 P.M. and enjoy a grill out.

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners will hold a Green Development Summit on June 3 from 10-12 AM at Cincinnati State.

**CITIZENS/SPECIAL GUESTS:** Debbie Conradi addressed Council about dogs and pit bulls. She related the story of a collie that was recently attacked by a pit bull in Mt. Healthy and showed pictures. Mt Healthy has an ordinance prohibiting these dogs but people are not aware of it and it is not enforced. Ms. Conradi would like the city to address this and suggested that the city include fliers with the waste bills informing people about this and other dog-related ordinances. The Safety Committee will discuss this issue.

Missy Sauer of the Creativity Cottage invited everyone to A Work of Heart. The gallery showing will take place this Friday from 10 AM to 8 PM with a reception at 6 PM. Everyone is invited to view the eight pieces of artwork in the show, and Ms. Saul hopes that local businesses will lease them for a year. After that year, the artworks will return to the artist.

Deborah Sue Whitacre addressed Council about the apartments that the city has purchased and plans to demolish. She lives in one of these apartments and disagrees with the city's handling of the situation on several points. Ms. Whitacre understood Mr. Kocher to say that tenants of the building would not have to pay their April or May rent; she has documentation that the security deposit that she initially paid was \$350, not the \$230 that the city was told by the previous owner of the building; and the city would not spray her apartment for bedbugs until she called the Board of Health about the situation. She would like the city to write a check for her deposit to

her new landlord, and hire a company to move her belongings to the new apartment. She is also concerned that the city met with residents separately to discuss these issues instead of in a group.

Mr. Kocher responded that he had discussed with Council and told all of the tenants, both verbally and by letter, that April and May rent were due as usual. However, the city offered to refund the May rent, as well as the security deposit, to people who were out of the building by June 1. Two of the five tenants paid their April rent on time. Mayor Roetting added that this is consistent with all of his discussions with Mr. Kocher and that none of the other residents have had this problem. Mrs. Moody added that the separate meetings with tenants were an effort to protect their privacy, in case there were sensitive issues they needed to discuss.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** Mrs. Moody distributed the current **Parks** calendar, including the names of people spearheading each event. The cookout and Appalachian Grass concert are scheduled for the same night; Mr. Kocher and Ms. Moody discussed making sure there is enough food. Mrs. Cole asked whether there will be food at the August 7 Civic Orchestra concert. None is planned, but Mr. Kocher will ask the concession stand vendor about staying open that evening. President Crank thanked Mrs. Moody and her committee for their work in developing this calendar.

The **Streets and Gateways** committee met to review pictures of gateways from other cities. Mr. Kocher recommended that they talk to Steve Wolf about his research into branding for the city.

The **Building and Zoning** committee met on Wednesday to discuss some issues with the proposed zoning ordinance, and they have posted an amended version on the web site. The proposed ordinance would now allow three temporary signs per property.

For the **Business / Schools / Library** liaison committee, Mrs. Cole reported that the library has been having trouble after school with young people who are disrespectful and disruptive. A library staff member was accosted on the street recently. Mrs. Cole mentioned this problem to the high school principal, and asked Council about the possibility of a police presence in the library. Mr. Kocher said that the city would have to bill the library if police are assigned there, but that officers can stop by the library regularly and he will talk to Chief Schaefer about it.

Mr. Bittner attended the School Board meeting last night and reported that the elementary schools are on track to break ground by mid summer. The high school is on schedule and should have construction drawings soon.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Roetting thanked Ms. Conradi for bringing the pit bull issue to the city's attention. The Business Expo went very well. About 100 community members visited, with 22 businesses as well as the school district and city exhibiting. The Memorial Day parade starts at 2 P.M. on Monday. Council should meet at 1:45 at the Dairy Bar. Mayor Roetting thanked Mr. Woeste for arranging this parade for 20+ years.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** The Civil Service Commission met last Thursday and Nick Michael will be reinstated to the Mt. Healthy police after six weeks away. This will be documented in a Memorandum of Understanding. 125 people have signed up to take the test for a new officer; we expect an opening in June.

The weather has slowed work on the park, but we've kept the rented equipment due to fees for picking it up and dropping it off again. The fill is almost done, then we will put in topsoil and probably hydroseed the area to speed establishment of the grass. Mr. Kocher hopes the grass will be ready in time for the July 3 fireworks.

Work on the JED continues; the basic agreement is in place but minor issues are still being negotiated. The agreement should be in place by June 1, then Council will need to authorize Mr. Kocher to sign it. Most of the legislation is state-required boilerplate.

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

**AUDITOR'S REPORT:** The April report is in the packets, and the 2009 tax budget is on everyone's desk. This will need to be adopted at the June 17 meeting, after a public hearing. It will be posted on the city's web site.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ms. Schaefer stated that she balanced with the bank and the auditor for the month of April.

**ORDINANCES:** Ordinance **08-1526** An Ordinance Amending the Mt. Healthy Zoning Code. This ordinance received its third reading. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mr. Lombardo absent.

Ordinance **08-1528** Ordinance Authorizing the Safety Service Director to Purchase the Real Property 1597 McMakin Avenue and Declaring an Emergency. This ordinance received its second reading. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Ms. Brandy. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mr. Lombardo absent.

Ordinance **08-1529** An Ordinance Amending the 2008 Appropriations, and Declaring an Emergency. This ordinance received its second reading. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mrs. Cole. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mr. Lombardo absent.

Ordinance **08-1530** Ordinance Authorizing the Safety-Service Director to Enter into an Agreement of Cooperation with Hamilton County, Ohio Pursuant to Provisions of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as Amended. This ordinance received its first

reading. Mr. Kocher said that this ordinance notifies the county that we will participate in the Community Development Block Grant program. Later, the city will hold public hearings concerning the projects for which we will apply for funding. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Ms. Brandy. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mr. Lombardo absent.

**RESOLUTIONS:** Resolution **08-969** Resolution Setting Forth Services that Will be Provided by the City of Mt. Healthy to the Residents of a Certain 24.6895 Acre Tract of Land if Such Area is Annexed to the City of Mt. Healthy. This resolution received its first reading. Mr. Kocher said that this resolution comes directly from the law firm we're working with; it's required by the Ohio Revised Code and is mostly boilerplate. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Bittner and seconded by Mrs. Cole. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Ms. Brandy and seconded by Mrs. Moody. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mr. Lombardo absent.

Resolution **08-970** Resolution Consenting to the Annexation of 24.6895 Acres to the City of Mt. Healthy, Ohio from Springfield Township by Mt. Healthy City School District Board of Education. This resolution received its first reading. Mr. Kocher commented that although the city has initiated this annexation, Council still needs to consent to it under Ohio law. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Bittner and seconded by Mrs. Moody. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Ms. Brandy. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mr. Lombardo absent.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mrs. Cole plans to bring two classes of fourth graders to City Hall on Monday, June 2 at 10 A.M. Mayor Roetting will check his schedule and let her know whether he will be available, but Mr. Kocher can provide a tour and overview regardless. Mrs. Cole distributed a flyer about summer bridge mentoring.

The Safety Committee scheduled a meeting on June 3 at 6 P.M. in City Hall.

Mayor Roetting talked to six second and fourth grade classes during Career Day at Jane Hoop Elementary last week. It was a positive experience and the kids are excited about the new schools. The students wanted to know who is the boss of the mayor; Mayor Roetting explained that his boss is about 4,000 voters.

President Crank, as chair of the Mt. Healthy veterans monument committee, thanked the city for their help and support and commented that the city takes good care of the monument. He asked that the city spray for grass and said that the committee will pay for it. The city may have done so last week.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate issues was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mr. Bittner. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, and Council went into executive session at 8:15 P.M. Council returned to regular session at 8:38 P.M.

There was some discussion of the recent shooting at Duval after a basketball game and what the city can do to improve the situation.

**ADJOURNMENT**: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mrs. Cole. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Donald Crank, President of Council

Melanie Evenson, Clerk of Council