

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 6, 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, Mr. Wolf, Ms. Brandy, and Mrs. Cole. A motion to excuse Mrs. Lingo, Mrs. Moody, and Mr. Bittner was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Ms. Brandy. An aye vote carried the motion.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**MINUTES:**

A motion to adopt the minutes of the April 15 Council meeting as printed was made by Mrs. Cole and seconded by Mr. Wolf. An aye vote carried the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

President Crank noted that the deadline for elected officials to file financial disclosure statements was April 15. He read an announcement of A Work of Heart, a collaborative art project with Mt. Healthy elementary schools. There will be a gallery showing at The Creativity Cottage on May 23 from 10 AM to 8 PM with a reception at 6 PM. The artwork will be available for lease to local businesses.

President Crank read an email about the Heritage Park cleanup from Debbie Conradi. It went well, and they picked up ten bags of litter. There are a couple of downed trees remaining near the drain that should be removed. Mayor Roetting thanked Ms. Conradi and her group and the 40+ people who helped out with the cleanup day, as well as the Beautification Committee and Mr. Kocher for organizing the event.

**CITIZENS/SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Kim Cremeans of the Mt. Healthy Business Association reminded everyone of the Business Expo that will take place on May 18 at the Eagles hall.

MiKael Stewart described plans for a new restaurant, RED Chocolate, to open where Briarwood is currently located. The building sale has not closed yet but Ms. Stewart hopes to complete that in about two weeks. A grand opening is planned for the weekend of June 12. RED Chocolate will have more upscale food and live music, as well as a facelift for the building (inside and out) and new appliances. Ms. Stewart has obtained letters of endorsement from the mayor of Cincinnati and the Midwest Black Family Reunion. She is working with Mt. Healthy businesses to obtain signs, bread, and other resources for the new restaurant. Ms. Stewart is a Mt. Healthy resident and Mt. Healthy High School graduate.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Roetting attended the First Suburbs meeting and is looking into reactivating a low interest loan program for home improvements in Mt. Healthy. This program was not much used last time it was available, but Mayor Roetting has some ideas for increasing its use.

Mayor Roetting met with Laurence Bonhaus of the Cincinnati Civic Orchestra and hopes to arrange a CCO concert in the city park on August 7 or 14. This all-volunteer orchestra is the oldest in the country. Mrs. Cole has played clarinet with the orchestra for 22 years.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Greg Cutter, a city street employee, fell and broke both elbows. Surgery is scheduled for Friday and recovery will take a while. Mr. Kocher said that the city's first priority is for Mr. Cutter to recover. The city provides up to 365 days of occupational injury leave, which Mr. Cutter will be using as needed. Fire chief Steve Lawson holds a commercial drivers license and has offered to help out during Mr. Cutter's absence.

Mr. Kocher noted that the second version of the proposed new building and zoning code is available on the city's web site, as is the previous version.

Groundbreaking for the new high school is planned for May 29. The school district has filed the petition for annexation. There will be a meeting Thursday with the township about the Joint Economic District for the north elementary site. The city is still working on the properties on the east side of Hamilton. They are on the Planning Commission's agenda on Monday and there will be further discussion at the June meeting. Very complicated issues keep coming up; the new zoning code will address some of them but it isn't passed yet.

Mr. Kocher requested an executive session to discuss personnel and real estate issues, as well as a work session after the regular meeting.

**LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

An ordinance laying out the services that the city will provide to the annexed area will be needed; this will probably be ready for the next Council meeting. Mr. Wolf met with Joanne Brown, the housing consultant, tonight and they have begun planning a seminar for potential home buyers, tentatively scheduled for August 2. He hopes this will be the first in a series. A similar program in Cheviot was very successful. Mayor Roetting added that the goal of this program is to increase home ownership in Mt. Healthy.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT:**

The 2007 GAAP report will be ready for review soon; the process has gone smoothly. The annual tax budget for 2009 is due to the county auditor on July 15, so it will need to be approved at the June 17 meeting. There will be a public hearing on the proposed tax budget before the June meeting, and the proposed tax budget will be posted on the city's web page. A motion may be all that is needed for approval; Steve Wolf will check. This budget is the annual estimate of revenues and a general estimate of expenses to the county and it is not binding; the actual appropriations ordinance will be passed later in the year.

The housekeeping ordinance on tonight's agenda is the one discussed in the April meeting; the city can't spend more than we have appropriated, so this ordinance adjusts our appropriations.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** None.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None

**ORDINANCES:**

Ordinance **08-1526** An Ordinance Amending the Mt. Healthy Zoning Code. This ordinance received its second reading.

Ordinance **08-1528** Ordinance Authorizing the Safety Service Director to Purchase the Real Property at 1597 McMakin Avenue and Declaring an Emergency. This ordinance received its first reading. It will need to be passed at the May 20 meeting to meet the closing schedule.

Ordinance **08-1529** An Ordinance Amending the 2008 Appropriations, and Declaring an Emergency. This ordinance received its first reading.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

President Crank welcomed Melanie Evenson, the city's deputy auditor, who will also be filling the Clerk of Council position.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Jamie Wolf announced the birth of his first son on April 24; he spent six days in the hospital but everyone is home now and doing well. Steve Wolf added that this is his first grandson.

Mr. Lombardo encouraged everyone to support the Business Expo.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to go in to executive session to discuss personnel and real estate matters was made by Mrs. Brandy and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 4-0, with Mrs. Lingo, Mrs. Moody, and Mr. Bittner absent. Council went in to executive session at 7:35 P.M. and returned to regular session at 8:21 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Ms. Brandy. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 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