

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 17, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Cook, Mr. Lombardo, Mrs. Lingo, Mr. DeBruler, Miss Reusch, Mr. Roetting, and Mr. Custer.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Auditor Jill Claire, Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Tax Commissioner Susan Law, Director of Parks John Peters, Mayor George Rouse, Police Chief Al Schaefer, Treasurer Deb Schaefer, Director of Public Works Preston Stapleton, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

**MINUTES:**

A motion to adopt the minutes of the April 19 Council meeting as printed was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

President Lawson received the Mt. Healthy Business Association Newsletter and it's on her desk for anyone who is interested.

**CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Members of Mr. Cumming's senior Government class who attended the meeting introduced themselves. Charlotte Timmon, Jeff Etlin, Darrell Kemper, Elizabeth Edwards, Dalisha Owens.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance:** Mr. Roetting commented that the city's finances are looking pretty good and said that Mr. Kocher would give details.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Rouse noted that the Planning Commission will meet tomorrow evening to consider making provision for a charter school to locate in Affinity Place.

**SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kocher reported that the Business Association has agreed to staff the beer booth for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration. The city will set up the booth and provide the permits, etc., and the city and Business Association will split the net sales.

The Business Association's car show is set for the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. Details are still being worked out. The city will support this where we can; for example, Harrison will be closed from Compton to Adams from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Vendors will set up in the parking lot behind the hardware store. Mr. Kocher has encouraged the Business Association to send someone to the August Council meeting to give us an update.

The Block Watch group have lined up a donation of new Block Watch signs. The money for the signs will be donated to the city so the donor can receive a tax deduction, and the city will order the signs.

Mr. Kocher presented drawings of the demolition plan and final plan for the park, and described some of the highlights of the planned changes. The putt putt golf course will be removed, and several trees will need to be removed. Mr. Kocher hesitates to remove the two big oaks by the pool, but they are diseased and need to go.

There are three areas of the park that will be affected and it will take a couple of years to complete the entire plan. This year, the upper section of the park will be completed. More play equipment will be installed in place of the putt putt course, along with covered picnic areas and new lighting. The parking area will also happen this year, but after the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July fireworks since people use that area to watch the fireworks. We plan to complete the parking area work using city employees, but there will still be substantial material costs. Everything has been priced out and should be OK, but if necessary we will push some of the plantings to Phase II. Plantings may also need to be delayed if that phase of the work falls in August, to give them a better chance for survival.

In Phase II, a gazebo is planned to replace the old pavilion. It will have handicap access. The existing retaining wall will have brick veneer and nice fencing to match that at the top end of the park. This will be financed with a \$45,000 Community Development Block Grant as well as some savings in the park budget. The new playground equipment is financed with a Recycle America grant. We are hoping for another CDB grant next year to finish the planned work. Mr. Lombardo asked whether the stage will be removed. It will, but the gazebo is designed to be used as a stage. Demolition is planned to start tomorrow.

Miss Reusch commented that the Parks Committee has been meeting with Mr. Kocher and Mr. Peters about these plans and that she likes them and likes the synergy with the pool. Part of the reason for the pool was to draw younger families back into Mt. Healthy and the planned changes to the park should help further that goal.

Mr. Lombardo asked about the wisdom of using Street Department employees to do the parking lot work when Mt. Healthy streets need so much work. Mr. Kocher answered that this is a balancing act, and that we will schedule the work so that street and parking lot projects can share equipment. Mr. Lombardo asked if we have a prioritized list of street projects, and Mr. Kocher said that Elizabeth Street is the major project this summer and it is contracted out. Mayor Rouse added that the street department is three guys, plus Mr. Peters, who helps out, and there are half a dozen streets that need attention. We have a tough construction schedule this summer and residents need to know that if their complaints are not addressed as soon as they'd like, it is due to limited resources.

#### **LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Wolf said that people may have read about a new state law prohibiting registered sex offenders from living within 1000 feet of a school. The county prosecutor and county sheriff have put together a task force to handle that and have used the county's mapping system to track locations of schools and registered sex offenders. The process is: 1. Sex offenders are required to register 2. Their location is compared to a map of schools 3. The city notifies the person if there is a violation. If they don't move after being notified, the city can file a civil action. Mt. Healthy has one person who is in violation of the new law, and we will notify them. Mr. Cook asked about the definition of school under this law. It is very broad and will probably cover almost anywhere kids are gathered. Mr. Wolf commented that challenges to this law are likely.

In a small city like Mt. Healthy with lots of schools and day care, it could be difficult to find a place that is not within 1000 feet of a school. This just became official on the 29<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Wolf has a large stack of information from the prosecutor. He has not worked through it all yet. He is not sure whether day care facilities are included in the definition of school. The prosecutor and sheriff are pursuing this very aggressively. They are making lots of resources available to us.

#### **AUDITOR'S REPORT:**

Month end reports were distributed in the Council packets. Ms. Claire is working on the 2006 tax budget and hopes to have it ready for the next meeting.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Schaefer stated that she balanced with the Auditor and the bank for the month of April, with minor adjustments. She explained that the city is currently using a DOS-based program to track waste collection and would like to allocate funds to upgrade this program so that the computer it runs on can use the same operating system as the rest of the city's computers and be on the same network. Ms. Law is working on bids for this upgrade.

Mr. Kocher commented that he completely agrees with this plan. Mr. Cook asked that Ms. Law give the Finance Committee more details of exactly what this new software needs to do, and why (for example) an Excel spreadsheet won't work. Ms. Law listed some of the reasons and said that Ray is making a list of the pros and cons of the old vs. new systems. Mr. Kocher commented that the new office layout is working more efficiently. If someone comes in to pay a waste bill who has a tax issue, the Tax Department can grab them and talk to them.

Ms. Law said that April was a good month for tax revenues but May will be much lower. The city is enforcing penalties and sent out 1599 not filed on time letters last week. Balance due letters are next.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

Steve Harness of the school board welcomed the young people who attended the meeting and said that a recent jazz band coffeehouse had been outstanding. They need to move to a larger location next year because it is so successful. The spring sports awards and announcements of athletic scholarships will be Monday, May 16. The band awards will be May 19. The Baccalaureate will be May 26 at Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church. This program is put together and put on by the young people. May 31 will be the celebration of excellence, when academic scholarships and awards are announced. Graduation is June 2 at the Vineyard. Tickets are required for entrance; if you would like to attend, talk to Mr. Harness and he will arrange something. June 26<sup>th</sup> is the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Mt. Healthy High School alumni band concert.

In fall of 2006, we will be joining the Ft. Ancient Valley athletic association. The board has approved contracts for plumbing work, roadway improvements, and visitors' bleachers. The building itself will be handled through the Mt. Healthy Athletic Boosters. All this money was raised through bingo, which is every Wednesday night at the high school.

Approximately half of the custodial staff have already found other jobs. Scarlet and Gray, the contracting company that is replacing them, is already handling the Board of Education and high school buildings. Remaining staff are being moved to fill in vacant places. The Board expects that 90% of the custodial staff will have found other jobs by the end of the year. They are

helping with resumes and job applications. So far the transition to Scarlet & Gray has been pretty seamless.

### **ORDINANCES**

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1462** An Ordinance Authorizing the Safety Service Director to Purchase a New Case Model 580 SM II Loader Backhoe from Southeastern Equipment Co., Inc. Without Advertising, and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kocher said that we were saving for this but due to more revenue than expected and some savings this year, we are ready to purchase this equipment earlier than planned. We will need to transfer \$6000 from the general fund in a housekeeping ordinance later in the year for this. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. Custer. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1463** An Ordinance Adopting a Policy and Procedure Manual for the City of Mt. Healthy, and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kocher said that he did not distribute copies of the revised manual to everyone, but it is available on the city's web site or on request. He listed the changes that went into this version at the last last meeting. This is the final step in development of this manual. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Miss Reusch and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

RESOLUTION NO. **05-938** Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Levy a Tax in Excess of the Ten Mill Limitation. This is due to the Board of Elections by the 19<sup>th</sup>. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Custer and seconded by Miss Reusch. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Lingo asked about plans for Memorial Day. President Lawson said that Council needs to line up at the Dairy Bar at 1:30 and the parade will start at 2. Council will walk this year, and needs two young people to carry the banner. Let President Lawson know if you have young people who'd like to help.

Mr. Stapleton asked about fire lane signs. Mrs. Lingo replied that Mr. Lawson is working on sending letters to the residents who will be affected by the new fire lanes.

A motion that the June, July, and August 2005 Council meetings be held on the third Tuesday of the month was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion. Mr. Kocher noted that those dates are June 21, July 19, and August 16.

Mayor Rouse asked about pool passes. They are on sale in the office. The pool will open June 11. Passes are available at a discount before the pool opens and also in July. Call the city at 931-8840 for more information. Mr. Kocher said that there was no rate increase this year, we have simplified the family discount, and that discounted senior citizen passes are available.

Mr. Roetting asked about the revamping of the property maintenance ordinance that was under discussion a while ago. Mr. Kocher said that he has met with the prosecutor and the mayor to gather information. Grass cutting is the major focus; he would like to speed up the process of enforcement. He has left some information with the law director.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Custer and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

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Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

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Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council