

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 3, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.**

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the April 19, 2005 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. DeBruler and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher said that the resolution concerning Community Development funding is the first of several steps necessary to participate in that program. We also need to develop and prioritize a list of projects and hold a public hearing. This resolution is not due until June 17, but Mr. Kocher would like to set things in motion before then if possible.

Mayor Rouse said that he had received a letter from Hamilton County indicating that the city would be required to provide a 25% match to obtain the community development funds. Mr. Kocher said that he thought this was for a different program administered by the same department but he will look into it.

The resolution about the tax in excess of the ten mill limitation is also the first step of a two step process. This is for the renewal of the street levy and will ask the county auditor to determine the millage required for renewal of the levy. The amount of tax money collected if the renewal passes will be the same, but the millage will go down since property values have increased. Mr. Kocher should have the resolution to put this levy renewal on the ballot ready for the next Council meeting.

Mr. Kocher said that at the next meeting he should have an ordinance or resolution to enter into an agreement with the state purchasing agent to purchase a front end loader. He will go through the details of this purchase with the Finance Committee, but the short version is that the Street Department received some additional revenues this year and can purchase the loader a couple of years ahead of schedule. The existing loader dates back to 1993 and is pretty much at the end of

its useful life. Mr. Kocher would like to proceed quickly with this because the price available through the state purchasing agent changes monthly.

Mr. Kocher has asked Mr. Wolf to review an agreement for possibly contracting out concessions in the park this summer. In past years we have lost money on these sales, largely due to the PERS contributions that are required for city employees. The agreement would be with a man who has been providing concessions sales to Colerain Township. He has been in this business for thirty years. Colerain Township is pleased with his work. There might be some small profit sharing but mostly the fact that the contractor hires the employees instead of the city would provide a significant savings. The contractor will of course obtain all required insurance, permits, etc.

Mr. Kocher highlighted some adjustments that will be made to the draft city policies and procedures manual. He'd like to get the final version to Council to vote on next meeting.

- Section 1-2, paragraph 4: The mayor is not the judge of the Municipal Court, so we need to change that.
- Section 2-8, paragraph E: The definition of immediate relative doesn't include spouses but should.
- Section 3-5 paragraph 3: Medicare Health Insurance--city matching is required for other things as well; this reference to city matching should either be removed or the list of things for which city matching is required should be complete.
- Section 4-1, paragraph C: This wording should be changed to "each pay period employees will earn 4.616 hours of sick time" for full time employees, to be in line with the Ohio Revised Code. That way, overtime will not confuse matters.
- Section 4-5, paragraph C: Sick Leave: If sick leave is donated it cannot then be converted to cash. If there's a balance of donated sick leave left over and not used, we need to know what is to be done with that.
- Section 4-6, paragraph 1: remove "final paycheck" If someone is overpaid for vacation, we'll address it in the next paycheck. We have safeguards in place to make sure that doesn't happen.
- We need to add a city cell phone policy for liability insurance purposes. This will cover personal use on city business and safe use—police cruisers and things like that.
- We need to add a maximum number of consecutive hours of service during storms and require breaks. This is also necessary for liability insurance reasons. Mr. Kocher has been discussing this change with the maintenance group and they are pretty much on board with what we're trying to do.
- The drug testing policy. We've been working with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation to see what is required. The city does some testing now for all safety service jobs (fire and police). The new policy covers pre- and post- employment testing. The post-employment testing would cover most other employees and gives us a 10-90 day window to do the testing. The main driver for this is financial. We were recently kicked out of our BWC rating and this has driven Workers' Compensation costs up from \$10,000 in 2004 to an estimated \$71,000 in 2006. This drug testing program can get us a 10% discount. There will be supervisor training and employee awareness training. We have 30 days after the procedures manual is adopted to begin the program.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf said that the county auditor reevaluates property values every three years and that this has produced some good news for Mt. Healthy. He distributed summaries of residential and

commercial property value changes for local communities and pointed out that for residential property, of 51 communities listed we are 13th in order of growth, with a 20% increase. Commercial property values have increased from \$68 million to almost \$72 million in a period when North College Hill commercial property values actually declined.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Fireman John Sunderhaus showed Council the Fire Department's new thermal imaging camera. After six years of spaghetti dinners and with the help of Jack Schultz and contributions from city businesses, they have recently purchased this \$11,000 piece of equipment. This one is the top of the line, military grade. It picks up heat and the Fire Department can use it to find people in smoke-filled houses. It won't detect heat through wood or concrete but should be able to detect, for example, a kid hiding under a mattress. It will also be useful for finding hot spots after a fire and reduce property damage by the Fire Department. Mr. Sunderhaus demonstrated that his handprint on the wall is visible for some time with this device, and also threw it on the floor to demonstrate its sturdiness. He said that the manufacturer's sales representative actually threw it down the stairs. It has two rechargeable batteries that last for about two hours of use and an in-truck charger that can charge the unused battery before the one in use is depleted. If an optional antenna is added, the camera can transmit images to a base station outside the building.

Mr. Sunderhaus commented that Jack Schultz of Angelo's probably bought half the camera with six years of spaghetti dinners that brought in about \$1,000 each. The sales representative from Bullard will hold two inservice trainings on May 16 and 17 and council members are welcome to attend. Computer-based training is also available. The fire department is also planning a demonstration for donors who helped buy the equipment involving an empty building, artificial smoke, and a chance to try out the camera.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. **05-936** A Resolution 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 and Declaring an Emergency. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0, with Mr. Roetting absent.

RESOLUTION NO. **05-937** A Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Levy a Tax at a Rate in Excess of the Ten Mill Limitation and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith. Mr. Kocher confirmed that this is a renewal of an existing levy and pointed out Section 4 of the resolution. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Custer. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. DeBruler and seconded by Mr. Custer. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0, with Mr. Roetting absent.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Parks Committee scheduled a meeting for May 17 at 6:15 P.M. This will be the last meeting before the pool opens.

Mayor Rouse asked Mr. Wolf to describe the flags he saw during a recent trip to California. Mr. Wolf said that Glendora and some other cities had flags or banners that said, for example, “The City of Mt. Healthy Thanks Bill Jones, U.S. Navy, Thank You For Serving”. Mr. Custer will talk to Jim about how much it would cost for Mt. Healthy to arrange banners like this. The American Legion and Eagles might be useful in finding out who we should put on these banners.

The Finance Committee scheduled a meeting for Monday, May 16 at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Wolf mentioned that Council should set a schedule for summer meetings. Probably we will meet in the third week of June, July, and August since those meetings are televised and usually have committee reports. It is important that we schedule meetings when enough people can attend to take care of any ordinances or resolutions that need attention. Probably we will settle this with a motion at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Custer and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council