

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 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 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, Mayor George Rouse, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

MINUTES:

Mr. Cook pointed out that the first line under Correspondence should read “attacked” and not “attached.” A motion to adopt the minutes of the October 18 Council meeting as corrected was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Lawson noted that everyone received a copy of the Mount Healthy Business Journal. The Christmas Walk will be November 19, with Santa photos, a basket raffle, and awards for the best decorated business. Carolers and Sugarplums are expected. Buy raffle tickets at the Covered Bridge. The car show was a huge success.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Angie Buettner addressed Council about **hot spot cards**. She distributed copies of these cards to Council and said that they have been used in North College Hill and other communities with great success. People can fill them out and drop them off anonymously to let NAG know about problems. They will be passed out at Block Watch and NAG meetings. Ms. Buettner has talked with Mr. Kocher, and we will try having people put them in the existing lock box that is used for payments. Whoever opens the box will put them aside for NAG to collect, copy, and distribute monthly to the appropriate people (Mr. Kocher, Chief Schaefer, the code enforcement officer, etc.) Ms. Buettner wants to make sure that all of the cards deposited in the box get to NAG so that NAG can be accountable to the people who filled them out. Mr. Kocher has agreed that the city will make sure NAG receives all of them. Mr. Roetting asked whether NAG would provide Council with a summary of issues on these cards. Ms. Buettner agreed to do that. Mr. Cook asked whether the city wants to commit to take action on the issue identified by the card within 30 days. Mr. Kocher pointed out that our initial action may consist of “we’ll keep an eye on that” and that we can at least begin to address things within 30 days. Mr. Cook asked what sorts of issues are identified on these cards in other communities. Ms. Buettner said that property maintenance (grass cutting) and suspected drug activity are the main ones.

Peter Stevens addressed Council about **traffic on Stevens**. He thanked the city for citing people for running stop signs, but said that speeding is still a problem. He asked what the city’s game plan is. He is concerned about the danger to the numerous children who live on the street. Mr. Kocher said that the best way to address this issue would be for Mr. Stevens to call or email him so he can talk to Chief Schaefer—unless Mr. Stevens has a problem with how Mr. Kocher has addressed the problem. He offered to give Mr. Stevens the count of traffic citations that have

been issued on Stevens since this problem was first discussed, and said that the city does not have a specific plan for Stevens. There are speeders everywhere and the city can't guarantee to fix this on Stevens. Mr. Lombardo asked about using a speed limit robot, and Mr. Kocher said that he has a meeting tomorrow to discuss the liability issues that might be involved if we were to rent the one that North College Hill owns. Mrs. Lingo asked whether the speeding problem is mostly in the long stretch between Forest and Maple. Mr. Stevens agreed that it is. Mrs. Lingo asked whether a stop sign there might help.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher pointed out the letter in the packets about Advanced Life Support services to be provided by our EMS personnel and the higher rate at which these services will be billed. Four people are currently qualified to provide these services, and three more are in training. Mr. Kocher said that insurance companies won't pay the no treatment/no transport or diabetic treatment, no transport bills so these bills will be sent directly to residents. Bills that are not covered by the insurance company are sent to the resident three times and then dropped.

Elizabeth Street Phase II bids were opened on Friday. Mr Kocher received a letter from JMA, who reviewed the proposals and said that the low bid of approximately \$572,000 appeared adequate and recommended acceptance of it. We budgeted the money for this project in 2005, so we will just carry it over to next year and earmark it for this project. We'll work on grinding and overlay projects this year. Mr. Roetting asked how much of the bid was for street work and how much for water. \$376 K street / \$196 K water. Mr. Kocher said that the cost of this project is mostly covered by SCIP funding, whose renewal will be determined by Issue 1 in the upcoming election.

We held a second public hearing about applying for community development block grants, and nobody came. We will submit applications for the Park Phase 2 and Audible Traffic Signal projects as planned.

Mr. Cook asked whether the CDBG funds will be affected if Issue 1 doesn't pass. Mr. Kocher replied that SCIP (state program) and CDBG (federal program) are separate. We have two current CDBG projects—blacktopping alleys and Phase I of the park. We used Mt. Healthy labor for the blacktopping and actually came in under budget. Mr. Kocher is in the process of arranging to transfer the unused funds to the park project so we can put in some more plantings this fall. Mr. Roetting asked what criteria the city needs to meet in order to receive CDBG funds. Mr. Wolf said that the formula is complex; it does involve property values and income levels but communities like Blue Ash and Sharonville also receive these funds. He added that this is a federal program and usually the county is just a conduit for it, but that they want to latch on to some of the money themselves. Mr. Wolf commented that as with Section 8 housing, the problem is that the county doesn't distribute things equally.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Cook asked about the status of the 2006 budget. Mr. Kocher said he has received budgets from all department heads and he plans to work with the mayor to combine these and present the proposed budget to the Finance Committee, probably in mid-November. Mr. Kocher hopes to have an executive session in the first meeting in December to go over the sergeants' contract and other salary ordinances. So far we are on schedule to consider the budget in the first meeting in January. Right now, the goal is to address the issues in the current budget; the final budget depends on the election.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Lawson said that Mt. Healthy is in the playoffs this year. There will be a rally on Thursday at 7:30. If you want tickets for the game on Friday, you should get them beforehand as they may sell out. They are \$6 beforehand and \$8 at the gate. You can get tickets at the rally or from the Athletic Department. See Karen in her office by the gym. They are open until 8:30 tonight and maybe every night until the game. Miss Reusch said that the last undefeated team was 35 years ago. President Lawson noted that the boys cross country and girls volleyball teams are doing very well this year also.

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 7:45 P.M.

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council