

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2005**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Auditor Jill Claire, Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Tax Commissioner Susan Law, Mayor George Rouse, Police Chief Al Schaefer, Treasurer Deb Schaefer, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

**MINUTES:**

A motion to adopt the minutes of the November 1 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. DeBruler and seconded by Mr. Cook. An aye vote carried the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Al Rudy** of the **Goodtimers** motorcycle organization attended the meeting to present a \$1000 check to Chief Schaefer from their fifth annual poker run. The money will be used in the police equipment fund. The Goodtimers have held this benefit every year since 9/11. The first year, proceeds went to New York and since then they have been given to local law enforcement agencies. Sgt. Donathan has helped out with this event from the beginning, and Mr. Rudy presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his help.

**Kim Heath** addressed Council about a **fence at the south end of Maple**. Maple residents would like the city to erect a longer and taller fence there. Some residents are willing to help pay for such a fence. There is an existing fence to stop cars from driving through between Maple and Lake of the Woods, but it does not stop pedestrian traffic and the pedestrians are a problem. Problems include littering, people who walk their dogs and don't clean up after them, cars driving fast down to the end of Maple for people to jump out and make quick trips into the apartment complex, and kids coming up from the complex to other bus stops and fighting and cursing. Also, people visiting or living in the complex leave their cars on Maple. If the cars are there longer than 72 hours, Maple residents notify the police.

Mr. Lombardo asked what has changed. Ms. Heath said that people being moved out of the city of Cincinnati are probably the source of the problems and commented that she can't talk to kids' parents about their behavior when they live in the complex because it is impossible to identify parents with so many people living there. A resident at the end of Maple was threatened by someone when he asked her not to park in a way that was blocking his driveway. Mr. DeBruler commented that junky cars are not permitted in Lake of the Woods, so people park them on Maple. Chief Schaefer said that as long as they are roadworthy and operable and moved every 72 hours, they are OK.

Mayor Rouse clarified that people driving through are not the problem, commented that a long fence would be needed, and said that the city will look into this and get back to Ms. Heath. Ms. Heath said that if the fence went as far as the hill on either side of the street, that would probably be enough.

Ms. Heath also asked whether Council meeting minutes could be made available by email or on the city's web site.

**Mozelle Miree and James Kent** addressed Council about **economic empowerment**. They explained that they are interested in contributing to economic stability by encouraging strong, stable homeowners through teaching people to be better financial stewards and encouraging home ownership. They would like to explore ways to partner with Mt. Healthy to bring this about in Mt. Healthy. They are currently doing similar work in the city of Cincinnati and in Bond Hill. They have done workshops with churches and schools, among others. They work with Citicorp, and are involved in the Village Daybreak Community project in Bond Hill.

Mr. Kocher explained that he has talked with Mr. Miree and Mr. Kent and is working with them to prepare a "stuffer" to be sent out with employee paychecks. He suggested that they come and speak to Council. The city could provide a location for these workshops.

Mayor Rouse said that perhaps Council could discuss these ideas further in a work session, thanked Mr. Miree and Mr. Kent, and said that the city will be in contact with them.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Safety committee met on the 4<sup>th</sup> with Tim Woods and John Sunderhaus and they are recommending that fire lanes be established. Mr. DeBruler distributed a map of the locations the committee is recommending, and said that the fire department would like to start in the southeast quadrant of the city. The fire department would like to drive a truck in and show residents why the fire lane is necessary, and we will be sure to notify residents before passing the fire lane ordinance. Mr. Kocher said that the only upcoming fire lane that has been discussed in any detail so far is on Elizabeth Street, and reiterated that it's important to make sure residents are aware of what we're doing and why, since this will affect a lot of people. Mr. Wolf commented that departments should work through the administration instead of bringing things directly to Council or its committees.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Rouse said that through the hard work and diligence of Jeff Murphy, the fire department has received an almost \$75,000 grant to be used for new SCBA gear, and he thanked Mr. Murphy. Mr. Kocher added that the city will match these funds at 5%.

#### **SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kocher said that we are finishing the two grant projects (the park and the downtown alley paving). The city will replace two trees by the bank on Kinney that died, and the blacktopping looks good.

At the last meeting, Mr. Kocher talked about updating our billing for EMS services. We will need to update our licensing with Medicare before this can happen. This will take about six weeks, so the new billing won't be in place until after the first of the year. Mr. Kocher added

that we will also update the per-mile billing to \$6/mile (from \$5) and establish a rate of \$7/mile for advanced life support services.

The city has been receiving calls about leaf pickups. The rules have changed, and this time of year people can put out up to ten bags (including their regular trash). Paper bags are not required for leaves. The city will not be paying Rumpke for special yard waste pickups because it is too expensive. Mr. Kocher also mentioned that Rumpke has free yard waste dropoff at Colerain and Struble from 11:30 to 5 on Saturdays and Sundays. Bagged waste left there needs to be emptied out of the bags.

Mr. Cook asked whether homeowners are responsible for leaves that are blown into the gutters by the wind, since blowing them into gutters yourself is not permitted for stormwater reasons. Mr. Kocher said that homeowners are indeed responsible for those leaves. Mr. Kocher will mention this issue to Heidi Fallon.

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

**AUDITOR'S REPORT:**

The October month end report is in the packets. The 2004 gap report has been submitted and so the 2003/2004 outside audit will be finished by the end of the month. The 2006 temporary appropriations ordinance is in the packets for a first reading tonight and the housekeeping ordinance will be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Roetting asked how much money will be addressed by the housekeeping ordinance and Mr. Kocher said that he had sent an email giving all of that information last week.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Schaefer stated that she balanced with the Auditor and the bank for the month of October with minor adjustments. The Tax Department collected \$152,000 last month, mostly from third quarter estimated taxes, and they continue to work on non-filers.

**ORDINANCES**

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1470** An Ordinance Making Temporary Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kocher said that the final budget should be ready within a week. He and Mayor Rouse will meet within the week to finalize the budget and then Mr. Kocher will meet on the 29<sup>th</sup> with department heads to go over any modifications to their requested budgets. On the Monday before the next Council meeting he will go over the budget with the Finance Committee and we should be on track to adopt the final budget in the first or second meeting in January. Mr. Roetting asked about the best way for people to bring up things they would like to be considered in the 2006 budget. They should email Mr. Kocher. This ordinance received its first reading.

*This ordinance was incorrectly assigned number 05-1468; it has been corrected to 05-1470.*

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1469** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 39 of the Mt. Healthy Code of Ordinances Regarding the Municipal Income Tax. Mr. Kocher commented that Ms. Law has done lots of work to bring the city up to speed with the Southwest Ohio Taxing Association. Items that are proposed for update have been highlighted, and there is also a sheet listing the proposed changes. Ms. Law commented that the changes mostly concern corporations, partnerships, LLCs, and S corps, which are not a big issue in Mt. Healthy. When this is passed, Ms. Law will update the tax rules and regulations appropriately. Ms. Law will ask the tax review

board to meet as soon as possible to review the proposed changes. We would like to have their recommendation by the next meeting. Dixie West is ill, so this may not happen.

Mayor Rouse noted that this ordinance also, at Council's request, would take the city income tax credit from 1.5% to 1.25%. Mr. Wolf commented that this change is in section 39.040.

This ordinance received its first reading.

**RESOLUTIONS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mayor Rouse asked whether Mr. Kocher had heard from the NAG. Mr. Kocher had not and said that he will follow up with them.

Mr. Roetting said that the tax levy failed. It won in Ward 2 by 18 votes, lost in Ward 3 by 30 votes, and Wards 1 and 4 were where we really lost. Mr. Roetting feels that having people at the polls (in Wards 2 and 3) to explain the issue to people was effective. Wards 1 and 4 have a higher percentage of renters than the other wards.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Roetting said that the city received a letter from Rick Reeder, a deacon at Assumption Church, about an ecumenical meeting of groups working on social and economic problems in the Mt. Healthy school district. Churches, the city, the school district, and the Health Care Connection were all represented. This initial meeting mostly identified the efforts that are going on now. Mr. Roetting will be the city's representative to this group. This group should know about Mr. Miree and Mr. Kent's economic empowerment work.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Custer and seconded by Miss Reusch. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

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Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council