

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2007 at 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President Sylvia L. 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, Mr. Roetting, Mr. Wolf, and Mrs. Moody.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Auditor Jill Claire, Safety Service Director Bill Kocher, Mayor Leroy Meier, Treasurer Deborah Schaefer, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the October 2 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mrs. Moody reported that the Parks Committee met before this meeting to review the status of current parks projects and potential future projects. The tennis courts are in bad shape and the fence around them is leaning. The committee is looking at using city workers to take them out now and possibly working with an architect and obtaining Community Development funds to replace them with something in the future. The committee discussed this year's events and how to maintain and improve them next year, and foster a sense of community. Bingo went well, with attendance growing from seven people at the first one to forty people at the final one. Mrs. Moody commented that Jamie Wolf did a great job of coordinating them.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Meier commented that he has been making a few changes, cleaning some offices, and making progress.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher deferred his comments to the ordinances and resolutions section of the meeting.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf reminded everyone of the Suzanne Farrell tribute on the 28th from 4-6:30. We don't have final confirmation of whether she will be able to visit Mt. Healthy. People who can attend the tribute should call City Hall to arrange tickets.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

The month end report is in the packets.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Schaefer reported that she balances with the bank and the auditor for the month of September, and that the bank report is in the packets.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Karen Arnett addressed Council about the comprehensive plan to revisit the issue of racial stereotypes in the Safety section of the plan. She commented that this section expresses some people's fears and that she does not feel that this information is appropriate in a plan adopted by the city. She asked Council to delete that section or move it to an appendix to clarify that this information is the results of a survey and not city policy. Ms. Arnett would like for Mt. Healthy to feel inclusive and inviting to people of all backgrounds and races.

Jim Lowenburg addressed Council about the comprehensive plan. He expressed his dismay that there had been no apparent effort to take the discussion of some people's concerns out of the Safety section of the plan. He added that no other sections of the plan include survey comments and he feels that that section is out of place. The descriptions are not relevant to safety issues and don't represent everyone in the city. He encouraged Council to take that section out of the plan. Mr. Lowenburg added that he would like to see tennis courts in Mt. Healthy.

PENDING RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution **07-961** Resolution Adopting the Proposed 2007 Land Use Map and Comprehensive Plan. This resolution received its second reading. Mr. Kocher commented that he had talked with Ms. Arnett and that we can re-word, clarify, or delete sections before adopting the plan, or adopt only parts of the plan. Council should let Mr. Kocher know what they want to do with this. Mr. Steve Wolf added that some of the background information in that section of the plan is from TV reports that are not even about Mt. Healthy.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance **07-1510** An Ordinance Establishing the Salary of the Law Director of the City of Mt. Healthy This ordinance received its first reading.

Ordinance **07-1511** An Ordinance to Transfer Funds from the General Fund to Other Funds Covering Budgeted Expenditures and Declaring an Emergency. Ms. Claire commented that this ordinance is to accomplish planned and budgeted transfers; we were waiting until the revenues had come in to complete it. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0.

Ordinance **07-1512** An Ordinance Amending the 2007 Appropriations, and Declaring an Emergency. Ms. Claire stated that the Finance Committee had discussed this ordinance. It lists revenues as well as appropriations amendments. The revenues are not required but are included for completeness. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Cook. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0.

Ordinance **07-1513** Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of an Amount not to Exceed \$900,000 of Community Improvement General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the City of Mt. Healthy, County of Hamilton, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency. Ms. Claire said that since interest rates have dropped, refinancing the city's pool debt is attractive. Mr. Kocher added that interest rates are a moving target and the call date for this opportunity (through the Ohio Capital Financing Program) is in November. If rates go up enough that the city will not save at least \$22,000 to \$25,000, we will not move forward with this—although we could still do so in the future. The loan term will remain the same; only the interest rate will change. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. A motion to adopt this ordinance was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0.

Ordinance **07-1514** An Ordinance Adopting the Ohio Fire Code. This ordinance received its first reading. Mr. Kocher said that this ordinance was requested by the Fire Department. The Code is not attached to the ordinance because it is several inches thick, but a copy is available for review in the clerk's office. This is the 2005 version. Mt. Healthy does not anticipate making any modifications to this code; we will rely on the experts. Mr. Steve Wolf added that this is an international document that has been modified by the state of Ohio. It is updated every three years, but state review takes an additional couple of years. Many other Ohio communities have adopted it already. Mr. Cook and Mr. Lombardo asked about the effect on Mt. Healthy residents of adopting this code. Mr. Wolf and Mr. Kocher replied that it will mostly affect businesses or people building new properties or additions, since existing houses will be "grandfathered." It could affect landlords if and when Mt. Healthy adopts procedures regulating rental properties. This code will not require specific ordinances to implement it. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote defeated the motion, 3-4, as follows: Cook: No; Lombardo: No; Lingo: Yes; DeBruler: No; Roetting: Yes; Wolf: Yes; Moody: Yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution **07-964** A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor and Declaring an Emergency. Ms. Claire said that this is an annual form and it needs to be passed tonight because it is due to the county. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Kocher reminded everyone of the upcoming World Planning Day. There is a website for it now, and plans are coming together.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Sylvia L. Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council