

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 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. Wolf and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MINUTES:

Mrs. Moody pointed out that the Parks Committee scheduled a meeting for October 16, not Safety. A motion to approve the minutes of the September 18 Council meeting as corrected was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. Cook. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Steve Wolf administered the oath of office to Mr. Meier, who will finish Mr. Rouse's term as Mayor. Mr. Meier commented on some of the changes he has seen since 1970 and said that although fiscal responsibility is always on the platform for both parties, the city's finances are in the best shape they've been in for 37 years, thanks to Mr. Kocher, Ms. Claire, Ms. Schaefer, and their teams. He thanked Mr. Rouse for his three years and nine months as Mayor. Mr. Meier said that his two primary concerns are apathy and lack of Mt. Healthy pride among citizens. He personally endorses the sales tax levy and reminded voters that absentee voting is available.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher attended a meeting Friday about Hamilton County's comprehensive safety plan and passed along some facts from this meeting. Currently the county pays 40% of the cost of maintaining 911 service and cities and townships pay 60%. Mt. Healthy pays about \$14 per dispatch, about \$90,000 per year. This plan would reverse those percentages to 70% paid by the county, resulting in a \$45,000/year savings for Mt. Healthy.

Mt. Healthy received a letter from the Metropolitan Sewer District about St. Clair. There have been lots of problems resulting from their replacement of sanitary sewers and lots of discussion with them about this. In this letter, they say they are sending a check for \$52,000 for grinding and overlay of St. Clair and request a release from claims for any further cracking. Mrs. Moody commented that some grass was very badly chewed up by this work and that she hopes it can be fixed as well. The first step is for the engineer to set up specifications for the work, and we will include some reseeding in that. Sod is too expensive.

Mr. Kocher asked the police department to pull records from the last year of two of activity on Martin Street and found three or four occasions when officers spend time watching Martin Street but did not find anyone exceeding 40 mph. There have been lots of issues but no accidents. Mr. Kocher will give these records to the Safety Committee and ask them to follow up with Mr. Wilhelm. Mr. Kocher would recommend a traffic study before putting in a four-way stop sign.

There has been a good response to World Planning Day; some members of the Business Association will participate.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

A proposed records request policy was included in the packets. This is one of the actions Mt. Healthy will need to take in response to the new rules. Next meeting, Council will need to pass a resolution about the tax levy, since it is due to the county October 24. There will be three other documents, one to refinance the pool debt, one to move funds from the general funds to specific funds as budgeted, and one housekeeping ordinance.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

CITIZENS:

Robert Haley asked about the speed limit, which is lower in Mt. Healthy than in surrounding communities. This causes gridlock and could be construed as a speed trap. Mr. Steve Wolf explained that Ohio law requires that the speed limit in business districts within incorporated areas be set at 25 mph. He added that the Mt. Healthy police address this disparity, in part, by rarely ticketing anyone unless they exceed 35 mph. Mr. Kocher added that Mt. Healthy's revenues from all tickets are only about \$100,000 per year.

Karen Arnett thanked the city for making the comprehensive plan available on the web site and expressed her concern about the section on safety on pages 20-21. She read a few selections and commented that this discussion represents clear discrimination, if not outright racism, and she feels that it has no place in a comprehensive plan. Ms. Arnett wants to live in a neighborhood that provides fair treatment to all residents and celebrates all residents, and provides services, opportunities, and resources to all residents without regard to our skin color. There may be fears involving racism that Mt. Healthy needs to address, but street lighting won't accomplish that. The plan doesn't even acknowledge that racism could be addressed in other creative ways. Mr. James Wolf commented that the views expressed in that section of the plan represent the views of some Mt. Healthy residents, although he disagrees with them. Mrs. Moody said she would like to see the plan broken down, with different pieces handled in committees, and added that the city needs to handle this in ways that will be productive for the city. Mr. Steve Wolf added that the inclusion of this discussion was hotly debated among the steering committee. They asked for public input and wanted to be careful about filtering out the information they received.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution **07-961** Resolution Adopting the Proposed 2007 Land Use Map and Comprehensive Plan. This resolution received its first reading. Mr. Kocher reiterated that this plan is a guide.

Resolution **07-962** Resolution Authorizing the City of Mt. Healthy to Contract for Public Health Services. Mr. Kocher said that Mt. Healthy arranges to contract with the county for certain public health services which would be difficult for us to provide cost-effectively. This arrangement is renewed annually. 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, 6-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mrs. Lingo absent.

Resolution **07-963** A Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the City of Mt. Healthy Records Request Policy Ms. Claire said that this is based on a template from the Ohio Attorney General, with minor modifications. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. DeBruler. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mrs. Lingo absent.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. James Wolf reminded everyone that Homecoming is next weekend, Friday the 12th. The parade will start at the Board of Education and the game will be against Ross. There will be a community bonfire on Thursday from 6-9 P.M.

Mr. Steve Wolf mentioned that the city will have some tickets available to the Suzanne Farrell tribute on October 28 at Music Hall at 4 P.M.

A motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. Lombardo. A roll call vote carried the motion, 6-0, with Mrs. Lingo absent, and Council went into executive session at 7:47 P.M.

Council returned to regular session at 8:38 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Sylvia L. Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council