

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 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. Cook and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Cook, Mrs. Lingo, Mr. DeBruler, Mr. Roetting, Mr. Wolf, and Mrs. Moody. A motion to excuse Mr. Lombardo was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. 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 approve the minutes of the September 4 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

GUESTS / SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Lee Ward of McGill Smith Punshon discussed the final Comprehensive Plan, which was included in the Council packets and is available on the city's web site. He asked Mt. Healthy to recognize the steering committee for their hard work and commitment to the process. He asked Council to adopt this plan as a gesture of commitment, to prioritize these items and implement them and to follow the scorecard. He noted that the Ohio Planning Association's World Planning Day meeting, on November 8, will focus on Mt. Healthy this year. During this conference, groups will select four or five topics to study and will develop more detailed recommendations in those areas.

Mr. Kocher added that MSP is also developing a new zoning regulation for Mt. Healthy; this will be discussed in a council committee and then presented to Council for adoption. Mr. Steve Wolf asked whether most communities adopt Comprehensive Plans by motion or by resolution; Mr. Ward said that most use resolutions.

COMMITTEES:

The Parks Committee scheduled a meeting for October 16 at 6:15 P.M.
The Finance Committee will meet on October 2.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Emergency Management Agency has requested some changes to the resolution from them that Mt. Healthy has already adopted; the changes are minor and will be identified in the next Council packet.

Mr. Kocher will meet again tomorrow with the group working on Audible Traffic Signals. They are narrowing down the plans and will likely go with “talking” signals, similar to those in North College Hill, at Hamilton and maybe Adams.

The city adopted a new policy manual in June 2005 and has been using Memoranda of Understanding to update the manual since. Mr. Kocher developed such a memorandum recently to address city-owned vehicles that the police and fire chiefs take home overnight. These memoranda will be incorporated into the manual when it is next updated.

Mr. Kocher met with the Auditor and department heads recently to begin work on the 2008 budget. He will have year to date numbers through mid September for discussion at the Finance Committee meeting.

The September 15 celebration went very well, despite chilly weather. Mr. Kocher will meet with a core group on Thursday to review the event and begin planning for next year.

The Mt. Healthy school system plans to buy part of the Standard Publishing property and build the new high school and junior high there instead of on the current site. This has several benefits for the district, but would move Mt. Healthy’s largest individual taxpayer out of the city. They have not closed on the property yet. Mr. Kocher is following the issue closely and will update Council as information is available. The three options open to the city are 1) Do nothing and lose approximately \$100,000 in tax revenue 2) Develop a Joint Economic District with the township and share revenue 3) Annex the site.

LAW DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf attended a public records meeting yesterday. Elected officials or their designees will be required to attend a seminar about the new law and Mr. Wolf is investigating who might be considered an appropriate designee.

AUDITOR’S REPORT:

The August month end report is in the packets. The outside auditor says we shouldn’t wait until the end of the year to pass a single housekeeping ordinance, so Council will see that ordinance shortly. The Records Commission reviewed progress that has been made since last year (when the city destroyed some old records per Ohio procedures) and are organizing the offsite storage, so it is in good shape now. The Deputy Auditor is attending training about the new requirements. There may be more changes to come. Mr. Steve Wolf commented that these are complex issues and that Jill and Melanie are doing a great job.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The August bank reconciliation is in the packets. Ms. Schaefer stated that she balances with the Auditor’s office and with the bank for the month of August.

ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS: None.

CITIZENS:

Gary Wilhelm addressed Council about the Martin Street traffic survey that he requested a month ago and asked how many citations have been issued. Speeding on Martin Street has been an ongoing problem since at least the end of June. He called twice on Sunday night and the police never responded. He has talked with Chief Schaefer previously about the problem. Mr. Kocher had agreed to try to borrow the North College Hill traffic speed monitoring sign but has not yet succeeded in doing so. He will find out how many citations have been issued and asked Mr. Welhelm to call in a couple of days for an update.

Mr. Wilhelm also asked about a report that a pool lifeguard had been threatened. Mr. Kocher said that the young man in question was asked to go home because he was diving into the pool. Mr. Kocher talked with the prosecutor and there is a stay away order in place. Mr. Kocher did not know whether charges have been filed or whether the young man in question threatened a lifeguard.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Rouse announced that this will be his last Council meeting as Mayor. He will resign at the end of the month due to health problems. He thanked everyone for their support. Mr. Meier will act as Mayor for the next three months.

There will not be a pumpkin patch in the park this year. Mr. Roetting also mentioned an Enquirer article about Lou Blessing assisting the Colerain Township Civic Association in obtaining \$900,000 in state money for the township. He expressed concern that Mr. Blessing is not working to obtain state monies for communities he represents (which include Mt. Healthy) in a fair and equitable fashion. Mrs. Moody pointed out that Mt. Healthy is a much smaller community than Colerain Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wolf and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Sylvia L. Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council