

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.**

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, 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, Police Chief Al Schaefer, Treasurer Deb Schaefer, and Law Director Steve Wolf.

Chief Schaefer introduced Alan Coleman, Mt. Healthy's newest police officer, and Mayor Rouse swore him in. Mr. Coleman graduated from the police academy at Scarlet Oaks in August and has already been riding with some of the Mt. Healthy officers. Mr. Coleman introduced his parents, Brian and Jean Coleman, and Chrissy Ferrick, his girlfriend.

Mayor Rouse left after the swearing-in.

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the September 6 Council meeting as printed was made by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Lawson mentioned a letter from Mt. Healthy High School inviting Council to participate in the Homecoming parade. This will take place on September 23. People should plan to meet in front of the Board office at 6:15. The parade will start at 6:45 and be followed by the game at 7:30. Brian McFee, the assistant principal, also invited Council members to contact him if they would like to visit the school.

President Lawson also received a letter from Arlington Memorial Gardens thanking Council for their participation in the American Heroes Day parade and asking for feedback on the event.

CITIZENS/GUESTS/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Dan Glynn of Rugg St. addressed Council about the **plantings along the ramps to Cross County Highway**. Mr. Glynn has organized the Adopt-A-Highway group that takes care of that area since 1998. They clean it up 4-5 times a year, cut the grass, and plant some trees and flowers. There is very little topsoil there, which makes it difficult to keep plantings alive. If the trees that need to be removed from Elizabeth Street will be chipped up, Mr. Glynn would appreciate it if the mulch could be dumped along these ramps. He will be happy to spread it. Mr. Kocher asked Mr. Glynn to call him and said that those trees may not be removed until next spring but perhaps they can arrange something else sooner. President Lawson added that Mr. Glynn puts up the Welcome to Mt. Healthy wreath every year and thanked him.

Steve Harness of the **Mt. Healthy School Board** addressed Council to say that there will be a bonfire tomorrow night behind the high school, with the \$1 admission fee going to help hurricane victims.

Mr. Harness said that the Board surveyed people about the outsourced custodial services and of 173 people who responded, 88% said that the service was the same or better. The Board feels pretty good about this since the outsourcing has provided a significant cost savings.

October 3 at 6 PM will be the groundbreaking ceremony for the new team rooms/concession stands/restrooms facility. There is a raffle for a chance to rename this area (currently called Death Valley); \$1 a chance. Mr. Harness said that an important contributor to Mt. Healthy's improved academic rating this year has been Lynn Jones, who has been very involved in reading intervention over the last several years. She gave a presentation to the Board last night, and would be happy to come talk to Council as well if there is interest.

Mr. McFee has formed a committee to redo the courtyard and is doing a great job. They have received a \$15,000 grant from Lowe's and a \$2500 grant from Cinergy. An architect, husband of one of the teachers, is finalizing plans for the renovation, and they hope to start construction this autumn.

Mr. Roetting asked about the basis of the academic rating system. It is a complex formula, based on raw state test scores, average yearly progress, and another factor that Mr. Harness could not immediately recall. It is not based strictly on the lowest-scoring school, although that is factored into it. Data on individual schools will be available within the next month or two at a board meeting, and Mr. Harness would be happy to let people know when if they are interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations: Mr. DeBruler said that he learned at the Board meeting that Mt. Healthy is fourth on a list of school districts to receive state money to renovate or replace school buildings. Mr. Harness added that the Ohio Buildings and Facilities Commission evaluates schools periodically and will pay 70% of the cost to refurbish or rebuild schools under this program. However, we would need to pass a bond levy for the other 30% before they will commit their funds. Mt Healthy hired an architectural firm to compare the cost of renovation or rebuilding and is proposing to rebuild all but two of the existing buildings. Duvall School is one of the newer buildings in the district, and it was built in the early 1960's. The usual life of a school building is 30 years, so we're doing well. There will be three school board seats up for election in November and there are six candidates for these seats.

Safety: The last meeting was cancelled because the chief could not attend. The Safety Committee scheduled a meeting for October 4 at 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Kocher received a letter today from Mr. Brayshaw, the county engineer, asking Mt. Healthy to endorse state issue 1, which is a renewal of the SCIP program. If Council decides to endorse it at the next meeting, this will still be soon enough. Mr. Kocher and Ms. Claire have begun meeting with department heads and preparing for next year's budget.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Wolf said that there are two processes for vacating an alley. If it is done in response to a homeowner petition, there are requirements such as advertising it for six weeks. If the city

decides to do it on their own, the procedure is faster and less expensive. We would draw up an ordinance; usually Council asks the property owner requesting the vacation to provide a survey to be used to draw up a plat, then the ordinance would be taken to the courthouse and recorded. Mr. Kocher will ask the homeowner to get a copy of the survey to Mr. Wolf, and will draw up an ordinance vacating the alley for Council to consider. He will also email the location of this alley to Council members so they can go and look at it. Mrs. Lingo said that we should be sure that Hamilton County approves the plat.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

The August month end report is in the packets. There was some revenue from the county from property and inheritance taxes that was received in September so it doesn't turn up in the August report. Ms. Claire passed out some draft expanded language about the asset threshold. We will need to remove the sanitary sewers and water lines from this, since the city doesn't own those, but according to Mr. Wolf, Council can adopt this by motion; no ordinance or resolution is required.

Ms. Claire added that not everyone has turned in the signed packets relating to the new policies and procedures manual, and that they need to do so.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Schaefer stated that she balanced with the Auditor and the bank for the month of August with a few adjustments. The tax report is in the packets, and the Tax Department continues to work on non-filers.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. **05-1468** An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Mt. Healthy, and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Kocher said that this ordinance catches us up on a couple years of codification. This includes the property maintenance ordinance, which should reduce confusion. Please let Susan know if you do not need your paper copy of the ordinances. They are available on line. A motion to suspend the Three Reading Rule was made by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Miss Reusch. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

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

Sylvia Lawson, President of Council

Margaret Roulier, Clerk of Council