

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2020

The council meeting was called to order by President of Council Ross Bittner at 7:00pm. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was live streamed on ICRC.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mrs. Lingo, Mrs. Moody, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Petersen, Mr. Roetting, Mrs. Dosa, Mr. George

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Bill Kocher, Finance Director Scott Bauer

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes with changes noted for the October 6, 2020 meeting was made by ~~Mr.~~ Roetting and seconded by Ms. Petersen. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter Received from Karen Arnett:

Oct 20, 2020

Dear Mt. Healthy City Councilmembers,

I'm submitting this letter for the public input portion of tonight's meeting. I ask that you read this letter into the record, to ensure that all council members actually hear and consider my concerns.

I have lived at 7373 Hickman Street since 2003. Years ago, I wrote to then pastor Todd at Trinity Lutheran on Kinney expressing my concern about bright parking lot lights that shone directly into my backyard. They illuminated (and still do) to the point that I can read at night by their light, in my yard. Same for the second-floor window of my house - if I don't use curtains the light shines in brightly enough that I can read by it. These lights are on at night 365 days/year.

No response came from the church when I wrote years ago. I am aware that our zoning code requires commercially zoned uses adjacent to residential to take measures to keep their outdoor lighting from being a nuisance to adjacent residential properties. Yet there is no similar specification for churches.

In May of 2020 I raised this concern with pastor Jodi Keith of Trinity Lutheran, as the lights are even brighter after recent repair work. The pastor expressed a willingness to explore options for modifying the lighting so it wouldn't shine directly into my property. Yet, here it is October, six months later, and nothing has changed.

The definition of nuisance, in legal language, entails that which deprives a property owner of their enjoyment of their property. This lighting is definitely a nuisance, as the extremely bright lights glare in my eyes as soon as I walk out my back door. When leaves fall from the trees, my entire backyard will be illuminated. I typically like to spend time outdoors, and the bright lighting has been a factor for too long. It is not in keeping with residential zoning to have such extreme lighting. I have looked at all the other churches in Mt. Healthy and none has similar extreme bright lights for their parking lots. Usually zoning code requires that it be pointed downward to minimize impact on surrounding properties, and mysteriously our zoning code only requires that for commercial uses and not for churches. I ask for your help or guidance in finding some solution that is appropriate to a residential area, so I am able to enjoy the full use of my property, even at night.

Mrs. Moody sent a copy of this letter to the pastor of the church. The Church is aware of the situation and is taking action on this. Mr. Kocher will also make a call to the church as a follow up.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Business Partnership/Alliance: Judy Petersen:

Attended a "Zoom" Business Association meeting.

- There will not be a Christmas in Mt. Healthy this year because of COVID19. Paul Young is looking into doing something during the holiday season.
- Mt. Healthy Alliance served 331 families in September

Finance – Bob Parsons

- Reviewed financial statements and everything is looking very good.
- Expenses staying down due to reduced spending during the pandemic. Budget prep work is under way with department heads.
- Calling a Finance Meeting 6:15pm, November 17th. Before the 2nd council meeting in November.

Schools – Cordel George

- Students will return to in-person school Monday, October 26th if the parents choose to send them back.
- Working on a name for the new Early Learning Center. May be named after Carol Ellis & Don Wolf for their long history with Mt. Healthy schools

Urban Tree – Denise Lingo

- Zoom meeting with Karen Arnett and Wendy VanBuren. Trying to come up with standards to protect the soil during road constructions. The City specs the topsoil that contractors put down, so the sand mix shouldn't be used.
- 3 residents have requested planting of trees. Karen will follow up with them.

MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf

Native Moon Apothecary is celebrating 2 years in Mt. Healthy. They are in the works of expanding their shop on Compton Road. Congratulations to them!!

There are only 28% of students returning to in class learning. Not many parents opted to send their kids back to classrooms right now. It was parents' choice if they wanted to send them back to school on Monday, October 26th. Only 210 High School students will be in the building.

Trick or Treat will be Saturday, October 31st from 6p-8p unless we receive word from the State.

The last Farmer's Market will be Sunday, November 1st at Fibonacci Brewing.

Trinity Lutheran Church and Assumption Church will be the two Mt. Healthy polling locations on November 3rd.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: *Bill Kocher*

Our Law Director has decided to follow the lead taken by other Mayor's Courts, other courts (ie. Fairfax, Reading, Moraine, Hamilton County and Montgomery County) implementing an amnesty program for a period of three months. This program will allow people (who have already been convicted) and whose fees are more than 60 days past due to be able to pay half of what is owed by them and have the other half waived and/or remitted by Magistrate Goodyear. This program will begin November 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Working with department heads to go over budget for 2021. Process is going well. Will be able to pass before year end.

Negotiating process for the 3 police contracts have started with the FOP. Council will approve when completed. Will try to get completed by the end of the year.

Resident on Bernard started a Petition to have City of Mt. Healthy reduce speeders on Bernard Avenue.

Petition Summary: Vehicles are traveling at more than double the speed limit on Bernard Avenue. For the safety and well being of all the neighbors and the children who play on this street, many neighbors have come together to make a difference and voiced concerns to the police and admin. Requesting City's help.

*Council requested Mr. Kocher to get pricing options on different types of traffic study to be done on Bernard.

FINANCE DIRECTOR: *Scott Bauer*

September reports are in packets.

There was legislation to set a new fund up to track COVID19 money received and expenses.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 20-1150: A second reading of resolution authorizing the City Manager of The City of Mt. Healthy to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) and to execute contracts as required. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. Parsons. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. Ordinance was adopted.

Resolution 20-1152: A first reading of resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute contracts with the director of transportation which are necessary to develop plans for and to complete the above-described project; and to execute contracts with ODOT pre-qualified consultants for the preliminary engineering phase of the project. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. Resolution was adopted.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 20-1922: A first reading of an ordinance amending the 2020 appropriations and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. Ordinance was adopted.

Ordinance 20-1923: A first reading of an ordinance to set compensation for certain full-time employees of The City of Mt. Healthy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council's final Round 33 OPWC Street Priorities:

Priority #1. Hamilton Avenue

Hamilton Avenue, corp to corp

Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$1,136,790 (construction only)

Scope: Mill/Overlay, curb ramp replacement, pavement markings, utility casting adjustments

Funding: Funding amounts are estimated based upon ODOT's preliminary estimate for the Urban Paving Program, and historical costs for what is typically eligible to be paid by ODOT

	ODOT construction funding	\$568,395
*Additional way to get funds	LTIP construction grant	\$568,395
*Already awarded	MRF grant for engineering	\$95,000
	City cost for ODOT inspection	\$17,052

Priority #2. Madison & Forest

Madison Avenue, from Park to Forest

Forest Ave, 200 feet south of Stevens to south terminus

Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$1,331,100 (construction & engineering services)

Scope: Full reconstruction, with drive apron and curb replacement

Funding: 30%

Priority #3. Compton Road

Compton Road, from Hamilton to the west corp line

Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$1,163,000 (construction & engineering services)

Scope: Pavement rehabilitation, with drive apron and curb replacement

Funding: 30%

NEW BUSINESS:

New Dog Warden Service

As of August 1, 2020, Dog Warden services in Hamilton County are being operated by Cincinnati Animal CARE Humane Society. SPCA Cincinnati had provided these services for over 50 years, but they are moving forward as a private rescue exclusively at their facility in Sharonville. The county shelter in Northside at 3949 Colerain Ave. is being operated by Cincinnati CARE.

Stray dogs, abandoned animals, and suspected cruelty cases should be reported to the dog wardens at 513-541-PETS (7387). Chief Troy Taylor's team will be available 24/7 for dog warden services. Shelter hours remain the same for the public, Monday - Sunday, 12 pm - 6 pm. They can be found online at cincinnatianimalcare.org.

This change will cause some initial confusion within the community, so they are asking law enforcement and community resources to help them spread the word that the SPCA is now a private animal rescue and Animal CARE Humane Society is the official county shelter.


At the next meeting need to discuss Community Development Block Grant. Focus on the alleyways. Any input would be great.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. George. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



President of Council Ross Bittner



Melanie Branditz, Clerk of Council