

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 4, 2021

Public Hearing 7:00-7:10

Discuss and present the 2022 Tax Budget.

- This is in Hamilton County format.
- This is mandatory for Hamilton County
- Due to County by July 15th

There was no public input.

The council meeting was called to order by President of Council Ross Bittner. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was live streamed on ICRC and open to public for attendance.

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes with corrections noted for the April 20, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS:

Mr. Kocher updates on the mobile home parks. The City's Law Director, Scott Sollmann is still in communication with Hazlehurst's attorney. Starting to look like it will not go before the BZA. Scott will come in and update council in the next month or two.

PUBLIC INPUT

Anne Ketzer, Long time resident of north Elizabeth Street. Since speaking at the last council meeting, she has now spoke to all the residents on Elizabeth as well as trustees, renters, property managers. The residents of N. Elizabeth present the following:

1. Though very pleased with a plan to make long-awaited repairs to our street, we only very recently became aware of a plan to add sidewalks to both sides of the street where none have ever existed.
2. The north end of Elizabeth Street has long been occupied by families, many raising their children here without sidewalks and with a life history of very little car or foot traffic beyond that which was incurred by residents of the street.
3. The growth and development of Tikkun Farm has attracted car, truck and foot traffic on certain days and times, but that traffic is from Adams Rd. to the farm driveway for the most part. Tikkun Farm owners have been respectful of the residents of this section of the street by controlling traffic flow well. There is very little car or foot traffic north of the farm driveway.
4. Residents of this dead-end street were originally attracted to this neighborhood and have stayed here because it offers a certain degree of privacy and peace. It is a unique section of Mt. Healthy that should be treasured and preserved to the extent possible
5. Occasionally people walk down the middle or sides of this street and they, too, seem to enjoy the quiet and friendly "country lane" atmosphere of our neighborhood
6. There has not recently, nor has there ever been a desire expressed by the residents to have sidewalks placed. Residents do not see a need and are worried that sidewalks will invite more people and traffic to a neighborhood that has enjoyed privacy and peace since its inception.
7. The residents of this end of Elizabeth Street appreciate greatly the time spent by Mayor Wolf, City Manager Bill Kocher, and City Engineer John Goedde on April 26, 2021 listening and explaining to us in person the plans for our street. Members of Council who may not be familiar with this street are invited and encouraged to visit so that there may be increased understanding of the issues connected to the street improvement plan on which you will be voting.
8. Widening of our street for safety reasons is understood and appreciated, even knowing how it will change the appearance of our front yards, result in the loss of some trees, and require moving of plantings and a fence in some cases.
9. The full impact of the street widening project on the many large trees in this neighborhood may not be fully realized for several years as root systems are damaged. Adding excavation for sidewalks will only increase this impact both immediately and in the longer term, and removal of dying trees at a later time will be, unfortunately, at the expense of the residents.

10. As a result of the April 26th discussion with gathered residents and the aforementioned city officials, we, the residents of North Elizabeth Street respectfully request that the members of City Council re-visit their mandate to the City Manager and City Engineer to have sidewalks installed on both sides of our street as a part of the road improvement project. We very much appreciate your attention to this matter and, in order to bring some clarity to what exactly we are asking, the following is offered for your consideration:

- 14 of the 17 property owners on N. Elizabeth have signed the proposal stating they are adamantly opposed to sidewalks being placed on North Elizabeth. Property owners on the private lane at end of street and two corner houses are included.
- None of the residents of the private lane on the north end want sidewalks leading to and from their private lane

North Elizabeth residents are pleading if you must put a sidewalk in on North Elizabeth, please consider only one side of the street

Jay Schmetzer: Would like to bring up the speeding on Joseph between Hill and Adams. There have been families moving in with young kids and something needs to be done about the speed.

Mr. Kocher will speak to Chief Demasi, bringing it to our attention is good

Mary Laymon: Resident of North Elizabeth, part of Mt. Healthy's WeThrive group, believes sidewalks are important to have to be a walkable city, one sidewalk would be enough on the street, biggest concern in this entire project are the trees, there are a lot of mature trees on the street. Would ask the city take consideration that you can make a street walkable without a sidewalk by putting in extra shoulder room, which could decrease the amount of frontage taken

Karen Arnett: Tree Commissioner for Mt. Healthy, trees add about 7-10% value to your property, Elizabeth Street has a large population of old Oak trees could add up to \$20,000 to the property value. ^{each} In the City of Cincinnati an Urban Forestry person is included in large road ^{this} construction projects planning process, Mt. Healthy ^{should} look at consulting an arborist for these types of projects

Brandon Grisben concerned regarding speed at the Stevens & Park intersection, would like to see this a 4 way stop, there has been hit and runs, pets hit, yards cut through, between Maple & Forest is where the speeding picks up

To have this to become a 4 way stop there would need to be legislation passed through council and a traffic study would need to be completed

The Street & Safety committee will look into this

Courtney Calvin: New resident, closed on her house just 30 days ago. Streets in the City are in horrible condition. Hope to see improvements in the future. Repair the streets in Mt. Healthy

MAYOR'S REPORT: *James Wolf*

Would like to encourage council members to visit North Elizabeth, Mayor would be willing to walk the street with you and show you where the changes will be made

Mrs. Moody would like to walk the Elizabeth Street and as council members need to be open minded and knowledgeable of the project, she asked Mayor Wolf to send out a city email to council members letting us know times to meet for a street walk, important to make it public record

The City will recognize Little Dutch Bakery's 100th Anniversary at our July 3rd event

Like to introduce a guest, Emily Jellison with Scout Troop 1027, which is a girl's troop at Assumption, she is working to be the first female Eagle Scout, she is already a Life Scout, which is the rank below, she needs 6 more merit badges, she is working on her communication badge that is why she is here, her eagle project is going to be at Tikkun Farms building a 20x14 pergola for the afterschool program

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: *Bill Kocher*

Anytime we approach a street project we try to make it as wide as possible, improve storm sewer water runoff, curbs & gutters, sidewalks, work with waterworks when water lines need to be worked on. This is the policy we have been following and this is how we are moving forward. There is legislation tonight to go out to bid, by the City moving forward on this project does not mean there will not be changes. We want to go forward with everything as planned but can take away as we go.

- There are 2 mature Oak trees on the Hartman property that are scheduled to be removed and the owners want them removed that has already been indicated
- There are 10 flowering trees on Tikkun Farm property, and we are looking at possibility of moving the trees.

Cincinnati Pool Management bought life jackets for the pool this year, this is something we have not had before. COVID-19 regulations will be followed. They will be keeping the swim lessons the same as previous years

Fire Department was able to have a 7th full time candidate take the agility test and will be having an interview on Monday, May 10th.

July 3rd update, the fireworks show will go on. The fireworks may be a little different than previous years.

Wi-Fi program: some of the COVID dollars are providing additional funds for free hotspots in the business district, and large apartment complexes. The City will partner with the schools to get additional funding for hot spot locations, there is a monthly cost and for the first 3 years the school has agreed to cover this, the free Wi-Fi in every home will be the longer goal, this is the start of this program. This is with Cincinnati Bell

June council will be back to pre-COVID formation

Update on COVID funds; at this time, we have received nothing. Not sure what will be decided on how much the City may get, going to hold off on discussing the uses for the funds.

Planning Commission met tonight and approved the new Zoning Code document with the changes made by the committee. There will be legislation coming to council at the next council meeting to approve.

- Hold a public hearing at the June 15th council meeting and have 1st reading of legislation to approve the zoning code changes as presented, those changes are on the website to review
- July 20th meeting will have the 2nd reading

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 21-1161: A first reading of resolution adopting a tax budget for 2022

Resolution 21-1162: A first reading of resolution opposing the renewal of the Ohio Department of Liquor control license for the business located at 7701 Hamilton Avenue DBA Vince's Other Place, first floor, basement, and patio owned by 7701 Hamilton Avenue LLC, and declaring an emergency

Resolution 21-1163: A first reading of resolution opposing the renewal of the Ohio Department of Liquor control license for the business located at 8134 Hamilton Avenue and patio DBA Reminisce Sports Cafe and declaring an emergency

Resolution 21-1164: A first reading of resolution opposing the renewal of the Ohio Department of Liquor control license for the business located at 1357 Compton Road DBA Take a Shot Bar and declaring an emergency

Council member, Cordel George asked that Chief Demasi attend the next council meeting to discuss opposing the renewal of the Ohio Department of Liquor licenses process of these 3 liquor establishments in Mt. Healthy.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 21-1948: A first reading of ordinance establishing a certain rate of pay for the position of part time police cadet and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. Parsons. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. George and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. Ordinance was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1949: A first reading of ordinance to advertise for bids and to approve the lowest and best bidder for the Adams/Hickman/Elizabeth Street improvement project and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. Ordinance was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1950: A first reading of ordinance establishing rules, regulations, and permitting process for the construction and maintenance of residential swimming pools within the City of Mt. Healthy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Moody would like to discuss the parking in the business district that has been discussed last time. Right now, there is no regulations for parking in the business district. The issue seems to be during business hours Monday-Saturday. Would like to have legislation drafted for the next council meeting. It would be nice if the Mayor and Business Association draft a letter to business owners, put up parking signs so everybody knows where public lots are

- Establish a regulation within the core business district so that people know there is a limit to how long they can park in the same spot. This is for the better of everybody. Need to look for the future and what needs may be down the road
- Residents of the business district on Hamilton Avenue can park behind the buildings, but some refuse to do this and will park in the spots all day long
- This needs to be an educational issue and hopefully business owners will understand
- We can't not do it because we do not know how to enforce this. There are no regulations right now. We as a City thinks this is important to these businesses

We need to put the regulations in place and see what happens

We need to be specific to maximize parking for customers of the businesses in the Core Business District on exactly what we are going to do

- 1 hour parking limit on both sides of Hamilton Avenue 7a-5p, Monday-Saturday from Stevens to McMackin,
- 1 hour parking limit on both sides of Compton (East & West) 7a-5p, Monday-Saturday from Hamilton to Alleyways

Legislation for this change will be at our next council meeting

Mrs. Scheets asked Mr. Kocher to verify that letters went to residents on West Compton regarding the installation of sidewalks

The tattoo shop on Compton is compliant on the Mt. Healthy's end

NEW BUSINESS:

Ross Bittner "Thanks" Fire Department for saving his life 21 years ago today


Stevens and Park stop sign will be on the May 18th agenda for the Streets Committee meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mrs. Moody. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.



President of Council Ross Bittner



Melanie Branditz, Clerk of Council