

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 15, 2021

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

Public Hearing to discuss the recommendation of the Planning Commission to Council regarding amending and updating Mt. Healthy's zoning regulations.

John Yung from Urban Fast Forward is here tonight. This has been a 2-year process. A presentation is in the packets and the 135-page document of the actual zoning code has been accessible on the City's website. Looked at conditional uses. Worked with a zoning committee. Met monthly and went through the entire document.

The new document is color coded and is more user friendly. There are more graphics. Took the existing codes and made them easier to understand and to navigate through. Did some streamlining. The zoning map does not change. Added new uses. Put in regulations for Airbnb, group homes, 5G cell towers. The zoning code now gives the Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, and City Council more guidance on how to make findings that will help ensure consistency across the board.

The document will be re-posted online with the changes made. Anybody can get a copy of this document. There will be a first reading tonight of Ordinance 21-1165

Public Hearing 7:00p – 7:40p

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent and Excused: Mr. George

A motion to excuse the absent members was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion. Members excused.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Bill Kocher

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes with corrections noted for the May 18, 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:

Chief Vince Demasi, swearing in of new Full Time Patrol Officers

Corey Seay – hired in October 2020

James Korzan – hired in January 2021

Welcome to The City of Mt. Healthy!

PUBLIC INPUT

Anne Ketzer, Long time resident of north Elizabeth Street. Since speaking at the last council meeting, she has now spoken to all the residents on Elizabeth as well as trustees, renters, property managers. The residents of N. Elizabeth present the following Proposal 2:

If the mandate of council to install sidewalks remains, we ask that council members give serious consideration to placing a sidewalk on one side of the street only due to very minimal foot traffic. We understand:

- 1) parking will continue to be allowed on the west side of the street only due to the east side fire lane.
- 2) a sidewalk on the east side only (where there are more homes and residents) would minimize loss of trees

She thanks council members for taking the time to consider the residents concerns.

Dan Staub N. Elizabeth Street project. Supports Anne for all the work she has done. The only concern with having sidewalks is it may invite school kids to use the cut through into the other neighborhood. That was a problem a few years ago.

Kim Cremeans just a counter point to the N. Elizabeth project. Kim lives at the dead end of Perry and 35 years ago there were sidewalks but no curbs. The city came in and put curbs in and at that time residents had to pay for the curbs. It has been frustrating to hear the complaints about getting sidewalks when they are being given to them. Change is continuous and if there is somebody who does not want the sidewalks now, in 5-10 years there may be somebody new who wants a sidewalk. It would be short sighted to not do the sidewalks with them being included in the project.

- Another Item: Police Chief and the liquor license objections. As president of the Business Association President, Kim is a little disheartened on how when businesses come to the city council a lot of time response is “that’s just one person complaining” or “this is a past problem and there is nothing we can really do about it.” Disappointed when contacting Chief Demasi regarding opposing the liquor license renewal. It is frustrating that we say we support our businesses. Most of the businesses felt blind sided by this. Chief’s response to Kim: if they are not aware of these issues then that is poor management. Thought we could have a committee meeting with representation from the Business Association, Street Committee, a council member, and business owners. Seeing the reaction of council seems like nobody knew of these issues happening. Would really encourage to be open with the bars. Thank you for the help with the parking.

Adam Dunlap agrees that sidewalks on Elizabeth is needed. Also, with the removal of the traffic lights at Perry and Compton has made it a dangerous intersection,. It is very difficult to

see traffic coming from the West on Compton. It is dangerous. Maybe the white line marking where to stop needs to be moved.

Whitney Vickers Perry and Compton intersection is extremely dangerous. Now avoids that intersection. The lights need to be put back at this intersection. You can not see the traffic coming from the West at all. Does not feel safe walking or driving at this intersection.

Karen Arnett Two topics.

1. Would like to announce the Tree Commission is looking to fill one more spot. Cincinnati is going to be the location of the Tree Commission Academy, freshman class. We already have one person signed up for this class. Contact Karen if you know of anybody who cares about seeing our neighborhood be more green with trees. The class is over 2 days.
2. N. Elizabeth Street project. Feels obligated as Tree Commissioner to bring up the mature Red Oak trees and they are in their prime 50-75 years old right now and can live to 150 years old. These trees can constitute up to 10% of the value of a residential home. More effort should be taken to consult with an arborist. A certified arborist goes through rigorous training. Red Oak Trees are more sensitive to their roots being damaged than White Oaks. The trees on Elizabeth are Red Oaks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Business Partnership/Alliance: Jennifer Moody.

Attended the Mt. Healthy Business Association meeting

- Discussed the liquor license objections at the bars in the city
- Parking – Businesses looking forward to having some resolution on the issue
- Mt. Healthy School District was in attendance, talked about a new website and a new app. The Early Childhood Learning opens October 1st.

Alliance:

- Alliance is still serving and distributing food
- Youth Alliance is going to have a 5-week camp
 - They were asking if there was any funding still available through the grant. They want to take the kids swimming at the pool. They could have up to 18 students per day. Could this be brought up at a WeThrive meeting to fund this activity. Jamie Wolf will talk to Shannon.

Beautification Committee: Jennifer Moody

- Plants have all been planted, not as many pots out this year, did not do the 4 corners because of construction this summer
- Still need help with watering
- Heritage Park had beer bottles and cans in the pots
- Businesses that wanted a pot will be taking care of them through the season

Parks: Denise Lingo

- First concert in the park will be Friday night, June 18th, 7:30p-9:30p
- July 3rd Fireworks, Music starts at 6:00p
- The full concert schedule is on the website

Safety/Street – Joe Roetting

- There was a meeting on May 25th. The majority of the conversation was regarding the parking schedule ordinance and changes being made. The changes are in the council packet tonight.
- Mr. Kocher needs to know what council decision is about the N. Elizabeth sidewalks
- Rack and Ballauer Excavating Company was awarded the Adams, Hickman, Elizabeth project

Library – Kisha Dosa

- Library offers Programs in the Mt. Healthy Park in June.
 - Outside Storytime: Movers and Shakers 6/7, 6/14, 6/21 at 10:30am
 - DIY at the Park: 6/10, 6/17, 6/24 at 3:30pm
 - Be sure to verify with the library if the times of these programs have changed

Urban Tree – Denise Lingo

- This is the 10-year anniversary of the Urban Tree Committee
- In July Karen Arnett will do an overview of the last 10 years
- In the future Karen will come quarterly to educate us on trees

Wethrive – Cindy Scheets

Meeting was May 25th

- Tikkun Farms talked about having fewer volunteers, but also have fewer needs. They have decreased to 3 days a week instead of 4
- Famers Market at Fibonacci did well in June. Betty has looked into bulk books. At Friends of the library, you can get a whole box of books for \$20, they select them for you.
- They have chosen a neighborhood navigator, Jodi, she has worked at Tikkun Farms in the past. She will be starting in July
- Kristin Woods was there from the Girl Scouts for Mt. Healthy and North College Hill
- Fibonacci hosted the Renaissance Project Plant Swap on June 5th.

MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf

We will be honoring Little Dutch Bakery at the July 3rd event. We will be doing this during the first band break around 6:45. This will be for their 100th Anniversary. They will be given the Key to the City and 2 resolutions from the State of Ohio.

Fibonacci is going to have the Mobile Vaccine Clinic there on Thursday 6/17 and Thursday 7/8. They will have both Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson. 5:00p-7:00p

Still considering looking into traffic cameras. Ohio Supreme court ruled you are allowed to have them, but the amount of money you make from them will be taken out of your state allocation of funds. Would not be looking to make a profit but keeping people safe. Our Law Director will be looking into this for us. It is all still tied up in litigation. It requires that the tickets go to municipal court not to mayor's court, so they would have to go downtown instead of to our own court. The city would have to front the court costs for this. This is just the start of looking into this.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Bill Kocher

Mt. Healthy was 1 of 5 jurisdictions awarded Wi-Fi Grants to bridge the digital divide. This is to install internet access points throughout the community. The City and Schools will be working on this together.

Mt. Healthy (\$150,000): City plans to install 48 access points along the business district. We will plan to cover the park district and two largest apartment complexes in which the majority of the children living there attend Mt. Healthy City Schools. This is just the start of the project. Some of the stuff was not covered in the grant. Cincinnati Bell will be doing the work. This will be a reimbursable grant.

Rack and Ballauer Excavating Company was awarded the Adams, Hickman, Elizabeth project. The bid came in at 1.9 million, which 1.4 million is roadway and \$490,000 is GCWW. The contract has been signed. GCWW is about 6 weeks out. Looking at project to be finished in Spring 2022.

Gordon has put together an updated Fee Schedule that needs to be reviewed. Can we get a committee together that can sit down with Gordon? Ad-Hoc committee volunteers, Ms. Scheets, Mr. Bittner, and Mrs. Lingo will coordinate a meeting. This is just to get it going.

Fire Department will have their 7th Full Time Firefighter start on June 29th. They will have a swearing in for all 7 members at the August council meeting.

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Scott Bauer

May month end reports are in the packets.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 21-1165: A first reading of resolution to approve the recommendation of The Planning Commission relating to the zoning ordinance for The City of Mt. Healthy zoning districts for assorted zoning code amendments, additions, modification, and deletions.

Resolution 21-1166: A first reading of resolution declaring it necessary for levying tax exceeding ten-mil limitation and requesting the County Auditor to certify matters in connection therewith and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Parsons. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. Resolution 21-1166 was adopted.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 21-1951: A second reading of ordinance amending Chapter 77, Schedule 1(traffic and parking) of the Mt. Healthy Ohio Code of Ordinances. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Ms. Scheets. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. Ordinance 21-1951 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1952: A first reading of ordinance assessing costs of the removal of high grass and weeds and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. Ordinance 21-1952 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1953: A first reading of ordinance to replace the existing collective bargaining agreement between The City of Mt. Healthy and The Mt. Healthy Part-Time Firefighters, AFSCME, Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO with an updated agreement 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 6-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Ms. Scheets. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. Ordinance 21-1953 was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Traffic study reports have not been completed

The traffic light at Werner should be out within the week

The Pavilions purchased with the COVID Grant funds was delivered last week. Our guys will install them once the summer activities slow down

Safe Routes to School work on sidewalks on Compton work started last week and looks like it will be done soon.

Decision on North Elizabeth sidewalks

Mr. Kocher says they are going to work with an arborist. 2 of the most mature Red Oaks are being requested to be removed by the property owner. He will report back to council what the arborist reports

Mrs. Moody – there needs to be at least one sidewalk. Cannot in good faith know that there are kids walking to the farm in the middle of the street. Mrs. Moody was a little put off by the WeThrive letter. All that has been discussed during the whole time with WeThrive is to have a walkable community and then to turn around and say you can have a walkable community without sidewalks.

Mr. Roetting – respect living on a dead end and wanting to maintain that privacy. Feels there should be at least one sidewalk for safety. Putting on East side.

Ms. Scheets – would like to see sidewalks on both sides, compromise is one with a 3 feet tree lawn

Council decides 1 sidewalk on the East side of Elizabeth and will minimize the tree lawn.

All in favor. Aye vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.



President of Council Ross Bittner



Melanie Branditz, Clerk of Council