

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 7, 2021

Public Hearing 7:00-7:05

Planning Commission recommendation to council regarding the conditional use request for operation of a tattoo shop at 7613 Hamilton Avenue. Makila Gentry, owner of tattoo shop.

In the future Ms. Gentry may do piercings, so it was recommended by planning commission to go ahead and approve it with the condition that she submits all necessary paperwork and lets city know if she expands into this service. Resolution 21-1174 will have a first reading tonight.
There was no public input.

The council meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President of Council Ross Bittner. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 August 17, 2021, meeting was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

A motion to adopt the minutes with corrections noted for the August 19, 2021, meeting was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Ms. Scheets. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS:

Andrea Michel; has been a resident since 2008. Thanks Mayor Wolf and Jennifer Moody for being invited to council. There is a group of Mt. Healthy residents that are dedicated to look out for the welfare of animals. They walk their own dogs and see the same dogs and believe they are suffering. In the ORC an animal can be chained up 24hours a day regardless of weather conditions. The group has observed several properties in Mt. Healthy over the last year that raises concerns regarding their dogs. There has been a tethered dog issue in Mt. Healthy for several years. Dogs have been chained up in scorching heat, rain, snow, laying in the mud. Seen dogs without food or water bowls, dogs have barked and cried all day to be let inside.

Would like to encourage citizens to be responsible pet owners. We would like to be known as Springfield Township and Greenhills that have a tethering ordinance in place. The group would like to partner with the city to improve the quality of life for pets.

Staci Grant from Peppermint Pig, resident of Anderson Township and there was a tethering ordinance passed a few years ago and it has maintained a level of care that previously did not have. This allows residents to voice their concerns and now have enforcement to go by. Was here at council 3 years ago begging Mt. Healthy to enact a tethering ordinance. There was a serious incident on Forest Avenue regarding the way a resident was keeping his dogs for years. The dogs in his yard lived horrible lives. A dog was eventually found dead in his yard. Was at the council meeting the night the proposed tethering ordinance was voted down. Is here tonight begging once again to please help. This is a unique opportunity to make change for the better. Please work with advocates to make this tethering ordinance happen.

Vicki Deisner, Executive Director of Ohio Animal Advocates and Government Affairs Representative – Ohio for the Animal Welfare Institute,

- Millions of dogs endure their entire life confined outdoors by chains affixed to collars and staked to the ground. Laws that prohibit tethering or chaining have been shown to reduce dog attacks, dog fighting, and cruelty complaints.
- Many cities in Ohio have passed anti-tethering/extreme weather ordinances. Ohio Animal Advocates can assist Mt. Healthy in drafting an ordinance that works for your individual community, including providing example Ohio ordinances.
- Ohio Animal Advocates respectfully asks the members of the Mt. Healthy City Council to implement an ordinance to restrict tethering in Mt. Healthy and delay the implementation of the ordinance for a specified time, thus giving the city time to provide notice of the requirements of this legislation to the public. Ohio Animal Advocates also recommends that the first offense be a warning to the canine owner to provide for education and encourage compliance

Mayor Wolf would like to address a couple of things

- Wants to separate the Forest Avenue incident from discussion about a tethering ordinance. Any discussion that it was dealt with is incorrect. Met many times with people regarding a tethering ordinance. Had met with SPCA because he was not happy how they dealt with the Forest Avenue incident. When the dog was found dead in his yard it was demanded that action be taken. SPCA no longer has a contract, and that incident was the last straw. Does not appreciate hearing nothing was done regarding the Forest Avenue incident, because a lot was done on the city's part.

- In agreement with needing an ordinance. Was behind the drafting process of the last ordinance. There were ~~two~~^{two} many questions that couldn't be answered to be able to pass the ordinance. Time frames can be taken out of the ordinance. These ordinances can be tailored to your city. There has not been success in finding an ordinance that fits our city. Would be happy to look at other ordinances again. The enforceability is the biggest issue.
- Cincinnati Animal Care has been great. The contract change has been great. They do come right out when they are called and are on top of it. The officers are very nice.

Chief Taylor, Cincinnati Animal Care

They handle everything on a state level and handle ORC. We can only enforce so much. If you would want them to enforce an ordinance for the city there would have to be a contract. They need the authority to enforce the ordinance. They cover all of Hamilton County. They would have to build a whole new division just to enforce the tethering. They are not contracted anywhere else but Hamilton County. We are going to every call. We are enforcing the ORC.

Mr. Kocher, this will not be decided tonight. Didn't know Springfield Township had a tethering ordinance so he spoke to their Chief today, and this is just what he shared. Has had the ordinance for 5-6 years, have used it twice as a deterrent. It has never been enforced or nobody cited for it. The enforcement is difficult.

PUBLIC INPUT

Shannon Myatt, here on behalf of Cincinnati Children's mobile care unit. It comes to North College Hill Middle School. This is to help service teens and young adults and need primary care. The mobile unit is at the middle school the 2nd Wednesday of each month 8:30am – 3pm. Going to reach out to Mt. Healthy schools.

Mayor Wolf would like to connect her with the WeThrive group. This would be a great avenue for the school connection.

MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf

None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Bill Kocher

City finally has ownership of the Hickman lot. We have closed on it and will divide it up with the residents. The next step for them to contract with a surveyor and get a legal description and this will cost. We city has around \$1,000 in and just looking to recoup that. Confirms with council that it is a go on this, and they can start moving forward to purchase the lot.

There are 2 ordinances on the agenda for tonight that regard to a purchase of a new ambulance. The state has an approved list of contractors and sets the pricing. This does not require a formal bid process by using the state's list. You purchase an ambulance in two parts. The chassis and the box with 2 separate manufacturers. There are no attachments to these ordinances. All that is needed right now to order is a signed purchase order. It could be a year out because it does have to be ordered.

OPWC updated document was in council packets. This is the working document that is used to prioritize the city streets. Would like council to identify the priorities tonight. We will take a first reading at our next council meeting and pass it at the October 5th meeting. Madison Avenue (From Harrison to Werner) is missing from the document.

Council confirms priorities:

1. Compton Road (From Hamilton West to Forest)
2. Madison Avenue, from Park to Forest – Forest Avenue, 200 feet south of Stevens Avenue to the south terminus.
 - 30% match

Outstanding item on where we stand with Elizabeth trees.

Karen Arnett, Tree Commission, there was a tree assessment done by Gregory Forrest Lester with a bid to fertilize the trees and some root cutting. Did research and found that most cities do not pay for tree maintenance on private properties. Cutting of roots can be done easily with a hand saw. Using a stump grinder is not always the best option. When encouraging the city to contact a consulting arborist it seemed to be valuable to get the arborist input in the planning process for these road projects. They could help determine the critical root zone and see if there is any wiggle room in the design that would help minimize the impact on trees. It would be worth considering bringing the arborist on for the Madison Avenue project. Karen will provide information to the Elizabeth residents for the care of trees during the project.

Summary:

No – to fertilizing the trees

No – to stump grinding, monitor the cutting of the roots

Real Estate Investors Association of Greater Cincinnati would like to meet the candidates of 2021. They are looking at doing a Zoom call with the candidates that are up for election in November. When more information is received it will be shared.

Spoke with Ms. Scheets regarding funding being available for replacement of the lead service lines. The replacement program is still going with GCWW. They provide partial funding, and we are assessing the balance on property tax. Cincinnati Waterworks is increasing everybody's water bill to fund this program going forward. The city's goal is to help residents get rid of the lead lines.

Continue talks with Clovernook Apartments. We have an ongoing email with them. The city's officers have picked up special duty shifts as security on the property. There is a priority list that we keep working on:

1. Hiring a security company – they are going to hire a full time point security person. Hoping this leads to hiring a security company.
2. Add more camera's, license plate readers, upgrade the existing camera's
3. Strengthen language in the lease
4. Assigned parking spots – management has ordered parking passes. They will begin issuing and completed by 11/30.

Nonprofit Cincinnati Works has been on site for the last couple of weeks. They are hanging in the parking lots handing out flyers to residents for job training and job opportunities and coaching. This is a great resource. Positive foot traffic can prevent crime.

We passed legislation at our July council meeting to put the general fund levy on the ballot. Mr. Kocher was not at that meeting. We missed getting this legislation down to the county on time and we missed out on getting it on the ballot for November. We passed this 5 years ago as a continuing, but it got denied by the state. You can't do a general operating levy as a continuing. This will be around \$100,000 hit. Spoke with finance and we will have enough in carryover to cover this. We will let this expire and put on something that gives us more flexibility or allows us to do this on a more permanent basis. There will be more to come on this.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 21-1172: A first reading of resolution authorizing the city manager to sign and accept the memorandum of understanding between the City of Mt. Healthy and The Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council regarding changes to the current collective bargaining agreement covering police sergeants.

Resolution 21-1173: A first reading of resolution authorizing the city manager to sign and accept the memorandum of understanding between the City of Mt. Healthy and The Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council regarding changes to the current collective bargaining agreement covering full time police officers.

Resolution 21-1174: A first reading of resolution to approve the recommendation of the planning commission regarding the conditional use request for the operation of a tattoo shop in the "CBD" Core Business District at 7613 Hamilton Avenue. A motion was made by Mr. Roetting to waive the two-reading rule and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. George and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Resolution 21-1174 was adopted.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 21-1956: A second reading of ordinance amending Chapter 150.103 (Building and Zoning Fees) of the Mt. Healthy Code of Ordinances. A motion to adopt the ordinance as amended was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Ms. Scheets. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 21-1956 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1957: A second reading of ordinance amending and updating the existing City of Mt. Healthy Civil Service Rules and Regulations. A motion to adopt the ordinance as amended was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Ms. Scheets. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 21-1957 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1960: A first reading of ordinance assessing costs for the replacement of private lead service lines and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mrs. Moody and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 21-1960 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1961: A first reading of ordinance providing for the issuance of limited tax general obligation bond in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$300,000 by the City of Mt. Healthy, Hamilton County, Ohio for the purpose of financing the acquisition of real property with the city. 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 Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 21-1961 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1962: A first reading of ordinance authorizing the city manager to sign contracts to purchase real property (Hamilton County Auditor parcel number 593-0007-0005-00). A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mrs. Moody. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mrs. Dosa and seconded by Mr. Parsons. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 21-1962 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1963: A first reading of ordinance authorizing The City of Mt. Healthy Fire Department Chief to sign a purchase order to purchase one (1) 2021/22 Ford E-350 chassis through the Ohio Department of Administrative services, Ohio Cooperative purchasing program in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mr. Parson and seconded by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance as amended was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 21-1963 was adopted.

Ordinance 21-1964: A first reading of ordinance authorizing The City of Mt. Healthy Fire Department Chief to sign a purchase order to purchase one (1) ambulance box/patient compartment through the Ohio Department of Administrative services, Ohio Cooperative purchasing program in an amount not to exceed \$138,000 and declaring an emergency. A motion to waive the two-reading rule was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Parsons. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance as amended was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 21-1964 was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Parsons reminded finance committee of the meeting at 6:15pm before the next council meeting on September 21st.

Mayor Wolf would like to "Thank" Betty Bollas for the knowledge of a property purchase brought to the city's attention.

Ambulance billing is back on track. Should start seeing an increase in the monthly revenue.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

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 9:10 pm.



President of Council Ross Bittner



Melanie Branditz, Clerk of Council