

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 2, 2024

The council meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President of Council, Ross Bittner, followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mrs. Lingo, Mr. Roetting, Mrs. Dosa, Mr. George, Mr. Young

Absent and Excused: Mr. Parsons, Mrs. Rissel

A motion to excuse both absent members was made by Mr. George and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Jennifer Moody, City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz, Fire Chief Steve Lawson

MINUTES:

A motion to approve and adopt the minutes as corrected for the March 19, 2024 council meeting was made by Mr. Young with a second by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion 5-0. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS: None.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Jennifer Moody

First wanted to address the financial crisis at the Mt. Healthy Public Schools, as it is very serious. She received correspondence from the State Department of Education explaining that there will be an independent commission set up. The mayor will appoint 1 person and then the state will approve everyone else on the commission. If you know of any district resident with a financial background interested in getting involved, this would be a 3 year commitment. They are also looking for a district parent whose child would be in the district for 3 years who also has a financial background. This commission will oversee the current situation. The school district met in special meeting and formally requested help from the state. This is a process that has to be carried out in a certain way. Mayor Moody will be sending a resume and cover letter for who she would appoint. They will review and come up with a commission, which will need to happen quickly.

Elementary students were involved in a chess "proscan" tournament which is a really big chess tournament. When Mayor Moody was an educator, she wanted the kids to enjoy the process of learning chess. Looking into this further, she learned of a first

grader who ranked at the tournament. Encouraged by this, she is hoping to have chess sets at the park in the summer and hopes that some of these kids will participate and share in what they have accomplished. There are also a number of adults that meet to play chess at Fibonacci. She hopes to collaborate with the Alliance youth program on this and other things as well.

Met with Aaron Horsley to talk about the Wetlands and the WeThrive grant that he received; trying to work through how that grant and others through WeThrive. Although she wasn't able to attend the last WeThrive meeting, Mayor Moody learned that there are data points that they came up with which reflect our community. She believes that this may be useful to council as we look toward grant opportunities. Not sure how it matches up with the Hilltop study. Things may have changed since Covid, so we may need to revisit this study to determine the relevance of that data.

Thanks to Dave Osterday, who is not only a part of our Planning Commission but also a community member working on Third Century. He passed along a contact for architectural review information and the mayor has reached out to those contacts to continue to work through all of the information.

The mayor has attended meetings and is grateful to have been included. Because of these meetings, she has been able to obtain more information and meet people in the county who have been discussing economic development.

She has been meeting sporadically with Bill Knight to discuss code enforcement, trying to better understand what his job entails and what we need to do to support what we are dealing with in our community. The Architectural Review Board will only be looking at the core business district. Mayor Moody wanted to address any possible rumors suggesting that this board might tell someone what color to paint their door of their house, etc. This is not what this board will do

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

An update on the Fire Department: We will do the first reading on the full time contract with one change, an error that needs to be updated. Part time contract voted yes on their contract. He is waiting for the formal document to put into an ordinance to bring it in front of council. He had hoped it would be tonight but believes it should be ready by the next meeting.

A proposal was emailed to council with information on the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association. He thinks it would be very beneficial for the department to have an organizational assessment performed. In the last 20 years the department has gone from volunteers to part time to full time, which have all been big changes. This has been discussed with Fire Chief Lawson and believes that having outsiders take a look and see what priorities we should have and whether we have the right policies and procedures in place. Although it seems that everything is in order, it seems like a good idea to use this assessment to confirm that or give instruction on what can be done better. An example was sent to council on what the report would look like, which would

be approximately a 150 page report going over everything in the department: equipment, staffing, the community. They would get input from the department, community, council, management, and residents. Because this would be outside the budget, he is looking for a motion to move forward. The cost is \$23,000. Chief Lawson agrees that this would be valuable.

The motion to accept the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association Fire Department Organizational Assessment for \$23,000 was made by Mr. Roetting with a second from Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion 5-0. The motion was carried.

As for the Police Department updates, we are still working on the nuisance ordinance for Werner. Everything was submitted to Scott Sollmann involving runs from and the issues we have had. Chief wanted to have Mr. Bauer share that Pastor Whaley and Pastor Washington will attend chaplain training. Either free class or grant dollars paid for this to happen. Officer Spears will also go in an effort to expand the chaplaincy program.

Forest and Madison road projects started last week, cutting into the streets. The north part of Harrison was not started but he is hopeful that will begin in the next few weeks. Once the materials and labor are lined up they should begin.

Werner was formally accepted; at the last council meeting it was pre-accepted. Now we start the process for submitting new projects.

SORTA due May 30th. A Street Committee meeting will be called in the next month so they can talk through the possible street projects that may be eligible.

Assessment season with Bill Knight begins now that the weather is better. He will start assessing properties and sending out notices.

Gas aggregation quotes are still being watched. Consultants recommend waiting until the end of the year to lock in the second 12 months.

We will be developing a steering committee for the Human Nature streetscape study on Hamilton Avenue. That steering committee will let us know next steps to get the process going.

A spreadsheet has been created for council committee/commission meetings; in the past there was a binder for these meeting minutes. This spreadsheet is on the council drive for committee/commission chairs to complete.

DEPARTMENT REPORT: Steve Lawson, Fire Department

In the months of January, February, and March there were 496 EMS calls, and 66 Fire, which equals 562 total incidents..

A grant has been submitted to replace the pumper. Hopefully, we will hear something this summer if we have received approval.

ORDINANCES:

24-2040 An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement between the City of Mt. Healthy and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #5403, Representing a Bargaining Unit of City Employees in the Classification of Full Time Fire Fighter. ***-First Reading only***

RESOLUTIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Roetting has had discussion with other council members about our zoning ordinance and what falls under that. Some of our business properties have been subdivided. Wondering if this was something we need to look into and if there should be a minimum square footage in order to be able to divide. Also curious if there should be a six month moratorium on the subdivision of other properties. Looking to see what council thinks about this. Mr. Bauer will discuss this with the Building & Zoning department and, potentially, create a committee to further research changes to our zoning code.

A work session will follow tonight's council meeting. The topic is Parks.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lingo with second by Mr. George. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



President of Council, Ross Bittner



Clerk of Council, Sara Danks