

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 6, 2022

The council meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President of Council, Ross Bittner. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, swearing in of new council member, Peggy Rissel, by Mayor Wolf, and the welcome.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent and Excused: Mr. Parsons, Mr. George

A motion to excuse the absent members was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion. Absent members were excused.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes as written for the November 15, 2022 meeting was made by Mr. Young and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS:

Justin Westrich, Public Works Director

- Hamilton Avenue mostly done; temporary striping to go down when weather breaks, permanent striping in the spring.
- Compton Road mostly done; all curbs and aprons replaced, storm drain inlets and new storm drain done. Will use sod between curb and sidewalks instead of seed and straw.
- Christmas decorations up, still in design stage for tree lighting. Recommends strand lights from flagpole by Veterans Memorial or pole in front of Northwest Auto instead of trying to find the right tree every year.
- Trucks ready for snow; four trucks available for snow removal. Planning two workers on two alternating 12-hour shifts. New this year, trying liquid snow removal mixed with salt.
- Wetland Park- replaced all the wood benches (total of seven), three wooden table tops by the grill.
- Insurance Risk Assessment manager recently here; numerous things to attend to regarding our playground. Repair or tear down? Justin looking into grants. Playsets range from \$15k-\$200k; was advised to add another \$25k for labor. Mr. Roetting recommended Recycle America. Mrs. Dosa asked whether WeThrive could assist. Mayor Wolf said the city got a grant from NatureWorks through WeThrive to repave track at park; will look into it for new playground set.

PUBLIC INPUT

Aaron Horsley - 7823 Maple Avenue

- Great turnout for Wetland Park clean-up; 19 registered volunteers, a few more that didn't register, not all from Mt. Healthy. No injuries. Progress 60% completed. Big thanks to City Council and Fire Department. Planning second effort for February; will update council in mid-January.

Donna McWilliams, Bar Manager, Stadium Bar & Grille (Hamilton Avenue)

- Closing at end of month, going to rebrand. Hoping the city will withdraw its objection to liquor license. Establishment will no longer be "Stadium Bar & Grille." Wants to get in step with community and be a good fit with Mt. Healthy. Mrs. Dosa inquired what was meant by "rebrand." Response: Everything. Name change, age, everything. Planning to open in April or May. Restaurant will stay open. City Manager will get with Chief Demasi and Scott Sollmann regarding the liquor license objection.

MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf

- Credit to Chief Demasi on accreditation; he has been working on this for a year and a half. Only 5% of departments in the U.S. are CALEA accredited and very few of those are smaller than Mt. Healthy.
- Christmas in Mt. Healthy on December 17th; previously discussed.
- Property purchase discussed in executive session has been taken over by Mt. Healthy Community Urban Redevelopment Commission; can now discuss outside executive session. Recommendation that it be taken out of city and CIC's hands, so our involvement, if any, cannot be done behind closed doors. The Commission, now a private organization, is preparing the pre-loan documentation and application, will be reviewing this Thursday and, hopefully, finalized by end of next week. Two trains of thought on whether or not helpful to have matching funds from the city. Just a heads-up that he may be coming to council with a request for funding; have to figure out what it would look like. Would not be able to meet with council members individually as that would violate the Sunshine Law.
- Planning Commission meeting this month on the 19th. Has been the city's practice to have Mayor and City Manager on the Commission, Scott Bauer needs to be appointed during the New Business portion of tonight's meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

- Calendar of 2023 office closure dates and City Council meeting dates on desks.
- Hoping Thursday to get a full schedule of events for Christmas in Mt. Healthy. Will get banner and hang it, slowly coming together.
- Friday is deadline for bids on Harrison property. Spoke with the woman who was interested in it; she is still interested, will hopefully put in a bid.
- New ambulance in service, made some runs. Old ambulance sale value @ \$4k; police department has expressed interest in turning it into a crime scene vehicle. Police are very short on space in the building. Easy to convert ambulance, should be happening in next couple of months. Would be kept at Northwest Auto, is currently vacant. Nothing important would be kept in vehicle - no crime scene evidence, just crime scene supplies, nothing sensitive. Evidence would be maintained in the building. Would properly vet the people who would rent Northwest Auto space.

- Police Chief search posted last Wednesday; does not believe anyone has yet applied. Deadline January 4; third party assessment February 18, new chief here March 15. Interim plan involves our two sergeants, Greg Nolte and Alan Fath; whoever daytime sergeant is on any given day will be interim chief and receive upsurge in pay to address added responsibility.
- Incident at Heat Event Center: City met with Hilltop management, who agreed to install the Flock system cameras that read license plates and update other cameras at their expense. Kicked out tenant; same tenant trying to install a hookah bar next door. Taking our advice seriously and, hopefully, good things will happen.
- Walk Through Budget/Ordinances: General appropriations ordinance (22-2004) and four salary ordinances. Directed council to budget summary page (attachment to Ordinance 22-2004). High level summary of entire budget. Basically budgeting a 6% increase in expenses compared to 2022. Police Department at 3%, adding 2 full time police officers. Fire dept is 3% increase, adding one full time; budgeted 7-8% because we'll be negotiating with union; will come before council for approval in the next few months. Council decided on 0%, same as 2022. Everyone else non-union is 5% increase. Chief Lawson exception at 10%, trying to step him up year to year as department head and transitioned more to full time; part of our agreement with him. Adding back Pool in-house, so added one more to head count in Public Works; easier to manage. Some server network upgrades, may double our IT expenses next year. A lot of this stuff is stored in a closet in the basement behind lockers that have to be moved; has the old "spider web" of wires. We want to move this to main floor (old jail), get server in there. One thing not in budget and do every year is the work on Forest and Madison; could be \$1.4 million, we are matching 30% of that. We typically approve this at end of year but don't know when project is going to start. Biggest things: adding 2 to PD, 1 to FD (will decrease # of part time hours) to add stability. Full time police positions will reduce part time officer need; same with fire. Harder to find people for part time who don't want benefits. At one time, probably had as many part time as full time on PD.
- Questions: Mr. Young asked whether we had any process in place where city is notified when new business is moving in; we do not. Would that start with Building & Zoning for occupancy permit? City Manager will get with Bill Knight. Should be some sort of procedure how business comes in, what business is coming in. Prudent thing to do, could prevent some problematic situations. Have run into this with property owner who leases out the space without knowing whether or not the business moving in can have that type of business in that space. Mayor said we have to look at this again. When we did rental permit for apartments where you had to have an inspection between tenants we were sued for that, claimed it was a warrantless search; threw cold water on the business side of that. A lot of cities were going through same thing, so we let the big cities handle it and follow suit. Has been awhile so should be shaken out by now.

ORDINANCES:

First Reading of Ordinances:

Ordinance 22-2000: A first reading of an Ordinance to Set Compensation for Elected Officials of the City of Mt. Healthy.

Ordinance 22-2001: A first reading of an Ordinance to Set Compensation for Certain Full Time Employees of the City of Mt. Healthy.

Ordinance 22-2002: A first reading of an Ordinance to Set Compensation for Certain Appointed Officials and Part Time Employees of the City of Mt. Healthy.

Ordinance 22-2003: A first reading of an Ordinance to Set Compensation for Certain Full Time Fire Department Employees of the City of Mt. Healthy.

Ordinance 22-2004: An Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Mt. Healthy During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

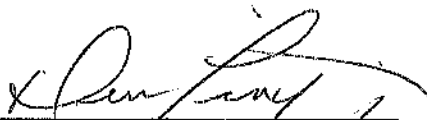
- Mr. Roetting read list of those registered volunteers who assisted with Wetland Park project (not all were from Mt. Healthy) and thanked them.
- Mr. Young - Regarding tree lighting spot, find a place to use every year; Mr. Roetting shared ideas from Mason's tree lighting event.
- Mr. Westrich returned to lectern and gave update on banner (will go across Hamilton Avenue).

NEW BUSINESS:


- Mr. Roetting - Motion to appoint Scott Bauer to Planning Commission; seconded by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion and the City Manager, Scott Bauer, was appointed to the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Dosa and seconded by Mr. Young. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



President of Council, Rose Bittner
PRO TEM, DENISE WINGO



Clerk of Council, Kathleen Schmidt