

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 7, 2023

The council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President of Council, Ross Bittner, followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz, Acting Chief of Police Sgt. Greg Nolte, City Law Director Scott Sollmann

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes with addition of public hearing at top of first page for the January 17, 2023 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: None

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Aaron Horsley provided a Wetlands update. Idle free signs have been installed to help with air quality. Putting finishing touches on grant to WeTHRIVE. Next clean-up is on Saturday, March 4th, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Fliers advertising clean-up posted at Mt. Healthy businesses. Recognition of team members helping with project: Alex Kasik, Tom Davis, and Karen Arnett. Tree Commission is out trimming trees.
- D'Andre Williams informed council that he might be running for City Council in November, wanted to introduce himself, meet the council members. Believes Mt. Healthy has a lot of potential and wants to be a part of it.

MAYOR'S REPORT: *James Wolf*

- Uptown Redevelopment: Brotherton's sale pending contract fell through. CURC actively negotiating on that and possibly all the properties. Is fluid but looks promising. Hoping to get things under contract within the timeframe we approved the CIC to fund it; if not, may come back to CIC to ask for an extension. Looking more positive than it did a couple weeks ago. Tom Gulyas working hard on this, they have now done the second walk through, have a third scheduled for later this week. Let's hope it comes through.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: *Scott Bauer*

- Police Chief Search: Four candidates invited to assessment at Mt. Healthy School administration building on February 18th. Panel will be myself, Mayor, Kisha Dosa, Paul Young, and Officer Fath.
- Chief Demasi's party was a great success. Thanks to all who stopped by. Chief was overwhelmed by support.
- Potholes: Crews working on them. Let us know if you see any that need repair. Only one asphalt plant open (in Franklin, Ohio) so have to use cold patch, is more expensive.

- Fire Department: Seven interviews on February 16th. 13 applicants, 10 took test, 8 took agility, down to 7. Hopefully will start in March. Chief Lawson looking at FEMA grant to cover the two full-time hires.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Sgt. Greg Nolte, Acting Chief of Police

- Violent crime is on the rise, large number of shootings, sex crimes, robberies, burglaries, tier 1 type definitely up, uses an enormous amount of resources. Patrols are busy investigating their own “smaller type” crimes (thefts, et al.) so not spending as much time on patrol. Old ambulance converted to crime scene unit; incredible help having resources on the scene. An extremely good asset. Several people trained in department for crime scene technicians. Don’t see this in small departments, having multiple people trained and certified.
- Clovernook: Responded to 678 calls in 12 months averages 56.5 calls per month. Meeting with Clovernook in 2021 outlining things that we needed to see happen. One priority at the time was to acquire a 24/7 security company. COVID made it difficult for them to do that. Since then, no progress made. Agreed to a temporary solution of providing police officers on an off-duty basis to supplement that need. The temporary basis has gone on into current times, 2021 to now. Officers not that interested because they are doing shift work and working a lot of hours already; detail not something they are interested in. Video system problematic; long times when cameras not working, when they are working it’s sporadic, skips long periods of time. Clovernook working on getting cameras fixed but that is an ongoing thing (working on it, . Also in the 2021 meeting they talked about improved lighting; have now installed LED lights for the existing lights but no additional lighting. Back corners and rears of apartment buildings still completely dark. Street lights adequate in parking lot but other areas in the property that street lights don’t reach. They did install four license plate reader cameras that cover every inch of their property; cannot enter their property without being captured on one of those cameras. Talked about strengthening lease language to make it easier to take action for violations; haven’t seen or heard anything that leads it has taken place. Unit 7909 problematic. Sgt. Nolte worked with “her” for two hours on this, gave her two inches of paperwork on that unit enough and she asked him if that was enough. Assigned parking spots also talked about but have heard nothing; email that implementation process underway but seen nothing. Mr. Ryan Ruther, who was in July 2021 meeting, still regional manager; we lost contact with him, dealing with Terry Maher, acting onsite manager. She is really good, wants to do well, works with us on a constant basis.
- Liquor establishment information (number of calls in 12 months and 3 months):

Establishment	12 Months	3 Months
Just One More	25	4
Vince’s	21	3
Stadium	47	4
Game Time*	17	0
Reminisce	12	0
Take a Shot	12	2
Fibonacci	3	0
* More restaurant style		

- Hilltop: Meeting with management company after Heat incident. In that meeting, talked about putting the onus on ownership to provide city with name of new business and when business coming in. Their lease language puts the onus on the businesses coming in, and we aren't getting the word from the businesses. responsibility on the tenant, and they aren't doing it. In that meeting, Bill Knight made it clear that we are going to hold them to that requirement of notifying us. We spoke about cameras and enforcing lease language. Making sure plans are submitted to us for improvements within the individual businesses and units they lease so inspections can be done prior to the business being open; still some kinks in that process. Police Department received request for off-duty detail for former Heat space, becoming Empire Event Center. City had no clue that place had re-leased in any way, shape or form. Detail was for a New Year's Eve party. Management informed Sgt. Nolte that Empire lease didn't start until January 1st, so not did we not get notified by management that they had leased the spot, but they were going to try and jump the gun on their lease and start an event before the lease was active. Building department went down and red-tagged the place, no occupancy and they had to follow through with all the zoning and building requirements before they could open for business. On January 27 informed by Todd (main guy that manages property at Hilltop) that Flock system (license plate readers) being installed February 7-8 at all their entry and exit spots; no additional cameras mentioned by ownership. Have been evasive about that. Used to be four or five cameras down there, quickly went to no cameras at all.
- CALEA: Final approval and accreditation in July-August. Assessment process was intense, process getting us there was very timely and alot of hard work went into that. Thanks for Officer Nick Michael, who spearheaded that whole process and did a fabulous job. Sat in for use of force aspect of the assessment and the assessors were amazed that an agency our size does the things that we do; considering making that a standard in other departments. National assessment team; one from Colorado, one from Arizona. They were very impressed.
- Spots for two full-time officers. New national testing network that is nationwide, hopes to broaden the pool of people we have to choose from. Recruitment is a problem. Other agencies deal with it by jumping their pay rate, offering huge benefits packages, and trying to poach from other departments. In order to maintain what we have, critical we keep pace with what other departments are doing; certain you heard same from Chief Demasi. Benefit packages more than medical and holiday/vacation; now longevity bonuses and signing bonuses. Departments getting very creative; Scott is aware of this and understands what other agencies around us are doing.
- Changing phone system to Cloud-based; will bring us into today's world. Every call that comes in is recorded. Migrating from on-site server to Cloud-based. Cleaning up documentation.

ORDINANCES:

Second Reading of Ordinances: None

First Reading of Ordinances: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Second Reading of Resolutions:

Resolution 23-1200: A Resolution Declaring it Necessary for Levying Tax Exceeding Ten-Mill Limitation and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith and Declaring an Emergency. First reading January 17th. A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0 and Resolution 22-1200 was adopted.

First Reading of Resolutions: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Parsons asked the mayor about the research he was going to do on traffic cameras in Ohio. It is on the mayor's radar.

NEW BUSINESS: City Law Director Scott Sollmann formally requested council move into Executive Session. Mr. Roetting made the motion, seconded by Mr. George. By a roll call vote of 7-0, the request was approved and council moved into Executive Session.

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 8:18 p.m.



President of Council, Ross Bittner



Clerk of Council, Kathleen Schmidt