

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 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, Mr. George, Mr. Young, Mrs. Rissel

Absent and Excused: Mrs. Dosa

A motion to excuse the absent member was made by Mr. George and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion. Member excused.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz, Public Works Director Justin Westrich

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes with changes for the February 21, 2023 meeting was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dr. Belinda Tubbs Wallace email to City Manager and council regarding Compton Road parking; businesses had no input. Dr. Wallace in attendance, will speak to council during public input.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS: None

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Pete Alexander: Owns old Hilltop Glass building. Decrease in street parking impacts his business, very inconvenient (Compton Road at Perry).
- Pastor Whaley: Pastor of Emmanuel Evangelical Apostolic Temple on Compton Road. Concerns as both pastor and a Mt. Healthy resident over parking spots blocked off on Compton Road at Perry. Those spots are helpful for his senior and handicapped parishioners.
- Frank & Sharon Quan: Speak to council about Seward, Evencrest and Southampton. Has lived on Southampton for 27 years and in that time, none of these streets have been touched. Potholes get filled in, lasts @ two weeks. Also, snow being piled up in driveway when there is a no parking area next to his driveway where the driver could dump all the snow. Working with Mr. Westrich in Public Works on snow removal.
- Dr. Wallace: City did not get any input from business owners before blocking off parking spots on Compton at Perry. Could have left a note on the door or made a phone call. Disregard for minority business owners. Not a lot of diversity on council, so it's important we hear the voices of minority business owners.

- Vicki & David Sterwerf: Vicki spoke to council about the UDF alley. Her car has been hit twice in five years; this last time in January, totalled the vehicle. Proposing two or more speed bumps in the alley, really want it closed off except to private residents. David talked to UDF. Given the width of the alley, no way it can accommodate two lanes. UDF putting up signs ("Not A Throughway"). The alley belongs to the City of Mt. Healthy. Mayor Wolf said we will shut off the alley entrance to UDF.
- Aaron Horsley: Sixteen volunteers showed up Saturday at Wetlands. Project is 95% complete on removal of honeysuckle. Tree planting in early spring, native plants to replace honeysuckle. Trail extension will add .1 or .2 miles to the existing trail (approx. 1.5 miles currently).
- Jim Lowenberg: Regarding Compton & Perry, cones encourage cars to drive faster, not slower. Recommended city look at traffic calming devices.
- Dan Oliver: Suite 21 Restaurant and Lounge (formerly Stadium Bar & Grill) opening on April 8, would like city to withdraw its liquor license transfer objection, asked what the city's stance is. City will wait for new place to open, see if the changes Mr. Oliver has made have taken care of the problems. For instance, after 9:00 p.m. only ages 35 and up; no rap music; more upscale menu; change of hours.

MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf

- New police chief hired, more details during Scott's report.
- Jacquie Purcell will replace Magistrate Brian Goodyear; his last Mayor's Court is on May 18, 2023. Will need motion from council to contract with Ms Purcell at a rate comparable to Mr. Goodyear.
- We got the HEEL grant, \$8,195 strictly for Wetlands upgrade; trail markers, supplies. Many thanks to Aaron, who was very instrumental in getting grant done.
- CURC: Offer made and accepted on Brotherton's building and house behind. CIC met and approved extension, CIC appointed as fiscal agent for CURC. Can not start fundraising until they receive non-profit status.
- CRA Housing Council: Planning Commission appointed Mayor Wolf to the council. Mayor will appoint two and City Council will appoint two. Mayor would like that done at the next meeting. Can be two council members, two residents, whatever council decides. Will do the oversight of tax incentives we gave Clovernook Apartments years ago when they were going to remodel. Council was supposed to be created years ago and was not; creating it now to insure proper oversight.
- Tax Incentive Review Council: Two appointments from City, three from County Commission, one from Auditor and one from City Board of Education. Purpose is to review compliance and make written recommendation as to continuing, modifying, or terminating agreements.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

- New Police Chief: Jerome Deidesheimer from Mason. At Mason for close to 25 years, will be at next council meeting. Coming in early to meet some of the officers. First day will be March 27. Special thanks to Kisha, Paul, Jamie, and Sgt. Fath for being part of assessment.
- Made part-time offer to someone still in police academy, offer contingent on him graduating academy. One other full time open, at least one person they are feeling positive about; hoping to make offer by end of week.
- Fire Department: Eight full time, Chief Lawson at April 4 council meeting to swear in the two new full timers. SAFER grant will hopefully get submitted next week.

- Clovernook letter from county sent. Eviction paperwork in on one individual. Small things happening, big things will be getting housing councils together and getting inspections going. We have to be more proactive.
- Active Shooter Hoax: Follow-up meeting. Acting Chief Nolte will send letters of commendation to departments that responded. School did great job. System of getting kids connected with parents went well, having Hilltop Plaza as staging area worked great. After action report will be generated later this week.
- May 18 Open House for Police and Fire. Equipment out, Perry closed down so you can see cruisers and fire truck. Will confirm time.
- CLG: In packets, classes for elected officials. Zoom meeting, \$15, city will pay for it if you want to participate.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT: Justin Westrich, Director

- Potholes: Hard time getting hard blacktop. Mehring Way plant closed and gone; closest in Franklin, Ohio, two-hour roundtrip. Blacktop cold by the time it gets here. Other option is to buy bags of cold patch - 3100 lbs = \$1,100. Or, hot mix is two tons for \$300. Trying to take advantage of nicer weather but pothole repairs are few and far between. Won't have problem next year, just go downtown and wait your turn.
- Guys trying to clean up landscaping around town. Dead trees in park, some fence issues to address. Busy with Hamilton County Stormwater Association; have to fill out report every year. Trying to figure out how much debris is cleaned out of storm drains. Timely process, will figure out most efficient way to handle.
- Orange fencing around playset. Insurance risk assessor said playset not safe for use; got with Kisha and both felt best to close playset. Unsafe, easy for kids to slip under the fencing. Waiting on group decision from council whether to remove the playset. Assessor sent out 41 page report, 38 of them on playset.
- Street Striping: Hamilton County couldn't get paint last year, still no answer on whether they can get pain this year. As streets are replaced, putting down thermoplastic striping, which is much better than paint. Hamilton County didn't want to give price for striping without knowing if they could get paint. Issues with blacktop used on Hamilton Avenue. Did three passes, supposed to be smooth; this is not the case. Big gaps, asphalt didn't mix right at the plant, large rocks in the asphalt. These issues have to be addressed before permanent striping is done. Blacktop crews come back in April when the plants re-open. One possibility might be to bring mill in to smooth over the blacktop. This was State of Ohio job, they are aware of problems, including water gathering at crosswalks.
- Antique Mall: Needs whole new roof. Built in 1900s, alot of patching over the years, no longer working. Time for new roof. Won't know if any structural damage until roof is torn off. Has been leaking for years. Getting three estimates. Four different roofs on the building. Box gutters not functioning properly. Siding on one side of building is actually shingles. Different levels draining on to different levels.
- Did edging at playground and got rid of grass overgrowth on sidewalk.

ORDINANCES:

Second Reading of Ordinances: None

First Reading of Ordinances:

Ordinance 23-2011 An Ordinance to De-Certify Assessment to the County Auditor for Placement on Their Tax Duplicate and Declaring an Emergency. Motion to suspend two reading rule made by Mr. Parsons, seconded by Mr. Roetting. With roll call vote of 6-0, two reading rule

suspended. Motion to adopt ordinance made by Mr. Roetting, seconded by Mrs. Rissel. With roll call vote of 6-0, Ordinance 23-2011 was adopted.

Ordinance 23-2012 An Ordinance Assessing Costs of the Removal of Litter, Rubbish and Garbage and Declaring an Emergency. Motion to suspend two reading rule made by Mr. Roetting, seconded by Mr. George. With roll call vote of 6-0, two reading rule suspended. Motion to adopt ordinance made by Mrs. Lingo, seconded by Mr. Young. With roll call vote of 6-0, Ordinance 23-2012 was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS:

Second Reading of Resolutions: None

First Reading of Resolutions:

Resolution 23-1201 Resolution of Necessity for Levying a Tax Exceeding Ten-Mill Limitation for Police Services. Five year tax, first reading only.

Resolution 23-1202 Resolution of Necessity for Levying a Tax Exceeding Ten-Mill Limitation for Police Services. Continuing tax, first reading only.

City Manager will confirm how amount is recalculated each year and how much property values move if levy renewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mr. Roetting read off list of volunteers who helped with Wetlands on March 4th. WVXU also there, got some interviews.
- Mr. Young announced that the Mt. Healthy Business Association was donating \$200 towards monthly rent for Real Deal Boxing for two months.
- Mayor revisited appointments to CRA. Council needs to pick two people; Mr. Roetting and Mr. Bittner have volunteered, with council's approval. Mayor would like the appointments at next council meeting.
- Time to remove cones blocking the spaces on Compton at intersection. Schedule Work Session after April 4 council meeting to discuss Perry & Compton. Is open to the public. Will give city time to get traffic data from police department.

NEW BUSINESS:


- Mr. Roetting attended Rapid Transit Workshop. Hamilton Avenue and Reading Road corridors discussed at the workshop. Execution in 2027.
- Mr. Young called a meeting of the Economic Development Committee for 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, to discuss the Antique Mall.
- Mr. Bittner asked City Manager to stay in touch with Sterwerfs regarding the alley.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Rissel. An aye vote carried the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



President of Council, Ross Bittner



Clerk of Council, Kathleen Schmidt