

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 21, 2023

The Economic Development Committee held a committee meeting prior to the City Council Meeting to discuss Covered Bridge Antique Mall.

The council meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President of Council, Ross Bittner, followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent and Excused: Mrs. Lingo

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz, and Incoming Chief of Police Jerome Deidesheimer

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the March 7, 2023 minutes with one change to Mayor's report was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS: Incoming Chief of Police Jerome Deidesheimer

- City Manager did brief introduction. Has been at Mason since 1998, from patrol to Assistant Chief. Big search, number of qualified candidates. Very glad he decided to accept. All were very impressed with him, was on point and prepared for every question. Has ties to Mt. Healthy, alot of energy.
- Excited to be here, an honor. Grew up on LaBoiteaux, has family members here. (Audio very low, no microphone.)

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Debra Lacke - Has lived in Mt. Healthy since 2020. Pot holes in the alleys are ruining car tires. Water runoff from the holes cause a "cesspool" to form in her yard. Lives on Joseph Street, alley is on McMicken. She tried to get a sign years ago that said "slow down" but was told no by the city. Can't park in front of house, park in back but issues there, too. Mainly concerned about pot holes. Apartment next to her has people parking on side of yard next to her wooden fence; fence has been knocked in more than once, nothing police can do because don't know who is doing it. Right now, two cars parked up against her fence. Justin addressed pot holes, will visit site and assess situation. Also asked about blacktop. Delicatesan truck deliveries ruin blacktop almost as soon as its laid. City Manager said parking lots and alleys are on agenda this year to be evaluated. Joseph Street high on our list, is pretty bad. No one enforcing the grandfather clause on the parking. Has spoken to our Building & Zoning Dept. a few times.

- Belinda Tubbs Wallace - Thanked council for agreeing to remove cones that were blocking off the parking spots on Compton. Are we still monitoring Compton & Perry intersection? Yes. Will wait until 4/4 then run the data. If we are still monitoring, she wanted to publicly suggest that in the spots where it says "No Parking" we put green cone in space as physical deterrent. She is monitoring this. Wants us to talk to Roselawn so we have some information before we have our meeting. Has a video she can share with us.
- David & Vicki Sterwerf - UDF update: Spoke with Tim Kling (UDF Director of Real Estate). Nice guy, does not want alley blocked off. UDF will not install more speedbumps as someone can trip and fall over them. City Manager has also spoken with Mr. Kling, he seemed in favor of speedbumps. Mr. Sterwerf almost got hit by at 4:00 a.m. by car that came off Hamilton Avenue, through the parking lot and into the alley where Mr. Sterwerf was lining up their garbage cans to protect their vehicle. Can he put in own speedbump (as Mr. Young did)? Give us some time to get this fixed. Mayor added that UDF claims they need the alley, there is money at that location. We can close off the alley and upset UDF or find other solutions; we can't work with UDF and close it off. Why don't they want it closed? Not used for deliveries, just another egress onto the property. Is it a public alley if it doesn't serve the public? Discussion on whether vacating alley is good idea. City Manager will talk with Law Director about this. UDF didn't want to put in more speedbumps because people can trip over them; he seemed in favor of them during discussion with City Manager. Mr. & Mrs. Sterwerf asked what the best resolution would be for them and they would like the alley to be blocked off (no access from UDF lot).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Business Partnership/Alliance: Paul Young.

Attended the Mt. Healthy Business Association meeting on March 13th. President and Secretary present here tonight. Topics of discussion were the bus stop on Compton at alleyway between Fortune Express and Studio 914 Hair Salon (between Compton and Harrison), blocks traffic when dropping off/picking up riders. Need to figure something out. Business Association has money set aside for scholarship for one Mt. Healthy High School Senior (\$1,000). Working on online application. President and Secretary had nothing to add.

Beautification Committee: Denise Lingo Absent

Economic Development Committee: Paul Young First meeting tonight prior to council to discuss 7508 Hamilton Avenue (Antique Mall). Up there today with Justin, lots of roof issues. Putting group together to look at structure of property and get ideas of how to go forward. A lot of photos today and observation.

Finance Committee: Bob Parsons No report.

Parks Commission: Kisha Dosa Parks Commission had meeting this week to discuss issues with City Park play structure; risk assessor determined it was unsafe, has to come down. Public Works put orange fencing around it until council makes a decision. No parts can be salvaged, design flaws that were not around in the 90s. Slides cracked, can't be repaired. Needs council to agree to take it down; will be covered under New Business. People going over orange fencing and getting on the structure. Need funding to replace structure - WeTHRIVE? Covid money? Grants?

Safety Committee: Joe Roetting Nothing new. Follow-up on shooting incident last month around Compton & Joseph - no one is talking. Getting more information on Clovernook and fire runs. In the past we had a Block Watch, has become inactive; thinking of ways to revitalize in community.

Streets Committee: Peggy Rissel Street Committee meeting at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4th, prior to council meeting. Also, going out with Justin on Thursday to look at streets and get more information on speedbumps. Equipment starting to show up on Harrison from contractor who did work on Compton, so work on Compton may be resuming soon.

Schools – Cordel George As of March 20, new access control system at high school to improve security and safety. Essentially, system identifies visitors and guests as they come in to the school, screens people immediately. Is tapped into various databases, such as national sex offender registry. Also, last week Mt. Healthy choir students performed at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Choir director is a graduate of CSU. A grant from the Ohio Arts Council funded the bus transportation for the students. Great that they are getting out and getting exposure.

Library: Kisha Dosa Mt. Healthy Library still distributing rapid at home Covid tests. Also, the library has limited federal and state tax forms. AARP and United Way are offering tax help at limited library locations, but not Mt. Healthy, for low and moderate income families. Library serving after school snacks Monday-Friday, 3:30-4:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf

- Aggregation - Duke sent letters to residents thanking them for signing up with Duke Energy; City Manager and front office staff inundated with calls. Updated letters have now gone out confirming that residents are part of the aggregation with Energy Harbor.
- WeTHRIVE had meeting tonight, alot going on.
 - Successful in getting Wetlands grant, a little over \$8,100. Have already removed almost all the invasive species in the north end of the park. Going to be working on trail stuff, bat boxes and more in next several months.
 - New project underway with Pastor Whaley (Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church). They now have a mental health program, a clinician onsite and psychiatrist with an office there. Teaming up with Tikkun Farm and WeTHRIVE to start a comprehensive program in the community. Inviting Mt. Healthy Family Practice on board. Directing some funding that way. \$3,700 grant avail from WT, bigger grant from Interact for Health; optimistic they will get the big grant.
 - NatureWorks - City can get up to \$150,000 if we put in 25% match, specifically for playground equipment. Apply by June 1st but won't announce winners until August. At that point, it works on reimbursement. Down side, no playground this summer. Mayor will talk to Mrs. Dosa about this.
- Mayor gets two appointments for CRA Housing Council. Asked three people, all renters; one immediately jumped on board, other two still considering. Thinks it's important to have renters on this board. The one who immediately said yes is Desiree Hosley. Renter at Lake of the Woods, currently running open mics with Jacqueline (Mt. Healthy Alliance). Has good experience from wide variety of background to this board, graduate of Cincinnati City Council School (teaches about open records, executive sessions, procedures and policies). Waiting to hear from other two. Should know something by next meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

- Add to UDF discussion. Will pull police data from that location so we can prove people are cutting through. Mr. Kling seemed high on speed bumps but is beholden to the actual property managers and owners, so may not be able to deliver on speed bumps. Will keep council up to date.
- SAFER grant submitted last week. Would cover two additional full timers in Fire.
- No update on May 18th event (Police and Fire Open House). Will share as details unfold.
- Brief discussion on other appointments. Mayor will go over the appointments that council needs to approve during New Business.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Melanie Branditz

- February reports in packet; let her know if any questions.

ORDINANCES:

Second Reading of Ordinances: None

First Reading of Ordinances:

RESOLUTIONS:

Second Reading of Resolutions:

23-1201 Resolution of Necessity for Levying a Tax Exceeding Ten-Mill Limitation for Police Services. This is the five year resolution. Following brief explanation between continuing and renewal, decision made to table Resolution 23-1201.

23-1202 Resolution of Necessity for Levying a Tax Exceeding Ten-Mill Limitation for Police Services. This is the continuing resolution. Motion made to adopt this resolution made by Mrs. Dosa, seconded by Mr. Parsons. By roll call vote of 6-0, Resolution 23-1202 adopted.

First Reading of Resolutions:

23-1203 An Emergency Resolution Providing Authority to the Law Director to Execute the Subdivision and Special District Settlement Participation Forms for the Teva, Allergen, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart Settlement Participation Agreements Pursuant to the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding and Placing any Received Funds in the City's OneOhio Fund. After discussion, Mr. George made a motion to waive the two reading rule, seconded by Mr. Young. By roll call vote of 6-0, two reading rule waived. Motion made to adopt this resolution made by Mr. Roetting, seconded by Mr. George. By roll call vote of 6-0, Resolution 23-1203 is adopted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mayor informed council that the gentleman who came to council meeting with intent to run for council is instead running for school board.
- CRA Housing Council appointments from City Council. Mr. Parsons made motion to appoint Mr. Roetting and Mr. Bittner, seconded by Mr. Young. By unanimous voice vote, Messrs. Roetting and Bittner appointed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- City's insurance risk assessor has told us the playground playset has to come down ; swing set can stay. Do we take it down and remove the liability risk to the City? Won't be covered by our insurance if something were to happen. Discussion on what grants may be available, other ways we could fund commercial grade equipment for the summer. Mayor pretty confident we could get NatureWorks grant, but that is a way off. Will try to put something in for this summer until grant comes through. Motion made by Mrs. Dosa to remove the park play structure for safety and liability reasons, seconded by Mr. Parsons. By unanimous voice vote, motion is carried. Park play structure will be taken down by Public Works.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Rissel and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



President of Council, Ross Bittner



Clerk of Council, Kathleen Schmidt