

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 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

Following roll call, new Mt. Healthy Police Officer David Speers was introduced by Chief Deidesheimer then sworn in by Mayor Wolf.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz, Police Chief Jerry Deidesheimer

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes with changes for the October 17, 2023 meeting was made by Mr. Parsons with second by Mrs. Rissel. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS:

Karen Arnett: Recognizing Urban Tree volunteers. The Pitts family was present at the meeting and received thanks and applause from council for their involvement.

PUBLIC INPUT

Aaron Horsley

- Honeysuckle removal at Wetlands on Saturday, December 2nd, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tools provided, snacks provided by Little Dutch. Replacement plants for Wetlands being researched.
- WeThrive has awarded a second grant for \$7,000 which will be used to install solar power and electric in the park gazebo and the Wetlands. \$7,500 has been awarded for information boards at Wetlands.
- Girl Gang planted a memorial tree (Maple) at Wetlands.

Dawn Walter

- Spoke to council at October 17 meeting about speed bumps on Elizabeth, nothing has happened. Mr. Roetting responded that we have not yet moved on it because we have been busy with police levy. Want to give it the proper attention so we get it right the first time. Greatly concerned about speeders going past school buses now. City Manager stated that one speed hump (not bump) is \$15,000, so we are getting one to start with. Will place where there is the greatest need; right now, Adams Road. Have to prioritize.
- Regarding police levy, assume it is going to pass and wondered what the residents are getting for their money. Chief Deidesheimer responded that we are down two officers, even with the return of Ray Seehausen in November.

MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf

- Grant application through WeThrive: Awarded \$35,000 on Friday for the Poetry Out Loud program (run by Alliance). Will allow for expansion of program and student field trips to Underground Freedom Center (via Metro) with various stops along the way. Will also pay for competitions at end of year with winner(s) going to State championship.
- Hope council approves the resolution to appropriate money to the Community Improvement Corporation tonight; if not, then at next meeting.
- Hopes police levy passes tonight. Thanks to Joe (Roetting) for the door hangers and for being at the polls most of today.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

- Fire Department union negotiations continue; new contract, will take a little longer. Anticipate having something in place by end of year.
- Police Department: Will let chief do reporting.
- County Block Grant: Application to apply has been released. Working with Tom at 3C. Deciding which projects to apply for.
- Budget: First draft of expenses will go out tomorrow. Will have some review time before meeting.
- American Legion donated \$1,000 sponsorship to park concert series in honor of Ray Rissel.
- Library purchased CVS building. Will have to do some permitting. Have to talk to them about parking to make sure we formally share the parking lot with them. Public outreach event will be held in council chambers in early December. Will discuss project and scope of it; putting \$3-4 million into the building.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Jerry Deidesheimer

- Officer Speers new, Officer Seehausen coming back. Someone in "Officer in Charge" position for times when Sergeant not on hand, maintains chain of command; not a promotion. Also moving forward on full time Detective position.
- Things are relatively calm at the moment. Getting quality of life calls (traffic, loud noise, parking, juvenile complaints, etc.).
- Fake threat called in to schools last month. Learned a lot when this happened at beginning of the year. This time, more organized, new protocols put in place. Had after action meeting with the school. Important to establish Incident Command when first on scene. All Mt. Healthy officers trained in Incident Command.
- Chief and Sgt. Fath met with new property management at Clovernook. They are headed in the right direction. Instituted new leasing agreements, easier to move forward on evictions and take action toward those not abiding by rules. Investing more money into lighting and fixing cameras. Overflowing Dumpster situation resolved; bills left unpaid during change of ownership. Clovernook is a process, police will continue to monitor.
- Work has started to secure City Hall building with new key fobs. Using DOJ money in police fund, can be used for building security. Will no longer be punching in or locking doors once transition complete.
- When first came on board, establishing a chaplaincy program was a priority. Pastor Washington has been nothing but great helping us out, and PD has now added Pastor Whaley, so they have two chaplains. The role is to minister not only to PD, but on critical calls when PD doesn't have the words, (death notification, high level domestic). Pastor Whaley in attendance, introduced himself and shared a few of the services and programs they are able to offer.

Awarded a \$75,000 grant to open up mental health agency in Mt. Healthy.
Grateful to be a resource to the community.

- Close to \$25,000 recouped from 2022 and 2023 continuing professional training.
- Question from Mr. Roetting on Flock cameras at Clovernook. Are they all working? Yes. Are Flock cameras in the city? We have some on Hamilton Avenue. Do we need them anywhere else, such as Compton Road? Yes. Springfield Township has them north of Hamilton, all the way down Compton, NCH has them as well. Could we use more – probably, but limited resources so need to be strategically placed. Chief explained Flock cameras to council at request of Mr. Roetting. Colerain doesn't have them, but just about everyone else in Hamilton County does, as well as Butler County. City Manager added that it was not the Flock cameras not working at Clovernook but their regular cameras. Those have now been fixed under new ownership.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 23-2024: An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement Between the City of Mt. Healthy and the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council, Inc. Representing a Bargaining Unit of City Employees in the Classification of Full Time Police Officer. A motion to adopt Ordinance 23-2024 was made by Mrs. Lingo with second by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. ***Ordinance 23-2024 was adopted.***

Ordinance 23-2025: An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement Between the City of Mt. Healthy and the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council, Inc. Representing a Bargaining Unit of City Employees in the Classification of Sergeant. A motion to adopt Ordinance 23-2025 was made by Mr. Roetting with second by Mrs. Dosa. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. ***Ordinance 23-2025 was adopted.***

Ordinance 23-2026: An Ordinance Assessing Costs of the Vacant Foreclosed Property Registration Fees and Declaring an Emergency. A motion to suspend the first reading rule was made by Mr. Parsons with second by Mr. Roetting. ~~An aye vote carried the motion.~~ A motion to adopt Ordinance 23-2026 was made by Mr. Young with second by Mrs. Rissel. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. ***Ordinance 23-2026 was adopted.***

Ordinance 23-2027: An Ordinance Assessing Costs of the Removal of High Grass and Weeds and Declaring an Emergency. A motion to suspend the first reading rule was made by Mr. Roetting with second by Mr. Young. ~~An aye vote carried the motion.~~ A motion to adopt Ordinance 23-2027 was made by Mr. Parsons with second by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. ***Ordinance 23-2027 was adopted.***

Ordinance 23-2028: An Ordinance Assessing Costs of the Securing of a Vacant Property and Declaring an Emergency. A motion to suspend the first reading rule was made by Mr. Roetting with second by Mrs. Dosa. ~~An aye vote carried the motion.~~ A motion to adopt Ordinance 23-2028 was made by Mrs. Dosa with second by Mr. Young. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. ***Ordinance 23-2028 was adopted.***

Ordinance 23-2029: An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Perform All Actions Necessary to Support Continuation of a Governmental Natural Gas Aggregation Program with Opt-Out Provisions to Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, Directing the City Manager to Extend the Supply Agreement with Direct Energy Services, LLC Contract or Documents as Required, and Declaring an Emergency – **Tabled**

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 23-1214: A Resolution Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. A motion to adopt Resolution 23-1214 was made by Mr. George with second by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. ***Resolution 23-1214 was adopted.***

Resolution 23-1215: A Resolution for City to Appropriate Monies to Mt. Healthy Community Improvement Corporation to Promote Economic Development. A motion to suspend the first reading rule was made by Mrs. Dosa with second by Mr. Roetting. An aye vote carried the motion. A motion to adopt Resolution 23-1215 was made by Mrs. Lingo with second by Mr. George. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. ***Resolution 23-1215 was adopted.***

OLD BUSINESS: Finance meeting on November 21st at 6:00 pm. to go over the budget for 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mrs. Dosa: Finalizing grant, to be submitted next week. Received a quote for playground equipment. Will email the grant to all council members, would like feedback by end of week. Application must be postmarked by November 15.
- Mr. Roetting: Don't miss anything when we apply for these grants.
- Mayor Wolf: Pastor Whaley doing great work in the city. Coming to WeThrive meetings, has become a part of all community groups. They work hard, would like to give them credit.
- Mr. Bittner: Resident struggling with blood pressure readings. Can we ask Fire Department to help with this service, one hour a week doing public outreach? City Manager will talk with Chief Lawson. Mr. Roetting suggested one hour every week with understanding that if they get a call, they have to leave.
- Mr. Roetting: Electronic message board out front of CVS (library). Can we talk with library in time to get it out there before December events? Brief discussion.
- Mayor Wolf: Police Levy winning in early vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lingo with second by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.



President of Council, Ross Bittner



Clerk of Council, Kathleen Schmidt