

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 6, 2024

The council meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 Jennifer Moody, City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz

MINUTES:

A motion to approve and adopt the minutes as written for the January 16, 2024 council meeting was made by Mr. Young with a second by Mrs. Rissel. An aye vote carried the motion 7-0. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE: The December 2023 Police Department report to the city manager was presented to council as well as the December 2023 Biased Based Racial Profiling Annual Report, the Police Department January report, and the Tree Commission end of year report. There was also a reminder for council to complete the Ohio Ethics Commission filing.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS: None.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Roger Bruckner: (Bernard Ave) There is an alleyway that used to lead into Duvall. This property was formerly Pleasant Street that was never completed. Mr. Bruckner would like to purchase and place a pre-built shed on this property. A 42 year resident of his own property, he has maintained this site in addition to his own and hopes to use it. There is a manhole on the property which may have a small pipe. The shed would not be a permanent structure. A survey is still needed but there was confirmation with Mr. Knight by the City Manager that the property has been maintained due to Mr. Bruckner as well as his neighbor. Looking for an okay to move forward with the process. An ordinance will need to be created to split this property between him and his neighbor.

George Becket: (Harding Ave) Currently a renter, Mr. Becket is currently in the process of purchasing the property. Mr. Becket is concerned with the current condition of the streets. While the city has patched the street in the past, he would like to see it completely repaved and wonders if it is on the list to be updated. Council is aware of the issues with the street and agrees with Mr. Becket. Werner Ave, Joseph Street and Hickman are the next three priorities on the list of streets to receive repaving. Mayor

Moody responded to Mr. Becket, sharing that the cost of streets are extremely expensive and small cities like ours are limited. There is agreed frustration and hopes that something can be done in the future.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Jennifer Moody

People are upset with the new and increased property tax bills. Our Ohio House Representative is Cindy Ambrams, our Ohio State Senator is Cathrine Ingram. The Mayor encourages anyone to call and make a comment on how this was handled. On Facebook "Hamilton County Ohio Homeowners Group" has become very active and attended the commissioners meeting last week. While complaints can be made to the auditor and the county commissioner, this seems to be a State Representative issue.

Council received Civil Service Commission Appointment requests on their desks. The person who was in charge stepped down from the position. Former Mayor James Wolf has agreed to lead this committee. There has to be a balance between political parties. There is Republican representation and Democratic representation in the names on the list. Mayor Moody hopes to have these appointments passed.

Mayor Moody is also working on the Planning Commission appointees. There is one person she is still trying to get a hold of. One of our Planning Commission members expressed frustration that when they are supposed to give a variance there is no code enforcement. Because of this complaint there was a meeting with City Manager Bauer and Manager of the Property Maintenance Department, Bill Knight about some of the issues in the city, one of which is code enforcement. For the amount of time given to Mr. Knight the job is overwhelming to accomplish what is needed. An idea was presented to pursue additional funding through the Port Authority to help with code enforcement.

There have also been complaints about litter. This is not unique to Mt. Healthy. One of the issues is the code enforcement. Mayor Moody encourages everyone to help pick up trash in your own front yard and bring garbage cans back up from the curb after they have been emptied, this would help significantly. Bill Knight has issued a letter to the Speedway Company about their lack of property care. There are also some ordinances that need to be "cleaned up".

Metro Now is coming to the library 2/7/2024. The alleyway between the Library and Hilltop Glass will be closed so people can explore the van. This is a service that is similar to an Uber. This provides an opportunity for community members to get a better understanding of the services they provide.

People are curious about what happened to the volunteer clean up group. We are looking at going through the CDC to sponsor and reinstate this group.

Manager Bauer and Mayor Moody are working on an "Events Grant", which is up to \$25,000. The deadline is February 16, 2024. This would be used to finance the entire July 3, 2024 event as well as the skating rink for Christmas in Mt. Healthy. If the grant is

approved it would have a positive effect on the city's budget. There is a college graduate in town that just received a degree recently in grant writing and will begin volunteering to complete some of the grants.

A Healthcare Connections consultant checked in to see if there is anything more they can do for our community. Some of the feedback that was given to the consultant is that many people don't know all of the services that they provide. If there is any additional feedback from the community, please contact Mayor Moody as she has the contact information and can relay the information. An idea was posed to have the consultant come to council and present updated information about the organization.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

The City Manager's Report was sent out to council on Friday with some updated changes. Union negotiations for the full time Firefighters are ongoing with wages and time off being the things still in negotiation with no resolution met. Because of this, fact finding has been set for March 5, 2024. It takes about two weeks for the report to be completed. From there, City Manager Bauer will create a "position paper" and the Union will do the same. A "Fact Finder" will then try and find some midpoint in negotiations.

The staffing chart has been updated with 2022 and 2023 being accurate numbers. Public Works lost an employee to become the Public Works Director in North College Hill. A replacement started last Monday, January 29, 2024.

A pre-construction meeting for both the Harrison and the Forest-Madison projects will be held this Thursday, February 8, 2024. The construction meetings will provide information for when we can begin breaking ground.

The Cincinnati Public Library has submitted permits which are currently under review.

In the Finance department, the City is transitioning to ADP (payroll).

There is a new price for the Gas Aggregation for City Council members to review.

The grants that the city is looking to pursue have been updated, with the need to add the "Events Grant" to the list for the next meeting. Another new grant that was suggested by Chief Lawson was an "EMS Grant", which could provide up to \$25,000 for basic equipment. We have successfully received this grant in the past.

The City Manager plans to review the fee schedule for what we charge for high grass and weeds, trash, police citations and building permits in the coming month.

DEPARTMENT REPORT: Jerome Deidesheimer, Police Department

There were a number of reports provided to council. The first is the Biased Based Racial Profiling Annual Report. This is required for review for Mt. Healthy to continue to be a part of the Ohio Collaborative. A December 2023 report was also presented to

council, as well as the January 2024 report. Another page presented to council was the photos of the new striping added to Police vehicles. This was created by Matt Grimm, a Mt. Healthy police officer and was approved by vote from the other officers.

A snapshot was put together for 2020-2023 and provided to council summarizing everything from citations to traffic contacts. There were questions at the last council meeting by Council Member Parsons about the difference between what the call entails versus what was actually dispatched. This snapshot has been updated to be a more accurate reflection of what police are being called to do in the community. Total charges were down about 30% from 2022-2023, total calls for service went up slightly, calls for service at Clovernook Apartments went down about 20%.

This time last year, court revenues at the end of January beginning of February were a little over \$10,000. Today we are at close to \$16,500 YTD.

Door access project was completed in the city building, which means everyone who needs entry into the building was given a key fob. This will give the city the opportunity to create schedules, allowing access only to the people who need it when they need to gain entrance into the building. This will create a more secure facility.

A question was asked by Mr. Roetting about a report in Mt. Healthy on "Crime Stoppers". The suspect has not yet been apprehended. This was a confirmed domestic violence situation where the suspect shot off a round into the air, went back into the house and then escaped out the back door. In an effort to exercise caution additional units were called in. Two confirmed warrants are out for this individual. In the event that this happened during school hours, there is protocol to make contact with the school administration, and issue lock down procedures.

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS:

A first reading on a resolution to follow an executive session.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Three names have been given for the Civil Service Commission. They are James Wolf, Mary Anne Schenk and Deborah York. A request was made by Council Member Parsons to delay the approval of appointments until the next meeting.

Tom Davis: (Bernard Ave) has been working with the Urban Tree Commission as an ISA certified arborist municipal specialist, working with the tree commission and came to council to provide a report. In the last few years of working with the Tree Commission, the funding has allowed for the planting of 1 and 2 gallon trees in the tree lawns. They are hoping with grant funding they can start with larger trees, which would have a better success rate. A Forest Avenue Wetlands park project is hosting a cleanup this

Saturday. An employee of Davy Tree has offered his experience in invasives overtaking land, cost free to the Wetlands project this weekend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Parsons made a motion that council move into executive session in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §121.22(G)(#) to discuss employment and compensation of a public employee (ORC§121.22 (G)(1) and to consider the purchase of property for public purposes (ORC§121.22 (G)(2). Mr. George seconded the motion. Roll call vote of 7-0 carried the motion to move into executive session.

The council meeting was called back into session at 8:15 p.m. by President of Council, Ross Bittner.

Mr. Parsons made a motion that City Council approve the contract between the city and employee for termination of employment and that the City Manager has the authority to execute such contract. A second was made by Mrs. Lingo. A vote of aye from all members of council carried the motion. ***The Motion is carried.***

There was a first reading of resolution number 24-1217. A resolution for the city to appropriate monies to Mt. Healthy Community Improvement Corporation to promote economic development.

Mr. Roetting made a motion to amend resolution number 24-1217 to add the following (in bold):

WHEREAS, the Mt. Healthy C.I.C. has requested financial assistance in the amount of **up to \$150,000** to support...

Mrs. Dosa seconded the motion. A vote of aye from all members of council carried the motion. ***The Motion is carried.***

Mr. Parsons made a motion to suspend the two reading rule for resolution number 24-1217 as amended. A second was made by Mr. Roetting. Roll call vote of 7-0 carried the motion to suspend the two reading rule. Two reading rule was suspended.

Mr. Young made a motion to adopt resolution number 24-1217 as amended. Mr George seconded the motion. Roll call vote of 7-0 carried the motion. ***Resolution 24-1217 was adopted as amended.***

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lingo with second by Mrs. Rissel. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



President of Council, Ross Bittner



Clerk of Council, Sara Danks