

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 2024

The council meeting was called to order at 7:04 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. Young, Mrs. Rissel, *Mr. George*

Mrs. Lingo arrived at 7:06

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

City Manager Scott Bauer, Finance Director Melanie Branditz and Public Works Director Justin Westrich

MINUTES: A motion to approve and adopt the minutes as written for the February 6, 2024 council meeting was made by Mr. Young with a second by Mr. Parsons. An aye vote carried the motion 6-0. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS: None.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Dwight Weese: (St. Clair Ave) A member of the tree commission, Mr. Weese came to share with council that they won the grant made to the Ohio's Inflation Reduction Act Urban Forestry Grant for Emerging programs. There were 67 applicants across the state with 36 grants awarded totalling 5.5 million overall. Mt. Healthy applied for just under \$25,000. Within our region, we were 1 of 6 applicants. There will be a second round to apply for more funding in 2025. Now that the city has been provided funding through this grant, some of the things that the grant will pay for is hiring a professional arborist to survey current trees, help us with future applications of trees, and protecting our tree lawns. The money will also be used for remediation efforts, tree hazard reduction surveys as well as pruning. Planting along Perry Street as well as other adjoining streets in the future are also a part of the plan.

Mr. Weese also expressed his thanks on behalf of the Urban Tree Commission for council's help with tree ordinances as well as the approval to work toward the grant. While it was initially believed that this grant was going to be a matching grant, it was fully funded by the state. There are plans to make an announcement about this on social media and on the city website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification: Denise Lingo: Nothing to report.

Business Partnership: Paul Young III: Received an email on March 8th from the business association president, Dwight Moody that all meetings have been suspended until further notice.

Economic Development: Paul Young III: Nothing to report.

Finance: Bob Parsons: Nothing to report.

Library: Kisha Dosa: The library on April 8th will be having an eclipse party in the Mt. Healthy Park from 1:30-4:30pm. There will be arts and crafts in addition to educational material about the solar eclipse. Eclipse glasses for safe viewing will be available at the Hamilton County public libraries on April 8th only, while supplies last.

Parks: Kisha Dosa: Mrs. Dosa passed around paperwork from Playground Equipment Services that provided more information about the availability of playground equipment and suggestions for the park space. These would be temporary structure options that are available for the city to rent. They will be adding more options as it was requested to include swings and slides as well for ages 2-5. The rental for each piece of equipment would be approximately \$1,000. These items would be able to be purchased outright or returned once a firmer plan for the area was secured. Preparations for turning in a grant in June are underway. These options would be placeholders, with the hope that the grant is awarded and more funding is secured. The installation price is high. Mrs. Dosa is in ongoing talks to try and get a pricing discount for this in addition to ongoing discussions about other showroom structures that can be temporarily rented. In April, there are plans to have another forum to bring the public back in for an update and to discuss steps forward.

Safety: Joe Roetting: Nothing to report.

Schools: Cordel George: On March 27, 2025 Mt. Healthy City Schools will be hosting the second session of the community forum, "Community Financial Meeting". More information can be found on the Mt. Healthy City Schools website. Information on the 5 year financial forecast will be discussed. A link on the website has information about what was discussed from the first meeting. In addition, Pre-K and Kindergarten registrations are now open for Mt. Healthy public schools.

Streets: Peggy Rissel: Defer to the Public Works Department, Justin Westrich's report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Scott Bauer

A tentative agreement has been reached with the full time Fire Union. This will be discussed in the executive session. The part time employee agreement is still being finalized. There are hopes that by the next meeting it will be able to be presented to council.

There is a meeting with the law director about the house on Warner that had the SWAT raid to possibly declare that home as a nuisance.

Within the next month there may be an OVI checkpoint. One of our officers is a part of the OVI task force. This would be set up across from Neidhard Young Funeral Home. More information will be provided in the next few weeks.

Road Projects: Forest/Madison/northern section of Harrison north of Compton should start soon, with addition to the south of Compton which may also happen this year. The

SORTA project opportunities just opened for the year. Recommendations will be brought to council in the next few meetings for what to submit that may qualify. There are stricter requirements for what qualifies.

Updated rates for gas aggregation will be brought to council for the next meeting.

Human Nature has been confirmed to work with Mt. Healthy and they will hopefully have a meeting this week to kick off and create a steering committee for their vision of Hamilton Avenue.

The next city council meeting has been set up to have the 3 year public hearing for the CDBG block grant. The goals will be to share what has been done in the past and also provide some recommendations including the facade improvements, streetscapes.

This will require public input in order to determine how to move forward.

The AFG safer grant that covers the fire engine was submitted last Friday. This takes approximately 9 months before we learn if it has been awarded to the city.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT: Justin Westrich

All of the public restrooms were closed and winterized from November- April so nothing freezes. They will start to open these up in the coming weeks. Mowers will be prepared for spring as well. Public works decorated for Christmas and removed the decorations. Work has been done in the police department including walls, carpet and paint. There were 4 snow events this year. 64 tons of salt was used this winter compared to 100 tons just in one event last year. 4,950 salt brine was used to pre-treat roads which helped with salt consumption. The department researched and wrote a grant for the EPA "Calcium reduction grant". The goal of this grant is to encourage municipalities to move away from rock salt. All of the eligible equipment would be brine related. Last week an email went out to applicants sharing that 260 localities in Ohio applied for 1.5 million worth of grant money. Mr. Westrich received his commercial applicator's license which is required for applying weed treatment. An employee in the department was lost to NCH and a new employee was hired. Litter has been something they continue to work on. The department continues to work on filling potholes. Currently, the asphalt plant is in Franklin, OH which is 2-2.5 hours round trip to get the blacktop. The department has already been out there 3x this year. There is a closer location but it isn't open yet.

Pool grates, pumps, and motors have been rebuilt or ordered. They are waiting for May to put everything together and get started in the pool area. In the park there have been some vandalism issues in the bathroom after dark. This means that the park hours have changed and a magnetic lock has been installed so that the doors automatically lock and unlock at specific times of day. This is a change from the lock and key which required someone to come unlock and lock them.

More wildflower seeds have been ordered, both full sun and shade. These will be scattered around a number of different places. Old brackets for the decorative light posts for hanging flower pots were found and there are hopes to use them for plants. The hope is to hang 20 of these with the help of the Beautification Committee to try and make this happen. The department would like to move brackets for banners closer to the entrances to the city and then hang pots closer to the business district.

A sealing streets estimate was provided, which fills the cracks in the asphalt and extends the life of the roads. The estimate is \$66,495 to have all the streets in Mt.

Healthy that are able to be sealed, sealed. This would get the streets up to date and then from there the department would be able to keep up in the future. The last year this was completed was 2017.

A motion to approve the sealing of the streets was made by Mrs. Rissel with a second by Mr. George. A 7-0 vote carried the motion. ***The Motion is carried.***

ORDINANCES: None.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Roetting asked if there was any update from Third Century concerning the "Just One More" building. The city manager will reach out to them to see if there are any updates.

The Antique Mall was vacated last fall. The HVAC company is looking to move into another space in Mt. Healthy. There are no updates as to when this will occur.

We have been preliminarily approved for the Werner project for SKIP funding. Our district has approved our project and now we are waiting for the state to formally make the approval. This could possibly be bid on this year, with the hopes of the project starting in 2025.

NEW BUSINESS: A Beautification Committee meeting will be held in council chambers at 6:30pm on April 2, 2024.

Mr. Parsons will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Executive Session: Mrs. Dosa made a motion that council will move into Executive Session in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §121.22(G)(4) to discuss collective bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation. Mr. Parsons seconded the motion. A roll call vote of 7-0 carried the motion to move into executive session.

The council meeting was called back into session at 8:24 by President of Council , Ross Bittner.

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 8:38 p.m.



President of Council, Ross Bittner



Clerk of Council, Sara Danks