

MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 4, 2013

***Public hearing** was held at 7:00pm regarding the Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) with Springfield Township. This public hearing allowed for public input and to answer questions. The contract has been on file in our office for 30 days. Expected to be on the February 2014 election and a start time of April or May.*

Public hearing closed at 7:10pm

The council meeting was called to order by Pro Tem Ross Bittner at 7:10pm. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mrs. Lingo, Mr. Wolf, Mrs. Moody, Mr. Bittner, Ms. Brandy, Mr. Parsons, Mrs. George

Absent and Excused: None.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Treasurer Judy Petersen, Auditor Jill Claire, Law Director Steve Wolf, City Manager Bill Kocher, Mayor Joseph Roetting

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes with as printed was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mrs. George. An aye vote carried the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Copies of Issue 5 and Issue 6 regarding electric and gas aggregation were sent to Mt. Healthy from the Board of Elections for the Tuesday, November 5th election.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Noah Gibbs – Here this evening to talk about the current status of the Fire Department. Not a member of the department or works for the City. Mt. Healthy’s Fire Department is inadequate. There is only 2 or maybe 3 people on duty, which we have more council people than we have firefighters or EMT’s on duty. As residents we pay on a \$100,000 home we pay about \$129 every 6 months. Springfield Township pays \$286 every 6 months. If this fire department ever closes down what would it do to the ISO ratings and my home owner’s insurance. I propose we ask residents to double what we pay for the fire tax levy and with that; staff your fire stations with 5 people. We don’t even have enough people on duty to do immediate rescue at a fire. It’s disappointing the fire department has got to this point. Immediate action needs to be taken. If we do nothing the city is taking on liability. This would be a necessary additional tax.

“Thanks” for coming to council this evening. This is nothing new that we are hearing. We have been struggling with this for a while now. This is something that all the cities in the area are struggling with and that’s why we have been looking at options. There has never been any discussion on closing this department. Council has been aware that Mt. Healthy does not have paramedics. Council does not disagree with you.

Karen Arnett; Here this evening to voice concerns regarding the property at 7620 Perry Street. This property is owned by the city and is slated for demolition. It is one of the nicest houses in this immediate area. The value of that property and it was the only one in this area to have increased in value on the auditor’s website. You are talking about demolishing property that is the most highly valued in this area. Would like for the city to reconsider the demolition of this property and take a little more time to research whether it might be marketable as a property for residence.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Joseph Roetting

The Tree Commission is now offering trees for fall planting. We have several species of small, medium and large at maturity trees and will plant them in the tree lawn of interested residents. (The tree lawn is the space between sidewalk and street. We can make exceptions for trees to be planted in a front yard if the tree will still be visible from the street.) We require that people water the tree weekly for the first two growing seasons. Please share this and have any interested parties contact Bob Curley, Karen Arnett, or Judy Harmon through the city office.

Veteran's day parade was well attended.

The Ohio Military Band will be performing Thursday, December 12th from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM at the Mt. Healthy Jr/Sr High School Auditorium, 8101 Hamilton Ave. Admission is **FREE**

The police department is now in training with the new software. They are looking to go live on December 1st. The full-time officers are being trained in house and will be doing the training of the part-time officers.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Bill Kocher

The civil service exam was held on October 28th for the full-time police officer position. 39 people took the exam. The last time the test was given was in 2008. The top 10 scores will be considered for hiring. There will be a citizen board being put together in this hiring process.

Reminder for the beginning of the year to start prioritizing. We will continue to look at streets and prioritize the list to have on going. We will start looking at where we are with the street funds and what are we able to do. Once the Maple Avenue project is complete we will be able to see where we stand after the first quarter.

Today a company named Turface, which provides conditioning material for most of the major league ballparks and golf courses. They put on a community outreach program in our park. They donated about 4 tons of the material to incorporate into our ball fields. We have several folks from different communities seeing the program.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Steve Wolf

None.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: Jill Claire

There is a first reading of a housekeeping ordinance tonight. This will not be the final ordinance. There will be another housekeeping at year end.

The transition for the Waste and Tax collection is moving along smoothly.

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Judy Petersen*

None.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 13-1676: A first reading of ordinance creating the unclassified positions of Assistant Finance Director, Administrative Liaison, and City Clerk/Administrative Assistant and setting compensation.

Ordinance 13-1677: A first reading of 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 police officer.

Ordinance 13-1678: A first reading of ordinance to set a special rate for compensation for City of Mt. Healthy fire department employees during certain events and certain holidays.

Ordinance 13-1679: An ordinance approving a contract with Springfield Township to designate the Springfield Township Joint Economic Zone I, directing the Clerk of Council to file a copy of this ordinance with the Hamilton County Board of Elections and declaring an emergency. A motion to suspend the two reading rule was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Ms. Brandy and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

Ordinance 13-1680: A first reading of ordinance amending the 2013 appropriations and declaring an emergency.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 13-1050 A second reading of resolution adopting the Hamilton County Natural Hazard Mitigation plan. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Ms. Brandy and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. A roll call vote carried the motion 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A big "Thanks" to Sylvia Lawson and her family for the 2013 Halloween Kids Fest.

The Stevens Avenue issue from last council meeting has been taken care of.

City of Mt. Healthy Block watch is still in the works to make a comeback.

Updates on 7272 Hamilton Avenue and the Duval property;

The last we were contacted on 7272 Hamilton we asked for a written plan for what the property would be used for. We have not heard anything since.

Duval property - Healthcare Connection still looking for funding. CMHA has a purchase agreement that every 6 months they are to pay \$1,000 to renew the contract. They went through the tax exempt funding process and were not awarded due to a technicality in the application. They are going to apply again in February and think that they will be awarded next year.

A reminder that Mrs. George will not be at the next meeting and maybe not the December 3rd meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:


The draft of the 2014 Budget has gone to the Finance Committee for review.

The polls will be open tomorrow from 6:00am – 7:00pm.


Ms. Claire has Bob Evans dine to donate coupons for Wednesday for anybody who would like one.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mrs. George. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.



Donald Crank, President of Council



Melanie Evenson, Clerk of Council