

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015**

The council meeting was called to order by President of Council Ross Bittner at 7:15pm. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Wolf, Ms. Brandy, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Petersen

Absent and Excused: Mrs. Lingo, Mrs. Moody, Mrs. George

Ms. Petersen made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Brandy to excuse the absent members. All in favor *motion carried*.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Joseph Roetting, City Manager Bill Kocher, Law Director Steve Wolf, Finance Director Jill Claire

MINUTES:

A motion to adopt the minutes of the January 6, 2015 meeting as printed was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Ms. Petersen. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Janet Curley, Treasurer of the Mt. Healthy Beautification Committee is here to announce the plant voucher sale for 2015. This is the main fundraiser for the committee. This needs to grow, so we need to get the word out to the community that there is help needed. Looking for volunteers to help during the summer with planting around the city, watering, and up keep of the plants. The voucher will be on the website and copies will be down in the administration office. We need a lot of support from the community. Please let Mrs. Curley know if you would like to volunteer.

Steve Harness, President, Board of Education: Council will receive an invitation to the focus groups for our new superintendent. The invitation will be from the Ohio School Board Association and Mr. Steve Horton, which he is heading the search. We will be having different groups of business, neighboring communities. Please join the focus groups if you can.

The Mt. Healthy Football team was chosen as one of the top 20 for academic performance in the State of Ohio. This goes for public and private schools. Many of our football players not only are great players, but also carry a 4.0 grade point average. We are very proud of these guys. They have worked hard.

Mr. Wolf would like to recognize one of the football players, Dominique Smith was offered a full scholarship to Howard University to play football there.

Joshua; has lived on Harrison avenue for many years, went to Mt. Healthy school. When the High School moved locations Harrison Avenue became a drag strip. It is nonstop all year around. There has to be something that can be done. Somebody is going to get hit and doesn't want to see this happen. What can we do about this? The speed is getting out of control.

Mr. Kocher will get with Chief Demasi regarding this issue. This is the first he is hearing about this.

Karen Arnett: Would like to request that the \$400,000 debt that is going to have a first reading on this tonight's agenda that you please share with the residents. We are told to come to council meetings because this is the place to be heard. Often when an ordinance is introduced there is very little discussion. Would like to know what the vision or plan is to take on this large amount of debt.

Mr. Kocher states the ordinance does address the area we are talking about, which is the Hamilton Avenue Corridor. This is similar to what we did on Martin Street. We issued that debt, which has since been expired and put a project together. Real Estate is one of the things we are not going to get specific on the properties, but we do identify the area. Want to focus the development of the business district.

Ms. Arnett would like to know the vision or plan and not be told after it is already done. That is not fair to the residents to find out after the City has already made the decisions. So there is a plan for radical change in the business district, but none of us will know about it until it's a done deal.

Mr. Wolf would like to add one of the reasons why we don't give specifics of what properties we are looking at is because when word gets out the City is purchasing real estate they think that we have all the money in the world and we can pay anything to get the property and they start raising the price. We do involve residents once we can, but when we are in the process of purchasing it is just something we can't put out there.

Mr. Steve Wolf; we don't know how the redevelopment will look until we find a developer. We can't promise anything. What we can work for is a better uptown business district.

Bethany Reynolds: would like to know about the Compton Avenue parking issue that was discussed at a previous meeting. There is no action pending right now regarding the issue. The plan is just to do some clean up on the signage. The street department is looking at this. We are not looking to ban parking on Compton. Would like to be notified on anything that would take place regarding the issue.

GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS:

Jeanna Gempt from CMHA is here to give council an update on the Duvall property.

The proposed site will be 36 units, mostly one bedroom and a few two bedrooms. The housing project will take place on the back 4 acres. They will be looking to break ground around the beginning of April. Construction will take about a year. They still need to award the construction portion of the project. They will be doing that at their next meeting.

The first step will be going through the planning commission, which they are in contact with Mr. Osgood.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bargaining: James Wolf; the Sergeant and Full-Time Police Officers contracts are being negotiated and will be at a later council meeting for passing. They are finishing them up.

Business Partnership: Bob Parsons; Attended the MHBA meeting last Monday.

- New vice president is John Wright and new board of directors were announced at the meeting for 2 years, Pastor Todd Cutter, Chris Girmann, Robert Hall, Dwight Moody, and David Hoffman
- Discussed the bi-laws and have changed a few things. They will now allow non Mt. Healthy businesses to join, which will help them grow. They will be reaching out to neighboring communities.
- Mt. Healthy Christian Home is having a luncheon for a heart healthy program for older adults on February 19th from 11am-1pm. You do need to pre-register.
- There is a Facebook page out there for Growing up Mt. Healthy. They share stories about growing up in the City.
- They discussed the litter problem in the city. It is getting worse.

Events/Park: James Wolf; The summer schedule will be going out. Many "Thanks" to Ray and Monica for putting together the summer calendar.

Finance: Jenny Moody; Mr. Kocher would like to call a finance committee meeting at 6:30pm on February 3rd before the next council meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Joseph Roetting

Would like to touch on the incident at the High School last week that involved 7 girls out of 1300 students. Talked with Lori Handler and the school was placed on lockdown for safety reasons. This was a top 10 news story on Cincinnati.com. Must have been a slow news day. You always hear the bad stuff. You don't hear the about the good things that come from Mt. Healthy schools. Would like to have Steve Harness come up and give us positive things that are going on in our schools.

Historical Society letter had a great article regarding Martin Luther King.

The City presented Mr. Cliff Upsinger with a key to the City. He turned 105 on January 14th. This was an awesome thing to do.

The Bicentennial Committee met for the first time tonight. The next meeting will be March 17th at 6:00pm. Anybody is welcome to attend.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Bill Kocher

The owner of Northwest Auto has come to us regarding the side of his building after Jewell Recording Studio demo. The City will work with him to get the building in shape. Bill Knight is in contact with him.

Summer events have a lot of positive things happening. Monica and Ray did a great job coming up with the schedule. Funding will be the big thing for these events. With an effort from council to get volunteers and maybe have a sponsor for each event – meaning a designated person will run each event making sure everything is covered. The City is going to try and have something every Friday night in the park.

Council approves this.

The City gets notified from the coroner's office regarding indigent burials. We have ashes of a resident that has not been claimed. We looked into Sprinkling Gardens, but this is very expensive. We are looking at starting one in our cemetery and have a small nice area that we will be able to sprinkle the ashes.

There is going to be a first reading of an ordinance tonight for a new Fire Department first responder vehicle. We are looking at a budget not to exceed \$35,000. Chief Lawson has found a Dodge utility box truck for \$33,800 with the state bid. We are looking to purchase this without financing.

We received a letter from a resident and thought it would be good to share with council. We don't always hear the good things that go on in the city. The resident wanted to paint a better picture of our Police and Fire departments. His wife became sick and he called the squad and when they got there a complete evaluation was done, but she was refusing to be transported. Officer Cody Meyer and squad team of Andrew Browning, Adam Jones, and Ray Tobergte were very help and explained the "patients rights" and offered suggestions. It was great to see a job well done by these guys!

The owners of Hazelhurst met with the Police and Fire department and will be putting fire lanes in the trailer park. This was requested by a resident who lives there.

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Jill Claire

December month end reports are in the packets.

ORDINANCES:

Ordinance 15-1738: A first reading of an ordinance authorizing purchase of a 2015 4x4 Dodge Ram 2500, ¾ 7 ton pickup truck with utility body for the Fire Department and declaring an emergency.

Ordinance 15-1739: A first reading of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a mutual aid agreement for Fire and EMS services.

Ordinance 15-1740: A first reading of an ordinance providing for the issuance of bond anticipation notes in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 by the City of Mt. Healthy, Hamilton County, Ohio in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of financing the acquisition of real property in the City and declaring an emergency.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 15-1068: A first reading of a resolution requesting the County Auditor to make payment of taxes pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 321.34.

Resolution 15-1069: A first reading of a resolution approving the proposed agreement between the City of Mt. Healthy and the Mt. Healthy Maintenance Association.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bittner; follow up on the Mt. Healthy Preparatory and Fitness Academy School at Harrison and Compton regarding the signs that have. Are these allowed?

Mr. Kocher will talk to Mr. Osgood regarding the signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Parsons mentions the sign and billboard at the Heritage Park. Looks nice.

The state has completed the work down at the pond in Heritage Park.

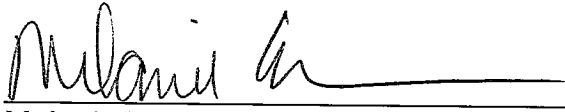
The empty lot next to Redline looks to become a parking lot. There are tracks in the mud and tracked over the sidewalk.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Brandy and seconded by Mr. Wolf. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.



Ross Bittner, President of Council



Melanie Evenson, Clerk of Council