

**MT. HEALTHY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 21, 2020**

The council meeting was called to order by President of Council Ross Bittner at 7:00pm. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Mayor James Wolf swore in the newly elected official:  
Mr. Roetting*

**ROLL CALL:**

***Present:*** Mrs. Lingo, Mrs. Moody, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Petersen, Mr. Roetting, Mrs. Dosa

***Absent and Excused:*** Mr. George

A motion to excuse the absent members was made by Mr. Roetting and seconded by Mrs. Moody. An aye vote carried the motion

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor James Wolf, City Manager Bill Kocher, Finance Director Scott Bauer

**MINUTES:**

A motion to adopt the minutes with changes made for the January 7, 2020 meeting was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mrs. Lingo. An aye vote carried the motion. Minutes were adopted.

A motion to adopt the work session minutes as printed for the January 7, 2020 meeting was made by Ms. Petersen and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion. Work Session Minutes were adopted.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

## **GUESTS, SPECIAL EVENTS:**

### **Myra Boggs from Working in Neighborhoods**

- Working in Neighborhoods and Hamilton County are providing down payment assistance of 3% of purchase price, up to \$4,500. The down payment assistance can be used in participating communities outside of City of Cincinnati. Contact WIN for more information at 541-4109 [www.wincincy.org](http://www.wincincy.org)
- Join Working in Neighborhoods and get the information you need to start you on the path to purchasing your own home  
Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm at Mt. Healthy Community Room

29<sup>TH</sup>

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

### **Sandra Reese from Mt. Healthy School District**

- New Social Worker for our school district, started working on January 6<sup>th</sup>
- Would like to share with council her role with the High School
- Hoping to become familiar with City Council and the businesses in town
- Believes in getting parents visible in the school district. Will be working more with the parents of the students. Right now, not all parents are active in their child's schooling
- Feels very capable to be able to make a difference
- Would love to have council involved and aware of the schools needs
- Let's work together and make all aware of problems that are outside of the school day
  - Contact: [sreese@mthealthycityschools.org](mailto:sreese@mthealthycityschools.org)

Mrs. Moody will give her email to get Mrs. Reese in touch with others in the neighborhood to contact. There are great resources she can get to know the community

### **Cindy Jurcenko, Hilltop Glass**

- Would like to see about changing the direction of the alleyway behind her building.
  - The alley running from Compton to McMakin. Going north
- The delivery trucks can't get their trucks in.
- There will need to be an ordinance passed for the direction to change.
- We will send out a letter to surrounding neighbors
- We will have a public hearing the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in February, 2/18/2020

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Business Partnership/Alliance: Judy Petersen;**

Attended the Mt. Healthy Business Association meeting

- Election of Officers at their next meeting in February
- Report from Karen Arnett regarding the Christmas Event – they had a very good turnout
- Businesses Celebrating Anniversaries this year
  - Little Dutch Bakery - 100 years
  - Hall & Associates – 40 years
  - Mt. Healthy Auto – 30 years
- Square Mile Coffee opened Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>
- Christian Church has been sold – They offered The Alliance to use the building through 2020
- A suggestion was made to make a flyer with different services for help to give to the folks that come to businesses asking for money
- There has been concern about the spray painting on walls of buildings
- Luncheon at the next meeting in February and have asked the Police Chief to talk

### **WeThrive – Jennifer Moody**

The first meeting of the year will be next Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm at Fibonacci Brewery Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT: James Wolf**

Mayor will be doing something for the business anniversaries. These long-time businesses should be recognized.

There will be a letter going out announcing the Fire Department Public Forum on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm 1 per household will go out. It has been posted on Facebook and Nextdoor and SeeClick Fix.

Multiple residents sent a link to HGTV small town makeover: HGTV is calling for small towns with a population of 40,000 or less. They want towns that have homes with great architecture and a main street that could use some revitalization. Going to apply. There are a lot of residents willing to help with the process.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Bill Kocher**

Sent out agenda ideas for the Fire Department forum for the January 28 meeting

There has been a certified letter that administration has received from a resident, Jason Wynn. This gentleman is declaring himself as a sovereign citizen. Talked with our law director and there is nothing more we need to do.

Met with our pool management company. Discussed having a job fair and will contact the previous employees. They are familiar with our pool. There was a lot of good discussion.

Met with engineer, Jon Goedde about the Adams, Elizabeth, Hickman project. Looking to start bids late May and award the project in June.

Zone rewrite holding the last group meeting. They are going to now begin to start the writing process. The group will take a little time off and meet back to review the sections and get final drafts to council for approval. The process is still moving along.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR: Scott Bauer**

- December month end reports and bank reconciliation were distributed in your packets
- CIC meeting before the February 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting 6:30pm
- Bond renewal – getting quotes this week. There will be more information at the next meeting. This can no longer be rolled over and will need to start making payment

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 20-1138:** A second reading of resolution requesting the County Auditor to make payments of taxes pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 321.34. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Parsons and seconded by Mr. Roetting. A roll call vote carried the motion 6-0. Resolution was adopted.

**ORDINANCES:**

Ordinance 20-1903: A first reading of ordinance amending Chapter 5 section 5.07 sub section C of The Mt. Healthy Employee Policy Manual regarding military reserve leave in excess of 176 hours.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.


**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lingo and seconded by Mrs. Dosa. An aye vote carried the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

  
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President of Council Ross Bittner

  
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Melanie Branditz, Clerk of Council

**MT. HEALTHY WORK SESSION**  
**January 28, 2020**

Meeting 7:00pm – 8:45pm

Discussing the next steps for the Fire Department after the Joint Fire District failed.

Two options are now on the table:

- ① PARSONS
- ② GEORGE  
Aye.

## Option 1: Contract EMS/Fire out to Springfield Township



Springfield Township Elected Officials  
Mark Berning, Trustee  
Kristie Dukes Davis, Trustee  
Joseph Honerlaw, Trustee  
Dan Berning, Fiscal Officer

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT  
www.springfieldtwp.org  
513 522 1410

January 28, 2020

Bill Kocher, City Manager  
City of Mt. Healthy  
7700 Perry Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45231

Re: Contract Proposal – Fire /EMS Service

Mr. Kocher,

At your request, I am providing this information as a tentative proposal for Springfield Township to provide Fire/EMS services to the City of Mt. Healthy. Additional information will need to be considered when making a more formal and detailed proposal, but for your immediate purposes we offer the following:

Based on the City's 2018 and 2019 run statistics, we believe the City should be serviced by two paramedic staffed ambulances. This would require six personnel to be on station 24 hours a day / 365 days per year. Due to economies of scale, Springfield Township could augment this minimum staffing with three current Township personnel. However, to accomplish the above referenced staffing levels, the Township would be required to fill an additional three shifts per day, which amounts to 26,280 hours.

The proposed annual cost to provide coverage to the City for both Fire and EMS responses, including fire inspections, public education/fire prevention, and hydrant maintenance: \$1,500,000

\*The Township would be responsible for all EMS billing and would retain all billing revenue.

This cost covers the following:

- 26,280 hours staffed with paramedic personnel
- Operational costs for equipment, training, and supplies
- Supervisory and administrative related expenses
- Township Fire/EMS Division Attributes – ISO 2 Rating, LUCAS Automatic CPR Devices, 2018 Ohio Fire Dept. of the Year – Ohio Dept. of Public Safety, Academy of Medicine Accreditation, Partnership with and home of the UC Mobile Stroke Unit

If the City would prefer personnel to operate out of the City's current fire station, additional agreements would need to be entered into regarding maintenance and improvements to said station. Additionally, any agreement would necessitate built-in annual increases to cover inflation and personnel cost adjustments.

If you should have any questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Christopher D. Gilbert  
Township Administrator

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Springfield Township Administration Department 9150 Winton Road | Cincinnati | Ohio | 45231

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Option: Keep the EMS/Fire in house



7700 Perry Street Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231

The proposal for the City of Mt. Healthy to keep the Fire and EMS service in house is based on the following criteria:

- The City 24/7/365 would have 2 staffed ambulances.
- This would be accomplished by staffing 5 employees for 24 hour shift (this does not include a Fire Chief – the chief would be in addition to the 5 employees).
- This would be done with full-time and part-time employees.

The City of Mt. Healthy currently funds its Fire and EMS services at \$750,000 and it is estimated that the new proposal will need to be funded somewhere between \$1.5 and \$1.7 million dollars to cover the current run volume as well as provide the same level of service to maintain a equitable mutual aid agreement.

There is NO PLAN of building additional fire stations, however with any type of service, capital expenditures are required for equipment and materials.

The City plans to apply for any and all grants available to defer local cost and extend local funding needs as long possible.

The City can no longer rely on other communities to come in and cover runs – this year alone, the City received mutual aid into our community 100 times more than what we provided to others.

I am very confident that the City Council and administration will put forth a plan that will address these issues and move the City into a position to address the EMS concerns.

Thanks,

Bill Kocher

City Manager, City of Mt. Healthy

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*"A city with a historic past working toward the future."*

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## **Benefits of staffing levels of 5 and moving to Paramedic EMS level**

### **Community:**

- Tax money is going for the best Fire and EMS services possible
- Higher quality of pre hospital care
- More efficient Fire and EMS services
- Better response times from not relying and waiting on mutual aid departments on EMS calls
- Meeting the needs of the community now and as it grows in the future
- Better community involvement with Public relations

### **Fire Department:**

- Being able to manage most EMS runs in our City, not relying on other mutual aid departments
- Getting both Life Squads out on calls
- Being able to bill at higher billing rates due to higher level of care rendered
- Getting an Engine and Squad out on Auto Accidents and other details as needed
- Extra manpower makes our department more efficient and safer on all EMS and Fire runs
- Safer fire ground operations on scene, 2 in 2 out. Not waiting for mutual aid departments to arrive to make entry into the building
- Day to Day operations can be taken care of: Building pre-planes, fire Inspections, better community PR, and car seat installations.
- Not putting so many demands on the part time personnel with administration duties and day to day operations
- Having full time staffing is somewhat a guarantee of having personnel to staff the station and make runs
- With this model and proper pay and incentives we should be able to retain personnel longer and may not have such a high turnover rate.
- If we do have an opening or are short staffed, it's more than likely we would have 4 and be able to get both squads out and still be more efficient and safer on fire scenes than we are now.
- When we provide mutual aid to other departments, we may still have 2-3 personnel back in our district to make EMS or Fire details in our City

### **City:**

- They are providing the best Fire and EMS services and meeting the needs of the community
- Not having such a risk from not being able to provide adequate Fire and EMS services as needed in the community
- May help in the ISO ratings?
- Help with new business and residents who may want to move into the City, knowing they have great EMS and Fire services
- Not being a burden to the neighboring City's or Townships by relying on them so much for EMS services



Our goal is to do better at educating the residents about what is happening with the EMS/Fire department. There was not enough education put out there for the joint fire district.

Two options are very close in cost. A Levy is needed either way. Right now, there is a 5mil Levy, which is a permanent. Any Levy that will be passed with be an addition to the 5mil Levy.

***There were 16 residents that voiced an opinion. 15 out of 16 would like to keep the EMS/Fire in house.***

Try to keep the Levy on a November election.

Residents appreciate the communication.

Testimonials would be great to have out on social media.

Channel 12 news was videotaping the meeting

If Levy would be passed in November 2020 this would go in effect January 1, 2021

Work session after the February 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

We will schedule another public forum meeting in late March or early April

“Thanks” to the residents that came out this evening to be part of the discussion.

“Thanks” to all neighboring Fire Districts for their services.