

MADEIRA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 8, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Spencer at 7:34 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mayor Spencer.

III. ROLL CALL

Members present:

Nancy Spencer, Mayor  
Scott Gehring  
Tom Henning  
Chris Hilberg  
Doug Moormann  
Brian Mueller  
Traci Theis

Officials/Staff present:

Brian Fox, Law Director  
Tom Moeller, City Manager  
Lori Thompson, Assistant City Manager  
David Schaefer, Police Chief  
C. Robert Paul, Treasurer  
Kristie Lowndes, Tax Commissioner  
Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

1. Changes to the agenda:

- None

2. Changes to the City Council Regular Meeting minutes from May 26, 2020:

- None

**Motion to accept the agenda and the May 26, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes made by Mr. Gehring, second by Ms. Theis. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

V. MAYOR'S MOMENT

1. Public Comment Reminder

2. In the Community

- Mayor Spencer spoke about the systemic racism and injustice faced by African Americans and the recent protests. She said, in part, "I am proud to live in this community, even while I recognize how insulated we often are from the vividly painful realities of racial injustice. I am proud of the enthusiasm of nearly 200 neighbors who stood together showing their support for racial equity and equal justice on a hot evening last week. I am proud of our police department for working with the organizers to ensure a safe and peaceful demonstration, and for their leadership every day in the community creating a visible and positive police presence while doing the difficult work of keeping us all safe.

I believe there's room for us to do more, and we have a moral imperative to listen and take action on the painful realities our Black citizens have faced for far too long. Beyond a march, a yard sign, or a social media post, I am eager to work with our community leadership and across the Cincinnati area to open my eyes, ears, and heart for concrete steps to push hard against racism and injustice. Our Madeira Police Department has my fullest support, and gratitude for any ways in which we can work together to expand

solutions to racial injustice within our own community or beyond, sharing what works, and learning from what hurts.

I am committed to take steps within my power to improve racial equity and justice and look forward to hearing from my fellow Council members to initiate a plan.”

3. Special Recognition
  - None

#### VI. NOTICES OF OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Parks and Recreation Board | June 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. |
| • Planning Commission        | June 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. |
| • Budget and Finance         | June 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. |
| • City Council               | June 22, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. |

#### VII. COMMITTEE AND OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on June 1, 2020
  - Mr. Moeller reported there were four cases on the agenda.
    - Variance to construct an addition on a legal nonconforming lot at 7126 Sanoma; the request was approved.
    - Variance for a fence on a corner lot at 7282 Thomas; the request was approved.
    - Front yard setback variance to construct a covered porch at 7813 Mapleleaf; the request was approved.
    - Sign variance for 7816 Camargo Road; the request was granted.

#### VIII. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. Guests and Registered Visitors
  - None
2. Correspondence
  - None

#### IX. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Ord. No. 20-07: Amending Certain Portions of the Property Maintenance Code, Including Section 92.45 of the City of Madeira Code of Ordinances—First Reading
  - Mr. Moeller said the legislation was to remove milkweed from the list of noxious weeds. Council discussed correspondence regarding a property on Johnson Street with a native meadow. Mr. Gehring said the possibility of an entire yard of milkweed may be counterproductive to community standards and suggested the language in the ordinance be made more specific. Council decided to have the Law and Safety Committee meet to discuss; Mr. Fox would be invited to be part of that discussion.
  - In a discussion about bamboo, Mr. Moeller said the City’s code does not mention bamboo, but bamboo has been declared illegal if it spreads to an adjacent property under State Law. If there were to be a fine involved, it would go to Hamilton County, not Mayor’s Court, and the issue would be addressed only by complaint.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Plan of Action

- Mayor Spencer said Madeira Schools Superintendent Kenji Matsudo sent an email to families about ways to interface on issues of racial justice. She suggested connecting with the Schools and other leaders in the City and in the area to begin taking actions steps.
- Council discussed collaborating with the School Board to ensure both governing organizations are on the same page; providing more transparency into hiring and other practices; consulting with outside resources to jumpstart the thinking process; and sending a letter to residents from Mayor Spencer. While all Council members would be part of the initiative, Council agreed that Mayor Spencer would reach out to Superintendent Matsudo, and Chief Schaefer for an initial meeting.

2. Stop Sign at Redondo Court and Lancewood Court

- Regarding residents' concerns about the intersection, Mr. Moeller said he and Chief Schaefer reviewed the data and determined the intersection does not come close to any standards that would allow for a four-way stop. However, actions that would be taken to make the intersection safer include: installing a "No Vehicle Access to High School" sign, installing a "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop Sign," painting stop bars on Redondo, and installing spinning windmills to the top of the existing stop signs.
- Mayor Spencer encouraged residents to bring forward safety concerns in other areas, as there may be some solutions that could make a difference.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Summer Schedule for Council

- Mayor Spencer asked to revisit the July 13 meeting after getting feedback that the meeting provides a nice summer break. She suggested cancelling the meeting unless there were pressing issues to be discussed. Council agreed to strike the meeting from the Council schedule.

2. Opening of Park Facilities

- In discussing the opening of the parks after the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Moeller said the restrooms would be opened starting June 10. They are required to be cleaned three times each day, and the seasonal employees will be responsible for cleaning them.
- The current requirement is for playground equipment to be cleaned and disinfected every hour, which the City is not staffed to do. The playgrounds will be closed until requirements are relaxed or until the City gets clarification from the Hamilton County Board of Health.
- The requirement for the shelter house facilities is that high-touch areas must be disinfected after each use. Monitoring the tables to clean each time a person sits down would not be possible for the City. Council agreed to removing the tables and making the shelters available for people to sit in their own chairs.
- Council discussed voicing concerns about the requirements and how the announcements have been handled from the State. Mr. Moormann suggested contacting State Senator Blessing and Representative Miranda about the concerns.
- Council also discussed addressing misinformation on social media about the playground equipment being open on June 10.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Real Estate Sale/Purchase

**Motion to adjourn into Executive Session to consider the purchase of property for public purposes or to consider the sale of public property at competitive bidding made by Mr. Hilberg, second by Mr. Moormann. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 8:31 p.m.**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion made by Ms. Theis, second by Mr. Gehring, to adjourn Executive Session and return to regular session at 9:01 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

**Motion made by Mr. Hilberg, second by Mr. Henning, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:04 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

  
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Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council