

MADEIRA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Spencer at 7:32 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 June 8, 2020:

- None

3. Res. No. 32-20: Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into a Cooperative Agreement for the Construction of Water Main Replacement Project Phase 1 between the City of Madeira, Ohio and the Ohio Water Development Authority
4. Res. No. 33-20: Requesting from Hamilton County, Ohio, the City of Madeira, Ohio's Share of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) Funds

Motion to accept the agenda; the June 8, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes; Res. No. 32-20: Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into a Cooperative Agreement for the Construction of Water Main Replacement Project Phase 1 between the City of Madeira, Ohio and the Ohio Water Development Authority; and Res. No. 33-20: Requesting from Hamilton County, Ohio, the City of Madeira, Ohio's Share of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) Funds made by Mr. Hilberg, second by Mr. Gehring. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

V. MAYOR'S MOMENT

1. Public Comment Reminder

2. In the Community

- Mayor Spencer thanked Andy Disbennett and the Public Works staff for their time, effort and ideas on how best to safely open the playground equipment at the parks.
- She said she was hopeful this would be the last meeting outside Council Chambers and is looking forward to discussing issues in a shared space. She hopes the City will be able to

implement video technology from Council Chambers in the near future to enable ongoing community participation.

- She wished a happy Father's Day to all the fathers working on behalf of the City.

3. Special Recognition

- None

VI. NOTICES OF OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| • Mayor's Court | June 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. |
| • Planning Commission—Special Session | June 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. |
| • City Offices Closed for Independence Day | July 3, 2020 |
| • Board of Zoning Appeals | July 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. |
| • Parks and Recreation Board | July 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. |
| • Mayor's Court | July 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. |
| • Planning Commission | July 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. |
| • Budget and Finance Committee | July 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. |
| • City Council | July 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. |

VII. COMMITTEE AND OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Board meeting on June 10, 2020

- Mr. Mueller reported the Board voted to recommend the cancellation of the Summer Splash Party due to COVID-19.
- The Board asked for Council's guidance on how to proceed with the Street Dance. Typically, costs are \$15,000 and revenue can be from \$7,000 to \$10,000, so the cost is \$5,000 to \$8,000. The event also takes a lot of planning on the part of the Board and requires the most upfront costs of any event. Mr. Mueller asked if Council would prefer the Board continue planning as usual, plan a scaled down event with less expense, or stop planning for the event. Ms. Theis and Mr. Hilberg spoke in favor of holding the event with social distancing to give residents something to look forward to. Mr. Moormann suggested the Board proceed cautiously forward and look into refundable deposits from the vendors. Mr. Gehring said the COVID-19 infection numbers are on the rise and suggested the funds from the Street Dance be put toward the Bonfire event in October. He also expressed concerns about managing an overwhelming number of people coming from other communities. Mayor Spencer said the idea of having the Street Dance made her very uncomfortable, as an outbreak could impact the start of school and the City's at-risk population. She said she would consider supporting a modified or scaled down event that minimized congregation points. Mr. Henning said he would support a scaled down event with a cost of about \$5,000. Mayor Spencer added that hosting the event at all would mean hosting an event with very little social distancing, as the City has no control over human behavior. After the discussion, Mr. Mueller said the Board would delay any decisions until more guidance comes from the State around July 1.
- The Board is proactively working on better community engagement by selecting books to read as a group. The first is the textbook titled *Heart of Community Engagement*. He asked that Council approve the approximately \$475 cost of providing each Board member with a digital copy. There were no objections to that suggestion, and Council discussed securing copies for members of other committees and/or Council as well.

2. Planning Commission meeting on June 15, 2020
 - Mr. Moormann reported there was a request for a lot consolidation and lot split for property on Marvin. The lot split would result in three building lots and one green space area. The request was approved.
 - Although it wasn't discussed in full at the meeting, Mr. Moormann said the Stewart Road rezoning request would likely be coming to Planning Commission again in July. He brought it to Council's attention, as there has been a lot of public comment about the request.
 - The City was unsuccessful in getting funds from Hamilton County for the Dawson Road Promenade project. The City did receive funds in the previous round for the Miami Avenue traffic study.
 - The Commission approved the updated Policy and Procedures document.
 - A special meeting of Planning Commission will be held on June 25 to discuss zoning code changes. Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals will be invited to attend.
 - The Commission recommended that Council enter into an agreement with Hamilton County Development Corporation to join their Community Improvement Corporation. The issue was referred to the Economic Development Committee for further review.
3. Law and Safety Committee meeting on June 16, 2020
 - Mr. Henning reported the Committee met to discuss Ord. No. 20-07 regarding milkweed. Parks Board Chair Anne Horne attended and provided a great deal of information about milkweed and native meadow areas. The Committee recommends approval of the current version of Ord. No. 20-07 and continued evaluation to possibly revise the code to allow for a native meadow area on residential properties.
4. Budget and Finance Committee meeting on June 22, 2020
 - Mr. Mueller reported the general fund balance is at 2.6 million, which is \$600,000 over the rainy day balance. JEDZ revenue netted out right on budget for May.
 - CARES funding will be coming to cover some COVID-19 expenses. Any funds not spent by the end of the year would need to be returned to Hamilton County. The funds can cover some labor costs; it cannot be used to cover lost tax revenue, although that is under discussion at the State level.
 - Discussion with Indian Hill Water Works about the water lines continues. Due to debt limit concerns by IHWW, the transition of the water lines is expected to be complete in 2025 and the new agreement to be signed soon will include steps for that transition. In addition, new surcharge amounts will be set by both Madeira and IHWW to fund current and future water line replacements.
5. Police Report
 - Chief Schaefer reported in-person training has not taken place, but all the officers did go through video training on COVID-19.
 - As of June 1, the Department has gone back to standard operating procedure regarding contact with the public, although they are incorporating social distancing. They have stepped up enforcement on Hosbrook to make the roadways safer for vehicles and pedestrians.
 - The Department will get clarification on the State law on the use of fireworks and post what it learns on social media.

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—Second Reading
 - No further comment from Council.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- None

XI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Racial Equity Action Plan
 - Mayor Spencer said the Action Plan includes four key areas: Commitment, Connection, Communication, and Correction.
 - Connection: School Superintendent Kenji Matsudo initiated a community leaders meeting. At the meeting he said the Schools are working on a global classroom initiative that uses common language, and they are looking at how to better integrate new families into the district. Mayor Spencer said these initiatives could be pursued on the City level as well.
 - The Fire Department is focused on ways they can increase diversity in hiring, and Rev. Tom Sweets said they are also looking into diversity in their staff and looking for ways to connect with other more diverse congregations and communities. Mr. Moormann noted that Hamilton County Commissioner Victoria Parks is pulling together communities to talk about connectivity.
 - Chief Schaefer said that since he joined the Police Department, he implemented detailed reports for use of force, display of firearms, and vehicle pursuits that are reviewed by the supervisor and the Chief. He also started working with nationally recognized risk management company Lexipol to ensure the Department's policies and procedures are up to date; Lexipol also enables those policies and procedures to be available on the officers' phones for easy access. The Department recently engaged with Guardian Tracking, an employee management system that has built-in positive contact and early warning systems. It provides a snapshot of an officer's positive and negative contact, as well as how often they use force, engage in vehicle pursuits, and display their firearm. Chief Schaefer also began the practice of tracking the sex and race of every person stopped and the reason why they were stopped. The Department will be getting a new records management system that will allow for easier entering and accessing of information.
 - Communication: In addition to the community statement issued by the Mayor and the article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, initiatives include leveraging the newsletter, conducting a survey to assess interest and feedback from residents; holding a Police Department open house; and assessing the visual symbols in the community.

- Correction: Mayor Spencer that that even though the City has not received any complaints, it doesn't mean there are not unmet needs. The goal here is to identify unmet needs or opportunities to do better. Mayor Spencer said she would pursue implicit bias training for staff and/or commission and board members.
2. Design Package for Police Cruisers and Equipment
- Mayor Spencer asked Chief Schaefer to explain the design changes made to the Department vehicles a few years ago. Chief Schaefer said many people don't have any connection to the Department except for seeing the cars on the street, so the appearance of the vehicles is very important to him.
 - He chose gray for the vehicles because they hide dirt better.
 - He put the logo on the doors because they are damaged less often than the front and rear quarter panels.
 - The word "Madeira" appears to identify the department; the word "Police" is required by State law.
 - The car number is designed to be easy to read, as it can be the only identifying thing a person remembers about a police encounter.
 - The words "Honor," "Loyalty," "Commitment," and "Duty" on the back are the Department's challenge coins or core values.
 - Chief Schaefer said the Thin Blue Line represents the last line of defense between good and evil, legal and not legal, and law-abiding citizen and criminal. It represents courage and sacrifice. The line appears on the flag as a constant reminder to officers that they have responsibility to themselves, to their community, and to the whole law enforcement community.
 - Mayor Spencer acknowledged that in the community there has been discussion about how the Thin Blue Line creates negativity in relation to the Black Lives Matter initiative.
 - Mr. Mueller asked Council to consider the City's policy on the display of personal opinion pieces. He said he does not favor using taxpayer dollars to finance the display of symbols that favor one opinion and exclude another; he requested the City stop the practice of paying for opinion symbols.
 - Mr. Moormann disagreed saying the Thin Blue Line has a long tradition in law enforcement. He said the symbol is not an opinion; it shows that the City is supporting their police. He said it was unfortunate the symbol has been co-opted by others to attack the police. Mr. Mueller said a consequence of unofficial symbols is that can get misinterpreted. He recommended that only official logos and insignia be on the equipment, and the other elements are better, in a Government setting, displayed within the department.
 - The policy consideration of opinion pieces on City-owned assets and what constitutes an opinion piece were referred to the Law and Safety Committee.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

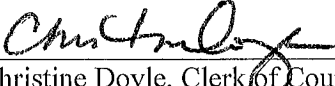
1. Pending Litigation

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing disputes involving the City that are subject of pending, possible, or imminent court action or to discuss legal opinions of the Law Director on such matters that could reasonably involve future litigation made by Ms. Theis, second by Mr. Hilberg. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 9:29 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Henning, second by Mr. Moormann, to adjourn Executive Session and return to regular session at 9:43 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Ms. Theis, second by Mr. Hilberg, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.



Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council