

MADEIRA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Spencer led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

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, Asst. Treasurer
Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Changes to the agenda:

1. Mr. Moormann asked to add City Holidays to New Business.

B. Changes to the City Council Regular Meeting minutes from January 11, 2021:

None

C. Res. No. 10-21: Approving and Accepting the Public Improvements of the Camargo Trail Development and Treetops Lane

Motion to accept the agenda; the January 11, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes; and Res. No. 10-21: Approving and Accepting the Public Improvements of the Camargo Trail Development and Treetops Lane made by Mr. Moormann, second by Mr. Henning. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

V. MAYOR'S MOMENT

A. Public Comment Reminder

B. In the Community

1. Mayor Spencer noted that members of Council and attendees were back in Council Chambers for the City's first hybrid meeting. She thanked the residents who have attended the Zoom meetings of Council, Thomas Redmann from Madeira High School for working the cameras during the meeting, and Ms. Thompson for all of her technical expertise. She also thanked Ms. Thompson for being the key contact with Hamilton County during the COVID-19 crisis.
2. Mayor Spencer acknowledged the death of Vinnie Englert, a much-loved Madeira High School student in the class of 2020. She said our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the deaths of young people in our community this year as well as to those mourning the loss of life due to COVID-19.

- C. Special Recognition
None

VI. NOTICES OF OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Public Works January 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- Board of Zoning Appeals February 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- Public Works February 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- City Council February 8, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

VII. COMMITTEE AND OFFICIAL REPORTS

- A. Parks and Recreation Board meeting January 13, 2021
 1. Mr. Mueller reported the Board welcomed new member Ramzi Takieddine.
 2. The Board said they would be requesting funds for purchasing Tree City signage, should the City's application be approved.
 3. A subcommittee has been created to discuss ideas for winter holidays other than reverse parades, which could be taxing on Police and Fire resources.
 4. The Board has found that the \$130,000 budgeted for two playscapes at Sellman Park is insufficient for more than one modern, engaging playscape. The Board recommends using the funds to purchase a playscape for 2- to 5-year olds and to budget a similar amount for a playscape for 5- to 12-year olds in two to four years. Mr. Mueller said the City has been approved to receive another CDBG grant in 2023 of \$40,000 for ADA-compliant playscapes that could be used at either Sellman Park or McDonald Commons. When asked, he said so far the position of the Budget and Finance Committee is to not approach the School District for assistance in paying for the second playscape, as the City benefits from other shared resources with the Schools. Mayor Spencer said she would advocate opening the door to a conversation with the Schools about how best to meet their playscape needs and about possible cost sharing.

- B. Economic Development Committee meeting on January 14, 2021
 1. Mr. Moormann reported the Committee discussed possible tax abatement programs and decided to focus on a program to incent renovating homes. While the City could abate up to 50% of taxes without the agreement of the School Board, the next steps will be to have preliminary discussions with the School Administration. Staff has already met with the Hamilton County Development Corporation, who could help with the application to the State. This type of abatement could go for up to 15 years.
 2. Regarding the Downtown Redevelopment District, the criteria requires that one building in the district be on the National Historic Trust Registry. The next step is for the City to engage a historic consultant to identify appropriate buildings.
 3. The Committee agreed to pursue a brand for the City at a later date, as the two upcoming Public Works projects would have open areas where branded signage could be added later.
 4. The Committee would like to meet with local business to get the pulse of the commercial district regarding the current COVID crises and to see what the City could do to help. Staff will discuss with the Chamber of Commerce how best to do this.

- C. Public Works Committee meeting on January 18, 2021
 1. Mr. Gehring reported the Committee unanimously agreed to have a second conversation with Kleingers and Associates for the City engineering contract; that meeting is scheduled for January 26.

2. The Committee has reviewed the consultant applications for the McDonald Commons Park Masterplan and has decided to interview up to four of them, one of which is Kleingers.
3. The Committee unanimously decided to move to 3000K bulbs for the lights on Camargo Road, with the intent of moving to that bulb for all street lighting. When asked, Mr. Gehring said Staff would ask Duke if the 3000K bulbs are available in various lumens, which impact the brightness of the bulb. Based on resident input, Mr. Mueller offered his support for exploring purchasing street light fixtures from a source other than Duke Energy for the Miami Avenue project; Mr. Moeller said he has added this to the list of design considerations for that project.
4. In other updates, the bids for the Euclid work have been opened; property from Gerber Collision still needs to be acquired for the reworked intersection at Camargo. Collecting of bids for the 2021 street paving, which includes those streets not paved in 2020, is underway. Phase 1 and 2 of the waterline replacements are on schedule. The State is in the engineering phase for the roundabout at Miami and East Galbraith; ground breaking will take place in 2023.

D. Planning Commission meeting on January 18, 2021

1. Mr. Moormann reported the development at the corner at Stewart and Woodsway was on the agenda. The new proposal was for 5 building lots and one unbuildable lot. About 8 residents spoke with concerns about the proposal. The Commission tabled the request and asked the developers to meet with neighbors to get specific concerns and to develop a landscape plan for the property.
2. An Executive Summary is being written for the zoning code updates and will be discussed at their February meeting.
3. The Comprehensive Plan summary is now on the City's website. At the February meeting, the Commission will identify objectives to recommend be pursued in the coming year.

E. Budget and Finance Committee meeting on January 25, 2021

1. Mr. Mueller reported the monthly financials look good.
2. Staff has started to work on a 2021 budget document that will include the Capital Plan Policy, Powerpoint slides regarding metrics, and the budget itself. The document will be used to explain and disseminate the budget each year.
3. In the latest budget version, there is an ending fund balance increase of \$750,000, which comes from COVID grant for Fire Department salaries, the one-time bonus for the cell tower lease, and a one-time Worker's Compensation adjustment. The Committee will discuss what to do with that money at a future meeting. The document also shows an extra \$1 million in SR21, which is not accurate, as that these are the funds not used in 2020.
4. The Joint Fire District has said they may request for additional fund for staffing. The Committee would like to see a thorough evaluation from Chief Oughterson on staffing needs before granting a request. Mr. Gehring said Indian Hill officials would like to see that evaluation as well.
5. In other updates, the Committee is aware that they need to double the estimated costs for park playscapes. They are working on the metrics and will bring them to a future Council meeting before publishing them online. The City is waiting for approval of the loan for the Phase 2 waterlines, and the process of transferring the waterlines to Indian Hill continues to progress.
6. In a discussion about earnings tax, it was noted the court case challenging the order to continue to collect earnings taxes where businesses have their headquarters has not yet

been decided. The 2020 earnings tax revenue was down 2.6% to budget, or about \$100,000; that decrease was taken into account for the forecasted budgets.

F. Police Report

1. Chief Schaefer reported Det. Byram attended training on Detecting Misleading Behaviors at Xavier University.
2. The Citizen Complaint Form has been revamped to explain how to make a citizen's complaint and the entire complaint process. The intent is to make citizens comfortable with the complaint process and make the process as transparent as possible.
3. In response to the presidential order, the Department has submitted their Use of Force policy to the Safe Policing for Safe Communities division of the Ohio Collaborative, and the policy has received conditional approval pending a complete review. The policy had already included all the discretionary compliance items; the policy prohibits the use of chokeholds except as a last resort in a life-or-death situation.
4. Office Ron Mueller retired, and his last day at work was January 21. He served in law enforcement for over 25 years and was an intelligent and valued member of the Department. The Chief is reviewing applicants from the previous round of testing for the open position.
5. A majority of the Fire Department and seven Police officers have started or completed COVID-19 vaccinations.

VIII. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A. Guests and Registered Visitors
None

B. Correspondence
None

IX. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Goal Setting Session

1. Council will meet for a two-hour Goal Setting Session on March 22 at 5:30 p.m. This date would allow them to take into consideration the Planning Commission's suggestions for objectives, to be discussed at their February meeting. The Budget and Finance will reschedule their meeting typically held during that time.

B. City Holidays

1. Mr. Moormann said he realized this year that the City was open on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He asked the Admin and Personnel Committee to make a plan for incorporating the day into the City's Holiday schedule. Council discussed different holiday options and the financial cost of holidays.

Motion made by Mr. Moormann, second by Ms. Theis, to have the Administration and Personnel Committee review the City's holiday schedule with particular emphasis on observing MLK Jr. Day. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

C. COVID-19 Vaccine Registration for Seniors

1. Ms. Theis asked how the City could help ensure all seniors are able to register for the vaccine and get to the appointments. Ms. Thompson said a 2-1-1 hotline has been set up to facilitate making appointments; testandprotectincy.com has also been created to serve as a clearinghouse for resources and information. Council discussed options including holding a drive-through clinic in Madeira, including information in the newsletter, and mailing out a communication with information. Mr. Hilberg said he would discuss options with David Walsh, the Chairperson of Senior Commission. Mayor Spencer also asked Staff to reach out to neighboring communities to see how they are addressing this issue.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

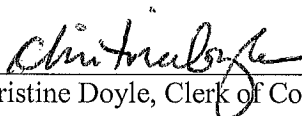
- A. Pending Litigation
- B. Real Estate

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation or matters that might result in litigation and to consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes made by Ms. Theis, second by Mr. Moormann. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 9:30 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Gehring, second by Mr. Hilberg, to adjourn Executive Session and return to regular session at 10:08 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Moormann, second by Mr. Mueller, to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:09 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.



Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council