

MADEIRA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 13, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Theis at 7:30 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

Members present:

Traci Theis, Mayor
Melisa Adrien
Scott Gehring
Chris Hilberg
Doug Moormann
Brian Mueller
Nancy Spencer

Officials/Staff present:

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

Officials/Staff absent:

Steve Soper, Treasurer

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

1. Changes to the agenda:

- Mayor Theis added Indian Hill and Greater Cincinnati Waterworks water line discussion to Old Business and removed pending litigation from Executive Session.
- Mr. Gehring asked to add Joint Fire District Board meeting to Committee and Official Reports.
- Ms. Spencer asked to change the Budget and Finance Meeting from May 20 to May 28.

2. Changes to the City Council Regular Meeting minutes from April 22, 2019:

- None

3. Res. No. 19-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Storm Water Easement Agreement with Lifeformations, Inc., 7516 Camargo Road

4. Res. No. 20-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with John R. Jurgensen for the 2019 Street Repair Program

Motion to accept the amended agenda; the April 22, 2019 minutes; Res. No. 19-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Storm Water Easement Agreement with Lifeformations, Inc., 7516 Camargo Road; and Res. No. 20-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with John R. Jurgensen for the 2019 Street Repair Program made by Mr. Hilberg, second by Mr. Moormann. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.

V. INVITED GUESTS

- None

VI. MAYOR'S MOMENT

1. Public Comment Reminder
2. Mayor's Moment
 - On the theme of Mother's Day, Mayor Theis reported that Coach Dan Hartung had his Junior High baseball team write letters of gratitude to their mothers and present them, along with flowers, at their recent game.
 - The Art Fair was held last weekend and was well attended. A number of school music groups performed during the fair. The annual Walk to School Day took place on Wednesday May 8.
 - About 55 people attended the Comprehensive Plan meeting on Thursday, May 9. Mayor Theis noted the Plan is still in draft form and does not contain legally binding items of action; it is instead a guiding document.
 - Mayor Theis acknowledged the Service Department for their work collecting brush and limbs and Andy Disbennett for keeping the soccer and baseball fields in order.
 - Camargo Road work begins this week.
3. Special Recognition
 - None

VII. NOTICES OF OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Senior Commission Speaker Series: Wine Tasting at Spirits of Madeira, 6917 Miami Avenue May 15, 2019, 1:00–2:30 p.m.
- Madeira Mart Citywide Garage Sale May 18, 2019
- Senior Commission May 20, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission May 20, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
- Memorial Day March May 27, 2019, 10:00 am
- Memorial Day Observed (City offices closed) May 27, 2019
- Budget and Finance Committee May 28, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
- City Council Tuesday, May 28, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
- Mayor's Court May 29, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
- Police Safety Camp at McDonald Commons May 30, 2019, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

VIII. COMMITTEE AND OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on April 29, 2019
 - Mr. Mueller reported the majority of the meeting was spent reviewing the updated player fees. In general the fees are working as they are more evenly applied across all sports and they are covering the City's annual cost of the High School turf. However, the fees have resurrected the problem of too little field space for all the teams. The lack of a Recreation Director has made it more frustrating for teams who are looking for more field time. Andy Disbennett is working to fill that role but is doing so by going above and beyond his duties. Action items on this topic include:
 - Administration looking into whether spending is fair across all sports
 - Administration asking the High School to use their practice grass
 - Committee thinking about the prioritization of playing time between recreational and competitive teams

- Committee thinking about if there should be a public hearing on the issue and what the goals of that would be
 - Council considering if the City should regulate this area more and hire a Recreation Director
 - An experienced college student has been hired to oversee the wiffle ball league. The fee was increased for this season to better cover costs.
 - The Sellman Park creek restoration program will begin this summer in partnership with the Girl Scout Troop that will be working on a creek crossing.
 - In 2020, \$50,000 in CDBG funds is expected for ADHD-compliant playscape at McDonald Commons. The Parks Board will begin planning for that process.
 - Anne Horne discussed the Parks Board's idea for a community tree replacement program.
 - The Committee discussed the pros and cons of running the Parks and Recreation Board as a 501(c)3 rather than a City entity; this discussion will continue.
2. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on May 6, 2019
- Mr. Moeller reported the Board approved fence variances for 7678 Hosbrook and 7502 Euclid. They also approved a sign height variance for the business moving into the Cincinnati Natural Foods building.
3. Parks and Recreation Board meeting on May 8, 2019
- Mayor Theis reported the Criterium Bike Race will be Friday, June 28. Madtree will likely supply the beer, there will be recycling containers at the event, and the inflatables will be provided by SuperGames.
 - Shakespeare in the Park will perform *Romeo and Juliet* on July 13. It was reported that Jimmie Johns would provide free sandwiches at the event.
4. Special Planning Commission: Comprehensive Plan meeting on May 9, 2019
- Mr. Moormann reported that at the beginning of the meeting, Envision outlined the Comprehensive Plan process and some of the highlights of the report. About 21 people spoke, and the comments were wide-ranging.
 - Mr. Moormann addressed some of the specific concerns that were expressed.
 - Regarding the suggestion to put the Comprehensive Plan to a vote, the idea is worth discussing, but the cost of a vote would be exorbitant and is not common practice for comprehensive plans.
 - Regarding the concern about the creation of a Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), there are CICs in Loveland, Montgomery, and Milford, and it's the model for the 3CDC in Cincinnati. The intention of the CIC is not to seize property or use eminent domain; those terms were never used and were never contemplated. The purpose is to facilitate community improvement through strategic acquisitions of land and holding the land until it can be returned to private hands, usually at a higher value.
 - Regarding sustainability, the Plan encourages the City of Madeira, not the residents, to engage in sustainable activities by considering LED lights or solar power. The Plan also suggests that incentives to renovate homes, rather than tear them down, could be structured to encourage the use of sustainable practices.
 - Regarding concerns about HUD (Housing and Urban Development), the Community Development Block Grant program funds, which come through HUD, are the primary source of Federal funds to local governments. Madeira

residents pay a lot in Federal taxes, and these grants are a way for that money to be returned to the community.

- Next steps will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting.
5. Joint Fire District Board meeting on May 13, 2019
- Mr. Gehring reported that with the new full-time firefighters there has been an increase in the number of staff per shift in each firehouse, which is putting the numbers closer to the goal. Three part-time positions have also been filled.
 - The first round of interviews for the new Fire Chief have been conducted.

IX. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. Guests and Registered Visitors

- Nancy Clark, 7500 Thomas, expressed her preference for the taste of Indian Hill water and asked if the surcharge collected has earned interest. Mr. Moeller said interest was collected but most of the reserve was spent on the latest round of pipe replacements. In discussion, Mr. Gehring noted the City estimates a cost of \$9 million over the next 20 years to replace the water lines, and the current surcharge would cover about \$3 million of that. Ms. Clark also asked about the neighbor notification procedure for new homes being built; Mr. Moeller explained neighbors are notified only if a variance is requested. She expressed concern about the large homes being built in her area and the damage done to the roads by the construction trucks. The noise ordinance was also discussed.

2. Correspondence

- None

X. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Res. No. 21-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Duke Energy Ohio for the Installation of Decorative Street Lights on Camargo Road

- Mr. Moeller said the lights are part of the Camargo Road project. The fixtures would be the same as those used on Miami Avenue, and they would have LED lights.
- Council discussed the type of LED light being used and stated a preference for the softer light rather than the brighter daylight version.
- Council discussed the color of the fixtures. The fixtures on Miami came black and were painted, and the paint is now peeling. The suggestion was made to purchase black fixtures and keep them black.
- Ms. Adrien stated that grants from ODSA (Ohio Development Services Agency) or Duke might be available for the project, particularly if the lights in the fixtures on Miami were made more efficient at the same time. Council discussed tabling the resolution to look into possible grant opportunities. Mr. Moeller said the quote was received at the end of March and was good for 90 days.

Motion to table Res. No. 21-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Duke Energy Ohio for the Installation of Decorative Street Lights on Camargo Road to research grant opportunities made by Mr. Gehring, second by Mr. Moormann. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. None

XII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Greater Cincinnati Waterworks and Indian Hill Waterworks Water Lines
 - Mayor Theis said she and Council have been receiving a lot of feedback on the issue from residents. Some Indian Hill Waterworks (IHW) customers want to keep their water as is while others would prefer to change to water from Greater Cincinnati Waterworks (GCWW). Although the City is still waiting for a proposal from GCWW for taking over the water lines, Mayor Theis asked Council for input on the process by which a decision on the issue would be made.
 - Mr. Moeller said he spoke with Sherry Poland of the Hamilton County Board of Elections, and she believes it's possible to put the issue on a ballot to only the Indian Hill Waterworks (IHW) customers. Mr. Gehring expressed concern about explaining this complex of an issue on a ballot. He suggested inserting a postcard in the IHW customer bills to ask for their input.
 - Mr. Mueller said the decision impacts all of Madeira, not just IHW customers, should the management of the water lines ever require money from the General Fund. He noted that even putting it on the ballot could require money paid by all City taxpayers.
 - Ms. Spencer suggested a third option would be to fix what the City can with the current surcharge and just accept that pipes would break. When that happens, IHW would be responsible for repairing the pipes and patching the road.
 - Mr. Mueller said that since all four schools are on the IHW system, any broken pipes would take one to five days to repair, impacting all residents.
 - Mr. Hilberg said that broken pipes could become a safety issue if, for instance, a home fire occurred at a time when a water line was broken. Mr. Mueller suggested getting the Fire Chief's input before going that route.
 - Council discussed creating a fact sheet that Council members could reference when they speak to residents about the issue.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel
2. Real Estate

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and to consider the purchase or sale of property for public purposes made by Ms. Adrien, second by Mr. Mueller. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote at 8:53 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Gehring, second by Ms. Theis to adjourn Executive Session and return to the regular session at 9:25 p.m. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.

XIV. RESUMPTION OF REGULAR SESSION

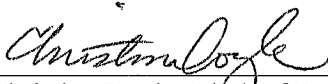
1. Personnel

Motion made to appoint Jeremy Cross to the Parks and Recreation Board to fill the unexpired term of Mike Andrews made by Mr. Mueller, second by Mr. Gehring. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made to appoint Carly Chu to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mark Scheid made by Mr. Moormann, second by Ms. Adrien. Motion approved by unanimous roll call vote.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Hilberg, second by Mr. Gehring to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:28 p.m. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.



Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council