

MADEIRA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 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:

- Mr. Gehring asked to add a Fire Board meeting report to Committee and Official Reports.  
Mr. Hilberg asked to add a Farmer's Market discussion to New Business.

2. Changes to the City Council Regular Meeting minutes from August 26, 2019:

- None

3. Res. No. 32-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for State Capital Improvements Funds for Euclid Avenue

4. Res. No. 33-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for State Capital Improvement Loan Funds for the Replacement of Water Mains

**Motion to accept the amended agenda; the August 26, 2019 minutes; Res. No. 32-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for State Capital Improvements Funds for Euclid Avenue; and Res. No. 33-19: Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for State Capital Improvement Loan Funds for the Replacement of Water Mains made by Mr. Moormann, second by Mr. Hilberg. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

V. MAYOR'S MOMENT

1. Public Comment Reminder

2. Mayor's Moment

- Mayor Theis thanked the Chief for the professionalism and quality of police work coming from the Department during a busy week.
- A celebration of life ceremony was held for Tom Adamec, the mayor of Blue Ash, on September 9.
- Madeira High School student Caty McNally competed against Serena Williams in the US Open and defeated her in the first set of the second match. Caty also played in the doubles competition and fell in the third round.
- The Madeira Mustangs started the football season with a 2-0 record.
- Wednesday is the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and it was noted this senior class is the first in which none of them was alive before the attacks. A moment of silence was observed.

3. Special Recognition

- None

VI. NOTICES OF OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Mayor's Court September 11, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Board September 11, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission September 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.
- Budget and Finance Committee September 23, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
- City Council September 23, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
- Document Shredding Event September 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m.–Noon  
(Madeira Elementary School)
- Bonfire on the Ballfield (McDonald Commons) September 28, 2019, 6:00–10:00 p.m.

VII. COMMITTEE AND OFFICIAL REPORTS

1. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on September 3, 2019

- Ms. Thompson reported on the following cases:
  - The applicant who submitted a request for a front yard setback variance at 6206 Kenwood Hills withdrew the application after reconfiguring their porch addition.
  - A request for variances to replace an existing garage at 7016 Wallace was approved with conditions.
  - A request for a side yard setback to construct a house addition at 6843 Esther was postponed for further information.
  - A request to build a home on an existing nonconforming lot at 7810 Mapleleaf was approved.

2. Records Commission meeting on September 4, 2019

- Mr. Moeller reported the Commission modified the RC 2 to provide for the destruction of both paper and electronic media once the approved time period for retention has expired.
- The Commission reviewed the record retention plans and destruction of tax and finance documents. Administration, police and building department documents will be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. Senior Commission meeting on September 9, 2019
  - Mr. Hilberg reported the September event was cancelled due to scheduling issues. The October event, What Apps, will be held October 2, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the High School.
  - The Commission reviewed the responses to their questions about the Madeira Senior Center at Traditions. The Center will open around the end of October.
  - Ideas for next year's programs were discussed and topics included Alzheimer's, A to Z health, VA information for veterans, and financial goalsetting and wealth management.
  - The Commission also discussed the possibility of getting funding to hire a coordinator to market and advertise events. They plan to reach out to the Council on Aging, which receives funds from the Hamilton County Senior Services Levy.
  
4. Fire Board meeting on September 9, 2019
  - The contractor who built the new fire stations agreed to replace the spalling concrete at both stations at a cost of approximately \$450,000. The old concrete slabs will be used to pave a road in the Indian Hill maintenance area.
  - The Fire District has presented their 2020 budget and is requesting a 6% increase that would allow for the transition of one part-time position to full-time. This would get the Department closer to the goal of 8 firefighters on all shifts. The current average is 6.73 per shift, up from 5.2. The request has been referred to the Budget and Finance Committee.
  - The District will be purchasing a new Chevy Tahoe to replace a Dodge that was scheduled to be replaced in 2016.
  - The Board voted on an operating reserve policy that would maintain the reserve between 10% and 15%.
  - Mr. Thomas has paid for the painting of about 100 fire hydrants on certain streets in Madeira and Indian Hill. It was noted exterior maintenance of fire hydrants is the responsibility of the individual cities and there is not a set schedule for painting them in Madeira. It was suggested the two cities could share the costs of painting the remaining hydrants. Chief Oughterson thought perhaps this was something the fire company endowment could assist with.

## VIII. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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

## IX. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Ord. No. 19-03: Authorizing the City Manager to Amend the Water Agreement with the Village of Indian Hill to Increase the Capital Water Main Replacement Surcharge—First Reading
  - Mr. Moeller said that because changing the surcharge involves amending the agreement with Indian Hill, the City would need to get Indian Hill's approval. The surcharge changes were reviewed as outlined in the City Manager's report. The City is also looking to eliminate the \$500,000 cap on capital fund in the agreement, as that cap is exceeded when the City is saving for large neighborhood replacement projects.

- Mr. Moeller noted that while Greater Cincinnati Water Works and Indian Hill Water Works treat MSD rates differently, customers of both pay the same for sewer service.

**Motion to table the first reading of Ord. No. 19-03 until meeting with Indian Hill made by Mr. Gehring, second by Mr. Hilberg. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Grass Cutting Ordinance

- Chief Schaefer said that each year 10 to 15 lot owners wait to cut their grass until they receive notice from the City. The current ordinance gives the owner ten days to cut the grass and a new notice must be served if it gets long again. Chief Schaefer suggested amending the ordinance to require only one notice per property per year so fines could be issued any time after the initial waiting period. He also recommended reducing that waiting period to less than ten days. Currently there is a minimum \$100 charge if the City cuts the grass after the waiting period; the charge is assessed to the property tax if it isn't paid. Council referred the recommendation to the Law and Safety Committee.

2. Goal Setting Session

- Council agreed to meet on Monday, September 30 at 6:00 p.m. for goal setting.

3. Farmer's Market

- Mr. Hilberg suggested a representative from the Farmer's Market give an annual report to Council. Ms. Thompson said she would reach out to Melissa Bishop.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

- None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel
2. Real Estate – Sale/Purchase
3. Pending Litigation

**Motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation; employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official; and to consider the purchase or sale of real estate for public purposes made by Ms. Adrien, second by Mr. Moormann. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 8:10 p.m.**

XIII. PERSONNEL

**Motion made by Mr. Hilberg, second by Mr. Moormann, to adjourn Executive Session and return to the regular session at 9:40 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

- Mr. Fox said Mr. Soper recently pled guilty to a second-degree misdemeanor in an ongoing ethics investigation into the Treasurer position with the City. Once apprised of that information, Council decided to take action. Mr. Fox spoke to Mr. Soper who expressed his desire to resign effective immediately.

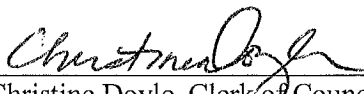
**Motion made by Mr. Hilberg, second by Mr. Gehring, to accept the resignation of Treasurer Steven Soper. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

- Motion to designate Kristie Lowndes acting Treasurer made by Ms. Adrien, second by Mr. Moormann.
- Mr. Fox said, in the existing Charter, there is no language that contemplates a vacancy in the Treasurer position. Council is undertaking this action to have someone act as Treasurer.

**Motion to designate Kristie Lowndes as acting Treasurer passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

  
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Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council