

MADEIRA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:34 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, Tax Commissioner
Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Changes to the agenda:
None

B. Changes to the City Council Regular Meeting minutes from August 24, 2020:
None

Motion to accept the agenda and the August 24, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes made by Ms. Theis, second by Mr. Hilberg. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

V. MAYOR'S MOMENT

A. Public Comment Reminder

B. In the Community

1. Mayor Spencer thanked the Police Department for helping to facilitate the return to school with their traffic details.
2. With the return to youth athletics, Mayor Spencer said the participants and their supporters have the opportunity to learn lessons in persistence, commitment, integrity, attitude, teamwork, trust, accountability, patience, and passion.

C. Special Recognition

1. Mayor Spencer presented a proclamation to Ray and Linda Hoetger, recognizing September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

VI. NOTICES OF OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Mayor's Court September 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission September 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- Council Open Office Hours September 26, 2020 at 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

- Budget and Finance September 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
- Council Meeting September 28, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

VII. COMMITTEE AND OFFICIAL REPORTS

A. Police Report

1. Chief Schaefer reported the Ohio Collaborative was onsite on September 9 as part of the certification process. The representative held a roundtable discussion with the Chief, two lieutenants, and two officers to review the seven policies of note. The application next goes to the Collaboration Board for certification.
2. Regarding the thin blue line flag on the Police cruisers, Chief Schaefer said he read and reread every email that was sent in by residents, and he appreciated the feedback and the universal support for the Department. For him, the meaning of the thin blue line hasn't changed—it stands for the line the officers stand between order and chaos. However, he acknowledged the thin blue line flag has been hijacked, and its true meaning has been diminished. He said he strongly believes the thin blue line should remain as part of the branding on all the Police vehicles, as it shows support for all police officers and respect for the officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. He asked Council to consider if it's the thin blue line that people oppose or the thin blue line flag that creates the opposition. In answer to that question, Mayor Spencer said she has no objections to the thin blue line itself; she would wholeheartedly support a blue pinstripe or something similar that would represent the intended values but that wouldn't have the controversy attached to it that the thin blue line flag has.
 - All the councilmembers voiced their support of the Police Department and thanked Chief Schaefer for offering a solution that would show support for the Police while acknowledging the perversion of the thin blue line flag. Ms. Theis said Chief Schaefer's gift of compromise makes him the epitome of a community police officer. Mr. Mueller said the thin blue line is part of the design package on the police vehicles in other communities, and he would be in support of something similar.
 - Mayor Spencer said Council would leave it to the Chief and the Administration to decide how and when to make that happen.

B. Economic Development Committee meeting on August 27, 2020

1. Mr. Moormann reported the Committee discussed the Downtown Redevelopment District, which would give the City the opportunity to capture incremental tax revenue from businesses in a rather expansive area, but it would offer more flexibility as to what could be done with those funds than a TIF would. The Committee asked the Administration to look into a few more things before putting it before Council.
2. The City is still in negotiations with a potential tenant for the Train Station; backup options are available should negotiations fall through.
3. The Committee is working with the Chamber of Commerce to create an inventory of the vacant commercial properties in the City and to make that inventory available to potential businesses.

C. JEDZ Board meeting on September 3, 2020

1. Mr. Moeller reported the Board reviewed the quarterly reports for the Central and East JEDZ.
2. The State Auditor required the JEDZ to have a stated public records policy, so the Board adopted Sycamore Township's policy. The Auditor also required a formal budget for the JEDZ. The Board passed budgets for the Central and East zones.

D. Board of Zoning Appeals meeting September 8, 2020

1. Mayor Spencer noted the outcomes of the cases were included in the packet. There was no further discussion.

E. Parks and Recreation Board meeting September 9, 2020

1. Mr. Mueller reported Ms. Thompson has been working on the Tree City USA application that will be submitted after the third reading of the ordinance. It has been determined the City can meet the obligations with little or no expense to the budget.
2. The Board is working on the Sellman Park playscape designs. The new playscape would replace the existing playscapes and the sand volleyball court and is scheduled to be installed in the summer of 2021.
3. In a review of the wooded areas around McDonald Commons, the Board recommended that signs warning of potential sewage be posted at the front creek. They also recommended that signs warning of potential glass be posted near the wooded path. The glass could be attributed, in part, to the fact the site was used as an industrial landfill in the past.
4. The Board recommended cancelling the Costume Party and Play Date to comply with State safety guidelines. The Board recommended scheduling a citywide caravan or "reverse parade" on October 25, similar to what was done at Easter, either instead of or in addition to trick-or-treating. The City is still waiting for the State to dictate what will or will not be allowed on Halloween. Mayor Spencer said, to her, the most important aspects of any event are that the kids can show off their costumes and collect candy. Council offered their support of the idea and willingness to contribute time and effort.

F. Public Works Committee meeting September 10, 2020

1. Mr. Gehring reported the waterline mains are installed on Buckeye Crescent. Next all the lines that have been installed need to be sanitized and pressurized. Meanwhile, pipes will be installed on Thomas to Euclid; Thomas will remain open while that work is being done. After that, the time-consuming process of connecting the pipes to each house will begin on Greenbriar. The project is on schedule, but the next stages are weather contingent.
2. The Committee agreed on the design for the Euclid/Camargo interchange. The design puts the intersection at 90-degrees and has two lanes on Euclid for turning onto Camargo. The design allows for truck traffic and for landscaping and gateway signage. The intersection would also be narrower, making it safer for pedestrians. They hope to break ground this fall.
3. As part of this project, the Committee has requested the Police conduct a safety warrant study on Camargo Road to determine optimal speed and placement of stop signs. The Committee has discussed working with a landscape architect to develop a branding plan for the hardscapes, so people know when they've arrived in Madeira.
4. Communication with Duke is ongoing to change out the streetlights on Camargo to bulbs that are less blue.
5. Communication with Cincinnati Bell to relocate the utility poles off the sidewalk on Camargo also continues.
6. A citywide street sweeping will be scheduled, hopefully by the end of the year, as street sweeping helps prolong the life of roads.
7. The City will soon be signing a contract to start painting the fire hydrant that have not yet been repainted. Fifty of the City's about 400 hydrants would be painted in 2020; 100 would be scheduled for 2021.

G. Law and Safety meetings September 1 and 10, 2020

1. Mr. Henning reported the Committee created an administrative policy for use of words, symbols, and emblems on City-owned vehicles and unanimously recommends its approval. The policy provides clarity on what would be appropriate for words, symbols, and emblems, and it provides the same flexibility we have today in that it requires the written approval of the department head and City Manager.
 - Mr. Hilberg said the emails from and conversations with residents helped him to see how Madeira looks to those in the community and outside the community. He said the policy isn't perfect, but he supports it because it provides flexibility to the department head, the City Manager, and to Council.
 - Mr. Mueller agreed the policy puts guidelines in writing for the first time and makes evident the intent to have a more neutral policy going forward on government speech. He said he has been criticized for supporting the policy because it's not a binding ordinance and because it continues to vest the decision-making authority with the City Manager. He said the Charter establishes a strong City Manager, which is appropriate for a small city. The part-time Council serves as the checks and balance to the strong City Manager, and he has full faith in this process.

Motion to approve the Administrative Policy for Displaying Words, Symbols, and Emblems on City-Owned Vehicles made by Mr. Henning, second by Mr. Hilberg. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

2. The Committee reviewed the revised purpose and objectives for the Madeira NICE committee and recommended it be renamed Madeira Inclusion Committee. Council agreed to discuss further under Old Business.
3. Regarding listing Correspondence on the agenda, the Committee learned the requirement was added in 1985, likely as a way to share written letters. Communication now comes in a variety of forms, so the Committee recommends removing Madeira Code Section 30.03(F)(1)(i) from the standing agenda items; an ordinance is required to enact this change. Correspondence could still be added to the agenda if action were required. Mr. Henning said the change is meant to clarify and not curb correspondence. Mayor Spencer added that the communications that are received are available through public records requests.
4. The Committee also discussed a native meadow allowance, and Mr. Henning thanked Anne Horne for her time and expertise on guiding the committee. An ordinance on this is forthcoming.

VIII. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

A. Guests and Registered Visitors

1. Corinne Brill, Jodi Whitted, Susan Kissel, and Steve Daggitt spoke in favor of removing the thin blue line flag from the Police vehicles. All voiced their appreciation for Chief Schaefer and the Madeira officers and for the ability for the community to have this discussion. Mr. Daggitt preferred that all the words on the back of the vehicles and all depictions of the thin blue line be removed. Ms. Whitted also voiced support for the Madeira NICE initiative.
2. Lee Megois was registered to speak but was not in attendance at the time of Community Participation.

B. Correspondence None

IX. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ord. No. 20-09: Adopting a Public Tree Care Program—Second Reading

There was no discussion.

B. Res. No. 42-20: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with KT Supply Ltd. for Repairs and Restoration for Storm Water System on Apache Circle

1. Mr. Moeller said the repairs need to be completed quickly. Instead of a concrete wall, the contractor would be using concrete blocks, stone, and grout, which would be easier to repair in the future. The slope of the headwall would be less steep, making it safer for the residents in that area.

Motion to approve Res. No. 42-20: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with KT Supply Ltd. for Repairs and Restoration for Storm Water System on Apache Circle made by Mr. Gehring, second by Mr. Moormann. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Halloween Trick-or-Treat Guidelines

1. Mr. Gehring presented Council with potential guidelines for trick-or-treating to share with residents in the event the Governor allows trick-or-treating this year. Mr. Moormann said he would ask the Governor's office for a sense of the timing for their decision.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Madeira NICE (Neighborhood Inclusion Committee for Equity)

1. Mr. Henning said he supports the Madeira Inclusion Committee, as it will bring a fresh set of eyes to Council. The committee would be another committee of Council, advising Council on the topic of inclusion. Mr. Mueller said the purpose and objectives were streamlined to narrow the scope and to leave no room for ambiguity.
2. Mr. Hilberg said his concerns have been addressed. Mayor Spencer said she was pleased that the concept is still a community-led advisory group that allows stakeholders to make recommendations and suggestions where Council may have blind spots.
3. Mr. Moormann asked if advising on Comprehensive Plan updates should be added to the objectives. Mr. Moeller said the first round of updates to a comprehensive plan usually take place five years after it's adopted. Mayor Spencer said the objectives as written give Council the latitude to bring them in on those discussions.

Motion to approve the Madeira Inclusion Committee as outlined by the Law and Safety Committee for implementation in the City of Madeira made by Mr. Mueller, second by Mr. Hilberg. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

B. Train Depot Lease

1. Mr. Moeller said he has received feedback on the lease from Mr. Redden. He said he has some questions for Mr. Fox, and then suggested it go to the Economic Development Committee to discuss before presenting Mr. Redden with a final lease.
2. Mr. Gehring said he is excited about the concept of a meat shop in Madeira and encouraged Council and Economic Development Committee to review the Lehr's Meats proposal to open up a second location at the Train Depot. He said he saw it as Council's responsibility to review both.
3. When asked, Mr. Moeller said the intent is to enter into the lease agreement with the provision that whatever the tenant does to the exterior needs to be approved by the Historical Preservation Commission. However, the tenant is reluctant to pay for design costs unless he has an agreement.
4. Council discussed opening the door to other potential tenants to introduce competition and expedite the process. Mr. Moormann said he would schedule an Economic Development meeting for later in the week to discuss which other applicants to pursue.

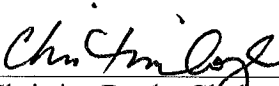
C. Police Cruiser Design Package

1. Mayor Spencer took the opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous value it has for Council members to hear from the community, whether it's by personal connections, by phone, or by email. She said we're all strongest together when we express our opinions and continue to do it in this courteous, respectful, and responsive way.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Spencer said she was advised there was no need for Executive Session.

Motion made by Ms. Theis, second by Mr. Gehring, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:43 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.



Christine Doyle, Clerk of Council