

City of Springdale Council

June 21, 2023

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on June 21, 2023

The governmental body and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McNear provided the Invocation.

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council members Anderson, Ghantous, Hawkins, Jacobs, Ramirez, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover were present.

The minutes of the June 7, 2023 meeting were considered. Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes and one abstention (Mr. Hawkins).

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Council, good evening. I walked in this evening, and I saw all of these fine gentlemen dressed in blue and I said, "Wow! I've never had this kind of an audience before!" (laughter) Welcome, and happy to be here. Before I start my report off here, I just want to indicate that Mr. Andrew House completed his background process, and began employment on June 12th, and that was in the Building Inspector position. Also, wanted to acknowledge that Mr. Gus "Andy" Teague began employment on May 30th as well as Mr. Tyler Noell who began employment on June 12th, and those are new Patrol Officer hiring positions. We also reported that Sergeant Michael Schulz was selected for promotion to Lieutenant in order to keep that process going. And, we still have candidates in process for the Sergeant promotional position. Still along that same line, in the Public Works Department, Mr. Stephen Diacont was selected from the Parks Maintenance Worker position to go to the fleet mechanic position. So, nope, just the opposite; the Fleet Mechanic position is still open, and Mr. Diacont went to the Parks Maintenance, thereby making that position vacant. So, there's been a lot of transitioning, a lot of movement within. The good news is we're able to find candidates within in order to create promotional opportunities. Within the additional Patrol Officer hiring process, there were three candidates selected, and, unfortunately, one of the individuals had to be removed following the background, thereby, creating a vacancy there, along with a resignation. So, we actually ended up with two vacancies there. What we're going to do going forward is first establishing a new timeline, but, we're also going to keep the vacancies open and fill them as needed, which should give us a better pool, and a more ready pool as we continue to experience turnover in those positions. I think that's all that I have for this evening. That's all that I have. Any questions?

Mayor Webster: Mr. Coleman, I'll give you an explanation as to why the crowd is here. We have crowds like this during three occasions; you're going to put sidewalks in somebody's front yard, or we're going to raise taxes on the community, or we're going to pass something to honor one of the people in the Police Department, and that happens to be the latter tonight, and that's why you have all these people in here.

Mr. Coleman: Oh, okay. I had to think twice and make sure I hadn't done anything that would warrant this. (laughter) I said, "Well, since I have the Mayor here on my side, I'm sure he'd make sure that things went smoothly." I appreciate that. But, yes, that concludes my report.

Mr. Uhl: Just for a point of clarification, Stephen Diacont, who is currently our Fleet Mechanic with Public Works, he's actually moving over to Parks as a Maintenance Worker.

Mr. Coleman: Thank you Brian (Uhl) for clarifying that. I said with all of the movement and activities, we've got people moving all over the place, but again, thank you for your time.

President Vanover: Thank you Mr. Coleman.

Rules and Laws

Mr. Jacobs: Administration do you want me to go ahead?

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Mr. Jones: Sure.

Mr. Jacobs: Yes? Okay. Rules and Laws did meet. We had an application from a company called Vance Outdoors. They operate, basically, what was described as like a Cabela's type facility in Lebanon and Columbus, I believe is one of their other locations here in Ohio. They want to locate at the Big Lots up by Cassinelli Square, a new location. In doing so, they found that the City has a licensing requirement for vendors that sell firearms. And that licensing requirement has been in the ordinance since 1983. I think it was updated in 1989, and during the Committee meeting, we found it was kind of largely kind of in cobwebs and just not being utilized. We had vendors in the City that might be selling firearms that had not gone through the licensing process, so, Administration moved to update some of the language for that licensing section. That was distributed by email to members of Council. The goal for the updating was to clean up some of the language. It was kind of cumbersome licensing requirement. It presented some difficulties for Vance Outdoors to secure a lease, and therefore locate in the City. So, at the meeting, we discussed basically two options; the idea of cleaning up that language, making it less cumbersome, or completely revoking the language. Administration had presented quite a few examples of other communities that didn't have such a licensing requirement on their books. At that point in the meeting, we had stuck with the cleaned up language that we were going to present tonight to Council. For that updated licensing procedure, I was informed by Administration previous to this meeting that, at this point, based on some of that vendor feedback, the idea now is to possibly revoke that language completely. But, that would obviously have to be brought before Council, and, unless there's any other details Administration needs me to present, I think that's about it.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Finance Committee

Mr. Hawkins

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No report

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met on June 13th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Galster was not in attendance, so we only had six members. We had two things; we had Overbeck Auto at 11452 Springfield Pike. It's been lots of different car fixing places. When I was growing up, it was Goodyear, then it's been Frenchs most recently, and now it's Overbeck Auto, and it was voted 6-0 to let them go in. It was a conditional use for the corridor. And then, the second thing we had is a Wawa. And, this is a Store Development Plan. If you're not familiar with Wawa, it's like a gas station convenience store. There's to be ten pumps. Evidently their food is amazing inside there. That's going to go at 370 Glensprings Drive. This one's going to be where Beef O'Brady's, and DJ's Club, and then a strip of City land. That's where it's going to be; right there on the corner. And that was voted through 6-0. And, unless you have anything else to add (addressing Mr. Ramirez).

Mr. Ramirez: We will finally lose our Chi Chi's building.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: We will lose the Chi Chi's building. So very sorry the Chi Chi's building will go as well as the Perkins building. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: One question on the Wawa. It was just in the news recently that Colerain Township was also, their Planning was reviewing a Wawa application. Did they give you any indication of how many sites they're planning to open up in the area? Because, it seems like this isn't in competition with that one. This is in addition to?

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Right. They actually said that they were opening up this area. They had some in Pennsylvania, obviously down in Florida; everyone mostly knows Wawa in Florida, and that they were expanding up here. And, so, we're just lucky that we're one of the spots that they've chosen.

Mr. Ramirez: They did say that this would be Cincinnati's first.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: First. But, we won't be the first one finished. The first one finished will be Liberty.

Mr. Anderson: In Hamilton County, we'll be the first. Thank you.

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Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: I like that. Thank you.

Mrs. McNear: I grew up on the east coast, and let me just tell you that Wawa is a dream come true for me. They are wonderful. When you said that they're a gas station convenience store, it's blasphemy to call it that.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: That was in the descriptor.

Mrs. McNear: It may be so, but, that is not the description that I would give it. And, I can't wait until they're open. Thank you.

President Vanover: Well, if it's anything like Buc-ee's down on (Interstate) 75, "Katie bar the door", because it's going to be crazy.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals met on May 23rd. That was our regularly scheduled meeting. And, we were discussing Application 20230116; that application had been tabled from the April 25th meeting. The item before us was the property owners at 582 Smiley Avenue were requesting a variance to maintain the existing gravel driveway in violation of Zoning Code Section 153.302(J), which requires all parking surfaces in the City to be improved with asphalt or concrete. At that meeting, after considerable conversation, the applicant modified the variance request, and the Board passed that with a vote of 4-2. Shortly thereafter, we were notified that there was going to be a special meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals, and that took place on June 6th. It was a special meeting called by Carl Lamping, our Building Official. At that meeting, there was an Executive Session held, and that was led by our Law Director, Joe Braun, and, at that meeting, we were made aware of some deficiencies that took place at the May 23rd BZA meeting. In light of that information, the Board voted unanimously to rescind the variance that was granted on May 23rd, and this matter is scheduled to be heard again at the June meeting, which is this coming Tuesday, the 27th. And, I'd just like to say that the process on this case unfolded in an out of the ordinary manner. And, there was an unusual combination of components affecting the requested variance. However, it's not uncommon for a request to be modified during the hearing, and for the Board to take action based on that modification. So, that part felt very familiar when it was taking place. At that time, I was unaware of the fact that it should have been handled differently. I didn't understand that until the Law Director pointed that out at the meeting that was held on June 6th. I am the longest serving member on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and I've never seen that particular sequence of events come before the Board. Anybody have any questions about that? (None) That concludes my report.

President Vanover: Thank you ma'am.

Board of Health

Mr. Jacobs: The Board of Health is on hiatus until September.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Ghantous

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No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI Board of Directors did meet on June 8th. It was largely an Administrative meeting. We reviewed and approved the 2024 Budget, and reviewed some of the results from the Strategic Planning Survey that I've talked about here before. One thing worth noting is they did give us some feedback on the number of responses that were shared across the Tri-State area for the Strategic Planning Survey, and Springdale was near the top; well represented. It was highlighted in the darkest color possible on the heat map, and I just think that's great that our Community, as small as it is, is still so well represented and vocal whenever these types of things come up. That strategic plan really does impact how that money is spent. It's hundreds of millions of dollars, so, thank you to anyone who filled out that survey. The only other thing worth mentioning from that meeting is there was a lot of discussion on the DEI components; that's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion components for that Brent Spence Bridge project that is going to have a lot of conversation over the next five to ten

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Mr. Anderson (continued): years. And, it was interesting because there are resident members that were very vocal about how important it is to include some of these smaller businesses and diverse businesses to make sure that they have a seat at the table. The representatives from ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation), and the other Departments of Transportation were very responsive to that feedback, and I thought that was really nice to see that when the residents came, had some feedback and concerns, that the officials that are used to working with more, I would say sophisticated feedback, were very understanding and worked with them. So, that was really nice to see. So, that's it for OKI this month. If there's any questions, I'd be happy to take them.

Mayor Webster: I have a couple of proclamations I want to issue here this evening. First is if Charlie Wilson would step forward here. This is for the Parks and Recreation.

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the City of Springdale; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increase property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and product habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS, the City of Springdale recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW THEREFORE, I, DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim July 2023 as

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

In the City of Springdale and commend this observance to our citizens.

Mayor Webster: Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson: Thank you Mayor. (applause)

Mr. Wilson: Just wanted to say, "Thank you guys very much." And, in part of Parks and Rec Month, we're going to do a new program this July. It's called, "Yappy Hour". It's to bring the community together. We're going to have mocktails, bring your furry four-legged friends.

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Mr. Wilson (continued): It'll be at 6:00 p.m. on July 4th. They'll do dog portraits, and it's a chance for the community to come out and meet one another. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Chief Wells, will you please come forward.

WHEREAS, upon the retirement of Police Chief Thomas (Tom) Wells, who has served the City of Springdale for a total of 33 years, always maintaining the honor and integrity of his profession; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. And, over his career, has actively pursued training and education in highly regarded law enforcement leadership programs including Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) in 2001, and the Certified Law Enforcement Executive program in 2005. Chief Wells also had the prestigious opportunity to graduate with the 236th session of the FBI National Academy; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells began working with the City of Springdale in 1990 as a Police Officer with his very first badge number being the number 23. During his tenure with the Springdale Police Department, he was promoted through the ranks, assuming the role of Sergeant in 1998, Lieutenant in 1999, Captain in 2011, and Chief in February 2020; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells' years of service are defined by exemplary commitment to his profession, observed early in his career when recognized with a life-saving commendation in 1991. Recognition continued from both the City and the citizens he served with acknowledgements of his dedication and performance carried out with the utmost professionalism and best interests of the Springdale community at the forefront; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells was the recipient of awards that highlight his career contributions including the Springdale Police Department Initiative Award, a recognition received by a vote of peers; the Springdale Police Team Work Award; the Springdale Police Spirit Award; and the Police Appreciation and Achievement Award presented by the Hamilton County Police Association; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells acknowledged the importance of continuing to host the Law Enforcement Expos-a Springdale tradition that began in the 1970's as a multi-agency collaborative; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells led and supported the Springdale Police Department through good times as well as very difficult times, including a world-wide health pandemic and the loss of Springdale Police Officer Kaia Grant whose end of watch was Saturday, March 21, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells served on the Executive Board of Operation Lifesaver-an initiative between railroads and police to raise awareness of safety at railroad crossings. A member since 2018, he recently served as Chair. His personal interest and passion for trains led to coordination of a mock train wreck which provided City personnel with a complex and notable training scenario; and

WHEREAS, Chief Wells served regionally as a founding member of the Hamilton County Police Association's Honor Guard; as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President of the Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police; and as the Police Chiefs' representative for Tri-County Peer Support; has served nationally as a member on the FBI national Academy Executive Board; and has participated as an active member, speaker and trainer for many other professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, we want to express our sincere appreciation to Chief Wells for his loyalty to the City of Springdale over the past 33 years and wish him much happiness as he begins a new chapter in his life, and

NOW THEREFORE, I DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale do hereby proclaim June 21, 2023 as

CHIEF THOMAS WELLS DAY

In the City of Springdale and urge all members of the community to join in recognizing this significant accomplishment.

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Mayor Webster: Chief Wells (applause)

Chief Wells: Mr. Mayor, Mr. President, Members of Council, and City Administration, and esteemed friends and colleagues that are here tonight. I kind of joke with Jeff here, "This is the last time I'm going to say that." He teases me about the "last time" stuff. But, seriously, I just wanted to say thank you so much for the tremendous opportunity to work for this City; 33 and a half years has gone by in a blink, but, what hasn't been lost on that is how supportive this government entity has been throughout the years, whether I was a Police Officer all the way to being Chief. I've never felt more supported as a Police Officer no matter whether times were good or bad for our profession, the support for our Police Department was always there, so I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for that. And, as much as I appreciate the focus being on me tonight, there's no way that I could have had the success I had without the people that I work with. I've never known more dedicated down-to-earth, more fun, and more caring group of people than the people that I've worked with over these last 33 and a half years. It's been an honor to serve alongside of them, and I think that's what I'm going to miss the most. I haven't even figured what it's going to feel like to wake up Thursday morning and be like, "Uh oh, what do I do?" But, I mean that also from the bottom of my heart; you guys have been incredible to work with and I appreciate every one of you so much. I could literally tell a story about each person, but I want to have two people if they could just join me quickly, if you wouldn't mind; Mr. Jones and Lieutenant Morris if you could join me down here for just a second. Surprise. There's no question every single person up there deserves a story or me to tell about a time that they rose to the occasion, because, every single person here has. But, I think it's interesting that these two gentlemen right here who actually bookend me in terms of the chain of command. I couldn't have asked for more support. You know, when I became Chief of Police, of course, no one could have ever known that 33 days later that Kaia Grant was going to be murdered as our first officer killed in the line of duty, and hopefully the last ever, and that we would go into the pandemic, and then be plagued with the fact that the law enforcement profession was under a great deal of understandable scrutiny. And, at those moments that I was thrust into that as the Chief of Police, having never experienced any of those things before, Mr. Jones was the perfect boss for me. He let me run the department. He listened to me, he understood, and fortunately he's got a criminal justice background, but the fact was, that, because of his experience, he understood what my needs were, and he understood exactly the right balance and to make sure that I was able to do what I needed to do for the department, and also to be there and be my boss and to give me some advice, and guidance and direction. And, for Lieutenant Morris, I may have been 33 days in to my tenure, but Lieutenant Morris wasn't into his tenure as Assistant Chief yet when I turned to him and said, "You're going to be running the department from this moment on" when Kaia (Grant) was killed, because I need to deal with the focus on the family and making sure that our needs of the Police Department are taken care of. And, he stepped into the role just like that. And, as Mr. Jones likes to say, "He's been money ever since". So, I want to thank these two gentlemen from the bottom of my heart for being exactly what we needed around the Police Department on a day-to-day basis. I know that whether I'm there or not, that Dale and everybody else, but Dale's got everything else in hand and to Mr. Jones for being there, and being the perfect person to be my boss during a time that was extremely difficult. And, of course, I'd be totally remiss if I didn't recognize my family. My wife Laura, my daughter Mia, and Mark, you're even part of our family. Mark Prusch from Sharonville. If it wasn't for people like that in my life, I couldn't be who I am, and I wouldn't have made it through these last three years. So, again, I thank you so much. Appreciate the time and God Bless you. (applause)

Mayor Webster: I've got a few remarks I'd like to make, primarily about the Council meetings over the last several months. I've got three people, and it's not people talking Jeff (Anderson). These are three legitimate people have said to me, "What do these people want to come down in the middle of Council?" What do they want? And, I'll tell you exactly what I tell them. And, you're not going to like it, and unfortunately, your group isn't here tonight, and they wouldn't like it either. But, here's exactly what I'd tell them. This is a bunch of minions orchestrated by the puppet master, Mr. Jeffrey Anderson. That's what we've got here, week, after week, after week. People coming up here screaming at City Council. Screaming at the Mayor. Calling the Mayor names. It's all orchestrated by the puppet master. Now this is all done under the pretense of good open government, transparency. Baloney. It's done to make the Administration in the City look bad. As a matter of fact, I called Mr. Anderson out in my office. I said, "What are you trying to do? Burn the City down?" I asked you point blank that.

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Mayor Webster (continued): Well, he said he wasn't. But, actions speak louder than words. Now, all of this started back in the summer of 2021 when the Tri County mall was sold to a couple of guys from Texas. One of the first things that they did was start having some meetings with us, and wanted to move the Rec Center over to their new development. So, we listened, we listened, and finally, here's the deal; they're going to give us a \$50 million dollar Rec Center; give it to us. How could you not take a look at that? Give you a \$50 million dollar Rec Center. Well, that didn't turn out to be true, but, anyway, we had to look at it. We presented the case to Council, Council adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), I think it was December 22, 2021. Gave us six months to do our due diligence to decide whether we wanted to move or not move. Well, you would've thought that we had sold the City to the devil. We get all kinds of questions from the people with their hair on fire in the well of Council here. "Are you going to have a DORA District over there? Are you going to have our kids out with the drunks in the DORA District? How are they going to cross (Route) 747? Where are the seniors going to park?" On, and on, and on, and on. And, embedded in some of these wild statements, there were some legitimate questions. So, anyway, we as a staff; Mr. Wilson, Brian (Uhl), John (Jones) and I worked diligently for eight months analyzing the proposition of moving the Community Center over to the Tri County Mall. Well, we looked at a lot of things. One of things we looked at was the operating expense. Well the operating expense ended up playing a major role in our decision. Because, right now, we have one pool, and we operate it 13 weeks a year. We're going to move it over to mall, 52 weeks a year, two pools. So, you figure it out. Look what that just did to your expenses; about eight times I think. That was just one of the things. So, early on, I think in March or April, I insisted that we have an open house. I want to hear what the community has to say about this. This is not a decision that we should be making just here on this dais or in our offices. We should get input from the community. So we did that. We had two community engagement sessions. And, we got some good feedback; some good questions. But, we got some dumb ones also; really dumb ones. And, I want to relate to you people tonight two of the dumbest ones that we got. This one person comes up to me and says, "Mr. Mayor what's your Plan B if this fails?" What? We didn't start off with trying to find a place to relocate the Rec. We were made an offer to give us a \$50 million dollar free Rec Center. There's no (Plan) A, B, or C. But, anyway, I said, "We don't have a Plan B." So, I guess she was very happy that, "Oh, got the Mayor on that one." But, the same person, the next thing out of her mouth was, "What's your rate of return?" What's the rate of return? We spend \$6.8 million dollars to the Police Department every year. What's our rate of return on that? I think it's safety for the community, is it not? We spent \$25.5 million dollars on the Fire Department. What's the rate of return? Is it one percent? Two percent? Five percent? I think it's safety. The same way with the Rec Center. We spend \$3 or \$4 million dollars down there. There's no rate of return. It goes to show you what that person knows about municipal financing. Dumbest question I've ever heard. So, during this public engagement session, we naturally wanted to hear from the people. So this is where the minions, the minionville got formed. Get people with scripts; scripts that were written by unknown people. A youngster comes up, thirteen or fourteen, "They told me to ask this". They told me to ask this. People couldn't even read some of the scripts that they were given to read. Orchestrated. The whole darn thing was orchestrated by the puppet master. And the minionville was formed as a result of that. Now, during the process, in addition to the engagement sessions, looking at the operating expenses, we did two major things; we hired a facilities assessment company to do an assessment assuming we moved the rec center out of there, we've got to make a building. What can we put in there? What's it going to cost us to bring it up to snuff, and so forth, and so on? So, anyway, not only did we look at that building, we said let's look at all five of our municipal structures. And, we did that. We had a very nice report laid out primarily in three sections. Here's the expenses that the City needs to prepare to belly up to in the first five years, the first ten years, the first fifteen years. Now, you total all those up, it was \$32 million dollars. Well, thanks to the great public records law in the state of Ohio, one of the minions got their hands on that. So, the next thing I know, the minion is standing up here demanding to know, "Where are you going to get the \$32 million dollars?" What the hell are you talking about? That's for the fifteen year number. "Where are you going to get the \$32 million? You guys have let the facilities deteriorate to the point that we need \$32 million dollars." That's all baloney. That's because they don't know how to read a report. But, that's the kind of stuff we've put up with coming out of the well of Council from the minions. Now, we also did another thing. We had a comprehensive connectivity study done on primarily how we get people across (Route) 747,

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Mayor Webster (continued): because that was a legitimate complaint. We recognized that even before we brought the project to Council that we had to figure out a way to get people safely across (Route) 747. So anyway, KZF did a very thorough study for us. It's a study that will help this City in the next 15 to 20 years. So, we've already started to implement some of those things. And, I will say that that did not cause "hair on fire" parade in front of the Council well here; yet. But, let me tell you something, I already see, I already see the inkling because what we had in the report was how we were going to get across major thoroughfares and so forth. And, one of the major thoroughfares is Northland Boulevard. Well, as you all know, we have a major reconstruction project going on Northland Boulevard. Well, we started that project, and engineered that project before KZF even came to town to do the work for us. So, I think we would have been derelict in our duties just to do ahead and build it as it was engineered two years ago, and forget about the KZF aspect of it. So, we asked the engineers to go back and pull that in, which they did. Well now, we're getting all kinds of questions about the expenses for Northland Boulevard. "Why did you reengineer?" "When is this?" "How much for repairs?" "How much for this?" "How much for that?" This week, we get a letter, Mrs. McNear gets a letter with questions all related to Northland Boulevard. So, it's just a matter of time until somebody is standing in the well of Council here, demanding to know "Why have you increased the cost of Northland Boulevard?" "Why did you pull in these crossings?" "Why did you have a 'No Trucks' sign here?" That's the kind of questions that we will continue to get. Okay, with all this fuss, and these two studies, and everything else, at the end of the day, we, the Administration recommended to City Council that they not extend the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). To let it expire. So, Council had to take no action at all, so, no action killed the project. And, that's exactly what our recommendation was. We were not in favor of moving the Community Center. So, you would have thought, stop and think about this, all of this time, all of this ranting and raving and screaming at the mic, the "hair on fire" presentations, that people would be happy about that. You think? You'd think they'd say, "Yay! Thank you government." Not me, I don't want the thanks. But, thank you, thank you City government, thank you Springdale. You know what we heard? Crickets...crickets. Not a single word from minionville back there about not moving the Rec Center. I've heard from some of the Council people, in fact one of the most cherished comments, I'll remember this until the day I die. One Council member said, "Mr. Mayor, I knew you would do what's right for the City of Springdale." I've had dozens of people outside of here say to me, "You did the right thing. You guys are not moving the Rec Center". I have yet to hear one person come up to me and say, "You screwed up. You should have moved it." Not one person. So, I think, all in all, we did what we set out to do. We did our due diligence. We worked through all the noise, and everything else, and we got the job done. Now, the next "hair on fire" episode dealt with the Rec Center fees. As we were going through the process of identifying additional expenses, we also took a look at our revenues that we're bringing in. So, we asked Mr. (Charlie) Wilson and his staff to canvas the neighborhoods, canvas the community, the greater Cincinnati community to see where we stood fee-wise. Well, not to my surprise, we were at the bottom. I take personal responsibility for that, because, over the years, I've really stressed that to the Community Center staff, "Let's keep the fees low. We don't want to 'price' anybody out of the Community Center. So, I'll take full responsibility for letting the fees get below where they should be." So, I said, "Okay, there's \$32 million dollars that we've got to come up with here. So maybe we better take a look at the fees." My instructions to Mr. Wilson and staff, "I don't want any single fee down there to be the highest in the area. None of them. I don't care what it is." How about the top third? That seems reasonable. And, that's what Mr. (Charlie) Wilson's staff came up with. Week before last, I asked Mr. (Charlie) Wilson to give me a report on the renewals. I was anxious to see how these increased fees had depressed the membership rates. Well, guess what? Mr. (Charlie) Wilson tells me that, in checking his records, and his predecessors, it would appear that we have not had any primary memberships of this magnitude since 2012. The highest renewal rate of primary memberships in the last 11 years. So, you know, that tells me that the people of this community appreciate what they've got down there at that Community Center, and they appreciated it. And, they didn't listen to minionville, and all their "hair on fire" wild comments. And, I'm proud of the people for that. Okay, so now, the next "hair on fire" episode, these never end, it seems like. The next one, I get an email from a resident, Smiley Avenue that Mrs. Ghantous referred to before and the case is before BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals) with pictures and complaints about overcrowding, parking all over in the grass, in the lot, multiple recreational vehicles on the gravel driveway. And, she wanted to remain anonymous. I didn't talk to her, but, I forwarded the email to Mr. (Carl) Lamping and said, "Please keep this person anonymous." And so, they started looking into it and found out that the gravel driveway was put

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Mayor Webster (continued): in without a variance, was in violation, and so that's what kicked off the request for variance. Well, I go to the BZA meeting even though I was questioned "Why did you go there?" "Why, as Mayor, did you show up at the BZA meeting?" Well, it wasn't my first rodeo, I've been to other BZA meetings. But, anyway, minionville got wind of this. "We've got somebody that's got a rub with the City, so we've got to get out there and support them." So, sure enough, we had half a dozen. Well, that meeting got tabled to the next meeting. I think it was May 23rd, then they show up, and minionville multiplied by three times. About 15 or so minions at that meeting. And, Mr. (Jeffrey) Anderson orchestrated a variance for these people which was very masterful, I must say, very masterful. And, the Board (of Zoning Appeals) voted on it, even though there was a Public Hearing advertised as such, but no opportunity for anyone to speak. I raised my hand to speak, "No, I've got everything I need". So, I went up after the meeting and I said, "Mr. Anderson, that was an unlawful meeting you just conducted here. You're a disgrace to this City." Well, the applicant, and one of the minions, Megan Chapman, said, "Well why don't you just call Mr. Braun, Mr. Mayor." Well I did. I would never have thought of that myself to do that, but, since they suggested it, I took them up on it. Well, much to my surprise, Mr. Lamping had already contacted, so, he looked at it, and Mrs. Ghantous reported the decision was overturned, and back to square one, and this lady will have to resubmit. And, I'm sure, and I will be at the meeting, and I'm sure minionville will be there too, and they probably will multiple three times again. So be it. But, in that meeting, it was an absolute zoo. We had board members that were afraid to leave their seat with the crowd out there with the way that the audience reacted to the variance. Be that as it may, I was there on behalf of the resident. I wouldn't know the resident if they walked through that door. Some inferences were, "Is that a friend of yours?" No, I wouldn't know the person if they walked through here. So, in light of all of this, Mr. President, I would ask you to have Council to take another look at the Rules and Procedures, Chapter 30 I think it is, that you guys admitted earlier this year, to address the communications from the residents in writing, communications, period, and the length of time, and I would make two recommendations to Council. Number one, that you do away with a second agenda item on Communications from the resident. Nobody else has two of them. That was added several years ago, and I remembered we used to have none, and we had one. That lasted for 15 to 20 years, then, we added a second one. Well, now, minionville sits back there, after the first one, hears all the discourse of Council, they're on their cell phones texting, getting questions from the Community; not from the Community. From fellow minions, and then that's what takes up the dais for the second time. I think it would be taken advantage of and we should do away with the second communication from the audience. I also would suggest that we not respond to resident's questions from the well. I know Mr. Hawkins brought up and when we looked at this back in the spring, that Princeton (City School Board) doesn't respond, and I asked Mr. Jones to find out what Princeton does. And so, let me pass this down to you. This is a copy of Princeton's policy, and also Clermont County's policy, and also, I have attached the last document here as a copy of what Mr. Jones was able to get back in the spring from the Center for Local Governments on "Do you allow dialogue from the floor of Council between members and the public", and 34% say, "Yes", 19% say, "No", and 46% 'other' say, 'It's at the discretion of Council to listen, but not to respond.'" Anyway, take one of those. I would hope that you would take my suggestion and modify Section 30. Now, in closing, hold the applause, I'm sure you're glad to hear that. Let me say this. I have repeatedly said this Council or anybody else that will listen to me, that I have absolutely no intention of running for re-election for an eighth term as the Mayor of this City. But, let me tell you something else, minionville, I will not be driven out of this seat by your comments from the well of Council, or social media comments, or anything else. If this continues, I will be pulling a petition to run for an eighth term as Mayor of this City. Thank you. That's all I have to say.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: I have the General Fund Update through May 31, 2023. For receipts, based on a net receipt budget of \$24.123 million dollars, we have received \$10.361 million dollars, which is 43% of the anticipated budget. And, that receipt is based on five major general fund receipt sources which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Transient Tax, which is a subtotal of \$9.486 million dollars, which is 92%. The General Fund Year to Date through May 31st, for expenditures based on a net expenditure budget of \$24.180 million dollars, we have spent \$8.808 million

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Mrs. McNear (continued): dollars, which is 38% of the budget. And, the General Fund Ending Balance through May 31st is \$8.286 million dollars. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: I think the only thing I had to offer is that I think it was quite evident by the support we witnessed this evening, for Thomas Wells just how much his 33 years of service was not only appreciated, but, the respect that he had earned from his staff and his colleagues. That was an impressive turnout for somebody to receive a proclamation, and that was humbling to me personally to witness, because not only has Tom (Wells) been a Chief for us for the last few years, and, been with our City many years, but, he's also become a great friend. And, we're going to miss him, but, we'll certainly be in touch with him, and I know Brian (Uhl) and I have said many times it's been an honor to work with him in our years of service here, and he's been a class act to deal with. I just wanted to say that and thank him for his service. Thank you.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun: I want to echo what the City Administrator said. In my role as Law Director, I often get to work with the various department heads. I've truly enjoyed my time working with Chief Wells. True class act. I would also like to report to Council that we are monitoring the budget that was just passed by the Ohio legislature. It went through the Ohio Senate. I'm currently looking at that. As you may know, it's now got to be reconciled with the House form, but there are several provisions in there that could affect various rules and laws that we have on the books here in the City of Springdale, if they remain in the final version of that that's passed. I just wanted to advise Council I'm keeping an eye on that and should we need to amend our Code to address that, unless there's litigation to challenge some of those, under home rule, I'll be bringing those to you after the budget is passed in final form. And, the last item staff is requesting that a motion be made prior to the reading of Ordinance No. 30-2023 for an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations with our Police Officers. Thank you.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: So, the East Crescentville Road Improvement Project; the curb-widening and the widening on the north side is complete and traffic has been moved to the north side pavement, while the work on the south side continues. The Northland Boulevard Reconstruction project; ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) provided Stage 3 Plan Review Comments on June 14th. And, we also received right away authorization that same day from ODOT. SORTA (Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority) Funding Application Packet was submitted on May 30th. The SORTA Grant request was for \$2 million dollars to supplement the existing funding. We already have funding from OKI (Ohio Kentucky Indiana), which is STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant) Funds, as well as funding through Hamilton County. We also submitted an OKI Funding Request, and STBG Funding Request for the next phase, if you will, of the project, which will be the Kemper Road and Kemper/Northland intersection realignment, as well as the Kemper shared use path. So, the request was for just over \$4 million dollars in STBG funds, with a little over a million in local match being required for that project. The East Kemper Road/CSX Rail Bridge Project; the asphalt surface coarse was placed the second week of June, and, work on the expansion joints is expected to begin next week on the fourth week of June. The State Route 4 Urban Paving Project; the concrete work continues. The asphalt work is expected to begin in late June/early July. State Route 747 Urban Paving; ODOT opened bids on June 8th. Two bids were received. Jergens and Company submitted the low bid of \$917,592.05. ODOT was notified to move forward with that contract on June 15th. The Sheraton Lane Reconstruction Project; the road reconstruction continues. It's a little bit behind schedule due to a conflict with Altafiber. The contractor has been requested to provide an updated construction schedule. The Community Center HVAC Replacement; a Precom meeting was held on June 9th, and, due to the long lead times on equipment, we're hoping that installation can begin this fall, shortly after the pool closes, on a couple of the units, and then follow up later in the winter/spring next year. And, that's all I had.

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|--------------------------|--------------|---|-----------|
| Rental Program Committee | Mr. Anderson | - | No report |
| Communications | - | - | None |

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Communications from the Audience

Mr. Haugh: My name is Kevin Haugh, I live on Elkridge Drive, I'm a resident of Springdale, and a founding member of minionville. First of all, I want to say, hearing about Wawa coming to Springdale is awesome. I grew up on the east coast as well. Like Ms. McNear, it's like Buc-ee's, just a lot smaller, but the food is great, the gas is cheap; it's nice. I want to say, "Thank you Mr. Mayor for doing your job and protecting the City from a bad investment." You say no one thanks you so, I thank you for that. My questions tonight are "Under what authority does Mr. Lamping call a special meeting of the BZA?" Please stop my time while I'm waiting for an answer. Okay. Under what authority did BZA overturn the ruling? Okay. Are there any written procedures for the BZA in Springdale? Because there's none on line, none I could find in any legal documentation. Is there any procedures that govern how the BZA functions? I know Mr. Braun spoke of a lot of it's based in case law, but, is there any written procedure as far as how anything in BZA is run? Am I wasting my time here? Am I wasting everyone's time here asking questions?

Mr. Hawkins: Some of the questions I think you're asking are procedural, and some of those are legal questions. The main thing with regard to Board of Zoning Appeals, and I think Mr. Braun addressed this, I can't recall if it was a meeting I was not present for that I watched, or if it was the last meeting in early or late May, but, the Board of Zoning Appeals is a quasi-judicial function. It operates where going with the "Duncan Factors", which is from case law, so, a list of factors that the Board of Zoning Appeals is to consider with regard to every application that comes through whether considering a variance. It doesn't mean that all of those factors have to be met, but they all should be considered. And then, in consideration of all those factors, the BZA should make a decision that they think is appropriate based on whether or not a variance should be granted. A lot of it ends up in case law because if a BZA decision is appealed, it gets appealed in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court. And, so, then what happens is if someone appeals that, it goes for us to the First District Court of Appeals, and then that case law takes the place of a written statute, so, what happens is if the legislature doesn't clearly state something, then it's left to judges to interpret what they think the law is, and then if it's the Court of Appeals, with the Ohio Supreme Court that becomes the guidelines, so that becomes the next thing that folks have to go by. I can't tell you specifically with regard to this situation that we're talking about in terms of the application. Some of that was in Executive Session, and some of the Ms. Ghantous referenced in terms of what took place there and why that situation was addressed how it was, or was being readdressed. But, generally speaking, Board of Zoning Appeals is dictated by law; a lot of it is going to be case law, like Mr. Braun said, because, the decisions made here, or Forest Park, or Evendale, what have you, they get appealed downtown, those get appealed to the Court of Appeals, and case law stands in the place of where there's no statute that's clear, or how the judge is interpreting it. So, that's the best way I can answer the question that you're asking. I couldn't give you any specifics, but, that's what's going to happen for each situation BZA is going to go look at. They're going to go through those factors and make a decision.

Mr. Haugh: Okay, and my question is, or these questions, this is more just general. What rules dictate how the BZA operates? Not necessarily an individual variance or issue, but, how do they, you know, call a meeting to order? I know Robert's Rules is part of it, I think, but, it's a little different because the public hearings and such. Do we have anywhere that says, "This is step one, this is step two, this is step three? I think that's part of what played into this issue is the procedures weren't followed, and I'm just trying to find the procedures. I can't find anything that says what the procedures are for Springdale. It's available on line for other cities, and there's Hamilton County guidebook as far as how to handle this, but there's no "This is Springdale's Procedure How We Handle the BZA Meeting", or "How We Handle Different Variances". That's what I'm asking about.

Mr. Uhl: Just for the sake of Council, there was a Public Records Request filed by Mr. Haugh last week that was responded to on Monday. You're asking the same questions, and there was sufficient documentation provided to you on Monday. I don't know if you had time to review that yet or not.

Mr. Haugh: I did, it just gave the charter that "these members will serve on the board..."

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Mr. Uhl: And, that's what we've located thus far. So, our staff has spent some time digging through paper files because, if there's something that does exist, it's not electronic yet, so we have been digging through some paper files to see if there is something that exists, and I believe Mrs. (Nicole) Browder alluded to that, that we will continue to review to see whether or not we do have something in response to your request.

Mr. Haugh: I ask because we took back a ruling based on procedure, and we have no procedures that we can have in hand to follow. So, how do we take back a ruling on procedure, if there is no procedure to follow? My next question is why was the June 6th meeting held in Executive Session and the discussion not open to the public?

Mr. Anderson: Just to answer that, if you review the minutes of that meeting. And, as a part of a motion to Executive Session, and this is true for BZA, as well as Council; we state the reason as part of the motion that's permitted under Ohio Law. I believe in that one, if I recall correctly, it was to consult with legal counsel. So, the reason that it was in Executive Session is when a group or a government body would want to convene to have that discussion, the law allows us to do those in certain situations, and this was one of them. And, that's what we did. I do want to add though, you've asked several questions about BZA and there have been comments about BZA. One thing I think that gets lost, you asked about procedures, and it's a fair question. We have job aids and things like that that help us. It's a difficult job and I just want to make sure people understand that. The BZA group, as a whole, is largely made up of residents just like you that are asked to do a very difficult job of oftentimes declining; reviewing, and approving or declining a variance, right? A change, or an exception to a law or rule, or existing code. I think we get lost sometimes in those meetings, and people forget that those are real people up there that are just neighbors, and, we might judge them too harshly for the work that they're trying to do. So, in this case, we're following the advice of the Law Director, and we, as a group, made a decision to do the things that are out in the public now. But, I just want to say out loud, these are hard-working people. These are people that volunteer their time and they don't get, there's some training that happens, but these aren't professional BZA Boards, these are residents, and I think that's a good thing. But, we need to make some accommodations and allowances for that too. So, I do think it's a difficult situation that we're in right now for the specific applicant, but it's still an active case, so, I can't comment on it because we're still taking action on it. I don't think that'd be fair either to the applicant, or, the rest of the community that also has a vested interest in it. So, I appreciate that. I said in the last meeting that I hope people will give us time as a Board to continue to work through that application as best we can. You're absolutely welcome to ask whatever questions you like during your time. But, just understand you're asking very specific questions about something that's still in process. So, some of the things where you're not hearing a response is because we're still working through it, and, to be fair to those groups, we need to make sure that we're maintaining that process. So, please understand these are our neighbors too that are on the Board, and we should be respectful of that as well. Thank you.

Mr. Haugh: As Mr. Anderson stated, you are allowed to go into Executive Session per Ohio Administrative Code 3358:17-1-04.2 Section A, Paragraph 3. It says, "Conferences where the public body's attorney concerning pending or imminent court action by division, section 112.22 of the revised code". My question is what was the imminent or pending court action that prompted this meeting?

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Haugh, again, I'm not on BZA anymore. I wasn't present for it, but, unless the...that would have been what was discussed, I would imagine in the Executive Session, and that would be privileged, unless that privilege was released, and folks that were in that meeting were allowed to go talk about it. If they were to talk about what happened in Executive Session without that being released, they can suffer a myriad of different consequences including, I believe some type of criminal prosecution. So, nobody should answer that question that was in that meeting, unless, that privilege has been removed and made that open. So, I couldn't tell you that, but the people that are in that meeting probably shouldn't say that, as a defense attorney, unless they wanted to get in trouble.

Mr. Haugh: Okay, but the Administrative code also states that it's a public body's burden of proof to demonstrate a statutory exemption that allows the executive session. So, the body must justify the executive session per the Administrative code.

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Mr. Braun: By virtue of them declaring what section of the ORC (Ohio Revised Code) they are going into “Executive Session by...”, they meet that burden under Ohio law. I would also remind you, Councilmember Hawkins said something that should not be lost on you as a non-attorney. Which is, that he said the “Board of Zoning Appeals is a quasi-judicial body”. That means they can go into private session any time they want for the purpose of deliberation. So, in addition to that, we also cited a section of the ORC under which we were going into private session for. So, again, I would also refer you, because you’ve asked a series of questions, actually, both our Code of Ordinances, and our Charter explain what Mr. Hawkins said that there’s certain information that has to be kept confidential, and the release of that information could result in sanctions, and, that includes anything that was discussed in Executive Session, or the reason for that, other than what was stated.

Mr. Haugh: Okay. That’s all I have. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Chapman: Give me like, two seconds. I’m still organizing my thoughts on here, because if I don’t, it’s gonna go. My name is Megan Chapman, I live on Vista Glen Drive. I was not planning on coming here tonight. I was actually at Dave and Busters with my children, so, they are currently sitting out in the lobby, and they’re not happy. But, I was listening to the meeting on line. The Mayor’s unhinged rant is what caused me to cut my evening of fun short with my kids to come address some things. Democracy depends on community involvement. From my beginning interactions with this body, I have told you that I am here to hold you accountable. And, I have done nothing less. Mr. Mayor, I told you to take it up with Mr. Braun so you could walk away and avoid the embarrassment of your grown up temper tantrum. You chose to lose your mind, and that is on you. I have come here with my thoughts written down and I do this every meeting since, you know, the first couple of meetings, because I have ADHD. It is a neurological disorder. I struggle to organize my thoughts in the moment, and it is what it is. I am here and I got involved in the BZA meeting because I know the homeowner. I wanted to make sure that her rights were not going to be violated. What are you guys going to do if the homeowner does not reapply? Last I spoke with them, they had not resubmitted their application. Mr. Mayor, I also did not get to speak at the BZA meeting either. Had I gotten to speak, I would have questioned whether or not it was legal for you to strongly suggest that people you appointed vote against a variance. Also, I would have questioned whether or not they needed to recuse themselves. Have a good evening. You owe my children an apology (off mic).

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 29-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING FIREARM SALES IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mr. Braun: For the benefit of Council, I know that Mr. Jacobs mentioned it when he was giving the report for Rules and Laws, but, we also have an alternative ordinance to this prepared that we can circulate if it becomes a decision of Council that rather than amending Chapter 117, they would seek to revoke it. I know both members of the Rules and Laws Committee had said that both options were something they were considering. And, I believe Mr. Uhl has some additional information why Council may want to consider replacing the existing (Ordinance No.) 29-2023 with an alternative version.

Mr. Uhl: As we continue to look to modify our Code to find other examples of how we could do this better, we came up empty. A lot of cities don’t have anything that requires what we’re requiring. And, to the contrary, the federal government and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has much stricter regulations regarding transfers and sale of firearms. Part of the reason I think a lot of these cities don’t have the ordinance or the code on the books is it’s hard to keep up with because of all the updates and changes that are made to the law. So, when we had some discussion with the vendor and they had their legal counsel review some of our proposed changes, they were very appreciative of what we were trying to do to make sure that they could operate in a safe manner. However, because of the changes that take place with the classifications of firearms, it would be extremely difficult for us to keep up with our Code, and the ATF, their guidelines structuring the federal firearms license, is a much stricter code than what we could produce here. So, after some internal

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Mr. Uhl (continued): discussion, we felt like we were just trying to chase our tail a little bit, and the ATF, essentially is the regulatory body for the sale and transfer of firearms, and, that that this code as it sits, we make the recommendation for revocation so that the federal standards can be applied.

Mr. Hawkins: So, for the Administration, possibly Mr. Mayor, going back to 1986, 1989 when this was additionally put in place, do we have more state and federal regulations now than we did back then? Trying to get to the rationale for why it was felt necessary back in the eighties to have this versus, obviously we have a myriad of gun laws, safeguards, what have you. So, has there been a change over the last 40 years?

Mayor Webster: No. Mr. Hawkins, and I don't know why the thing was even put on the books. I never recall that being an issue, and evidently, it has not been enforced. We've had a number of Police Chiefs. Our current Police Chief wasn't even aware this was on the books. We've had Walmart, they were never asked to get a license or anything. Dick's, that's the only two that come to mind. But, I mean, just looking forward and looking around at other communities, nobody else seems to be concerned about this. And, I think it's primarily because it'd be a real bear to try to keep it updated with the way things change, especially, coming out of Washington as it relates to guns and ammunition and so forth. And, I think it will be a nightmare to try and stay on top of that. And, I really think we'd be better off just to take it off the books, and if we want to put anything on there, just refer to the federal if they meet all the federal guidelines, then they're fine and welcome to the City of Springdale.

Mr. Hawkins: In terms of looking at other communities, West Chester, Liberty Township, they don't have anything on the books?

Mayor Webster: They don't have anything. I don't know if whether, do they refer to the federal guidelines?

Mr. Uhl: Nothing that we could find.

Mayor Webster: That would just be if you wanted to take an additional step, you could do that, and I don't think this vendor would object to that because they're going to comply with the federal guidelines.

Mr. Hawkins: Is our City ordinance, and this might be for Mr. Braun, or Administration. Is our City ordinance giving any additional protections versus what we have with the State and federal, or I guess the other way is, are we doing anything that's an infringement upon the rights?

Mayor Webster: Only the Police Chief and/or the Mayor I think, either one could every year demand that they forfeit their license. I mean, this vendor, especially, is not going to come in and plop down a bunch of money to renovate a facility, and to sign a ten year lease if they know that year by year the Mayor, or the Police Chief may decide they're not going to renew the license.

Mr. Braun: To answer Mr. Hawkins question, I think, yes, it's obviously more restrictive than the federal only because it has some requirements that are slightly different, but, I think that's an unfair characterization. I would say that the "mother ship" of regulations comes from the federal and State government; no doubt about that. And, we don't keep our code up to date with all of those federal and State regulations, and this particular vendor and their attorney said, I think they viewed our ordinance as kind of not just out-of-date, but maybe not up to speed with current regulations. In other words, if we followed every guideline in Chapter 117, it still is not going to have the detail and the level of recent control that the federal firearms license would require. So, I think that's the reason that, quite frankly, it's kind of been overlooked on the enforcement level over a period of a significant amount of time through several large businesses that have already come and gone from this City, and we never enforced it. So, I think if you are to keep it, we would need to be very diligent in keeping up on what other federal firearm regulations exist. Or, we can do what we do in other portions of our Code like this that are constantly changing, and being modified, which is we defer to the State and federal regulations. I don't think anybody's asking to make anything any easier to purchase a firearm. We're just

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Mr. Braun (continued): saying we want to defer to the regulations that are at the State and federal level. If that's what Council wants to do.

Mr. Uhl: And, just to piggyback on what the Mayor said, although there hasn't been a lot of updates to our Code in quite some time, the federal firearms license regulations have changed significantly. My understanding is in the eighties, it was a lot easier to obtain a federal firearms license and transfer and sell firearms than it is today. Those are coveted, and there are a lot of inspections and filings that take place with anyone who sells firearms, and, with the ATF, they are subject to multiple inspections. There's a myriad of different regulations that they have to follow that our Code can't keep up with all of those things that are in place, and, just to draw attention to 117.02 sale of firearms in Section B it talks about if you can't sell a firearm to anyone who was convicted of a felony within the previous five years, well, that's dated and, we know that that has changed significantly because there are misdemeanors that are disqualifying offenses as well. And, in that same section, in Section A, it talks about the sale of firearms, and one of the strikeout proposals we had was our Code says, "Unless the dealer personally is acquainted with the purchaser of firearms". So, obviously the ATF would not be okay with that whatsoever, so, just a couple of points of reference on why I think we're kind of chasing our tail when we're even trying to make some of these amendments. The ATF is a regulatory body and has stringent control on the sale and purchase.

Mr. Anderson: I agree with a lot of what was said, especially around deferring to the FFL (Federal Firearms License), and the federal regulations. That made a lot of sense when I reviewed it. When I first saw that we were, it seemed like on face, loosening restrictions, I was surprised, but then when I read through it, it really felt like it was making it easier and more conformant with the federal rules that were more strict, and definitely more detailed. The one question I have on it. You had mentioned, Mr. Uhl, several times, about federal transfer and sales. One of the things I did notice in the Code that was proposed to be struck through was related to storage and separation for some of the components. I just want to make sure, because I'm not familiar with the FFL requirements and the ATF requirements, that those requirements would still require ammunition to be locked in a separate cabinet, or location from the firearm itself, and that the weapons are also secured. Those seemed like to be two specific things that our Code currently does require, which is a good thing, as long as the federal side covers that, that makes sense to me. But, even the NRA (National Rifle Association) says that ammunition should be locked separate from the weapon at home. I don't know why we'd do it differently in a store. So, can we confirm that that is included in the current federal requirements?

Mr. Uhl: The FFL documentation is pretty lengthy, and I haven't gone through it. Typically, the ATF does not govern how you store or secure in a retail establishment. They are more concerned with the actual sale and point of purchase and the qualifying person. So, to answer your question, the business model that they're proposing is no different than any other retailer who sells both ammunition and firearms that you could walk into a Cabela's or a Bass Pro, or a Dick's Sporting Goods, or when Walmart sold firearms and ammunition when Swallen's was here back in the day and sold firearms and ammunition, so, it's not any different than what any other retailer is doing.

Mr. Anderson: But, was it locked? I didn't shop for a lot of guns at Swallen's. I was too young when it was here. But, I know at Walmart it was in a separate cabinet, behind the shelf, and I know some of the weapons were locked and you needed an associate to get them down if you wanted to examine it. Mr. Hawkins had asked the question, I heard him ask the question of "What would be more stringent here?" I agree the FFL for the transfer and sale makes a lot of sense. What I'd be concerned about if we strike the whole thing is those additional controls because I think in Springdale, I think we can say, "Hey, let's take that extra second to make sure those weapons are secure from the ammunition." If it's part of the safe practices as the federal requirements, that's fine. If it's not, I do think we should retain that section to make sure that we're taking that extra step to secure the ammunition from the weapons.

Mr. Uhl: I don't know that that's contained within the FFL regulations, so, I would suspect it's probably not.

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Mr. Anderson: We don't have to decide that tonight, right? Especially if we're considering changing the amendment anyway. I guess I'm asking can we check on that before we decide whether or not we're going to repeal or just update.

Mr. Uhl: Yes. I'm going to go out on a limb and say it's probably not because other retailers have ammunition that's available on the shelf that they could take and go purchase at the point of sale, versus the firearms are always secured in a locked case, or behind the counter out of reach from the general public.

Mr. Hawkins: I was just going to say that it sounds like this hasn't been enforced in 40 years, thereabouts, and if we have something on the books, then we should use it. If we don't, then we shouldn't and we should be consistent in that way. There may be, if the whole thing is struck, there still could be some other means to address some of those concerns with a separate ordinance if that was what Council wanted to go through and do in terms of securing ammunition. Are you referring to securing ammunition in a locked....(addressing Mr. Anderson)

Mr. Anderson: So, in the section we're talking about striking the 117.02, one of the sections that is in the strikethrough in the appendix, currently, that section, it's one of the few things that's called out as a rule, that's not related to the sale or transfer. There is a little bit of language about storage and location. It talks about securing long arms and shorter smaller arms separately, and they have different requirements. The proposed amendment from Rules and Law struck those out, only kept the secured section for long arms that they need to be secured in some manner without necessarily locked. And, it also struck through the requirement that is currently in the Code of ammunition being stored separately and locked from the weapon. That's in that same section that we're talking about updating; Chapter 117. Which, right now, it's on the books. I'm surprised we're not enforcing it. This is the first I've heard that we haven't been.

Mr. Uhl: It is specific to revolver ammunition.

Mr. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Uhl: So, you know, when you look at the calibers for revolver ammunition versus a semi-automatic hand gun, right? They can be similar, but they can be different.

Mr. Anderson: I agree. It needs to be updated, and it's clear that it hasn't been enforced. I'm just saying if we're going to take away something and there's a piece there that is still in the interest of public safety, we should do that. I mean, this is something the NRA even says should be done if you're storing weapons separate from the ammunition. So, I'm just asking that we treat the storage the same way, which is not what we're proposing tonight.

Mr. Uhl: Correct. And, I think the NRA is specific to home storage, home safety, and whatever else. Retailers, obviously, it's a little bit different. I understand your concern 100%, as a former law enforcement officer; I get it 100%. But, what they're proposing to do is no different than any other retailer.

Mr. Anderson: I understand that. I was just thinking back to the knife incident we had at Target, right? If it was at Walmart and there were guns when the Police engaged a person that was struggling and had a knife out and was threatening people, if that was in front of a gun case, that extra time to have a separation between the weapon and the ammunition would make a difference. In a home, I can secure who's even coming into the home. In a retail establishment, anybody can go in there. So, it seems like it should be more secure; not less.

President Vanover: Well, I can say, I'm thinking back and I can add a name to a former firearms sales, Service Merchandise sold firearms, and no establishment have I ever been in, whether it be handguns, shotguns, long rifles, were just laying out in the open. A retailer would be foolish to do that because the theft issue, and I have a small picture of a friend that is involved in the retail stuff, that the paperwork on a lost firearm is just, you don't want to have it happen. And, I've never seen firearms out for the public to peruse; just grab one and pick it up and work through it. It's always behind the counter, and the ammunition is out on the floor on shelving and stuff. That, I think they just, for their own success, have to take that into

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President Vanover (continued): consideration. And, I'm sure their insurers and liability issues that insurers are going to address, as well as OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), and a whole other group of federal agencies that are going to have their fingers on the pulse, scale, whatever you want to call it. And, again, this is dealing with retail versus personal within the home. So, I personally, I think we're creating more layers of work, not to short-change Mr. Braun on a bonus check or something, but, you're right. That's one of those areas that is so rapidly changing that we're better off, I feel, that we just strike, and refer back to the federal firearms licensing regulations and stuff. I mean, they dictate everything.

Mr. Ramirez: Just a comment. We're looking at Vance Outdoors. They're in the firearms business. We are not. I would assume that they have a good handle on what it takes to market firearms, safety of firearms, how to display the firearms. So, it's just a comment. I think most likely they have a good handle on what they're doing. Thank you.

Mr. Uhl: I would just like to echo what Mr. Ramirez said. We did have the ability to go out to their establishment in Lebanon. They run a very good business with very good security measures. We kind of got a "behind the scenes" tour as well, and we were very comforted in the procedures that they have in place, and their ability to choose to sell or not to sell, based off of some other indicators that may present themselves to a potential salesman. So, it was very reassuring when we visited and the process and the store layout would be similar to what they are proposing here.

Mr. Hawkins: With regard to has there been any conversation our law enforcement or the Chief specifically with regard to what is their input?

Mr. Uhl: Yes. We had several discussions with Chief Wells, and he is in favor of them. They do have a law enforcement branch; Vance's Law Enforcement. They sell to a bunch of different law enforcement agencies. When I was with Springfield Township, we purchased a lot of our ammunition and firearms through Vance's. They're an extremely reputable company, extremely professional. The Police Department had absolutely no objections, and was very excited to hear that they were considering our City for a retail location.

Mr. Hawkins: Did our law enforcement, or Chief (Wells) confer with regarding the ordinance and the idea of doing with it, amending it, particularly with it being the Chief and the Mayor would have the ability to act on it. Did Chief have any input with regard to the ordinance?

Mr. Uhl: So, when we reviewed this, and talked about the inspection and licensing procedure, this was all very new. So, clearly it wasn't anything that was enforced, or put out there when Dick's was in town, and Walmart, and Swallen's, and Service Merchandise. So, he knew nothing about this whole process. It was very new for him as well when we talked about, "Hey, what's the license procedure?" He said, "I'm not sure what you're talking about." But, when we talked about this, he doesn't have a feeling that repealing this was going to hurt us by any stretch of the imagination.

Mr. Anderson: I just wanted to make a comment in regards to Vance and their process. I have no doubt that Vance, these larger retailers like Walmart, or Swallen's or whoever else has those procedures, it's in their best interest. What we're talking about tonight is removing the City's ability to do licensing and review for operators that may not have those same control, scale or size. So, I understand. I don't doubt that Vance has procedures and they have a law enforcement branch, and a good relationship in FFL. The question really before us is if we want to have an opportunity to review that before we would bring that business in to Springdale, right? And, having a licensing with some requirements in addition to FFL, give us that ability, as a community to decide, "Hey, you are a good operator". It makes sense like Vance, it sounds like that would be a good fit. But, that without that ordinance on the book, would some of those requirements then another operator that you might not have that same confidence in, we wouldn't have any ability to go after them. It's no different than what we just had to add, in my mind, like for nuisance properties. We had to give an opportunity for the City to be able to come back and enforce our laws. So, that's why I'm saying I just wanted us to think about does it make sense to remove 117 altogether. I do like the update to refer most

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Mr. Anderson (continued): of it to the FFL for transfer and sales because it's well covered there. What I'm saying is maybe we should keep a section about storage and maintenance so we have an opportunity, or even licensing to decide if that operator does meet the standards that you've talked about.

President Vanover: Is there another ordinance that is complete? A repeal?

Mayor Webster: Mr. Anderson, I think there are two different issues here. Number one, we may want some things up front, and I think the idea of us reviewing it annually really is a "showstopper" for them coming into the City. We're not going to subject ourselves to a yearly review or the whim of the Mayor, or the whim of the Police Chief that you can just revoke our license. So, I think, if there's some things that we can do up front, I think maybe they would agree to those as long as they're not too onerous, and were in line with what the federal government is already making them do. I can't imagine that they would object to that.

Mr. Anderson: Oh, and I agree with that. I think that makes a lot of sense. I understand why they were concerned when I read the section. It's tough to build a business when there's two people that could just arbitrarily make that change. I totally understand and I still agree that updating to the FFL and deferring for transference sales makes sense, but, I would hate to lose the opportunity to have a review at some point of that initial license to make sure that it's a good operator like Vance. We don't have to do it in this, right? If it makes sense to repeal it, or adjust it today, and then come back and do that so we can give confidence to this business to come back into Springdale, I understand that. That makes sense, but, I just don't want to lost sight of the fact that right now we have an ability to make a statement for these types of businesses that have a lot of public interest and make a decision. Thank you.

President Vanover: Alright, Council, your thoughts? Do we want to add this to have it read? It would be a first reading regardless, and, proceed?

Mr. Braun: I think the two procedural options are you can proceed with the version that's in the (Council) packet, or, you can entertain a motion to replace what was in the packet with the version we circulated. It really comes down to what Council wants to do.

President Vanover: Council, what say you?

Mr. Hawkins: Some of this, I think, is still being digested and some talk about what some of the other federal guidelines are. I was going to ask if the other version, before we got it, was going to be added to the July meeting for review. I don't have an issue if there's a motion to add this proposed ordinance revoking Chapter 117 to the agenda. I don't know that I would replace Ordinance No. 30-2023 at this point, but, if somebody, or (Ordinance No.) 29-2023, sorry, felt compelled to have that on the agenda for a first reading so they both come back before us in July to allow some more time to think about and review some things, I don't have an issue with that, or bringing the ordinance to revoke Chapter 117 for a first reading in July, but, I think at a minimum, I'd like to see the one to revoke (Chapter) 117 to be available in July at a minimum.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Do we need to have a decision immediately? Like, what is the timeframe? Obviously, we want to get this taken care of, but, I make to make sure that we're making the correct choice for what we're doing here. This is a first reading right now on (Ordinance No.) 29-2023. My question is if we accept this one, and it gets read next month, is that going to push it back too far since we're in summer, because then it would actually be August by the time we vote on it, so, I just wanted to make sure that this is keeping in the timeframe.

Mayor Webster: Not only that, but, it wouldn't go into effect until September.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: So, it wouldn't go into effect until September, correct?

Mayor Webster: If we had the first reading in July, you guys pass it in August, it would go into effect 30 days after that, unless you put an emergency clause on it. That's what I just asked Brian (Uhl), if he knows what the timing needs to be.

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Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: That's why I wanted to know the timing if this is something that needs to be done by next month, or is this something that can wait to vote on in August.

Mr. Uhl: Right now, they are waiting on action, or no action from Council before they can enter into a lease. So, obviously, they're wanting something sooner than later. Our conversations with them, they were understanding that this is not an overnight process, so, they're well aware of that. But, they're in negotiations obviously with the building owner to enter into a ten year lease, but, the way our Code is written, their counsel has advised them that that would not be something that they would advise in engaging into.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Braun, is the next ordinance number going to be 31-2023? So, Council, I make a motion to amend the agenda and add Ordinance No. 31-2023; An Ordinance Revoking Chapter 117 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Firearms Sales in the City of Springdale, Ohio for the agenda for a first reading tonight. So as to make sure that we are able to make a decision, whatever we're going to do, come the July meeting, if Council is so inclined at that time.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

The motion to amend the agenda and add Ordinance No. 31-2023; An Ordinance Revoking Chapter 117 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Firearms Sales in the City of Springdale, Ohio for the agenda for a first reading tonight passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 31-2023

AN ORDINANCE REVOKING CHAPTER 117 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING FIREARMS SALES IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

President Vanover: Is there any further discussion on this? (None) We will see this in July.

Ordinance No. 30-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF DOROTHY LANE, VALKER ALLEY, AND MAXEY LANE AND OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SPRINGROSE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION

President Vanover: Alright Council, you've heard the reading of Ordinance No. 30-2023. It is a first reading. Is there any discussion this evening? (None)

Executive Session

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(4) to review negotiations or bargain sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment. Mrs. Ghantous seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote to go into Executive Session. Council departed chambers at 8:52 p.m. Council return to chambers at 9:03 p.m.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to make a motion to add Ordinance No. 28-2023 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council Representing the Full Time Corporal, Sergeants, and Lieutenants in the Springdale Police Department and Declaring An Emergency to the agenda.

Mr. Jacobs: Second.

Motion to add Ordinance No. 28-2023 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council Representing the Full Time Corporal, Sergeants, and Lieutenants in the Springdale Police Department and Declaring An Emergency to the agenda passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Ordinance No. 28-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE OHIO LABOR COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE FULL TIME CORPORAL, SERGEANTS, AND LIEUTENANTS IN THE SPRINGDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 28-2023; Mr. Anderson seconded.

Ordinance No. 28-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business - None

New Business

President Vanover: Well, in New Business, we have a couple of items that were passed out this evening for consideration of Council rule changes. Do you want to start a discussion on that this evening?

Mr. Jacobs: For the firearms changes?

President Vanover: No, no, no. The Communications, and the Council response.

Mr. Hawkins: I think it's something folks want, if they want to let it digest, and have a discussion when we come back, I think folks can. I don't know if somebody on Council is indicating they're spearheading change, or want to spearhead that discussion, but, I'd say, if someone wants to do that, that's fine. Otherwise, they can think about it, and bring it up when they like.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, July 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet this Tuesday, which is June 27th at 7:00 here in these chambers.

Mr. Uhl: Civil Service will have a special meeting this Friday, June 23rd at 1:00 p.m. to vote on the continuation of the corporal promotional process.

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Haugh: My name is Kevin Haugh, I live on Elkridge Drive. My question with the proposed changes that were discussed as far as communication and not allowing any feedback from Council. How would residents get questions answered at that point? If we don't expect it at Council meetings, how could we expect to get any feedback from Council? I've sent numerous emails and gotten very few replies. And, I feel like this is one of the few avenues I have to discuss things. And, we're going to discuss taking that away. We need to address how we're going to be able to address our elected leaders.

Mr. Uhl: You are correct. You have sent many emails. All of your emails have been responded to. You've been requesting public documents, and/or information. Your last request, I believe you sent a letter to Council. You sent a public records request to us. You also sent on a request for information from Mr. Lamping in the Building Department. I think all of those have been responded to. We are still obtaining looking for some information, if it exists. So, we've provided responses to all of your requests. Now, Mr. (John) Jones and myself also responded to you saying, "Hey, you have a lot of questions here, and, they're not just simple answers, so, we're willing to meet with you to discuss and answer your questions, and I think that would be a lot more productive." But, to answer your question, how do you get those responded to? Administration is more than willing to sit down to explain what that

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Mr. Uhl (continued): process is, and give you the information that you're looking for. It's just not that easy to put that in a generated email response.

Mr. Haugh: Administration has been good about it. There have been emails that I sent directly to Council, not through the Clerk of Council. They have not gone answered. So, should the official way be to send those through that way? Through the Clerk of Council? And, to expect, if it's a question for Council, is there going to be any kind of expectation of response? Now, obviously, Administration there is, but, I don't think there's anything that says that for Council. And, that's my question. If we have a question for Council, how do we get those questions answered?

Mr. Uhl: And, I think it's fair to direct, you know, when you have questions about projects, and different things, that they come to Administration because we're going to have the most knowledge and information to be able to share. Council members have legislation that comes before them with an explanation prior to, so, I feel like the Administration is in the best position to answer your questions. Not that you can't reach out to a Council member, but, obviously, they have lives that they live outside of the dais here, and part of our responsibility is to ensure the City operations run in an efficient manner, so, part of what we're tasked to do is put all these things together on behalf of Administration, the Mayor, and present to Council.

Mr. Haugh: If it's a question on legislation coming up, it's not really an Administration thing. How do we get that answer is my question.

Mr. Uhl: I would say a good attorney would always say, "It depends on the nature of your question". If something substantial was, "Why is this?" Or, "How does this work as it pertains to legislation?" If you're voicing a comment about specific legislation, maybe that's better addressed to a Council member, or provide comment here; just not cross-examination.

Mr. Haugh: The other part that was brought up was not allowing the second communications from the audience. I think it allows us to provide feedback and further questions about legislation that was talked about. For instance tonight, I wanted to comment that I agree with Administration on just striking out the whole ordinance as far as the gun sales and following the ATF, and State and federal regulations. We want businesses to come in. We don't want to make it harder for them to come in, so I agree with Administration on that and this second option gives us the opportunity to voice that opinion. It also allows me to ask questions from what was said during the meeting. The question I have is the comment was made that members of the BZA were afraid to come out of their seats at the end of the meeting. And, I don't think anyone was aggressive or hostile in any way. And, why were they afraid to come out of their seats? That's another comment of somebody being afraid that's unsubstantiated. My last thing is despite what's being said, my thoughts are my own, my questions are my own. I'm not coached or prodded by anybody, and I'll be more than happy to share my phone, my Facebook, anything that anyone wants to see to prove that my thoughts are my own. To tell me that I am a puppet is ridiculous. I'm a grown man. I can think for myself.

Mr. Hawkins: So, Kevin (Haugh), here's the main thing. I think some of this, when we had this discussion, it's been a couple of months. Some of it, has not been fully kept in context. When I stated that there are some places, like Princeton (City Schools) that have policies written or unwritten with regard to not directly addressing questions that come before them at a board meeting, it's not that that question never gets answered. It's more about "on the spot". So, what I was saying is there's times when someone may come up and ask a question, and there may be something that that information is readily at hand, or known, because it's something somebody was researching and talked about, either by an elected official, or, the Administration. But, there's a lot of times where somebody needs to think about it. And, so, the idea would be that someone should not necessarily expect they're going to get an answer that day or that night. What happens a lot of times, and, if you go back and you look at some minutes, or videos, you may see someone who comes in and talks about speeding, or fire hydrants, or litter, or whatever. And, there may be something where neither your elected officials, nor Administration is prepared to be able to address that situation then.

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Mr. Hawkins (continued): And, usually, the next meeting, or, sometimes it takes two meetings to get the information, usually, spontaneously, that issue gets referenced in Old Business, or, if it's connected to one of the Committee Reports, it may be brought up. So, I don't want you, or anybody to think the idea of either a written or unwritten policy saying, "Hey, don't expect and answer", means "Don't expect an answer ever". It means you may not get an answer that night when that question is asked because people have to gather information. There was one situation that happened years ago where someone came in and was talking about a situation and, I think it's fair to say, most people on the dais felt a lot of sympathy, felt like there needed to be some action taken on that situation. When that matter was review further, it turned out that that situation was completely different than what was reiterated at the meeting. So, but, those things are going to get looked at. You come forward and you say something and, there have been many instances of folks coming through and have a comment, concern. You may not get that answer at that point, but, it's going to be addressed, and sometimes it spontaneously will be referenced, sometimes the Administration or somebody from Council may reach out to that person. Usually, if it's something you come to us with, Administration, or someone is going to reach back out and say, "Hey, Mr. Haugh, you asked about having 14 chickens on less than an acre of property. This is what you can and can't do." That kind of a thing. So, sometimes it's public, sometimes they get back to you, but, that's what I meant by that. Not that you can come up and ask questions and no one is going to bother to answer you. We're elected officials, we're here. If you call me and say, "Lawrence why did you vote for this?" Or, "Lawrence what are you thinking about for this thing coming up I see on the agenda?", I'm happy to have that conversation with you or anybody else. But, that's what I mean by that. Sometimes we may not be in the position to answer that question right then.

Mr. Haugh: I understand that. I'm not looking for you to make policy announcements through questions here. I haven't experienced that level of feedback on a lot of the questions I have asked. I understand I've asked tough questions of Administration, and of Council, but I haven't experienced that level of feedback. And, that's my concern is are we not going to answer tough questions and how do we get those answers. That's my thought.

Mr. Anderson: I agree with everything Mr. Hawkins just said about getting responses, and from the well. It is very difficult when people come in and there's not a level of contact beforehand. I didn't know what questions you were going to ask tonight. I know you usually come with a lot of detailed questions, and, it sounds like they're being addressed, which is good. I did want to react to the statement about how do you connect with your elected officials, or Council. All of our email addresses are on line, and I know you know that, but, just so everyone knows. You can contact us either through email, our phone numbers are out there, they're in the newsletter. But, what people need to understand is our communication styles may be different, right? Some people may want more time to deliberate or refer back, or talk with Administration, or if it's a detailed question, they need to do some research themselves. Some people like to respond with email, some people would like to have a phone conversation or an in-person conversation. I know we've had all of the above, as you've had questions, and, I've tried to, I always try to meet people where they are, so, if somebody sends me an email, I respond back. If somebody sends me a social media question, I respond back over social media. If somebody stops me in the hall, I'll and answer and talk to them in the hall. But, that's really up to each elected official. So, that's what I do. I have the time for that. I don't mind doing it. But, I don't know that it's fair to expect that level of responses on the spot, every time. So, just understand that. I think it's, it felt a little bit unfair to say we're not responding. I think, in general, people do, I know everybody up here has the best interests in mind. It's just sometimes they can't always respond on the spot, and, it can be frustrating. It's frustrating for us too when you ask detailed questions and we don't have the answer because we want to tell you. Or, the questions about BZA. Like, I'd love to get into it, but, it's not responsible, and I don't have all the facts, and it could actually make things more difficult. It's the same reason I haven't responded to some of the feedback about how those meetings have been orchestrated, or dealt with because it makes it more difficult for us to conduct the business of the City sometimes to do that in a public forum. So, what I'm tell you is if you have questions, or, if anyone has questions, I know I'm available, and, I'm sure everyone else on the dais would say the same thing. You've just got to give us a little bit of space to be able to respond when we can.

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Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 30-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of Dorothy Lane, Valker0 Alley, and Maxey Lane and Other Public Improvements Associated with the Springrose Meadows Subdivision. That was a first reading. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 28-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council Representing the Full-Time Corporals, Sergeants, and Lieutenants in the Springdale Police Department and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 29-2023; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 117 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Firearm Sales in the City of Springdale. Ordinance No. 31-2023, and that was a first reading; Ordinance No. 31-2023; An Ordinance Revoking Chapter 117 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Firearm Sales in the City of Springdale, was also a first reading. All other matters were forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a second reading for Ordinance No. 30-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance of Dorothy Lane, Valker Alley, and Maxey Lane and Other Public Improvements Associated with the Springrose Meadows Subdivision. There's also a second reading for Ordinance No. 29-2023; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 117 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Firearm Sales in the City of Springdale. There's also a second reading of Ordinance No. 31-2023; An Ordinance Revoking Chapter 117 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Firearm Sales in the City of Springdale. There's a request for An Ordinance Authorizing Contributions to Certain Health Accounts of Full-Time Employees of the City of Springdale Related to the City's Health Insurance Plan and Declaring an Emergency. There's also A Resolution Adopting the 2024 Tax Budget of the City of Springdale for the Year January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. And, that's it, unless there's anything else from Council or the Administration.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2023