

City of Springdale Council

February 15, 2023

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on February 15, 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 February 1, 2023 meeting were considered. Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Jacobs seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Good evening Council. Civil Service Commission did meet on February 2nd, and all the members were present. We did approve the minutes from the January 5th meeting as well. Regarding the reports for the meeting, first one I'll start off with was the Building Inspector hiring process. There were seven applicants for this particular position. Only two candidates had the preferred qualifications of the seven, so, we're going to keep the application period open for a few more weeks and see if we get some additional candidates. The second position was the Parks Maintenance Worker position. Had a little bit more success there. There were 29 applicants for that particular position of those, three were internal candidates. We are at the point now where the top ten, plus the internal candidates will be offered interviews, so, we'll continue to move that process forward. The next position was the Patrol Officer hiring and that position consisted of five applicants. Three of those were lateral and I don't know how many of you have followed postings in various newspaper ads, and so forth, but there's a lot of activity now regarding lateral hiring and later applicants where the individuals have the appropriate training and so forth and can come in to keep us from having to retrain them in that regard, and so, that's pretty much becoming standard now that individuals get first look as a result of being a lateral, so, within the lateral, four of those tests were completed with the five with the individuals that weren't at lateral, and only one of the candidates so far has followed through, and so, we anticipate continuing on in that process as well. And, the final position with Public Works Maintenance position, that application deadline isn't until March 1st, and we'll continue looking at the possibilities for that position as well. And then, we moved on to some New Business as well, and the Facilities Maintenance position, which has been really tricky in terms of identifying individuals. Once we've identified the individuals, we've hired a couple of different ones and they've left, so, we're back to the drawing board and, at this time, we're going to continue to keep that process open until the position is filled as well. Other than that, I think that's pretty much the nature of the meeting here. Any questions? (None) Alright. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Rules and Laws

Mrs. Ghantous

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No report

Finance Committee

Mr. Hawkins: Finance Committee met on February 1st. All members were present. The discussion centered around what's before us tonight with regard to the first reading of Ordinance No. 12-2023, focusing basically on the legislation removing the requirements that every two years, plus an option year we have to put out an RFP (Request For Proposal) regarding the bank that we're going to go deposit funds with. And, so this gives more flexibility at the request or discretion of City Council, the Finance Committee, an RFP can be made to look at changing our depository. Initially we had that in historically, just to make sure that we were looking like everything was "above board". The Mayor had many, many years in banking, and so, we at one point were with Central Trust, which then became PNC Bank, and, so, we had legislation to go through and make sure we were giving ample opportunities in the best place, but, the reality is that process is time consuming, and sometimes not necessary, and so, if we have a good thing going, we don't want to necessarily have to change it. So, Finance Committee was in support of Ordinance No. 12-2023 that's going to be before you. I don't know if there's anything else to add, Mr. Ramirez or anything else from the Administration. That concludes my report.

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Mr. Ramirez: Totally agree.

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met last night and we swore in Mr. Singleton to Planning Commission, so, he's officially a member of our Commission. And, we also voted in Bob Diehl as our Representative to the Commission of the Springdale CRA Housing and Council Board. Mr. Darby had been in the past, and since he had left, Bob Diehl said that he had interest in it, so he became our designee for that. We voted on our officers. We have Dave Okum as Chairperson, Steve Galster as Vice-Chair, and Tom Hall as Secretary. We did see some renderings for Costco, and they will be back in March for a Public Hearing, and then that will come before you guys. We'll also have a Public Hearing in March as well. Do you have any questions or want to add anything Mr. Ramirez?

Mrs. Ghantous: What do you mean Costco?

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Oh, sorry, the Costco building. I'm sorry. I'm sitting here looking at the first word and since we didn't, we're doing it again, it's for 1100 East Kemper Road; it's the old Costco, and there is a Major Modification to a PUD that is proposed, and so we will have that public hearing, and then that will come before us next month as well if it passes through there. Thanks.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous - No report

Board of Health

Mr. Jacobs: Board of Health met last Thursday. There's a continuing drop in COVID cases, and, so it's always good to hear that. Just as an example, first quarter last year, there was 699 cases locally. So far, this quarter, there's been 40. So, that's a great number obviously. Also, the number of vaccinations that we are giving is dropping; 15 vaccinations were given last month as an example. The Nurse's Report included that she expects the CDC to move towards a single shot at some point, but, that's going to be a long process. I'm always glad to report about the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. They had four more clinics since the last meeting; 37 kids received 115 vaccinations. It's a great service that we can provide to the local school districts. In terms of overdoses, there were three uses of Narcan in December. We didn't have the January numbers. The best news of the meeting was Commissioner Clayton told us about Continuing Workforce Development Grant that the City has been receiving over the last couple of years, and, if you total it all up and the money that we've received, and this is for personnel needs, contracting needs for the Board of Health. It's \$540,000 over that six year period, which is just very, very impressive, and fantastic news. As far as the Board of Health as spring approaches, they will be planning another blood drive, mental health fair, social media outreach, the mammography van will be back in March and April, and again in July and August. There's efforts going into the iWorQ platform so that with the new nuisance ordinance that the City has adopted, there's got to be a way to integrate Police, Building, and Fire so those reports have a "one-stop shop", and that's in progress. We are looking for a new hire for a Part-Time Environmental Health Specialist. Our current one moved on, and so, they're looking to hire a new person for that position, and there will be a remodeling of the Health Department wing. I don't know the exact timeline for it, but it's on kind of a rotating (schedule). We can't remodel the entire building all at once, so the next one up is the Health Department wing. That concludes my report unless there's any questions.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Ghantous - No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI Board met on February 9th. It was largely an administrative meeting. Nothing significant to report other than some follow up from the past report about the MetroNow! Program I've been talking about; kind of cheerleading. I did speak with Mr. Shammout, who's the Chief Strategist for Planning and Innovation at Metro to answer some questions that some people in the community had given about the program. I just wanted to say they're incredibly responsive to feedback even before the pilot. People might have started

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Mr. Anderson (continued): seeing some of the MetroNow! billboards have gone up on the (Interstate) 275 corridor, so even the one right there by the Kroger plant has been running it as well as over by Sharonville. They did share that the expected date for that to start now is May 1st, which is later than they had hoped, largely because of delays in vehicle delivery. So, in the meanwhile, they'll be doing more outreach and communication which is good. The one thing, part of that is they did offer to come in if there's interest from Council or Administration to have Mr. Shammout come in and give a presentation of what's going on at Metro. He did offer his time, so, if that's something people would be interested in, it can be scheduled any time and he's available. It's interesting stuff to some people, so, that's available. That's it. Thank you.

President Vanover: Well, I did hear a couple of radio ads today advertising, so, but they didn't give the start date yet.

Mr. Anderson: Yes, that start date I don't think is widely public. I mean, it's obviously public. It's available; it's something they've shared because it's still a moving target and they're not committed to that yet. I think some of the advertising had a longer lead time, so it started probably earlier, so, you might get questions about it like, "Where is it? When is it?", the current date that they shared with us was May 1st.

President Vanover: Council, is there an interest to have Metro come in and do a presentation? (Council agreed to a presentation by nodding in agreement)

Mr. Anderson: I'll reach back out to him and ask see what Council dates he's available for and get back to you.

President Vanover: Okay. Alright. Thank you sir.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: I really have no official report. I just would like to make a comment as I was not at the last Council meeting. I had the unfortunate opportunity to have to call on our Springdale Life Squad back on January 10th. I had a bout with vertigo, and if any of you have ever had that, you know what you're faced with there. So, anyway, I had to rely on the squad to take me to the emergency, and those guys did just an absolutely fantastic job. You know, over the years, I've gotten countless reports of people that have used this service and I've gotten nothing but compliments. I don't think I've ever gotten a complaint with our life squad and I think that says a great deal for the men and women of the Springdale Fire Department and I'd just like to say, "Thank you very much" for your great service. And, that's all I have.

President Vanover: Well, I can echo your comments because we had them at our house twice; once for my mother, and once for my son who found out the hard way what "white-out" does to your eyeball. But, and actually, well I guess once Police officer came in and pulled me from the meeting because he was on his way over to Mercy, but, they are; they're phenomenal. I was there when they were dealing with my mother. It is comforting to know that if an when you need it, that, you know, this class of people are there to handle it. So, I would echo that wholeheartedly.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: I have an update on the General Fund report. This is for the receipts through January 31, 2023, based on a net receipt budget of \$24.123 million dollars. We have received \$1.989 million dollars, which is eight percent. That is made up of five major general fund receipts resources, which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Transient Tax. That is a subtotal of \$1.857 million dollars, which is 93% of the budget. For expenditures through January 31, 2023, based on a net expenditure of \$24.108 million dollars, we have spent \$1.518 million dollars, which is nine percent. And, the General Fund ending balance through January 31, 2023 is \$8.709 million dollars. Also, Council, I'd like to request your support for Ordinance No. 12-2023 related to the designation of depositories. And, that concludes my report. Thank you.

Administrator's Report

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Mr. Jones: A couple of these things I reported previously, but I just want to remind folks again that AARP Free Basic Tax Services are available. Mr. Wilson tells me that there's still a few spots open. Charlie is our Director there. Please call the Community Center if you need some assistance. Also, Community Center Holiday Hours for President's Day, February 20th is 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. Also the Administration Building will be closed that day. In addition, SYB is having their Horse Race and Monte Carlo fundraising events taking place Saturday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be available and are available at the Community Center, and also can be purchased the day of the event. There's prizes, such things as limo rides, and things like that. That's all I have this evening. Thank you.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I do want to remind everybody that if you're going to come to the horseraces, you must bring your I.D. with you. You must be over 21 or they will not allow you in. So, if you're thinking about coming, please make sure you have your I.D. with you, and be over 21. Thanks.

Mr. Hawkins: And, since we're talking about the horse races, I was going to wait, but, since we're on it now, also, if folks want to sponsor races, they can do so for \$50 a race. There will be ten different races. You can name the horses of the race that you sponsor. Anybody out there that is interested in doing that, they can contact Danielle Little at dreneelittle@gmail.com. Anybody on the dais who is interested in doing it can contact me, and, I'll make sure that the money and the horse's names get to who it needs to get to. Thank you.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun

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No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: Starting with the East Crescentville Road Improvement Project; storm sewer trunk line installation, that's all complete. There are contractors out there making the storm sewer connection tie-overs in to the new system. Still working on the traffic signals. The contractor is expected to begin roadway widening late next month, and early April, so it will start to take shape about that time. Northland Boulevard; we had the ODOT Local Let Agreement, that was approved last meeting. Got a funding agreement with Hamilton County before you guys tonight for \$150,000 in MRF funds, that was awarded back in the fall of last year, it's just the agreement is now made its way up here. Then, the biggest change with the project is at the northern end, at the intersection of Kemper Road, rather than keeping it as is, where it "T's" into Kemper, we've been working with ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation), and OKI, and they're all supportive of an intersection realignment. Basically, north Kemper would turn into Northland, and then Kemper west where, in that residential stretch, will actually tie into it. So, it makes the through movement, basically Kemper to Northland, and then residential. It should help with traffic. It will make the intersection a lot safer, especially with the introduction of the shared use path and the traffic signal operation there because it's a split intersection now; it consolidates it into one. And, with intersection realignment, there will be additional right-of-way available to us for a future shared-use path along Kemper Road going to the Artisan Village all the way to Lawnview and get up to the Rec Center. So, that's the plan. OKI and ODOT are supportive of it, we're just working out the funding arrangements for that now. The Kemper Road/CSX Bridge Project; a lot of work has been going on underneath the patching of the eastern bridge piers and pier cap; that's about 40% complete. The contractor has been able to negotiate arrangements with the adjoining property owners, so, it's been minimizing the amount of traffic disruptions on the bridge itself. We originally had five phases of maintenance of traffic, now we're only going to be down to two. Two, basically when we're doing the work on the top of the deck, so that's been real helpful. The State Route 4 Urban Paving Project; that was bid by the City of Fairfield last month. The bids came in high; 30% above the engineer's estimate, and they had to rebid and their bid opening on that is going to be February 27th. Then, the State Route 747 Urban Paving Project; the funding agreement for that project was received, last, well last meeting was approved and that is going to bid on March 9th by ODOT. And, that's all I had.

Mr. Anderson: I was listening very intently on that Northland Kemper redirect that you had described. It sounds very interesting, although, I'm having a hard time picturing it. Is it possible,

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is there a drawing that you could maybe share with Council outside. It it's just me, that's fine, but, I feel like I can't picture that, and I know that people are going to ask questions about that.

Mr. Riggs: Yes, it's very conceptual at this point. I know Administration has a copy of it. It's been vetted. Actually, it was a 1990's concept that was never pursued, and, Public Works dug it up and it works. The alignment works, now, we're going through and making sure the traffic is going to work as well for the funding application.

Mr. Anderson: I just know that, it's not just the Northland residential side that would benefit, especially if that right-of-way for the multi-use path helped connect the newer townhomes and apartment conversions at Merchant street, because they would be heavy users of that Northland interchange, and, if it makes it easier for them to make that hop to get to the Rec Center since the Rec Center is staying now, that's why I'm really interested to see what that flow looks like; not just Kemper, but, Merchant to Northland to Rec Center.

Mr. Riggs: Yes, that it would all be connected through a shared use path or sidewalk, or something along the route to get everybody to the Rec Center is the intent as far as the connectivity portion of it. The traffic; it's really to minimize the amount of thru traffic, or truck traffic on West Kemper. At one point, you know, we'll probably need to put a shared-use path or something along that, but, at least this is in the first phase of another project that OKI is already supportive of.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

President Vanover: And, I did notice this morning that the east of Benadir and Crescentville that the old telephone poles have been cut in half. So, they've got the "comms" off of them, so, hopefully, the western end will follow shortly. It's coming. Thank you.

Rental Program Committee Mr. Anderson No report

President Vanover: While we're on that, check your calendars. I would like to reconvene us, say about March 8th, because we're typically meeting in the off Wednesday, so, Administration, Mr. Braun, check your calendars and let me know, and we'll get that set, and then publicized.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Coleman: I just felt it was necessary to enlighten Council on a very beneficial positive thing, which is the Springdale Senior Citizens Club. They don't know that I'm here to give them these kudos if you will, but, I certainly wanted to enlighten Council with this information that Springdale Senior Citizens Club had their monthly meeting with the installation of officers this past Tuesday, and, it's a great group of individuals and the numbers are up to probably close to 100+ at this point, so, it's really taking off. This is the first meeting of the month, and, as a result of it being the first meeting of the month, lunch is provided, so, that may have some bearing on how many people attend with that first meeting. And, again, the meeting does have Officer Keenan Riordan who comes in and give various information. What I found most interesting is that the seniors certainly appreciate being updated about all the Police activity that's happened here in the City of Springdale. They want to know did the person get caught that was in the wreck at BP, they want to know if the person got caught if some other activity has occurred as well. Did the Fire Department of the EMT's help the person on the run, so, it's just really interesting that there's that much engagement, and so I certainly wanted Council to know that the Springdale Senior Citizens Club is alive and well, and it's a good group of people. Don't ask me how I got to be a member. (laughter)

President Vanover: Thank you, Mr. Coleman.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 10-2023

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AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A WRITTEN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE OPERATION, CONTROL, AND MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENT IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 10-2023; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Ordinance No. 10-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 11-2023

AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 73.07 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING LIABILITY FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 11-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 11-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 12-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 39.03 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

President Vanover: Council, this is a first reading. Is there any discussion this evening? (None) Alright. We'll see this at our next meeting.

Ordinance No. 13-2023

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE AND THE BOARD OF HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR MUNICIPAL ROAD FUNDS (MRF) RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF NORTHLAND BOULEVARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 13-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Mr. Uhl: Civil Service will meet on Thursday, March 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

Mr. Anderson: The February Board of Zoning Appeals meeting has been cancelled. There are no applicants this month.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

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Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 10-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Written Amendment to the Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the Operation, Control, and Maintenance of Traffic Signal Equipment in the City of Springdale. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 11-2023; An Ordinance Creating Section 73.07 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Governing Liability for Parking Violations in the City of Springdale. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 13-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement Between the City of Springdale and the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners for Municipal Road Funds (MRF) Relative to the Improvement of Northland Boulevard and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Ordinance No. 12-2023; An Ordinance Amending Section 39.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio Relating to the Designation of Depositories. That was a first reading.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a request for a second reading with regard to Ordinance No. 12-2023; An Ordinance Amending Section 39.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio Relating to the Designation of Depositories. 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 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2023