

City of Springdale Council

April 19, 2023

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on April 19, 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 April 5, 2023 meeting were considered. Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup 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 April 6th, and attending the meeting were Mr. Brian Uhl, Assistant City Administrator, Ms. Stephanie Morgan, Human Resources Administrator, and Fire Chief, Anthony Stanley. The business aspect of the meeting included a review of the various outstanding positions, and, once we received that update, of significance, was the Patrol Officer vacancies in which there were 15 applications. Nine interviews were conducted and three offers were made. And, of those three offers, two of them were of a lateral nature and one was based on just regular skills and a resume. So, again, the ability to hire from a lateral standpoint is certainly working well with us. It shortens the timeline of getting the positions filled, and, it makes sure that we get qualified candidates as well. In addition, there was a Police Lieutenant promotion examination that took place this past Friday, with three individuals sitting for that promotional exam. We believe that all three candidates have similar qualifications, so, we'll wait to see of those three, which one actually ends up being the new Police Lieutenant. In addition, we also reviewed a timeline for a Fire Captain promotion process and following that review, the timeline was, in fact, approved, which will commence with the posting date of this past Monday, the 17th, and hopefully concludes with interviews no later than mid-June. So, with those ideas in mind, we continue to stay busy, continue to be focused, and we certainly appreciate all the assistance that we get out of Administration, and, particularly, with the number of activities that are going on, it's getting to be pretty non-stop. So, again, thank you so much. Any questions?

President Vanover: I don't see any lights. Thank you sir.

Rules and Laws	Mrs. Ghantous	-	No report
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Finance Committee	Mr. Hawkins	-	No report
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Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met on April 11th in these chambers, and, we only had one piece of business before us. It was the Springdale Commerce Park and Kleinger's Group came for a Minor Modification to a PUD and both myself and Mr. Ramirez found it to be minor. They just wanted to change the screening requirements for the top of Building One and Four to be the same as the other ones that are built basically using the same rules that they had before so that everything is uniform across all the buildings, and they wanted to do it ahead of time because they're not sure who they're going to get in as their tenants, and so they want to make sure that whatever comes in, that they have the rules and everything of what is expected to be shielded and not from the road. And, that passed with a 7-0 vote. And, that is all that we had, unless you have anything to add (addressing Mr. Ramirez).

Mr. Ramirez: No, thank you.

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Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals met on March 28th. We only had one application to discuss, and that was the property at 11745 Princeton Pike, which is a Chase Bank branch. They were requesting a variance to Zoning Code Section 153.459. The request was to replace two wall signs, also to replace three directional signs, as well as to add a wall sign on the west elevation. There were two very unique factors that we discussed prior to taking the vote. One is that that building is round, which is unique to think about, and, also, because it's round, and because it sets on that out lot, it's visible from every angle. So, we did vote 6-1 in favor of granting the variance to them. Jeff (Anderson) do you have anything to add?

Mr. Anderson: No. Thank you.

Mrs. Ghantous: Any questions? (None) That concludes my report.

President Vanover: Thank you ma'am.

Board of Health

Mr. Jacobs: The Board of Health met on the 13th of this month. Just a couple of small items. We have hired a new Part Time Environmental Health Specialist. The remodel of the Health Department's wing is almost complete. It will be done early next month. I've got one emergency that is expiring and then we have a new emergency in terms of health. The COVID emergency will expire on the 11th of May. For the City, and for like a practical matter, that means no more free vaccinations for us to use, for example, but, the numbers are still consistently low. We had a conversation about it, and we had even brought up, Councilmember Sullivan-Wisecup asked about whether the lack of positive tests could be that people aren't getting tested anymore because they don't have to. And, after a conversation, that's one of the factors, and, then also, whatever variant is out there right now, is so mild, that it's just not leading to consequences that are causing a need for testing. So, that trajectory continues. We still don't have anything from the FDA in terms of what the future of the vaccine will be. There's been discussions of having a single annual vaccine, but, they haven't committed to that yet. In terms of an emergency that has been declared, the Governor of Ohio has declared an emergency in terms of Xylazine. It's an additive to fentanyl. It's an animal tranquilizer. It's known as "Tranq". It's cheap to add to it, so, it's become very prevalent. It's in about 48 states at this point, including Ohio. In general, some of the stats that are obviously bad stats; overdose deaths went up 17% between 2020 and 2021 nationwide. In 2021 alone, 1.2 million doses of Narcan were administered across the country. To me, the worst thing about this new additive is that "Tranq" is not affected by Narcan. So, that's an especially new scary thing, and hence that's probably the rationale for the Governor's emergency declaration. That's all I have, unless there are any questions.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Ghantous - No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI Board did meet on April 12th. One thing I think is interesting, at least for, it might be interesting for people is the ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) District 8 Director presented to the Board on the Brent Spence Project, and the process and the project that is going on. For those that don't remember, there was a \$1.6 billion dollar federal grant, which I think they said was the most for any single highway project ever. The total project is now estimated to be more than \$3 billion dollars and that includes a companion bridge to go along with the refurbishment of the existing bridge. In addition to adding one lane in each direction at the cut in the hill, and there will be a split off at 12th street in Covington, to split off local traffic from thru traffic, the current design has thru traffic all using the new companion bridge that will be built. What was interesting about it too, is the entire footprint of the project is expected to stay within, or largely within, or even shrink within the existing highway footprint. So, but, even by adding this companion bridge right next to it, and adding the lanes, they'll actually be reducing the footprint for the interstate going through with the new design. The design build portion went to bid, and the bids were due last week. They'll be spending this month trying to determine who will be doing the design work. It's interesting as part of that design contract, there's a contract objective, is what they call it. To reduce the

Mr. Anderson (continued): footprint, but also to improve multi-modal as an objective, and shared use paths. So, they're trying to accommodate different types of traffic just like we are as

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people, as they do this retouching that area. The last thing I want to add is a “call out” that they’re starting to do. I hadn’t thought about this. This is a huge project and it’s going to take a lot of workers. So, they’re already starting to do reach outs to communities and trades groups to start increasing hiring. So, as high school grads start coming out here in the next couple of months, it’s something to think about. They’re already doing job fairs for this project that’s going to be starting. The line that they were saying is, “You could come in to this construction business for this project with no experience in construction, and come out six years later as a journeyman, working the entire time on this very visible project and have that on your resume at the end.” For example, Allied Construction is already doing a job fair in May in Butler County to try and get interest for a lot of these jobs that will be coming on. So, it’s a huge impact, and it’s something to think about as people are starting to look for these careers. If you want more information on it, there’s a website. It’s brentspencebridgecorridor.com. And, one thing I’ll add on there is they have a virtual fly through; a simulation of what the new bridge and design will look like, so you can actually do like a fly through of what it looks like coming down the cut in the hill, what the new bridges will look like, and then, as it comes across. On there is also some of these job fairs and openings will be posted. How to work with us. If you’re a minority business, or one of these historically disadvantaged businesses, there’s a lot of information there about how to get connected in the design and build process, and they’re encouraging people to start now, especially if you want to start contributing to the project if you’re a business that’s looking at that. Again, that’s brentspencebridgecorridor.com. The expected substantial completion for the project is 2029. And, I’m pretty sure that’s the one thing that won’t be true. It will be after that, but, that’s just me. That’s it for me, unless there’s any questions.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Webster: I just have one brief item. I had the pleasure today to present a proclamation to the Springdale Garden Club. And, they celebrated their 70th anniversary today. They started in 1953, which is even before the City was incorporated, we had a Garden Club. And, so they’ve outlived Kiwanis, the Lions, and you name it, and the Garden Club just keeps on, keeps on, keeps on going. And, they just do a fantastic job for the City, and, we’re very, very proud to have the group of people as dedicated as they are to the beautification of this City. So, congratulations ladies on your 70th anniversary. That’s all I have.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: The General Fund Update through March 31, 2023 for receipts, based on a Net Receipt budget of \$24.123 million dollars, we have received \$5.746 million dollars, which is 24% of the anticipated budget. Those receipts are made up of five General Fund Receipt Sources, which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Transient Tax, which is \$5.251 million dollars, which is 91% of the receipts. The expenditures through March 31, 2023, based on the net expenditure budget of \$24.108 million dollars, we have spent \$5.331 million dollars, which is 26%. And, our ending General Fund balance is \$7.148 million dollars, and that concludes my report, thank you.

Administrator’s Report

Mr. Uhl: Just want to make a brief announcement to Council. After 33 years, our Police Chief, Tom Wells will be retiring this July. So, he has had a fantastic career here in the City. And, we will begin our tough task to try and fill those shoes, and we’ll probably start that recruitment process within the next seven to ten days, and probably run about a 30 day advertisement for that position. So, just wanted to let you know before you heard about it, but he has submitted his retirement paperwork to us, and that was accepted, and the early part of July will be one of his last days.

Mr. Jones: Parks and Recs 2023 Annual Program Guide will be hitting resident’s doors in the next few weeks. It’s full of new programs, and new activities for our residents, so be on the lookout for that. Swim lesson registration open for members of the Community Center. They can register online, or at the Community Center. Reminder again that Arbor Day Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, April 28th, 2023. Heritage Hill Elementary will be at 9:30 a.m. and then Springdale Elementary at 2:30 p.m. Don Shvegzda, Mr. President, Council, and elected

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Mr. Jones (continued): officials, worked for our City as Assistant Engineer and then ultimately as our Engineer, which is the position he retired in. He served nearly 40 years for us. Don always had a quiet demeanor,

Mr. Jones (continued): however, he always got the job done. His memory for projects always amazed me. Even when he retired, I would pick up the phone and call him and say, "Hey, we're trying to find something. Anybody remember anything about this?" He'd say, "Oh yeah, here's..." and he'd give me that information pertaining to that project. It was incredible how he could do that. So, I always appreciated that about him. Was shocked to hear the news. Don retired last year with us, and then ultimately from his firm in September. He was just 67. Married to his wife for 42 years, and we're going to ask that you certainly put Don's family in your prayers. But, with that, I'd like to share something real quick. Don and I always enjoyed going to Cock and Bull. He introduced it to me early on when I got here. Unbelievable, we got the same thing every single time. We both got fish and chips, he got diet iced tea, and got a water. We were at lunch one day, and my wife called me and said, "Hey, want to go to lunch?" And, I told her I was with Don, why don't you come over to Cock and Bull, I'd love to introduce you. She goes, "Okay, well I'll come over." Well, Don and I, during that ten minutes waiting for her to get there, we're still having water and iced tea. And, my wife comes in, I introduce him, she sits down, and grabs a packet of sweetener and starts to add it to Don's iced tea, stirs it up with Don's straw, and begins to drink from it. And, then, the waitress comes over and say, "Ma'am, can I get you something to drink?" She said, "Oh my goodness. I didn't realize that wasn't my tea." Don never said a single word. He looked at her. She was so embarrassed. "Oh my goodness the first time I've met you. How embarrassing." He never said a word. He just stayed calm about that, but every time, of course in her absence, every time that we would go to lunch after that, we both got a big kick out of it. So, I always appreciated his real easygoing demeanor about himself and so forth. So, but with that, we're going to miss our friend Don. Forty years was quite a ride for the City, and we certainly appreciate his service and commitment to the City. Mr. President, and Council, and elected officials, I would like to ask if we could do a moment of silence for him.

President Vanover: No problem. Would you all join me in a moment of silence for Don. Thank you.

President Vanover: I would add to Mr. Jones comments, Don was just the second City Engineer that we had. He took over Wayne Schuler's shoes from CDS, so, we've been served well.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun

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No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: So, we'll start with the Crescentville Road Project; as you've noticed, it's starting to take shape. The road widening on the north side is probably about halfway completed at least with the eastern portion of it. The curb has been poured in the last few days, so the road, actually the asphalt will start to go in, and then eventually traffic will be shifted over to the north side, while the south side of the curb is being replaced. The Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project; we submitted Stage III plans to ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) on April 17th. We also submitted a proposal to Public Works to submit an application to OKI for funding for the Kemper Road/Northland Intersection Realignment Project and the Kemper Shared Use Path Project. So, we hope to get moving forward on that soon. I think those applications are due June 2nd. The Kemper Road/CSX Railroad Bridge Repair Project; again, you probably noticed a lot of work on top of the bridge right now. All the work underneath is substantially complete. They replaced all the waterproofing, they're patching the concrete decking now. That's going to take some time; they're going to have to shift some lanes around to hit all the lanes, but, once that is complete, they'll then resurface with asphalt the entire deck. The State Route 4 Urban Paving Project; the City of Fairfield awarded the contract to Jurgensen and pre-construction meetings will be held actually on Friday, April 21st. The State Route 747 Urban Paving Project; MSD contractors are about 75% complete with the sanitary sewer installation and replacing a force main, and as far as the bid goes, ODOT did have a bid opening on March 9th. They received two bids with the low bidder being 43% above the Engineer's estimate. So, it was decided

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Mr. Riggs (continued): that we'll make a few clarifications to the bid, adjustments to the maintenance traffic notes, a few quantity adjustments to try to reduce that, and we were submitting revised plans to ODOT on March 29th, so, hopefully, we'll get better bids this next time around. That goes on June 8th as the next bid opening. Sheraton Lane Reconstruction Project. This is being performed by the developer. We received the bond right-of-way permits that have been issued by Public Works. The contractor mobilized to the site on April 10th, and they're looking to begin work towards the end of this month, and it will probably take about ten weeks to complete. The Springdale Community Center HVAC Replacement; we had a plan review meeting on April 10th. The legal notice is placed on the City's website, and we're holding a pre-bid conference on Thursday, April 27th. And, the bid opening is scheduled to take place on May 9th. That's all I have.

Mayor Webster: Shawn, could you go back to the Sheraton Lane Reconstruction and elaborate a little bit on the scope of that work, exactly what's going to happen.

Mr. Riggs: Yes, so it's complete reconstruction of Sheraton Lane itself going all the way back to the new apartments. It's going to be done in basically half-width, so, traffic will be able to remain open. It's going to also include the intersection at Ray Norrish and that whole area. It's just going to be repaved. There's not some patching there. But, it's going to be a little bit of a challenge just because the amount of traffic there and with the signal, but, it should go rather quickly. They are projecting only ten weeks. So, hopefully, they can get in and get out quickly, and that we have good weather.

Mayor Webster: But it is a complete reconstruction?

Mr. Riggs: It is. Yes.

Mayor Webster: What about the, oh, I don't know, maybe 100 feet that wraps around on Ray Norrish Drive that we did not do waiting for this project to happen? Is that included in this?

Mr. Riggs: Yes.

Mayor Webster: Same thing, full reconstruction and everything.

Mr. Riggs: Yes.

Mayor Webster: Okay. Thank you very much.

Mrs. McNear: So, my understanding is we're going to be down to one lane on Ray Norrish Drive while this is proceeding?

Mr. Riggs: Well, one lane in each direction. But, yes. It's going to be tight. Now, it's not going to be for the full ten weeks that it's going to be like that. They're going to do it in phases, so, it may be only three or four weeks that they're going to be down to one lane in each direction.

Mrs. McNear: Well, this is, you're probably going to be hearing from me a lot, because that's already a very dangerous intersection. People turn if they're northbound on (Route) 4, they turn left on to Ray Norrish, and they do U-turns. Not every once in a blue moon. I'm talking every day. Sometimes multiple times a day. It's a very dangerous intersection, and, I can't imagine what that's going to be like for ten weeks, or four weeks, or whatever the case may be. I can't imagine what it's going to be like there for that time. I understand it needs to be done because that roadway is a mess. But, it's going to be a very painful situation for some time.

Mr. Riggs: So, if you do see any issues or you anyone has any concerns, just pass them on to me, and Public Works, and we'll work with the contractor to try to figure out a way to resolve it. We can do some things with some timing. We may be able to adjust a maintenance to traffic scheme. Whatever you guys are seeing, just let us know and we'll try to address it.

Mrs. McNear: I mean, it's a disaster every day, now. I mean, even without construction, it's horrible.

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Mr. Riggs: Well, hopefully, with the improvements, not just the roadway surface, we're also going to put a new conduit in and do some signal adjustments after the roadway has been reconstructed. So, we may get some improvements out of it.

Mrs. McNear: That would be great, because some people even do their U-turns right there in the collector lane, so, it's just a horrible situation. I know it used to be considered the second most dangerous intersection in the City. I don't know if it still has that designation, but it is a horrible intersection.

Mr. Riggs: I know. I've been working with TEC and we're trying to come up with low cost ways to address some of these issues without redoing the whole intersection.

Mrs. McNear: I know a lot of times you wait a very long time to get that left hand turn signal. Sometimes you don't get it. I know, I've been asked the question, "Well, maybe you have a small car and it just doesn't see your car", well, at the time, I was driving a three-row SUV and there's no missing that vehicle. So, I'm definitely not looking forward to this repair. I know it needs to be done, because that roadway is a mess. But, it is going to be very dangerous and people are going to have to be really on their toes and watch what's going on. Thank you.

President Vanover: While we're questioning some stuff, I've had some questions about Crescentville, and specifically the Tivoli traffic light. Has there been any thought given to offsetting that stop bar, well, I guess, westward because, coming out, that's a tight turn and, you know, people want to cut the corner, so to speak, and they're going to get somebody.

Mr. Riggs: Typically, we generally look at turn radius, and we do off-set the stop bars. I don't know, without seeing the plans in front of me, I can't confirm that we've done that, but that's something that generally we try to do. I can look into that and get back to you.

President Vanover: Okay, it's just with a new signalization and the addition of a signal down at Chesterdale, it's going to be, but they are moving along. I noticed this week that the curb work was in on that eastern section.

Mr. Riggs: Once all the storm drain is in, it starts to really pick up pace. That's just the longest part in any construction project.

President Vanover: Well, we're hopefully on the downhill slide.

Mr. Riggs: Yes sir.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Rental Program Committee	Mr. Anderson	-	No report
Communications		-	None
Communications from the Audience		-	None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 19-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 95.03 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING ILLEGAL STORMWATER DISCHARGES AND ILLICIT CONNECTIONS TO THE STORMWATER SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 19-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 19-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 20-2023

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 150 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING STORMWATER AND STORMWATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-2023; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Ordinance No. 20-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 21-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 151 OF THE SPRINGDALE CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 21-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R06-2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (SORTA) FOR TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS RELATED TO THE NORTHLAND BOULEVARD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE ALL CONTRACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R06-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Resolution No. R06-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Anderson: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet in these chambers next Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Uhl: Civil Service will meet on Thursday, May 4th at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed Ordinances No. 19-2023, (Ordinance) No. 20-2023, and (Ordinance) No. 21-2023; Three Separate Ordinances Amending Chapter 95.03, Chapter 150, and Chapter 151 of the Springdale Code of Ordinances Related to Stormwater Regulations. All of those passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Resolution No. R06-2023; A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to File an Application with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) for Transit Infrastructure Funds Related to the Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project and Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Execute All Contracts and Other Documents Related to the Project. That passed with a 7-0 vote. All other matters were forthcoming.

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Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a request for An Ordinance Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Contract for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel; that will be a first reading. There's also a request for A Resolution Authorizing the City of Springdale's Participation in the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers 2024 Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program. 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 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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