

City of Springdale Council

March 15, 2023

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

President Vanover: Mr. Jones, Mr. Uhl, do you want to lead in on the presentation?

Mr. Uhl: I'd like Councilman Anderson since he was gracious enough to coordinate this for everyone to kind of do the basic intro, and we'll go from there.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you. I appreciate that. Mr. Shammout comes to us after, he came to present at OKI recently. He's the Director for Innovation and Strategic Programs at MetroNow!. I'm really excited he got to come in to talk to us before the launch of MetroNow!. We've talked about it a few times now on Council. I believe he's going to give us some information about both that program and other changes that have been coming on here in Springdale. And, I can't even tell you how excited people are in the community with some of the changes. The feedback that I've been getting has been tremendous. So, thank you for coming, and, hopefully this is some interesting information for the rest of community.

Mr. Shammout: Good Evening. Thank you for the invitation. I certainly appreciate that. My name is Khaled Shammout, by the way. So, MetroNow! Before we get there, just to highlight a couple of things. Reinventing Metro since MetroNow! is part of the reinventing Metro plan as well. And, to ask what "reinventing Metro" means, it's about economic development, it's about bringing businesses to our community and Hamilton County. It's about bringing jobs, it's providing access to more jobs, and to higher-paying jobs as well. Providing access to college, medical facilities, families, visiting, and so on. And, improving the quality of life for all our residents here. So, that's what "reinventing Metro plan" means to us at SORTA (Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority). To be able to do all of that, we need to improve our transit by making it faster, more convenient, having more amenities, shelters, benches, better connectivity, more coverage, and so on. So, by achieving, you know, that goal of having better transit, we can achieve these goals of Metro Plan. So, after the levy passed in 2020, we started working hard to implement these changes whether it's a fixed route, or other new services as you will see in a minute. And, Springdale, you know, it received some improvements as part of the overall improvements to our County since May 2021, we've increased frequencies across (Route) 20 and (Route) 78. We've created a new route just several months ago, which is Route 67, that connects Forest Park with Fields Ertel, currently running at about 35 to 40 minute frequency, and that was a big deal. Ridership on that is pretty healthy. In the next couple of years, more improvements are coming your way as well on the fixed route itself. Such as more frequencies on (Route) 78; we'd like to see that running every 15 minutes or better throughout the whole day. Planning on having a former connection with Butler County service as well. And, providing 24 hour seven day a week service to Tri County Mall, or the Artisan Village, and we're already working with the developers there, thanks to Brian (Uhl) and Mayor Webster as well working with them over the last couple of years. And then, just overall improved service on the express route and other services as well. So, this is just a snapshot of what's coming your way over the next couple of years. We can do even more if we have more drivers. So, if you know people who want to drive a bus, send them our way. The more drivers we have, the faster we can implement these. So, MetroNow! The previous slide talked about the big bus; the fixed truck improvements; what we've done, and what's coming, and so on. But, we also recognize that there are other types of services that benefit different communities. And, you know, at one point, about two or two and a half years ago, I think we had a meeting with Mayor Webster and his staff, including John (Jones) and Brian (Uhl), and others who were exploring different options to improve mobility in Springdale, and specific to certain areas where there is a need

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Mr. Shammout (continued): for that and connection to medical facilities and other services as well. And, one of the services we explored was providing some kind of like a mobility on demand type of service, micro transit, which, right now, we're calling it MetroNow! So, about two, two and a half years ago, we kind of started talking about that concept, and with the passage of the levy, we said, "Okay, now that we've got the funding, we have the will; let's go out and then make it happen." So, we did conduct the study in 2021 to determine which areas would benefit from mobility on demand in addition to the Springdale area. And, we identified six stops, on the map, and now we're in the implementation stage. So, we're starting with two zones initially. The Springdale one, which is the blue polygon, and then the Mt. Healthy/Colerain one, which is the orange zone on the left side. We're starting these two as a pilot, just, you know, to learn from that process, and make any tweaks that we need to make, and then we'll implement the other four, seven months later. And, this is just Phase One of mobility on demand, what we're calling MetroNow! So, for the Springdale area, it's that zone right there (pointing to an area on the presentation), which will provide connections to so many different vital destinations, whether it's medical facilities, grocery stores, businesses, workplaces, entertainment, and so on, in addition to connecting the customers to the fixed drop, so, any customer, basically the concept of the mobility of MetroNow! is you can request a trip, and I have a slide about that. You can request a trip, anywhere inside that zone. Be it, going to Costco, or to a bus station; bus stop, and then, you can take the bus and continue your trip outside that zone to get to downtown, or other places across the system. The service would run, at least during the pilot, weekdays 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., weekends 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Again, during the pilot, there's going to be a flat fare of two dollars. We're using the pilot just to, you know, get some information and, you know, learn from it, so, we may have to adjust this span of service, make it start earlier, and later. The fare, just to make things simple for everybody because this is a new concept, we can make it a flat two dollars during the pilot. Down the road as we do in our analysis and so on, we may tie it to the passes, or, you know, whatever other fare structure we may come up with. But, it's not like Uber, so it's the two zones. You start and end your trip within that zone for a flat two dollars. To request your trip, it will work like Uber. On your phone you have an app, you go to your app. If you don't have a smart phone, you can call a number. You would have a number that you would call, and you can request your trip. Assuming you have an app on your phone, again, just like Uber, you go to the app and you say, "I'm here. I want to go there." And, the app will tell you, "Okay, a vehicle will come pick you up in 11 minutes." Or, whatever that time is. And, you know, you just select that, and you can pay through the app as well. So, this is all ready. We're working on this. That app is almost done. We expect to start testing it in the next three weeks, and, we will have a call center, as I said, you can just call on that line to request your trips. That's how the vehicles would look (showed a slide from the presentation). We try to make them kind of exciting, interesting, appealing to young people as well as any other age. But, again, that's just the beginning of this program. And, the vehicles have a wide door with a ramp. The actual vehicle is the picture on the right with the door sliding and to the sides. But, I'm showing the other picture just to show the ramp that there is a ramp. Each vehicle can hold two wheelchairs in addition to eight seats. And, you can pay on board the vehicle with cash, or by using the app, and scan it like you have a wallet on your app. So, they're all ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. And, you can go to our website, and we have a page just for MetroNow!, which you can also have it displayed in many other languages, aside from English, including, you know, Spanish, German, Chinese, any other language. And, we're also working with our vendor to have the app in other languages in at least English and Spanish as well. So, that's on MetroNow!, which concludes my presentation. But, I'll be remiss if I don't also mention that we also have the transit infrastructure fund through which we give money to municipalities and townships for infrastructure improvements and so on, and Springdale took advantage of that, year one, for the project on East Kemper. We encourage you to take advantage of it this year. We opened the door now March 1st. Proposals are due May 31st. So, we'd love to see your proposals as well. I'll be happy to answer any questions, if you have any.

Mr. Hawkins: I'm excited about the idea. I think it's a great concept. Just for clarity's sake, so, in terms of the fare, that will be per person, so, if Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup and I say, "Hey we want to go to Gold Star together", we're each paying a two dollar fare versus we're...

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Ride-sharing for two bucks.

Mr. Hawkins: Right.

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Mr. Shammout: Correct. So, it's two dollars per person, however, realizing the need of this community and other communities, you can have two children for free, under, don't quote me on this number, under 42 inches or shorter, or something like; two children are free.

Mr. Hawkins: What if my wife is shorter than 42 inches? (laughter)

Mrs. Ghantous: So, how will you be advertising this? We have a large number of Spanish speaking folks in our community, and, I'm wondering how they're going to get the word, because this is such a cool opportunity.

Mr. Shammout: Yes, thank you Carolyn (Ghantous) for this question. We've been having ads all over so far, and, people, as Jeffrey (Anderson) mentioned, are very excited about this. We are also doing special things for Springdale. Our marketing department is in contact with the Springdale staff, Andy (Kuchta), and others in terms of coordinating what kind of special events they want to do, so, they're looking at different sites within the Springdale area to come here, and once we receive the first two vehicles, we're going to bring them there as well just to talk about the program, how it works, the vehicle, etc., etc., and whatever else Springdale thinks we need to do, we'd be more than happy to accommodate.

Mr. Anderson: I just want to thank you again for coming in and sharing these slides. I'm a big proponent of public transportation in general, and I agree, this is awesome, this public Uber idea for some of the point-to-point stuff. I noticed on the map that the Root Beer Stand is like right on the edge of the line (laughter), so, if we can make sure that that's included, that would be great. Thank you for coming in. I appreciate it. One thing I've told people on this dais before and in the community is I've been really impressed with Metro the past few years especially since the levy and some of the public engagement about how to reinvent Metro. I've always said that it's been impressive how responsive Metro has been, especially in this recent past for adjusting some of the routes, for the rider. Not just MetroNow! as a new program, but, even the changes to Tri County Mall and our regular routes. It makes a difference for our community, so thank you for that, and being responsive is impressive, even when some comments came forward about like making sure Spanish, and other languages are included, and how do we reach our very diverse population. The answer has always been back as, "Yes. Let's work on that." Or, "Let's do that". So, I appreciate that cooperation.

Mr. Shammout: Thank you. I'm really happy you shared that and, if I may just toot our horn a little bit because that's important to the entire county, not just for SORTA. We are trying to do the best that we can do because the people put their trust in us through the levy, and, during COVID, we did not cut service; we kept running 100%, actually, we added service in 2021 and last year, unlike any other transit agency, and that paid dividends. Right now, we are at, at least 85% of pre-COVID ridership. The rest of the nation is at 65%. FTA, the Federal Transit Administration is paying close attention to Hamilton County, to SORTA, because of the great things that we're doing with our communities. So, this is pride for us, as well as for the whole community that put their trust and confidence in us, and we're just trying to, you know, do what we were tasked with.

Mr. Anderson: Yes. I appreciate that. I know in the community we see things as new developers come in, you've spoken with Artisan Village. We see them put these things in their advertisements, you know, "It's on this route", or "On this", so public transportation matters. We see.

Mr. Shammout: Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

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Board of Health

Mr. Jacobs: Board of Health met just Thursday. It was a brief meeting. COVID numbers are still low. Just as an example without getting too big into numbers, there were 77 cases this year in Springdale. Most of those cases are people over 50 years old, just as kind of a benchmark to see where we're at now. The Commissioner brought up the Community Health Improvement Plan continues to be moving in progress. They hope to have it completed in a few months. We still need to fill the Environmental Health position. We're still actively looking for that. The wing of the Health Department is being renovated as we speak, and they're relocated in the basement for now. But, that should be done by May. As far as vaccine program, only six COVID shots were given out, so, that's just consistent with all the lower numbers, lower demand. But, the Vaccines For Children (VFC) is still, I'm impressed by it; 95 shots were given last month. And, we take it to those elementary buildings. Blood pressure screenings, there were 34 last month. And, that's all we had. It was a brief meeting. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I just had a quick question. I'm super excited that the COVID numbers are going down. Did you guys have any opinion on if the numbers are going down because we don't have to report them anymore? Because, like, I've had COVID twice and I've never had to report, and, so, I didn't know if, because they don't count, so, I didn't know if that was a big, if they noticed that, or, do we really think that we might actually be coming on the other end on this one?

Mr. Jacobs: The discussions didn't turn in that direction at all. We mostly talked about in the future one shot per year might be what the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) is aiming for, or maybe a combo with a flu shot, but, it's a fair question. I'm just happy I haven't heard of any new variants in Europe or anything like that. But, it is a fair question. I can certainly bring it up at the next meeting.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thanks.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Ghantous - No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI did meet on March 9th for its monthly meeting. There were two presentations of note. One of them was a presentation from the Council on Aging Home 52 Transportation group. If you're not familiar, this is another public transportation program, but, it's geared towards primarily seniors, but also, medically fragile or medical needs only. It's largely paid for by insurance companies to transport people back and forth to medical appointments, so it's high touch, into the house, into the office, and then back around. They're expanding because of demand, and we're seeing that in Springdale too. They mentioned Mapleknoll and these types of communities that use these services too. But, Home52.org/transportation is the website. If anyone wants more information on the service that they offer, and that's part of the elderly services program. The other thing worth noting, is there was an update for the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). This is money that comes to communities for projects like we just talked about. The updated TIP program is open for public comment now between this past 10th and April 12, and will be discussed in our in-person meeting that is also open to the public on April 4th at 4:00 p.m. If you want to look at the TIP, it's at tip.oki.org and you'll see programs in there, and you'll see our name in there a few times. That's it.

Mayor' Report

Mr. Jones: I was corresponding with the Mayor today via email, and he said that he had nothing to report this evening. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

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Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: The General Fund Update through February 28, 2023 for receipts based on a net receipt budget of \$24.123 million dollars, we have received \$4.149 million dollars, which is 17%, and those major general fund receipts resources are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Transient Tax, which is \$3.805 million dollars, which is 92% of the budget. For the expenditures, through February 28, 2023, based on a net expenditure budget of \$24.108 million dollars, we have spent \$3.125 million dollars, which is 19% of the budget, and the general fund ending balance through February 28, 2023 is \$7.757 million dollars, and that concludes my report. Thank you.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: Following up with Mr. Coleman, our part-time position is not civil service, but I just wanted to share the level of interest. We had a part-time Administrative Assistant position open. There were 96 applicants. So, we hope to get that concluded on Friday, and we're starting the interview process on Monday. We're back around to Shred Day Event, Saturday, April 8th from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Springdale Community Center parking lot. It's a free city-wide shred event for old documents, and, Mr. Wilson wanted me to share that on behalf of Parks and Rec, that they will have staff there to make sure that the truck is parked in the right location this time. It may, or may not have ended up at the school. In addition, Jaycees Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 8th at 12:00 p.m. at Ross Park ages ten and under. Springdale Community Center will be closed on Sunday April 9th in observance of Easter, and just wanted to give a big congratulations to our local ladies from Princeton High School winning the State Championship Division One, and great news for our school district, and our players, coaches, families, and the surrounding area. What a great achievement. Thank you.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun: The only thing I wanted to report to Council just so it was in the record, is we're always watching for new laws the legislature passes that then go into effect some time during the calendar year. And, I will be working with Mr. Riggs, and Mr. Agricola. Some changes were implemented by the legislature regarding our ability to indemnify architects, engineers, and design services here in the City, so my office is coming up with some language that will be circulating that will affect future contracts that come before you. While you probably won't notice those changes, people like Mr. Riggs will because it limits their liability to the City on public projects. So, I'll be making sure we don't run "afoul" of those in the new contracts that start in the month of March. Other than that, I have nothing else to report.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: Thank you. Beginning with the East Crescentville Road Improvements Project. The storm sewer installations are substantially complete, and the traffic signal work is ongoing. The contractor is expected to begin the road widening on the north side on March 20th. The Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project; we submitted final or Stage II final Right of Way Plans to ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) on February 16th. The MRF (Municipal Road Funds) Funding agreement that was approved by Council on February 15th, the signed agreement was submitted to the County on February 28th. And, we're also working on a SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund Application for the Northland project, and that's going to be submitted by May 31st. The last time, I mentioned the Kemper Road Northland intersection modification, and potentially a shared use path along Kemper, that project is going to be a new project application. The OKI Funds; the FY27 STGB Fund Applications are due on June 2nd, and we're currently preparing a proposal to submit that application for the Kemper Road Intersection Realignment, as well as the Kemper Road Shared Use Path. The East Kemper Road/CSX Railroad Bridge Repair Project; the patching work on the eastern bridge and pier cap is complete, and patching work on the western bridge piers is about 60% complete. Work on the bridge is expected to begin late April/Early May, so right now everything has been happening underneath for the most part and it starts to take shape from what you can view from the top, and next month. State Route 4 Urban Paving; this project was rebid by Butler County Engineer's Office on February 27th. Jurgensen submitted a low bid of \$3.9 million dollars roughly, and, that is expected to be awarded by the Butler County Engineer's Office. The State Route 747 Urban Paving Project; ODOT held the bid opening on March 9th. We received two bids, and they're currently under evaluation. Actually, as of this afternoon, ODOT rejected both

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Mr. Riggs (continued): bids. They were significantly over the engineer's estimate by 40%. So, we're still working with ODOT now to figure out if we can rebid it, and what changes can be made. I'll have more to report next month on that. There's two new projects; Sheraton Lane Reconstruction. It's not a public project. The developer is reconstructing Sheraton Lane. That work is expected to begin soon in the spring. We don't have a firm schedule yet. They're still working out some of the bonding issues. But, I imagine you'll see, within a month, work on that street beginning. The Springdale Community Center HVAC replacement; that's another new project. We had a design kickoff meeting on March 8th, and, we're looking to supply construction documents by April 14th. And, that's all I have.

Rental Program Committee

Mr. Anderson: The Rental Program Committee did meet on March 8th here at the Municipal Building. This is where we started to turn our attention to the other areas we talked about in terms of traffic and parking. Originally it came up as around rentals, but, as we talked about in previous meetings, it's really wider than that, and, it's really a general issue for the Community that we're addressing. We did talk about a number of issues around streets and parking. Things like the bailout, enough room there. Do we need to adjust some of the parking, corners, and parking spaces permitted, and those types of things. Out of that, we did have some ask that the Administration was looking into special things like potentially changing some streets to one way where there's highly congested areas, or real parking problems; potentially doing permits or something of that nature. The reason I mention that is if you're hearing feedback from other areas in the Community where there's these big parking problems outside of Heritage Hill, to let us know if we might not be aware of it so we can include that in our discussions at our next meeting. The next meeting isn't until May 10th, and that's where we'll take up those topics again. That's it.

Communications	-	None
Communications from the Audience	-	None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 15-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND DEDICATION OF PART OF PRINCETON PIKE, PART OF CRESCENTVILLE ROAD, STRATEGIC PARKWAY, AND CROSSINGS COURT AND OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATES WITH SPRINGDALE COMMERCE PARK

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 15-2023; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Ordinance No. 15-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 16-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE, DISPOSAL, OR TRANSFER OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

President Vanover: Alright, Council, you've heard the reading of Ordinance No. 16-2023. This is a first reading. We will see it again at our next meeting. Is there any discussion this evening?

Mr. Ramirez: Quick question and I ask this every year. The majority of these items go to GovDeals? Any other sources for these pieces of property?

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Mr. Uhl: At this time, I don't believe we have any other non-profits or what not that are interested, but it definitely something that we would make available if we see something or know of a need to another group, or another law enforcement agency, or another public works department, then we would definitely be required to declare it surplus, and then can transfer it over.

Mr. Ramirez: Would you transfer or sell it to these other individuals?

Mr. Uhl: It depends. It depends on the dollar value. Some of the items, a lot of the items here are outdated, or no longer operable. So, it would just depend on the item specifically.

Mr. Ramirez: And, the proceeds go to the General Fund?

Mr. Uhl: Everything would go to the General Fund.

Mr. Ramirez: Thank you.

Ordinance No. 17-2023

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OFFICE FURNITURE SOURCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF WORKSTATIONS AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 17-2023; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Ramirez: Again, are we able to trade in the old furniture, or will it go on under the unusable for resale?

Mr. Uhl: I wish we could trade it in against the purchase of the new, however, a lot of the desk furniture in both Building and Health Departments were from the old building. So, they are over probably 40 years old. We did have a vendor come in to look at items two years ago when Administration did the same remodel, and they said, "If it wasn't purchased within the last probably five or six years, they wouldn't have any resale value to trade it against". So, we did try that avenue, and, unfortunately, we came up a couple of years shy.

Mr. Ramirez: Good idea. But, in my past work experience, we would take things in on trade just so they wouldn't have to deal with that subject, which you're allowed to trade in government items that are paid for with government money, and that way it alleviates us from throwing it away, or having to mess with it later on. Just make them take it and whether you get money for it or not.

Mr. Uhl: Right. This is all part of the ordinance to go to GovDeals as well. So, we had, I forget what ended up the result of the furniture from the Administrative wing, but, there was a lot; it sat for a while before someone bid on it.

Mr. Ramirez: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Jacobs: I was wondering if like do we have an approximate number of how many workstations this will get the City?

Mr. Uhl: This will outfit, everything is broken up on the quote, so, give me just a second. There will be a total of, this will outfit three offices, and ten workstations, and which will include the Administrative Assistants. It will also include spaces for Mr. Riggs if he were to come in for staff meetings, Ms. McBride as well; it gives her a work station as well for those visiting people can come in for staff meetings and what not that may be doing plan review and what not. There's also furniture in there for a conference table, conference room, and then a collective area, so, the total, the couple of offices and I think about ten work stations to include the Administrative Assistants out front.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you.

Ordinance No. 17-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Ordinance No. 18-2023

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MAJOR MODIFICATION TO THE COSTCO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1100 EAST KEMPER ROAD

President Vanover: Alright Council, this is a first reading. We will have a second reading and a public hearing at our next meeting. Is there any discussion this evening?

Mrs. Ghantous: Was there any discussion of how many jobs will be created?

Mr. Ramirez: No, that wasn't discussed.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: All he said was that this would create jobs. He said it was going to be creating jobs, but I don't think, did they give us a specific number? I know that they were talking about it, but he didn't, I don't remember this last time if he said anything specific.

Mr. Uhl: I can't recall if that was an internal conversation that we had with them about the business end of the program, or if that was a Planning Commission, but they do intend to create several hundred jobs, which will be phased in, and, I think between the two sites in total, they hope to have about 500 total jobs so, they are obviously wanting to get the property on the Costco site to begin, and then expand their production lines exponentially. When they fill that space, they intend to expand their existing site on Northland Boulevard and add additional jobs to that site as well. So, I think, all told, is somewhere around the 420 to maybe 550 mark in total.

Mr. Ramirez: On a side note, the owner of a lot of the property around the Costco facility, I don't remember his name, he owns like the Kroger facility property over there near the race carts and stuff, he was in favor of the change. He thought it might help his business along the way.

Resolution No. R05-2022

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO PRE-RECESSION LEVELS

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R05-2023; Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Anderson: I just wanted to say that I think this is a very timely resolution to come before us. For those that aren't tracking what's going on at the State House. House Bill One was recently introduced, which is calling for a flat tax for Ohio and you can debate the merits there separately, but, one of the findings of that analysis for the current House Bill One, is not just not increasing or restoring the Ohio Local Government Funds, but, actually is expected to reduce the Local Government Funds by \$43 million dollars a year. Additionally, it would also cut library funds because it uses the same metric by \$43 million dollars a year. That's not responsible, so, what else is interesting, at least in the reporting I saw for House Bill One, is the Committee members that are advancing that bill to reduce it, did highlight the Local Government Fund as being a possible inadvertent casualty of that proposal. But, they were actively looking for feedback from the Community and Cities about what that would mean to them. So, us saying this then now isn't just yelling it to the wind. They're asking for this feedback, and we're saying, "Not just don't cut it, but, we want to restore it.", and I think that's important for people to see and hear, and, it should probably come not just from the Council, but anybody else that is a proponent of local government, and also libraries should also be speaking up, and not just having it be this one resolution. Thank you.

Resolution No. R05-2023 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business

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Mr. Anderson: I just wanted to say I know last meeting we had a resident come in to talk about a gas leak. I don't know if everyone saw that that was addressed a few days later. Duke did come out and correct the leaky valve. I know Mr. Agricola in Public Works helped escalate that issue, so I just wanted to recognize that and say, "Thank You". The residents over there appreciate being able to access the park without fear of blowing up. Thank you.

New Business

Mr. Ramirez: I don't know if this is the right timing for this, but, have we discussed the coyote population, and, our future endeavors as it relates to removal of these, or containment of them? The reason I'm bringing this up is Fairfield just had their second meeting on this, and, since we abut to Fairfield, I wanted to make sure that they weren't just "shooing them off" down here to Springdale. So, I don't know if we have plans intact if we capture them, what we do with them. What somebody does if they see them, and they call up, what happens.

Mr. Jones: Currently, just being a good neighbor, we chase them back. (laughter) We think that's fair. We do not have anything in place at this time for coyotes. I have spoken to our Health Commissioner about this subject. In fact, he brought it to my attention a week or so ago. We do not have anything in place at this time, and, we will continue to monitor it. He said that the complaints that he's heard are really low. He's not really having the complaints here in our community, but, that's something that we'll continue to keep an eye on.

Mr. Ramirez: Any casualties with pets that we know of?

Mr. Jones: I'm sorry?

Mr. Ramirez: Casualties with people losing their pets?

Mr. Jones: None that I have heard.

Mrs. Ghantous: Last year, I heard about a couple of dogs, but this year I've heard of a lot of sightings in our neighborhood. And, you'll occasionally hear of losses.

Mr. Ramirez: I thought maybe we'd just keep it on the radar.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I think it's always been a thing. I've seen people say stuff or put it on social media, or, just whatever. Coyotes have always been a problem. They live outside, and, as we knock down forests, and any kind of place that they live where we're not, they're going to come closer and closer to our houses. Where I live, and where Mrs. Ghantous lives, there's a creek and a little woods area that go through there. On a regular basis, if you're in my backyard during the winter, you can see them running down the creek. So, there have been small animals lost; cats, dogs, through the years, but, I haven't heard of any big, or any more than what I have heard in the past.

Mr. Hawkins: It probably is important to note if we're seeing them in places where we haven't before, and, you know, depending on where you live, there's some. It's a natural thing, where I live, that coyotes come in off of the preserve and off the golf course, and, so, literally when the kids were little, they had to come in at dusk because they were brazen enough to just come down, and they were the biggest coyotes because they were eating geese, and deer, and whatever off the preserve, so they're not like the typical ones you see out in the country where they're thin. These are huge, huge animals. But, folks should, I don't if it makes sense for folks to call in to the Health Department if they're seeing something new, or different, but, it makes sense to monitor if you're seeing something unusual in terms of numbers, or location.

Mrs. McNear: Coyotes are in every county in the State of Ohio, so, it's not an unusual thing. I have seen them during the day; just out walking ten, ten-thirty in the morning. I have seen them out, and they didn't approach; they didn't do anything other than trying to scurry away, but I know some of them can be very bold. Word to the wise; don't leave your pets outside, don't leave your garbage outside because they're looking for an easy meal. So, word of

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Mrs. McNear (continued): caution; don't leave those things out, don't leave your little children outside. I'm not saying that in jest, but, you know, they can be dangerous animals. Just don't leave your pet food outside because they will jump fences to get food, so, just be cautious. We're not going to obliterate them; they are everywhere. Just like you can't get rid of the squirrels either; they're everywhere. Not that the squirrels are going to hurt us, but, you know, you're not going to get rid of those. We have deer everywhere also. They're just everywhere. Same thing with the skunks. We have skunks everywhere. You can get a trap. We're not going to trap the coyotes. We don't have traps big enough for those, but, just be cautious, especially early in the morning, late at night. You will hear them howling at night. You hear them all the time. Just be cautious. Thank you.

President Vanover: Mrs. McNear brought up a good point. I just last week, a couple of weeks ago, there was an article talking about this. And, if you feed animals outside, bring it in. Don't leave it out at night, and that's not just for coyotes. That even brings some of our smellier critters in there too. And, something I had not thought of, but, after they pointed it out, it did make sense, bird feeders. Just pull them in because coyotes are omnivores; they're creatures of opportunity, but, also, the seed will bring mice and small creatures during the night in. So, they're there. There's not much else you can do. Just be cautious, and use a little common sense. That old coyote, at least around here they're saying is running somewhere at 100+ pounds, so, it's not just Wile Coyote who is skin and bones. These guys are well fed, and they're sizeable creatures.

Mr. Ramirez: Just a comment for Administration. I see our new Property Maintenance workers around the neighborhood and they're very active, and, we met one of them; the one that does our neighborhood. A very nice guy, and I think he's doing good with what he's doing in not really aggravating the customers. Just trying to get people back into compliance, so, anyway, it's a positive comment with the workers that are coming around the neighborhood, and it's a welcome sight. Thank you.

Meetings and Announcements

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

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 15-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Acceptance and Dedication of Part of Princeton Pike, Part of Crescentville Road, Strategic Parkway, and Crossings Court and Other Public Improvements Associates with the Springdale Commerce Park. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 17-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Workstations and Accessories for the Building Department and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Resolution No. R05-2023; A Resolution Strongly Urging the Ohio Governor and Members of the Ohio General Assembly to Restore the Local Government Fund to Pre-recession Levels. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Ordinance No. 16-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale, Disposal, or Transfer of Personal Property from the City of Springdale, and that was a first reading. Item Number V was addressed with Ordinance No. 18-2023; An Ordinance Approving a Major Modification to the Costco Planned Unit Development for the Property Located at 1100 East Kemper Road, and that was a first reading.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

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Mr. Hawkins: There will be a second reading of Ordinance No. 16-2023; An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale, Disposal, or Transfer of Personal Property from the City of Springdale. There will also be a second reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance No. 18-2023; An Ordinance Approving a Major Modification to the Costco Planned Unit Development for the Property Located at 1100 East Kemper Road. That's it, unless there's anything else from Council or the Administration.

Mr. Braun: Yes, we're also bringing to you some revisions to storm water regulations that the Public Works Department has been working on, so, we will have those to you.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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