

City of Springdale Council

April 17, 2024

President of Council Anderson called Council to order on April 17, 2024.

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

Ms. McFarland provided the Invocation.

Mrs. Browder took roll call. Council members Anderson, Jacobs, McFarland, Sullivan-Wisecup, Vanover, Webster were present.

President Anderson: Mr. Gleaves had advised us that he's out of town and won't be able to attend tonight.

The minutes of the April 3, 2024 meeting were considered. Mr. Vanover made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes.

Proclamations

Proclamation for Kaitlyn Higgins, Eagle Scout

Mayor Hawkins read the proclamation and presented a copy of it to Kaitlyn Higgins. (applause)

Mr. Jacobs: I just wanted to say something just because I've had the pleasure of knowing Kaitlyn Higgins since she was a very, very young girl, and, I've watched her grow up. You're incredibly impressive. Your contributions to your community are just starting, and, it's really no surprise to watch you have all these accomplishments. So, way to go.

Ms. Higgins: Thank you.

President Anderson: Alright, let's see if Mr. Agricola gets as many photographs taken when he comes up here next. (laughter)

Proclamation for Jeff Agricola, Public Works Director

Mayor Hawkins read the proclamation and presented a copy of it to Mr. Agricola. (applause)

Mr. Agricola: Thank you Mayor Hawkins. I didn't know you could put that much on these things. It's been a pleasure. The past 18 years have gone pretty fast, really. I appreciate the kind words, and the support I've gotten from I think three Administrations, two Mayors, and I can't count all the Council members, but, everyone has been supportive. I do appreciate it. I look forward to my future, and wish you guys the best as well. So, thank you.

President Anderson: Thank you Jeff. (applause) Public Works is so often in the background. People notice you most in the winter, I think, when the roads are clear, and when spring hits and we see all the floodwater, but, people have always said that Springdale has, and I assume, will continue to have one of the best Public Works Departments in the area, and that's no doubt in large part to the work that you've done. I mean sincerely thank you for the work that you've done in Public Works. You've kept the City moving in ways people don't even see.

Mrs. Webster: Jeff (Agricola), thank you very much for everything you've done for the City. All your labor of love with the trees and everything. It's greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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Mr. Vanover: Well, Jeff, I think we've gone beyond Council and Public Works, to friends, and, throw some bourbon in there in the process. But, the Beaver Run, that probably, (A), that is my backyard, and the changes that have come through there, not only in the channel itself, but, in that spillway coming from Tri-County Mall, the changes that you have brought in to lessen that effect. It's a long-term thing, and the creek is definitely a lot different looking than when I moved in 43 years ago, so, but, thanks for your service and your friendship.

Mayor Hawkins: Jeff (Agricola), your time here and your tenure has resulted in consistency with regard to great, great service whether it's us taking care of the chipper program, snow removal, but, that consistency has been incredible, and you've set a standard with big shoes to fill. So, we appreciate you.

President Anderson: Hopefully you'll be able to stop back when the Northland Project finishes out. You've put a lot of work into that. It's a shame you won't be there when it kicks off, but, I hope we'll see you at that opening.

Mr. Agricola: I will. I will definitely.

President Anderson: It will be something.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Thank you Mayor Hawkins, President Anderson, Council. Good evening. Civil Service Commission did meet on April 4th. All members were present, which included myself, Mrs. Darby, and Mrs. McNear. Also present was Assistant City Administrator Brian Uhl, who took on a different role in the absence of Stephanie Morgan, and did well. Thank you. We appreciate your efforts. We kicked off the meeting by doing reports. And, within the reports/Agenda, there are three positions within the Police Department that are in varying stages of being filled. That being the Patrol Officer, the Police Clerk, and the Administrative Assistant. Also, it's important to note that interviews continue on and are ongoing as applications continue to be received for the Patrol Officer position. This is, in fact, an effort to maintain an active candidate pool so as we see turnover occurring within the Police Department, we should hopefully be better prepared for moving forward with candidates. But, again, as I said, that is a situation that continues to be fluid. Within the Public Works Maintenance worker position, one position has been filled, and applications continue to be received, and reviewed for two additional vacant positions. So, again, there are still two vacant positions within the Public Works Maintenance Department. Also, under New Business, Fire Marshall job description. This is a new job description. It was presented by Mr. Uhl for the position of Fire Marshall, which will become effective upon the retirement of the Chief Fire Inspector, Tom Lindsey. So, again, this position has been identified as going in a new direction from Chief Fire Inspector to Fire Marshall, which is consistent with a lot of the Fire Departments in the area. Mrs. McNear made a motion to approve the new job description. It was seconded by Mrs. Darby, and the motion was passed 3-0. So, within that timeframe, we have also authorized the Fire Marshall hiring process. And, within that timeline, Mrs. Darby made a motion to approve the timeline with a waiver of examination, thereby saying applicants will be looked at based on their skill level, and on their experience. That particular motion was seconded by Mrs. McNear and that passed 3-0 also. That concludes my report. Any questions? (None)

Rules and Laws	Mr. Jacobs		No report
Finance Committee	Mr. Vanover	-	No report
Planning Commission	Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup	-	No report

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Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Jacobs: The Board of Zoning Appeals met on March 26th. The meeting was preceded by a pretty in-depth training. We had four new members that were sworn in; there are three existing members so, we received some training from City staff which were brought in specifically to help us pick up and run as best as we can with the difficult job of the BZA. The Committee chose Tom Hall to serve as Chair; Steve Galster will serve as vice-chair. Michelle Gilmore was nominated to be Secretary, and she accepted. The meeting was well attended by residents. There were over 20 residents in attendance. An applicant was seeking a variance to the code on raising chickens. After the applicant made their case. There was various discussions, and, by the end of the meeting, it was decided to table the application for a two month period. There is some confluence between the Urban Farming Planning Committee's efforts, and this, but, they are two very separate items, so, the motion was tabled for two months. I'll bring this up during the Meetings and Announcements. The next meeting, there's currently no next meeting for this month for BZA, and that's the general report just from my end. I did want to specifically thank Mr. Galster as one of those returning members. I'm learning very quickly that BZA is a very difficult committee to serve on. It's a complicated mission, and I think Mr. Galster did a fantastic job trying to explain to people the role of BZA and, as an example, a member's opinion on chickens, for example is irrelevant to the overall mission of that Board, and, so, there's very tough decisions, and we're learning as we go. Sometimes you have to build a plane in mid-air. That concludes my report unless there are any questions.

President Anderson: I don't see any, but thank you. BZA is one of those more involved boards certainly that the City and residents serve on. It can get pretty involved quickly, so, we certainly appreciate everyone that takes time to join that Board.

Board of Health

Ms. McFarland: The Board of Health last met on April 11th. We did have all members in attendance, minus the Mayor, who had a prior engagement. We were notified that the Lefty's property owners had not responded to the notice to fix their water issue, so, in working with the water department, the water was due to be turned off at that location on April 12th. We did have confirmation that COVID cases have slowed down. There were actually no new COVID cases prior to April 4th, so, we are currently at 70 year to date. We did have a report from our Public Health Nurse, Brandiss. We have seen a decrease in communicable diseases as well. The Fire Department did have one Narcan use during the month of March. They were able to complete two immunization clinics which served 15 people with 40 vaccines being given. They also completed their monthly blood pressure screening with 23 people screened for blood pressure, and they have completed home visits with five residents of Springdale, for a total of 15 at-home nurse visits. And, that was about it. Our next meeting is going to be May 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup - No report

O-K-I

President Anderson: OKI Board of Directors did meet on April 11, 2024 for its regular board meeting. One program that came up in the discussion I wanted to highlight is related to our Ride Share program that's very underutilized. I want to make sure people know about it. OKI does manage a van pool program that provides co-workers with a stipend for a van to share to go back and forth to work. This is something like a \$500 a month stipend. It does require your employer to be involved with a notice, but it doesn't require a lot of commitment to join the program. It's a month to month commitment. It's going to need to be a seven or ten passenger van. Whoever is coordinating the van project, in addition to the stipend to reduce the cost, they also have the option to keep that van and use it on the weekend for personal use as well, so, it's a very interesting program that a lot of people don't seem to know about. So, I just wanted to share that. If you have questions about it, you can find out more on rideshare.oki.org. Or, if you have any questions, I can try and get them back to them. But, it's something that they want to see more use for, and it's certainly a program that's available. That's it for OKI.

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Mayor's Report

Mayor Hawkins: First off, our very own Susan Wyder, who is a long-time Springdale resident, current Princeton School Board member, former President of the School Board, was honored and received the "Angel of Compassion Award" from the charter of the Character Council of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky on April 11th and I had to miss the Board of Health meeting to attend that award ceremony. She was awarded that for all her great work she's done in education, as well as with regard to the Princeton Closet. So, it was an honor to be there and battle Kevin Hardman from Sharonville for her love and affection. Also, want to address a couple of things for our Police Department as we have Chief Butler here. Want to honor Patrol Officer Michael DiStefano who has been selected to receive the 2024 FOP Act of Bravery Award. Officer DiStefano saved a man from being mauled by two dogs this past December. His brave, selfless, and quick reaction was instrumental in saving that person's life. We are fortunate to have him in our Police Department and many others like him. Want to also take a moment to congratulate our Police Department in having an individual charged and indicted with regard to placing nails on our roadways. I've said this to the public before, but the efforts, and the long hours that our Police Department has put into this investigation is the kind of thing you see in very high-level felony types of cases. So, it is a wonderful thing to see this come to fruition. It's also great to see the collaboration with the City of Sharonville and West Chester Township, and their Police Departments. Everybody worked very well together, but, I'm most proud of our Department because of the creativity, ingenuity, and out-of-the-box thinking that lead to this individual's charges as they are pending today. And, lastly, I wanted to address an issue I wasn't going to address, but, there's been some public criticism with regard to the Police Department and there have been some people that have asked about it, an elected official asked about it, and, so, I wanted to address this. The City is going through a phase; a process of phasing out our police cruisers, and, there have been three that are out on the roadway now with new wraps around them. If you came to the State of the City Address, you would have seen a slide with one of our new cruisers. You may have seen some of our new cruisers that are out and around. The officers ultimately came up with this design. I think they had a contest within the Department, and, the design was selected by the officers. Along those lines, the men and women of our Police Department had made a request to discontinue the placement of a placard or sticker that is commemorative of Kaia Grant. That was at the request of the men and women of our Police Department that was made to Chief Butler. Our Officers want to continue to mourn, remember, and celebrate the life of fallen Officer Kaia Grant in other ways. The Department will continue to still wear black bands on their badges, have a memorial service and fly the thin blue line flag on the date of her end of service. Some individuals have publicly been critical of the Administration, and the Police Department with regard to discontinuing the sticker on cruisers. First of all, the Administration, Chief Butler, John Jones, Brian Uhl, and myself as Mayor haven't done anything but empower the ladies and gentlemen of our Police Department in mourning, remembering, and celebrating in a way that they've selected with regard to one of their fallen officers. For anybody outside of this current Police Department to have the unmitigated gall, unbridled temerity to criticize how the men and women of our Police Department want to mourn and celebrate one of their fallen officers, is disappointing. I support Chief Butler, who is supporting the decision of the men and women of this Police Department. That said, for those that don't want to support the men and women of our Police Department who protect and serve this City, that's their choice. However, if those individuals, who have been publicly critical of our Police Department and our Chief, at some point in time realize that what they've done is disrespectful, and those actions are not appropriate, I hope that at that time, they do the right thing and publicly apologize to our Department, and our Chief with regard to those criticisms. That said, Chief Butler, the men and women of our Police Department, I think you're doing an outstanding job, and I appreciate you. That concludes my report.

President Anderson: I'm sure I speak for everyone on Council with the same sentiment. I appreciate the way our Mayor addressed that concern. This Council continues to stand with the Police Department, its leadership, as well as all our public service officers, and all of our civil servants that keep the City running. We think you do a wonderful job, and we thank you for that.

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Mr. Jacobs: I echo his sentiments as well. We have the best Police force around, and we're all very proud of what they've done. On a positive note, if a resident finds a nail in their tire, would you advise that resident to save that nail, given the unique circumstances of how this individual was caught?

Mayor Hawkins: I would contact the Police Department and they can take that down there. I also want to commend the residents for being proactive through the course of this process, and contacting the Police through the non-emergency line. Yes, I would give that information and that potential evidence to the Police Department.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: Several things this evening. Swim lessons registration is available now for our youth and adults. Swim team registration also now open. You can visit the Community Center website for more information. There will be a parent's meeting at the Springdale Community Center May 8th at 6:30 p.m. Our annual program guide put out by the Community Center will be hitting the mail soon. Be on the lookout for that. Just wanted to give an update on our Shred event in the Spring. We had 7,280 pounds of material shredded. This past fall, we had 5,840 pounds. Would like to congratulate folks for their willingness to come in and do things like that. Appreciate our staff for putting that on. Mayor wanted me to remind you that Arbor Day, Friday, is April 26th 9:30 a.m. will be at Heritage Hill Elementary, and at 1:00 p.m. at Springdale Elementary. Each year we have folks go out and enjoy that time with those elementary schools and it is a very good time if you get a chance to do it. I know some of you are very busy and it makes it more difficult. Moving on, I'd like to congratulate Jeff Agricola on his retirement. That takes effect the 30th of this month which will be his last day with the City. I think the Mayor's proclamation pretty much summed everything up, and, I'm not going to attempt to intervene with some of the things that were said there, but, I do want to say a couple of things. Working with Jeff, I've gotten to know him. It took me a little while to get to know him more on a personal level, and I've enjoyed doing so. Jeff has a dry, quick wit about him, and it seems like generally speaking, that comes out during our staff meetings. Jeff gave over 30 years in his respective field, and he's had a very memorable and remarkable career. I think he's also done a very nice job preparing his replacement for the next step in his career. So, Jeff, I want to congratulate you, but, next, I'd like to talk about your replacement, Mike Huxsoll. So, Mike, do you want to come up to the podium. I believe Mike has some family here, and some people from staff. Would you raise your hand out there? Thank you. You're welcome if you'd like to come forward and take photos, you can do whatever you want. Anything you can do to embarrass Mike, we'd appreciate it. So, Mike's path to Springdale included an early stop at the City of Montgomery. He worked as a co-op for about a year, then he started a full-time career working at West Chester Township. He did that for a total of ten years. He performed Capital Improvement projects including roads, parks, and even involved in fire stations. Mike kicked off his career here in Springdale in 2010, and he was assigned as the Assistant Director of Public Works in charge of operations. He's assisted with various tasks performed by in-house crews throughout the City. Most of you, at some point, if you're around the City very much, you would see Mike's face somewhere. He's been very active in the Tree City USA Program. Obviously, Jeff Agricola is very active in that program as well. We've received, we, the City have received many awards as the Mayor articulated. We're very proud of that and appreciate you guys, both Mike and Jeff for all your work on that, and other staff members as well. Mike has also obtained his Safety and Forestry Grants throughout the many times here in the City. It offsets the costs that the City pays out, so, we're appreciative of that. He's helped to develop and oversee Capital Improvement projects. Mike's very actively involved in our budgets now. He's implemented an order program to help streamline the crew's tasks that helps provide additional accountability. Mike is now entering about his 14th year in the City, correct. And, so, ladies and gentlemen, on May 1st, 2024, Mr. Huxsoll, Mike Huxsoll, will take over the duties and responsibilities as our Public Works Director, and we'd like to congratulate Mike at this time. (applause)

President Anderson: Jeff always gives us speeches. I don't know if you know that. So, you should get used to it. He's in here quite frequently. As much as I said it's behind the scenes, we sure saw a lot of Mr. Agricola.

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Mr. Huxsoll: Well, thank you Mayor Hawkins, Council, and Administration. They are mighty big shoes to fill, but I have an awesome team right behind me. I know they support me, and, we'll do it together. Thank you.

President Anderson: Congratulations.

Law Directors Report Mr. Braun - No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: We've got a few things. The Northland Boulevard Project; we've submitted a revised final construction drawing to ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation). It was a last-minute utility request that we made the accommodation for. We're in the process of closing on the final two parcels, I believe; one property owner. And, ODOT is looking to, or is expected to advertise that project on May 9th for a May 20th bid opening. We also have the Community Center HVAC Replacement Project; the two remaining rooftop units are expected to be installed tomorrow. Installation is probably going to take a week, and there's fine-tuning and adjustment the following week. So, hopefully, by the end of the month that project will be near completion. We also have the Tri County Sidewalk Project and we're still working to acquire a temporary easement from one of the property owners before we go bid that project. And, that's all I had.

President Anderson: Alright. I don't see any questions. Thank you. The HVAC is just in time. It was 80 degrees the other day.

Rental Program Committee

Mr. Vanover: We have no report other than the Rental Committee will meet on the 24th at 2:00 p.m. in the Caucus Room back there.

Urban Farming Special Committee

Ms. McFarland: So we did have our first Urban Farming Committee meeting this evening prior to Council meeting, April 17th. First we were presented with information from Joe Braun about other communities that allow chickens and what those ordinances look like. We did have several residents show up to voice their feedback, which we do appreciate those that are still here. We appreciate you coming out. We did have a lot of very good discussion regarding complaints that the Building Department has received regarding chickens. The possibility of using a permit system, and what that criteria might look like. We will be doing a survey for residents to get some more specific thoughts. That should be coming over the next few months; I would say months. We are going to continue to do additional research, what other communities are working on, other communities that have implemented this, and how it's going, any concerns that they may have. We did determine that if this were to go forward, it would be best served as a stand-alone ordinance. In fact, under new business, we will be making a recommendation that the Planning Commission update regulations regarding this from the Zoning Code. So, we will get a little more of that later. Was there anything else to add? Those that were there? (None) Thank you.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience

Mrs. Ramirez: My name is Pam Ramirez. I live at 831 Yorkhaven Road. I've lived in this City for 66 years; that's longer than the rest of you can tell me. I do not want farm animals in my Community. I am against it 100%. If you give in to chickens, you're going to have the next one will be a goat, or a cow, or whatever they want to bring in. These animals are not meant to be in a small inhabited area. They are meant to be on farms where they have a lot more area to run and to play. Chickens; we already have avian flu in the State of Ohio. Chickens can get avian flu. On top of that, we already have a problem with coyotes. What do you think coyotes want to eat? They want to eat chickens. I think that's a crazy idea. I don't understand why people move here; they move here because they like what we already have. What we already service them with. And, then, they want to come in, they want to change the laws, the charter, the regulations. I don't understand that. When you move here, don't you like what you see? Don't you like what's already here? It's not a case of you can't make an exception of one family or two families. You have to do what's best for the entire City, and chickens are not best for the entire

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Mrs. Ramirez (continued): City. Too many people are against. Nobody will come and talk but me, but they're against it. They don't want it. Chickens are dirty, they're nasty. Go to a chicken farm and look around. It's not a beautiful sight. I don't think anybody wants it in their neighborhood. I've talked to several people myself. They don't want it. They want it to be done away with. Don't even think about instituting this into our City. Sorry. I just don't want it, and I don't want people moving in to our City, my City, yours too, and try to change everything if it's not for the good of the entire population. Thank you.

Mr. Jacobs: I just wanted to thank you for coming out because we need to hear as many citizen reactions as possible. We had 20 people at the BZA meeting that were as pro-chicken as you're going to find. So, I'm hoping to hear more input from residents, and I appreciate that you took the time to hit the mic. So, thank you.

Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant Projects

President Anderson: This is our second public hearing related to Community Development Block Grant Projects. Before I open the floor for the Public Hearing, was there a comment from Administration?

Mr. Uhl: I'm just going to give another quick overview similar to how I did last meeting, just to provide anybody who may be in the audience who wants to comment and give them opportunity to do so. The Community Development Block Grant Program is administered by the Community Development Department of Hamilton County, Ohio, and will make funds available to eligible local governments for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and, planning activities with the principal purpose of benefiting low to moderate income persons. The first hearing was held on April 3rd, and the second will be this evening. Community members are invited to provide feedback on potential projects, and, or, share alternative ideas to this Council. Some of our Department Heads have already submitted a list of eligible projects, and I will share those publicly. These are also available on our website on our home page if you see the scrolling box on our home page, if you click on that, it will take you to the page with the announcement, and there's a pdf attachment with that as well. But, the projects that the Directors have identified are improvements to our Senior Room at our Community Center, new bus shelters; two locations on East Kemper Road, trash can receptacle replacement at our existing bus shelters, heart monitor/defibrillator replacement for our Fire Department, the Home Improvement Repair Program that our Building Department has been running for several years now.

President Anderson: Thank you for the overview. At this point, I'm opening the public hearing related to the Community Development Block Grants if anyone would like to speak for or against the projects, or to introduce a new concept, this is your opportunity to do that. The floor is now open for the public hearing. And, if you wanted to address, just like in Council communications, you'd just come to the podium. Second call. Third and final call. At this point, I'm closing the public hearing related to Community Development Block Grants. I believe there's no action required from Council. For that, we just had to maintain the hearings.

Mr. Uhl: That's correct, Mr. President. I would remind everyone who may be watching, and may be unable to attend this evening, that we will take comments up until April 22nd.

President Anderson: And, if anyone wanted to share that, they would just send it to Administration, or call the main number?

Mr. Uhl: Correct. The main line, or they can email their suggestions at admin@springdale.org.

Mayor Hawkins: I just want to highlight the key underline of this is Community Block Grants, so, and Mayor Webster always did a great job with this when I was a Councilmember, he'd always indicate Council, if you guys have ideas, bring them to the Administration so they can go through and look at those, as well as Community. If you have ideas, bring them forward. So, it's a very genuine request if folks have ideas. Obviously, administratively, we're going to go through with regard to the Department Heads and look at things that are needed, and, we're going to go through and look at that, but, wanted to make sure everybody

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Mayor Hawkins (continued): understands that it's a genuine request. If there are ideas of things that you look around, and say, "Hey, would these dollars work for improving or fixing, or bringing in 'X'", bring that information to the Administration. As Mr. Uhl indicated, our great Department Heads have plenty of ideas of things to try to work for that would fit within there. Thank you.

President Anderson: Thank you. And, in terms of scale for people, if you didn't hear the example list, these are projects that tend to be in the few thousand dollar range. I think the total grant we got in past years was in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range, is that the right area Mr. Uhl?

Mr. Uhl: Correct. That's about the same range. They've fluctuated over the years, but, each of these projects is typically in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range per project, and, not every project will be funded. Some could be funded in part, some in whole, and some not at all.

President Anderson: Okay. Thank you. So, we have until the end of the month, the 27th, was that the date? The 27th? The 22nd, until the 22nd to get feedback.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 18-2024

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE, DISPOSAL, OR TRANSFER OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

President Anderson: Council, this is a first reading. Is there discussion or questions tonight?

Resolution No. R05-2024

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 EAST KEMPER ROAD IMPROVEMENT PHASE I PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL CONTRACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R05-2024; Mrs. Webster seconded.

Resolution No. R05-2024 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Gleaves was absent)

Executive Session – Economic Development

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session according to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G) under Article 2(D)(1) of the Springdale Charter to discuss Economic Development Issues.

Mr. Vanover: Second.

President Anderson: Questions or discussion about moving to Executive Session? None. Administration are we expecting any action out of Executive Session? (None)

Motion to go into Executive Session according to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G) under Article II(D)(1) of the Springdale Charter to discuss Economic Development Issues passes with six affirmative votes. (Mr. Gleaves was absent) Council departed chambers at 7:50 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 8:13 p.m.

President Anderson: Council is back from Executive Session. Just for the record, I'd like the record to please reflect that Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup had made the motion to move to Executive Session, and Mr. Vanover was the second. Just for clearing the record. I think when we were calling roll, it was done incorrectly, but the record should reflect that it was Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup, and Mr. Vanover.

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Old Business

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None

New Business

Ms. McFarland: So, based on the discussions that we had in the Urban Farming Committee meeting, we would like to recommend that the Planning Commission remove regulations regarding the husbandry of fowl from Zoning Code Section 153.252.

President Anderson: Alright, so there's a request for Council to make a request of Planning Commission to do a review of that section of code and then give us back the recommendation. As I understand it, we would need to take a vote to ask Planning Commission to do that, and then they would send us a formal recommendation within 45 days. Is that right Mr. Braun?

Mr. Braun: Yes. So, the Board of Zoning Appeals regulations do not require an ordinance or resolution. I checked that after their committee meeting. It just states that a referral or recommendation must come from a majority vote of Council. So, Ms. McFarland has correctly made a motion asking that you send it to Planning Commission for them to consider removing those regulations. They will then make a recommendation back to you.

President Anderson: And, to be clear, this is a motion to send it formally to Planning Commission for their recommendation to remove. This does not actually cause any action other than to require Planning Commission to take action to review the item. It would not change our Zoning Code. That requires action by Council. This is just preparing for the process as we do the review so we can stay ahead of it. So, we have a motion to send a referral to Planning Commission. Is there a second?

Mr. Jacobs: Second.

President Anderson: Moved and seconded. At this point is there discussion about the motion to send a referral to Planning Commission?

Mr. Jacobs: I think just in terms of to clarify what this is about, in our meeting there was universal agreement that just in general, our rules about chickens don't belong in zoning. It's neither a "pro" or "anti" chicken decision that we're making. We're clarifying that something shouldn't have been in that portion of our code. Thank you.

President Anderson: So, this goes back to the question that we had both in Council last meeting about is this a land use issue or a Zoning Code issue that was also brought up at the Board of Zoning Appeals. So, this is to get clarity for that. Any other questions or discussion about the motion to refer to Planning? Seeing none, Ms. Browder if you would poll Council.

President Anderson: The motion to send the referral to Planning Commission to review the section of code that was mentioned by Ms. McFarland is approved with six affirmative votes.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Vanover: Again, Rental Committee meets the 24th of this month at 2:00 p.m. in the Caucus Room.

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Communications from the Audience

Mr. Miller: Jim Miller, I live at 535 Ray Norrish with my wife Cindy. We moved to Springdale just 20 years ago. And, we moved here because of the location. It's a beautiful community, and, we have a lot of our family, our kids who live either in Springdale, or nearby. And, by the way, I think the Community looks better 20 years since moving in because of continual improvement, and, I'm sure the work of this particular body to continue to beautify Springdale. The last thing that we wanted to do was to harm that in any way. In fact, our biggest concern pre-chickens, was, what impact would we have on our neighbors. Because, the last thing that we would want to do is have them feel as though we were degrading the neighborhood in any way. They were all very supportive. Continue to be very supportive, but, I understand that there's an image of dirty birds, and I grew up on farm. I certainly understand that imagery, and that was really the last thing that we were looking to do. In fact, we've kind of been stunned at how beautiful these birds are. They're amazing. And, we would open up our house and backyard to any resident who is interested in seeing the birds and how we take care of them, and the urban chicken lifestyle. Sitting next to the chickens and watching them scratch and peck and looking at their personalities and it is really a therapeutic exercise in a hectic world, and, it's turned out to really be a blessing in disguise. I do also want to say that we feel more attached to Springdale today because of the work of the City. For example, my wife had COVID back in 2021. We did not want to go to the hospital. The EMS unit from Springdale came out twice, and, both times they gave her, in an amazingly professional way, the assurance that she was okay at this point. She didn't have to run to the hospital, which was the last thing that we wanted to do. Over the next couple of years, she was on oxygen for six months, she got off of it for a time, was able to go down to the garden, which is two flights. She loves the garden so much, that she would go down one flight, and then wait, catch her breath, go down to the next one, and then do the gardening, and then come back up and repeat that same process. And, so, just the other day, I remarked that, "You're going up and down stairs without stopping to catch your breath." At the same time, taking care of the garden, and chickens in a very sustainable and positive way. So, I certainly understand the concern that residents, and I was fully anticipating that they would have, and that there is a way to do it in a very clean, sustainable, and a way that everybody benefits. We actually know our neighbors better today, than we did before we had chickens, and, we've had neighbors come by and bring their grandkids over to see the chickens, and we have this sense of Community that we really didn't have before. So, I don't want to belittle anybody's concerns about chickens, because, I think there is a bad way to have chickens, and, this committee, the Urban Farming I think showed earlier today that they understand that as well and taking that into account. Thank you.

Recap of Legislative Items

Mr. Jacobs: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 18-2024; 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 East Kemper Road Improvement Phase I Project, and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute All Contracts and Other Documents Related to the Project. That passed with six affirmative votes. There was also a motion to send, I'm using my own language here, a motion to send a request to Planning Committee to remove regulations on fowl from the Zoning Code. That passed with six affirmative votes.

Legislation in Development

Mr. Jacobs: There was a public hearing on Block Grant Projects. It was open for comments. We received no comments, but Administration listed some of the projects that they're going ahead on. The public can continue to make comments on that Block Grant spending until April 22nd. And, again, that was by directly contacting the Administration. Thank you. And, your Internal Memorandum as you review Item Number II, it was addressed by Resolution R05-2024; that's a first reading, and that will come back on May 1st for Council to address for a second reading. All other issues are forthcoming, unless Administration has anything.

Mr. Vanover: You've got them reversed.

Mr. Jacobs: Did I?

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Mr. Vanover: Item I was handled with Resolution No. R05-2024, and Item II was Ordinance No. 18-2024.

Mr. Jacobs: But, I read the right ordinances correct?

Mr. Vanover: Right.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you.

Adjournment

President Anderson: With that, we've got Item 19 before us.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Move to adjourn.

President Anderson: We're adjourned. Thank you everyone.

Council adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Browder

Minutes Approved:
Jeffrey Anderson, President of Council

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