

City of Springdale Council

February 6, 2019

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on February 6, 2019.

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

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

President Vanover: Council, before we get further, I think I touched base with everybody, but we do have an Executive Session requested and that will be "8b", after the Ordinance. Next up we have minutes before us. The minutes from the January 16th meeting. Are there any additions or corrections?

Mrs. Emerson: On Page two where I was discussing "We had six doses of Narcan given in December and we got some good data back for January through May of 2017, we had 211 unintentional overdoses, and then in January to May of 2018, we had 150 overdoses, so we actually are down by 29%." That was for Hamilton County data. It wasn't just Springdale. So I wanted to clarify that and let the minutes today show that. Thank you.

President Vanover: Any other additions or corrections? (None)

Mr. Shroyer made a motion to accept the minutes with the additional information added; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Mayor Webster: I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a new face that we have sitting here at the dais this evening, Emily Supinger. I'm sure I butchered your last name. I apologize for that. Emily is filling in for Joe. Joe happens to be out of the country and he told us when he interviewed that he had this deposition he had to take south of the border, or north of the border. So, anyway, Emily is filling in for him. Welcome.

President Vanover: Well, next up, we've got an introduction.

Mayor Webster: Yes. I'd like to ask Chief Mathis to come forward and give us some introductions.

Chief Mathis: Well, members of Council, thank you, Mayor, City Administration. It's always a pleasure to come and speak to you and introduce new employees to the City. I have two of them to introduce. I'm going to start with Officer Jamison Kuenkel. Come on down. Jamison here came into the world five weeks before I started working here. (Laughter). I saw he was born in '86, that's when I started here, that's really the only reason that I hired him. (Laughter). Jamison grew up in the West Chester area. Currently lives in Mason. Has worked in sales and as a hydraulic mechanic. He's here with his wife Danielle, daughter Selena, son Deacon, daughter Grace. He left the seven-month old Quinn somewhere, I hope, with responsible people because they were pretty comfortable that she would disrupt the proceedings and we didn't want to have to take her out of here. He's here and if the Mayor would like to come down and go ahead and administer the oath of office.

Mayor Webster swore-in Officer Kuenkel. (Applause)

Chief Mathis: Next up, we have Officer Mark Martin. He also was born in '86; coming into the world eight months after I started here. Mark grew up in Ross and continues to live there. He went to the University of Cincinnati and joined the Army. He served several combat deployments overseas and honorably discharged not that long ago and wanted to continue serving. He just graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy a few weeks ago and is in his field training and is currently assigned to third shift. He's here with his wife Stephanie, and his two sons Max and Sam.

Mayor Webster swore-in Officer Martin. (Applause)

Chief Mathis: Thank you Mayor. Again, I just want to thank these officers and their families and to recognize the families because they give up a lot; a lot of nights that we're away. We have black stripes on our badges right now for the second time here in the last

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Chief Mathis (continued): month. Again, what I've always said is it isn't necessarily any particular act that makes somebody in my mind courageous in doing this job; it's getting up every night, leaving your wife and kids in this particular case behind, and coming in here to take those chances for people. I respect them, I appreciate them and I thank you for allowing us to hire them and to give us the funds and the permission to get good people on board to have the kind of staffing we need to protect the City. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you Chief. (Applause)

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 3-2019

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 58-2018 TO AMEND THE PAY TABLE FOR PART-TIME AND SEASONAL EMPLOYEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 3-2019; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mayor Webster: I just wanted to have Amanda give a brief overview.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: In 2016, the part-time Account Clerk position was inadvertently changed from a Grade 9. It had been a Grade 9 since the beginning of time. The person we have in that position is still being paid like she is in a Grade 9 because she is in a Grade 9. It was a clerical error and it's just "hung on". It was caught this year by our Payroll Clerk, so we're trying to fix that to get things in order.

Ordinance No. 3-2019 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Executive Session – Economic Development

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to go into Executive Session with City Legal Counsel for the purpose of Article II, Section D(1) of the Charter of the City of Springdale to discuss Economic Development issues. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote to go into Executive Session. Council departed chambers at 7:12 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 7:59 p.m.

Old Business

Mrs. Zimmerlin: I'd like to ask Christine Russell to come up and give you an overview of the Housing Council required for the Community Reinvestment Area that was created along the Route 4 corridor. This encompasses the Springrose Meadows Development. I'd like Christine to give you an update.

Mrs. Russell: When I presented on the CRA that we established for Springrose Meadows, I mentioned that we were going to have to establish a Housing Council. It is now time for us to do that. I wanted to give you a heads up and review, again, exactly the appointments that we need. We're not going to appoint anybody tonight, but, again, just want to give you a "heads up" so you can start thinking about it and then I believe in the second meeting in March, we would hope to bring legislation. Just to review, the role and the duties of the Housing Council are that "the Council shall make an annual inspection of the properties within the community re-investment area and for which an exemption has been granted." The Council shall also hear appeals under a certain section of the Revised Code. In effect, the Council meets once a year and they review each and every abatement that has been put on and decides if it should be continued for the next year. Part of that is an inspection of each home or business property that has an abatement. That will obviously be done by our Building Department. They would provide that information if they comply with all our Zoning Codes, that they comply with all their property maintenance, all those pertinent things. The only potentially unusual thing is if there is an appeal to an abatement that has been established.

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Mrs. Russell (continued): The Housing Council would have to hear that appeal and make a decision on that. In a way, it acts a little like a Board of Zoning Appeals in that situation. To review the makeup of the Housing Council, the Mayor will appoint two members. City Council will appoint two members. Planning Commission will appoint one member. A little oddly, those five people will get together and choose two residents to add to the Housing Council. The terms of the Housing Council are for three years and, again, if everything is going well, it will only meet once a year. What I have suggested to the Mayor is that he consider maybe two staff members to put on. The Building Official would be a good person since they are coming with the knowledge of all the zoning and building maintenance. Council may consider appointing two Council people since they only meet once a year, it's not a big time commitment and Planning Commission will likely consider appointing a Planning Commission member. That is up to you. It is entirely silent on the qualifications or any restrictions on those two members that you can appoint.

President Vanover: The only thing I was thinking through on the Council is if it's a three-year appointment, we've got four members of us here will have two years left at that point and the others you wouldn't know yet, depending on the "at-large".

Mayor Webster: They don't have to be Council members. They can be, but they don't have to be.

President Vanover: Well, she said (Mrs. Russell), possibly, it could.

Mayor Webster: If you go off of Council, you could still stay on the Board, unless you moved out of the City.

President Vanover: Alright. Just thinking ahead.

Mrs. Russell: I had to confirm several times because there is so little guidance given as to the members to appoint and there really are, other than once the five people are appointed, the two that they choose have to be residents. That really is the only restriction. I'm sorry I can't give harder guidance on that.

President Vanover: Okay. You said the first meeting in March?

Mrs. Russell: The second meeting in March. Alright. Any questions? (None) Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you Christine. I guess, while we're talking about this, if somebody has an interest, feed that to us, and we'll take it from wherever.

Mayor Webster: I'd just like to talk briefly about our Earnings Tax Ordinance. I sent all of you an email, I believe last week, or the week before telling you that our Committee has been officially formed. The paper has been filed with the Board of Elections. Mr. Don Darby has volunteered to be our Treasurer. I circulated some talking points or important issues regarding the Earnings Tax to all of you. We're circulating those around to some of the Directors and the City Staff and so forth. Please feel free to make copies and distribute those as you see fit. I also indicated to you that since we do have the Treasurer named and he has opened a bank account and we are now in a position to take donations. Just make your checks payable to "Don Darby, Treasurer" and get those to me or to Mary Charles, our front office Secretary out there and we'll get those to Don. I've done a little bit of thinking about this. I wanted to sort of throw this open to get your thoughts on it, but we talked about maybe having a couple of open meetings or public hearings and just looking at the calendar, I think to have those right now would be way too early. I'm looking at the month of April and two weeks before the election, 13 days before the election would be a Wednesday, the 24th of April. The Council meeting that night would be the fourth (Wednesday)? It's not the third I know that.

Mr. Jones: It's the fourth.

Mayor Webster: So, I'd like to think about having a special Council meeting down at the Community Center, Public Hearing. This is the only topic we'd have on the agenda.

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Mayor Webster (continued): Also, I'd just like to throw this out to get your feedback on this. What about moving the Council meeting of the third of April down at the Community Center? I think we'd just get a different. . . There's some people that are very involved in the Community, but they're not involved with City Hall; they're involved with the Community Center. I think if we have an event down there, we're more likely to get some feedback. Look, we had four readings of this Resolution; how many people did we have come up to that podium to talk about that? I got no emails, I got nothing. Jeff you got a couple?

Mr. Anderson: Oh, absolutely. I had several residents reach out to me and ask questions about it. Emails and in-person conversations.

Mayor Webster: Well, I've had no one contact me regarding the thing. Anyway, I think it's just a matter of trying to be transparent and giving everybody the opportunity to talk about it. Think about that and maybe we can make a decision next week or the week after about the third and the 24th. It would be those two meetings. The third would be just whatever is on the agenda. It wouldn't just be this, we'd just also have a Public Hearing on that Resolution and also a Public Hearing again on the 24th.

Mrs. McNear: Mayor, you're talking about the meeting on April 17th would be in this facility or we would have all three meetings in April down at the Rec Center?

Mayor Webster: Well, you mean move the 17th (meeting) down there also?

Mrs. McNear: You're talking about doing the third and the 24th, but then we have the meeting on the 17th as well.

Mayor Webster: I was going to stay home on the 17th, but . . . (laughter). We'll see how it goes. I'm not opposed to that.

Mrs. Ghantous: What types of activities took place last time? Was there door knocking? Fliers, postcards?

Mayor Webster: No, we had a letter that went out to all of the voters. We didn't mail it, we knocked on doors or had people distribute those. The Fire Department was very active and helped us with that. We mailed to some of the places, like a selective mailing to Mapleknoll. I don't think we had any signs last time. Any time there was a meeting of any group, we asked for an invitation. I've already reached out to Seniors and I'm scheduled to meet with them on March 12th. So, any other group, and I put the word out down at Mapleknoll if they have any groups that I can address down there, please let me know. That's about all that we did.

Mrs. McNear: We're funding this effort with donations; probably most of it will come from the people sitting on this dais. I just wondered if we are permitted to use the City's electronic sign to advertise this or does there have to be a separation? I thought that was the case, but I wanted to confirm.

Mayor Webster: I don't think we can do that.

Mrs. McNear: Okay. Thank you.

President Vanover: We're getting an active headshake "No".

Mrs. McNear: But, we could rent one, right? If we pay for it.

Mr. Anderson: To follow up on that, we can advertise the agenda item of the tax to raise awareness that it will be happening, right? Because it is an agenda for a public meeting.

Ms. Supinger: You can notice the meeting?

Mr. Anderson: And the agenda for the meeting including this issue. We can notice that?

Ms. Supinger: Yes.

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Mr. Anderson: So, we can raise awareness using that?

President Vanover: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: Okay.

Mrs. Emerson: Is it possible to do phone calls? You know, how when the election comes through now we're getting these phone calls from people. Is it possible to set up phone calls to residents and voters?

Mayor Webster: Sure.

President Vanover: Anything is a possibility.

Mrs. Ghantous: What about a social media campaign? Can we do that? I can't be in charge of it because I don't even know how to use Facebook, but, I'm sure somebody down on that end (referring to the other end of the dais) could take care of it.

Ms. Supinger: So, I just wanted to comment. Whatever the Committee decides is an appropriate way to use its funds and use its efforts to support the income tax is fine. It's just a separate entity from City Council and the folks in here. Even if they're the same people. It's whatever the Committee decides to do. They can certainly do that as long as they identify themselves as the Committee making those efforts of communication.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: But, if Carolyn wants to go on her Facebook at any given time and say, "This is coming up." Either these meetings or even saying "Come out and vote." If you're running or somebody else is running, I know I wrote, when I was running, I said, "Hey, today is election day. Come out and be sure to vote for me." Something like that, you could do the same thing on your personal and say, "Hey, today is Election Day. Please come out and vote yes for our tax."

Mayor Webster: I don't think there's any restrictions on our personal email.

Ms. Supinger: There isn't, but you do have to be careful when you're using your social media and talking about City business because then you're potentially creating records and doing those types of things. It's just an area that, frankly, the law hasn't caught up to the technology, frankly. But, it's just something to be cognizant of. What voice are you using and what are you encouraging and if it's something where you're questioning whether or not it's something you should do; you probably shouldn't and leave it to the Committee to make those communications.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Can you put it out there without saying, "Vote for this"? Can you say, "This is on the ballot"? Just informational instead of instructional?

Ms. Supinger: It's discussing City business on your personal account. You've just got to be careful out there.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I just wanted to make sure that we're crystal clear.

Ms. Supinger: Well, unfortunately, the law isn't crystal clear on it, so the warning that you'll get from Legal Counsel is just be careful about putting too much on your social media.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Or just don't.

Ms. Supinger: Because people are starting to, especially issues like income tax or any sort of taxation where there are people who are very opposed to that type of stuff; they will latch on to that type of thing and they'll say, "These are public officials engaging in this campaign". It's something to avoid.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I just want to be very, very clear on what we're doing. Okay. Thanks.

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President Vanover: Don't do it.

Mayor Webster: The City newsletter comes out early April. I would certainly like to see something on the front page of that. Now, maybe it's just informational. We can't say, "Please support". Maybe we just have a fact sheet. This (Mayor Webster held up a paper), if you take off the bottom part, it doesn't say anything about voting "for" or "against".

Ms. Supinger: I don't think there's any problem with educating people about an item that's going to be on the ballot. You just have to be careful that it's not advocating for something.

Mayor Webster: I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that we are the only levy or issue on the ballot; so we stand alone. No other levies, school, county, or anybody else. Now, the bad news, I'll let Emily (Supinger) share that with you.

Ms. Supinger: Well, the bad news is that you have to pay for the entire election.

Mayor Webster: The estimate that the Board is giving us is \$11,424. They retain the right to come back and have us make up any other difference. But, this is their best estimate, based on the number of precincts that the City has. So, it shouldn't exceed \$12,000. Just so everybody is aware of that.

President Vanover: It is what it is.

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet Tuesday, February 12th in these chambers at 7:00 p.m. and also a reminder about the Horse Races for SYB at the Community Center on the 23rd. Door open at 7:00 p.m. First race is at 8:00 p.m. It is \$8.00 at the door. This year there is a change. You cannot bring in any outside alcohol. It will be checked. Coolers will be checked and you cannot come in with alcohol. You can still bring food in. That is still allowed. You can sit by me if you have good food. The entrance fee of \$8.00 gets you three beers or two mixed drinks. Thank you.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: City offices will be closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of President's Day and the Community Center will be open their holiday hours 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. From the Park and Rec Department: the AARP free income tax help program will be offered again this year beginning February 1st. It's one-hour appointments and they are available every Friday morning through April 5th. The program provides assistance for simple State, and Federal returns. The youth sports registration is underway for youth spring sports including baseball, t-ball, girl's softball, spring soccer, and new this year, spring volleyball. Finally, there are employment opportunities at the Park and Rec Department. They are accepting applications for part-time park maintenance worker and part-time customer service assistant. You can get more information about all of these events and the employment opportunities through the Park and Rec Department at 346-3910.

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet on February 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room adjacent to here.

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Tuesday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the chambers here.

Communications from the Audience - None

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Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number 1 was addressed with Ordinance No. 3-2019; An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 58-2018 to Amend the Pay Table for Part-Time and Seasonal Employees and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. All other legislative items were forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There is a request for An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Agreement to provide for Mutual Aid Police Protection and Declaring an Emergency. There's a request for An Ordinance Authorizing the City to Enter Into a Lease/Purchase Agreement to Finance the Purchase of the 2018 Vermeer Wood Chipper and Declaring an Emergency. There's a request for An Ordinance Declaring the 2001 Woodsman Chipper as Surplus Property and Authorizing its Trade-in as a Condition of Purchase of a New Chipper and Declaring an Emergency. There's a request for A Resolution Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. That is it unless any members of Council have anything else to add.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Ghantous seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2019