President of Council Vanover called Council to order on March 18, 2020

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, Emerson, Ghantous, Hawkins, Ramirez, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover were present.

The minutes of the March 4, 2020 meeting were considered. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Ghantous seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Jones: I’ll be brief. We were notified by Mr. Coleman yesterday; that the last meeting that they had scheduled, they cancelled. So, we had no report and he wanted me to go ahead and share that.

Rules and Laws

Mrs. Emerson - No report

Finance Committee

Mr. Hawkins - No report

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission met on March 10th and all people were present. Kleingers, on behalf of Springdale Commerce Park, 12110 Princeton Pike, that’s the GE Park, they had been continued one time previously to this on this and they asked for another continuance because they needed to come up with some more things with the City before they came to us. They wanted to make it more finalized before it came to us. We agreed to continue that to the April meeting. We have taken that we will continue people twice, then, after that, they will have to re-file, so, this is their second continuance. If they don’t come before us in April, they will have to re-file on this. Cincinnati Commercial Contractors on behalf of Jake Sweeney at 30 Tri County Parkway, they came for the Revised Development Plan, same situation. Because they came before BZA and because of results there, they wanted to have more time to come up with more different things, and they asked that we continue it. This will be their second continuance as well. If they don’t come in April, they will need to re-file. Klusty Signs Associates, on behalf of Burger King at 1340 East Kemper Road came for a Minor Improvement requiring Planning Commission’s approval. This was signage. They are changing all of their signage to match the other chains. That was approved by a 7-0 vote. GBC Design, Inc., on behalf of Chick-fil-A at 501 E. Kemper Road came before us for a Development Plan. They want to redesign their parking lot. They are making their kitchen area larger, they’re expanding their restaurant and they were reconfiguring their drive-thru to be a double loop pass through. It was extremely detailed and there were a lot of questions that couldn’t be answered and they asked that it be continued so they can come up with either a better plan or more answers for us that would be more favorable to them and we agreed with a 7-0 vote to continue that until next month. U Haul at 11750 Commons Drive came before us for a Minor Revision to a PUD. Both myself, and Mr. Ramirez felt that this was a Major Change in the PUD, and so we have set a Public Hearing for the April 14th meeting. We did discuss upcoming things that are coming to Springdale and we, again, discussed the importance of making our City plan and things like that. All in all, we’re hoping that next month we’ll have finalized things on these things that got continued and further progression. Do you have anything to add? (Referring to Mr. Ramirez).

Mr. Ramirez: No. I approve.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thank you.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals met on February 25th. We also had Cincinnati Commercial Contracting on behalf of Jake Sweeney at 30 Tri County Parkway, which was the former Atrium Hotel. They were requesting a variance to reduce the parking stall sizes and drive aisles in the vehicle storage area and to eliminate the curved landscape areas and
Mrs. Ghantous (continued): plantings. After a lot of discussion, the Board unanimously felt that the information was incomplete. There was no way we could have made any decision based on what we had to work with, and once the applicant was informed of that, they asked that we table that until our next meeting as well. That’s it, unless Jeff (Anderson) has something to add.

Mr. Anderson: No. That’s perfect. Thank you.

Board of Health
Mrs. Emerson: Board of Health met on March 12, 2020. The major discussion was over the Coronavirus, but, I’m going to save that because I believe our City Nurse, Amy (Ellis) is going to discuss that later on. The Medicaid Administrative Claiming for the February 24-March 1 is completed, but we don’t have the refund money total together yet. I’ll forward that as we get that information. The Pop Up Produce at Heritage Hill Elementary; the March, April, and possibly the May activity has been cancelled. So, we’ll forward the May as we get further information on that. The Sports Camp that was supposed to occur March 23rd through the 27th has also been postponed. They’re looking at possibly in July, but, that is not set either. I’ll forward that as I get that information. The Springdale Health Department did apply for a $25,000 Mosquito Control Grant. We usually hear about that in April and then the money is distributed in May, so I don’t have any information on that. The Public Health Training in Springdale that was supposed to be April 15th and 16th has also been cancelled. For the Nurse’s Report for the Narcan, we had four doses delivered in February. For the Influenza activity, it remains widespread and we had five hospitalized. That completes my report, unless there is questions.

Capital Improvements
Mrs. Emerson - No report

O-K-I
Mr. Anderson - No report

Mayor’s Report
Mayor Webster: I have several things. Needless to say, the Coronavirus has been occupying the majority of our time. I’m sure all of you are aware of the actions that we had to take last week and we did close the Community Center as of the close of business on Tuesday and it was primarily because we thought that there was going to be a primary election, so we could have closed it earlier, but we wanted to accommodate those folks. Anyway, it is closed until further notice. Prior to that, we had curtailed all the senior activities and then as things started to unfold, we went ahead with a full closure. Along those same lines, we also made the decision this evening that we are going to extend the tax filing deadline from April 15th until May 15th and that’s for filing and payment of your taxes. Now, that’s the way it stands at this moment, but this thing is a revolving cube here and it depends on what the State comes out with, but, as of right now, what we know about the Feds, this is what we’re going to do here in Springdale. Needless to say, the virus is occupying practically 100% of everybody’s time, that’s the only thing we get done around here it seems like.

I’d just like to say to people out here that we have our own Health Department and we’re going to have a brief presentation by a couple members of our Health Department here in just a couple of minutes, but we’re doing everything we can to minimize the exposure to the disease and we just urge all of our residents to not mingle, stay in as much as you can and needless to say, all the bars, restaurants, everything; the cinema, rec center. There’s not a whole lot to do unless you want to walk the track, the outdoor walking track. That’s about the only thing left in the City to do. But, anyway, just heed the public service announcements and take care of yourself and we’ll get through this and we’ll be stronger coming out the other end of it, but, it’s going to take awhile. So, just be patient.

Along that line, I’d like to suggest to Council, and we can talk about this maybe under New Business, but I’d like to suggest that maybe we talk about not meeting and going to our summer operating schedule and just meet the third Wednesday of every month and not meet April 1st and maybe just take it month by month until this thing blows over. If the decision is to do that, then we’ve got, John (Jones) and I each have an issue with that, but we’ve got a solution to it, so, we won’t go into that unless you take our recommendation to cancel that April 1st meeting. I think that’s about all.
Mayor Webster (continued): So, but, at this time, I really would like to have these two young ladies, Amy Ellis our Public Health Nurse, and Ella Jergens our Environmental Health Director come up and just give everybody an update on where we stand and what the Springdale Health Department is doing. Before they do that, I’d just like to say this... I am very proud of our Health Department and very proud of the fact that Springdale has their own health department, but this is one of the times where it’s a little cumbersome because we get all these mandates issued by the Hamilton County Board of Health, and they go out of their way to exclude Springdale because they have their own health department. So, it sort of doubles our workload here. We’ve got to be very conscious of what they do and then we’ve got to turn around and duplicate that because what they’ve done does not necessarily apply to the City if that makes any sense to you. So, it’s a double-edged sword. So, this is one of the times where we’d probably be better off under that big umbrella Hamilton County, but, all in all, I wouldn’t trade where we are with other cities and villages in the county. So, anyway, Amy (Ellis), do you want to come first and just give us a little overview as where we are and some of the things that we are doing to battle this virus?

Mrs. Ellis: Thank you Mayor. Good evening City Council, Administration, and Mayor Webster. My name is Amy Ellis. As many of you know, I’m the Director of Nursing and Public Health Nurse for the (Springdale) Health Department. COVID has affected all of us. It’s affected our community, especially over the last week or two. We’ve really seen a lot of limitations and restrictions. With communicable disease, and, what communicable disease is, it’s a disease that can be spread to others. That’s one of our jobs in the Health Department is we have to prevent the spread of communicable disease. COVID-19, even though it’s new, it’s one of them.

How I liken communicable diseases is like a roller coaster ride. You kind of start off slow, and then you kind of start creeping up to the first hill. So, we started with COVID-19 occupying partial of our time probably the end of January, early February. Had some conference calls, a lot of information, trying to get the information out to our partners. We did that. Started going up the hill. Where we really saw when we were at the top of the hill was actually this weekend. Looking back, even though it was just a couple of days ago, looking back what I think really affected that is when Butler County had their positive cluster. So we know Butler County has it, all diseases and people don’t stay in their own jurisdiction. We all intermingle. So, since it’s a neighbor, we knew it was going to affect us. We just didn’t know how fast it was going to affect us. Actually, this past Saturday was when it first really affected us. From that point on, for the rest of this week, I can honestly say 100% of our time has been devoted to it. And, it’s just not a 40 hour week.

With COVID-19, it’s what is considered a Class A communicable disease. What that is, is by law; that is reportable to the Health Department; it doesn’t matter what time of day, if it’s the weekend, and you have to respond to it and act on it. So, on Saturday, we had a call from Butler County Health Department that we had a resident that was reported as potentially exposed to COVID-19, to a positive case of COVID-19. With having multiple jurisdictions in the State of Ohio, how you do that with communicable disease control, it goes by where the person lives. So, since the resident is the City of Springdale, it’s up to me to do the follow up on that. With COVID-19, what the requirement is, is when the positive case that would be Butler County that’s doing the investigation, they determine what the exposures, who the exposure are, and then my job is to follow up. What is required at this time is what is called “active monitoring”. So, the person that is potentially exposed is requested to stay in their home for 14 days and do a “self-quarantine”. That means you stay in your home. You don’t go outside your home. You limit your exposure to the other people in your household as well. They’re required to take their temperatures twice daily, monitor their symptoms, then the Health Department, we contact them once a day. So, we provide them with a log. Many people have no thermometers. Luckily, we ordered disposable thermometers, so were able to provide that as well. The 14 day period goes from 14 days after their known exposure date. Provided at the end of that 14 day period they’re symptom-free, they are released from their self-quarantine at that point.

That started for us on this past Saturday. On Sunday, Ohio Department of Health ordered restaurants to cease dine in as you know with that mandate. We also got a call out on Sunday as well, so, it was a busy weekend. We had two residents reported as being potentially exposed to COVID-19 as well. So, what we did on Saturday, we also did on Sunday. We contacted those residents, and put them on active monitoring. That is something that I’m following up with
Mrs. Ellis (continued): on a daily basis, doing those contacts. On March 16th, Springdale Health, Police, Administration, and Legal cooperated to provide cease and desist orders to Springdale food operations who were in violation of the ODH orders. That is something that Ella (Jergens) will speak more about. With us being a small health department, we definitely know everything that is going on, but I know a lot about one thing, and a little bit about another. So, for us, tonight is “two for the price of one”. That way, we can cover it all. On March 18th, ODH advised us that a Springdale resident self-quarantined. We needed to self-quarantine another resident. So, that was actually today, I do apologize. Things are running together for me just horribly. Why that resident needed to self-monitor, is we were notified by ODH that this person had travelled to one of the known countries where there is a lot of community spread. So, when a person goes on active monitoring, you can, how, I guess the qualifications would be, if you were potentially exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, or you were identified as travelling to one of those countries. We are actually involved in both of those instances.

As you know, the Springdale Community Center closed. Springdale public venues closed, or began limited hours. Poor Debi (Boggs), Liz (Morsch), everybody at the front, as you can well know, as things are closing, things are evolving, not only on a daily basis, but an hourly basis, more restrictions. The calls are through the roof. It’s not just for City of Springdale, and, it is confusing in the State of Ohio and Hamilton County, there are four different jurisdictions. So, we’re getting a lot of telephone calls that we’re contending with as well. So, as you can tell, and see, we’ve been very busy. But, it’s something that we’re doing together.

We can’t do this by ourselves and it’s not just us in the Health Department, it has been other departments within the City. We have had wonderful support and I thank you for that. We’ve had support of Police and Fire and also community partners which, without that, we would not be able to do it. My message I want to let you know is, we’re here and we’re going to protect this community. That is our job. It does not matter what time, what day. We are here and, even though I feel like I’m babbling because I’m tired, we do care about the community. It is our job and we will make sure that our community is protected. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Do you have any questions for Amy?

Mrs. Emerson: One quick question. On those that have been self-quarantined, have any of them developed symptoms at this point yet?

Mrs. Ellis: No. Not at all.

Mrs. Emerson: One other thing I wanted to add. You guys have been amazing. I’m on the Board of Health and everything that you guys are doing and being there to answer all of our questions and the seriousness you’re taking in this, I truly, truly thank you all.

Mrs. Ellis: Thank you very much.

Mr. Hawkins: I know that obviously there aren’t a lot of Health Departments and we’re fortunate to be one of the few. With that in mind, is there constant collaboration with other health departments in terms of the sharing of information?

Mrs. Ellis: Absolutely. We, as a region, also with our State and Federal partners, we strive to come out with one consistent message and it has to be consistent and it has to be accurate. Because there is so much bad information out there. And it seems like the media likes to cover bad information and people are more likely to grab that bad information than the good information, so we are constantly in collaboration. In southwest Ohio, we actually have a very strong regional group with our health departments. I can’t count on probably our fingers and our toes how many conference calls that we have been on in the region, not only with our health departments, but with the State, also, with hospitals as well, because it truly is a joint effort. Hospitals, I know Holly (Emerson) can attest to that too, that they are getting hammered. It’s something that we know that for us to get through it, it has to be that joint effort. Absolutely, we are working with our partners.
Mr. Hawkins: Have there been any other recommendations from the Health Department to the City regarding anything that we need to be doing additionally, with regard to our first responders in particular, Police, Fire, EMT's?

Mrs. Ellis: That is something that, when we get the guidance down from CDC (Center for Disease Control) and ODH (Ohio Department of Health), we have been sharing that with our Police and Fire. So, when it first came out, in the sense that it is a new virus, they don't have a lot to go by, a lot of the questions were, “How are we going to protect our first responders when they're going in?” “What is the protection? What is the appropriate mask, gown, gloves?” Things like that so, as we get that information, absolutely, that’s one of the first things is that we’re forwarding that on to our Police and Fire. As for additional recommendations at this time, I think, recently there was a change with masks because there is a shortage of PPE or Personal Protective Equipment, and with the mask, they have now said a specific mask, N95 respirator, there is a shortage on that. They are now saying you can also use a surgical mask. That is information that we have passed on, but, once again, it keeps changing, but that is something we are on top of and we make sure that we pass that on to our Police and to our Fire. I know we've had a lot of questions from them. Matt (Clayton) has been great about communicating with them and we try to make it a priority and I know this isn't eloquent, but, this is what I told Chief Wells, “We’ve got you’re back”. I want to let you know we will be there if you have any concerns, please know that it’s our utmost priority. Because, I know they’re always there for us. That’s how I think of our Police and Fire.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Thank you Amy.

Mrs. Jergens: Good evening. Thank you Mayor Webster, thank you Council members. I think we really should thank Nurse (Amy) Ellis. She worked, I'd say 16 hours a day over the weekend each day. Matt (Clayton) is out of town, but he also worked about 16-18 hours a day with four kids right near him, which, that's almost impossible. Just to follow up on the environmental side, we have forwarded personal protective equipment to Police and Fire and a little bit to Public Works. We do have some for their protection. Particularly, the N95's and the surgical masks in order to protect our first responders, because that is the most important thing and that's where our shortages are. We have heard from some of our community partners. In particular, several hotels, the cinemas, and other places have volunteered their sites for drive-thru clinics to do sampling, and also if we needed to quarantine people. I thought that was great.

We here in the City of Springdale, we are a family and I kind of take it personally, because it's my City. They did step forward. We also had Calvary Christian volunteer to do a food drive and they are doing a drive-thru food drive for those that do not have food at this time. Because, remember the kids have been out for a week, and many children get their food from school. We'd like to thank our community partners. Also, the Police and Fire, they went out and they have been very instrumental in getting out information. They did do our cease and desist orders. I followed up and they have been communicating with me. We did have a couple of operations that were non-compliant. It was discussed with them the importance of this. That we must comply with this because when children are out of school, where do parents go; restaurants, cinemas, go-kart place. That becomes a source of potential infection.

So, closing these where it's not good for business; it’s a requirement, and it is essential. Because, right now is the time to protect ourselves and to protect our citizenry. It was necessary and the majority of our operations, aside from two, voluntarily complied. That’s where we’re at with cease and desist. I did follow up today. Everyone is in compliance; they understand the reasoning. That’s pretty much where we stand today. I’ve been helping Nurse Ellis with some of the monitoring.

Mayor Webster: Any questions for Ella (Jergens)?

President Vanover: One question about the lunches. Is it my understanding that the school district was still doing (meals)?

Mrs. Jergens: I think they are.
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President Vanover: Because I’ve seen some. I happened to come by there at lunchtime and there were some people coming out.

Mrs. Jergens: But some don’t go outside the home, so they are providing them, but it’s not always.

Mrs. Emerson: I just wanted to add out there from the hospital aspect, I am currently working in the hospital. This is serious stuff. It’s here. It’s not going to go away for a while, so, the best thing you all can do to keep this from spreading is stay at home. You don’t need to go out. You need to stay at home. That doesn’t mean wear a mask and go out. It means stay at home. It’s very, very serious. If we overwhelm the hospitals, those people that need the help will not get it because we will be full. So, please heed to that warning. Stay home and stay separated. Thanks.

Mayor Webster: Thanks ladies. Matt Clayton would be here today, but he had a pre-planned vacation with his family down in Georgia, but I don’t think it’s been much of a vacation. He’s been on the phone and exchanging emails and so forth and so on. I think he’s getting his eight hours a day in on vacation. That concludes my report.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: I have the General Fund update through February 29th. For receipts based on a net budget of $22,359 million dollars. We have received $3,921 million dollars which is 18%. Those fund receipts sources are five major areas which are Earnings Taxes, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor’s Court. That is a total of $3,718 million dollars or 95% of our receipts to date. Just in comparison from February 2019, we had $2,726 million dollars, so almost one million dollars additional year over year. For the expenditures, we had net budget of $20,172 million dollars. We’ve spent $3,064 million dollars, which is 15% of the budget. The ending General Fund balance through February 29, 2020 is $3.131 million dollars. Additionally, I just wanted to mention to elected officials that we do have to file the 2019 financial disclosure documents. So far, there is no indication that that due date has been delayed, but I wouldn’t be surprised if it is. I would shoot for the May deadline, but, keep in mind it may get moved back. I always think sooner rather than later so there’s no issues and no fines. So, if you would get those through as soon as possible. Very easy to do online. It only takes five to ten minutes at the most. Especially, if you’ve done it a previous year, you just export information from the year before. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Administrator’s Report

Mr. Jones: The Police Chief provided me with a summary of a report pertaining to East Crescentville over a period of time from January 29th to February 23rd. Speed limit is 35. The average speed there was 28.09 miles per hour and the average cars per day were 1,436. Moving from that, I too, would like to echo what the Mayor was saying. It’s actually been a privilege dealing with the folks that we’ve had to deal with, not only over the weekend, for several hours, dealing with Joe (Braun), Matt Clayton, the Mayor, dealt with Councilwoman Emerson, and some other folks, but, we had the Police and Fire, there’s just a lot of folks involved, and I want to sincerely thank them for that. It’s very appreciative and as the Mayor indicated, quite a bit of our time is being tied up with this virus, but, I think Mrs. Emerson said it quite well and that is, we’ll get through it, but we need folks to heed the warning so to speak and just do what you need to do for now and, hopefully, it will pass by quickly. Thank you.

Law Director’s Report

Mr. Braun: I normally don’t have anything to report, but I’ve got lots to report tonight. I apologize as the days start to run together a little bit. I know she left, but I want to thank Nurse Ellis and Matt Clayton. I literally talked to Matt about three times a day and I couldn’t have told you his name two weeks ago. That’s how little I normally interact with the Board of Health because it runs independent. But, I want to say that his professionalism and someone said he’s on vacation; he’s not on vacation. He is constantly working on this issue and I just want you to know that he’s on anything but a vacation.

The first thing I have on my agenda to talk about because everyone is talking about it is the virtual meetings and how this relates to the City of Springdale. The one thing I want to assure you is that our office is very on top of this issue. Not only because it affects the City of
Mr. Braun (continued): Springdale, but all of the fourteen local jurisdictions that my firm represents, and, quite frankly, it’s on the minds of our residents. You should be aware that on March 13th, Attorney General Dave Yost issued a legal opinion that is widely circulating on the internet in which he talked about the fact that there may be a basis for communities to meet virtually and that it may be permissible under Ohio law. Unfortunately, we don’t operate here, or in any other community on what may be legal, or what may be permissible. Attorney General Yost in all of his wisdom, and I mean that sincerely, realized after he released that letter, that communities can’t rely on what “might be legal”. And, on March 16th, he organized a conference call and opened it to any and all solicitors and legal counsel that represents local governments. The call was so widely tuned into, that Attorney General Yost himself could not get through on that established phone line in order to host that phone call. After about 30 minutes of everything, they expanded the call and everyone was able to participate. But, on that call, it was decided by Attorney General Yost that he is going to ask Governor Dewine to enter an Executive Order similar to the Governor of California that will allow for virtual meetings to take place.

So that you understand, the law in Ohio does not, and this is a very unpopular thing to say, but, it does not allow the public to ask questions at a public meeting. It does not allow the public to make comments at a public meeting. It allows them to view the meeting as it takes place. It also says that your meetings must be in-person. The reason for that is a public policy reason. If you’re casting votes, we don’t know if someone’s at home impersonating you, holding a gun to your head; it has to be by your own free will, so, we do it in the eyes of the public. We take that very seriously here in the State of Ohio, more than many states. So, Attorney General Yost is going to ask in the coming days, Governor Dewine to enter an Executive Order and at the same time, Speaker Larry Householder, I was informed this morning, has agreed that he is going to attempt to call the Legislature back into session next week for the sole purpose of addressing this issue and putting into place some kind of regulations that will allow for this.

However, anyone in the healthcare industry will tell you that is probably a two-week process and the next two weeks, none of us can predict where these cases are going to go and whether this organization or this body is going to be able to convene seven people or four people or even five people to have a legally binding meeting. So, later today, you’re going to be asked to put in place an emergency declaration that will assume you can’t get together. We’ll talk more about that later. But, what I can tell you is that as we sit here today, the law in Ohio is you cannot meet and cast votes virtually. One of the most popular reasons on that telephone call involves our Bond Counsel who is sitting here tonight. The number one reason that it was raised by the Attorney General that we can’t, and he realizes that after he wrote the letter that we can’t meet virtually, is Bond Counsel can’t rely on legislation that is passed that “might be legal” in order to issue bonds. That is something that the Attorney General said he had not thought about when he wrote that very popular letter on March 13th. So, what I will tell you is, is that definitely the cavalry is on its way. As I said, this changes day to day and I’m very hopeful that our Governor will stay vigilant as he has and take immediate action to give you some additional options for meeting virtually.

The second thing I wanted to talk with you about is that I have been working very closely with Chief Wells and the City Administrator to address Mayor’s Court and whether we’re going to continue to have Mayor’s Court. What I can tell you is that we have put in place an order that I drafted working off of some of the orders that have been used in county courts and federal courts that will continue until the statute of limitations on all of our Mayor’s Court cases so that we won’t lose the ability to prosecute or levy fines as needed on those cases. Coincidentally, three days after I circulated the order, on the Ohio Municipal Attorney’s Association, a sample order circled back that looked awful familiar to me because it was the one we had drafted. So, they’re out there, we’re addressing these issues and we’re on top of it.

I also wanted to again thank Nurse Ellis and their staff because we also drafted all of the cease and desist orders you heard her talking about and the one thing I can tell you that if businesses and organizations are not compliant, the ORC (Ohio Revised Code) allows for those cease and desist letters to be delivered by our Police Department and they are currently doing that and if they’re not in compliance, then they have to petition me on behalf of the City to go to Common Pleas Court and get an injunction that would allow us to then shut those organizations and businesses down. We’re working on those.
Mr. Braun (continued): The last issue I want to talk to you about does not relate to the coronavirus, which is that before you tonight, you will not see any legislation related to the repeal of certain firearms provisions in your Code, which we had been talking about potentially bringing before you. The reason for that is since that has gone into effect, there have been several decisions and opinions that have been released that have not stated that things like the discharge of firearms in the City limits does not apply to that, hunting and the use of a firearm for the purposes of hunting does not apply, and the various trade show regulations regarding the carrying of firearms do not relate to that. As a result, our Code is compliant and we’re not going to need to make any revisions to it to keep compliant with that regulation. That’s a relief to me because those are often controversial and quite frankly, I feel that our Code doesn’t need to be tooled to be compliant with that. So, that’s all I have for you tonight until we talk about the emergency declaration, but, if you have any questions, or any concerns, you can obviously address those to the Administrator and I can just tell you that if you’re waiting for something from my office, be patient because we’ve been a little overwhelmed, but we’re trying to stay on top of this and answer all of the questions because they’re fast and furious.

President Vanover: Mr. Braun, you’re talk about that emergency measure is Resolution No. R6-2020?

Mr. Braun: That’s correct.

President Vanover: And we’ll add that to the agenda here at a point once we get through this stuff.

Engineer’s Report

Mr. Shvegzda: On Landan Lane, we did have the pre-construction meeting last week. The project construction will begin mid-June and will last approximately two months during the construction. Contract completion date is September 4th. Beacon Hills Subdivision Street Grind and Resurfacing, we had the pre-construction meeting today. We actually had that by conference call. We did learn that Jurgensen’s office, Jurgensen is the contractor on the project. Their offices are currently closed. They haven’t called back their field personnel. They won’t do that any earlier than March 27th, so they’re still kind of figuring out how schedules will be fulfilled, and, consequently, they don’t have a schedule for the Beacon Hill Subdivision Project. East Crescentville Road, public involvement letters have been mailed out to the residents and we’ll wait for comments on that. Stage 2 planned development is underway and the utility meeting that we had scheduled for today, has been cancelled. That concludes my report.

Communications - None
Communications from the Audience - None

President Vanover: Before we jump into our Ordinances and Resolutions, you have it in front of you, we’ve had a request to add Resolution No. R06-2020 to the agenda. At that, I’ll entertain a motion to do so.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I’d like to make a motion to add Resolution No. R06-2020 to our agenda.

Mrs. Emerson: Second.

Motion to add Resolution No. R06-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.
Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 10-2020
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, OHIO LABOR COUNCIL FOR THE FULL-TIME PATROL OFFICERS IN THE SPRINGDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 10-2020; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Mr. Hawkins: I just wanted to confirm. So, because this is going to be in effect from January 1, 2020, they’ll get retroactive pay.

Mr. Jones: That is correct Mr. Hawkins. I would just like to say what a pleasure it was to work with the Police Department on the union contract. Previously, we had very good negotiations with the Fire Department, then we had it with the Supervisors in the Police Department, and now with the patrol. It was fantastic to deal with them and they really get the bigger picture and I’m proud of the fact we got it resolved in a timely manner.

Mayor Webster: I’d just like to say thanks to the folks at the union and also commend John (Jones) on a job well done. I think we’ve gone through all the union contracts within the last year and I think all of them have been settled, well, I know they all have been settled without any arbitration or any outside influence and I think that’s a real tribute to John and his staff to be able to do that. So, John, well done.

Ordinance No. 10-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 11-2020
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHTEEN REPLACEMENT PORTABLE RADIOS AND ACCESSORIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 11-2020; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mayor Wester: I’d just like to remind Council this was in the budget, but it is in the Capital Improvements budget and at budget time, we were going to try and finance it over two years with a full payout lease, and the more we looked at it, we figured we need to start reducing some debt. I think Mr. Anderson brought that up a couple of meetings ago, and so, I suggested that we just pay the $94,000, which it was supposed to be $47,000 and $47,000 and so I ran that past the Capital Improvements ladies last meeting and we all concurred that that was the way we wanted to go with it. I think the other thing to point out is that there is a companion ordinance that will probably be up at the next meeting and that’s for the Police Department. Now, that one is a little bit bigger because that was going to be spread over five years like at $32,000 a year, so, we’d like to take the same approach to that and that’s going to be about $175,000. So, that will be coming down the pike here very shortly, but we’d like to also pay for that. And, also, while we’re talking about debt, we also made the final payment on our fire truck. (Applause) But, hold the applause; before the year is out we’ll probably be back before you for a ladder wagon or another pumper, I’m not sure which way we’re going to go with that yet, but, anyway, we’re getting this debt off of the books.

Mr. Anderson: My question was about the budget because I only showed that as half the amount, so, thank you for clarifying that.

Ordinance No. 11-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.
Resolution No. R05-2020
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY’S PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN COOPERATION WITH THE PORT AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS TO EFFECTUATE SUCH FINANCING

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R05-2020; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Resolution No. R05-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R06-2020
A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R06-2020; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mr. Anderson: When are we going to get additional background on what this all would cover as a declaration or should I just ask some direct questions first? I didn’t know if it would be easier if the Law Director maybe could give us a little bit more?

Mr. Braun: Yes. So, we prepared this resolution. There are numerous reasons that we prepared this resolution. Not to mention the fact that you heard lots of information from our Health Department tonight regarding, not only a matter that is occurring outside our community, but right here in the City of Springdale. We’ve got residents that have begun to be self-quarantined, and without going into too many details, the situation that occurred in Butler County also has some connections to Springdale as well. Some things that you need to be aware of; by passing this, you are essentially planning for what is yet to come.

What I mean by that is, you heard the Mayor indicate that he’s recommending you not meet next month at your next scheduled meeting. We’re not certain that we’ll be able to get a quorum together in order to take some actions that might need to be taken on behalf of the City. If you are able to convene a quorum of this Council, you meet as you normally do and you can continue to exercise your power.

However, you’re empowering the Mayor, and, in some instances, the City Administrator to act in your stead by passing this resolution. I’ll give you some examples of some things that could arise. For one, by declaring a real and present emergency, and waiving the competitive bidding requirements, it’s possible, you heard them say, we may need an emergency supply of medical equipment. That is something that could exceed what you’ve budgeted for and you’re authorizing them to make those purchases. Now, they will come back to you later to be ratified, but you’re authorizing them to take action to immediately purchase those without going through the bidding process, without you voting on it and authorizing it in advance.

In addition to that though, you’re also, in Section 4, you’re authorizing the Mayor to take extraordinary power. This is something that really only occurs in emergency, but I’ll give you a very good example. It’s possible that with all of the children not being in school, no restaurants open, no theaters open, that you’re having a problem with kids at night going into the parks, you’re having a problem with kids roaming the streets. You’re empowering the Mayor, if he wants to, to impose a curfew. You’re proposing the Mayor if people are not honoring the cease and desist orders that our Police are doing; you’re authorizing him to do what John Cranley did, which is to board up a business and say, “You’re not going to operate until this is over”, and we’re going to make sure you comply. I can’t sit here and answer all of your questions and say what may need to be done. It could be as simple as a street closure because a certain neighborhood has a serious outbreak and you want your Police to close that road.

Because I can’t sit here and anticipate what actions are going to need to be taken, nor can you, we’re empowering the Mayor, and, in some instances, the City Administrator to do what needs to be done. The reason that we empower the Mayor to do that is: a) He’s elected,
Mr. Braun (continued): and b) He acts as a CEO of the organization. And, to some extent, he does still respond to Council and you have control ultimately. Those of you that may ask me, “Well, how long is this going to last?” “Is this a blank checkbook?” “Is this a blank power of authority?” Every time this body meets, I’m going to recommend you revisit whether this is the right time to revoke this resolution and I would ask that that be a continuing item on your agenda to reevaluate where we are in this emergency. And, if we reach a point, and hopefully soon, where we feel that we have reached that point, then I would say that you can revoke that power and that resolution or alter it as is needed. It’s often that we sit here in meetings and you very nonchalantly read a resolution where you declare an emergency. This is an emergency. It’s not just declaring an emergency, but it’s saying that the City is in a State of Emergency because it is. I can tell you that this is my third time having to give this speech before an elected body, and, I’m sure that you’ll have lots of questions about it. But, I will tell you that I cannot predict all of the things that may need to be done, but you do need to understand that you’re ceding a portion of your power to the Mayor and the City Administrator. It’s a serious thing. But, with that comes responsibility for them to act in the best interests of your residents where you may not be able to. So, I’m happy to address any questions.

Mr. Anderson: Just two questions on what you said. And, I appreciate it. I have no doubt that this is extraordinary circumstances and this is a real emergency. I don’t doubt that for a second. I just want to make sure I understand what all is happening with this resolution and that it’s tailored appropriately to what we know today and what we can anticipate in the future. So, you had mentioned the need to revisit, reoccurring to revoke it. I’ve seen other communities with similar resolutions that are passed and they include at the time of passage an endpoint which would mean instead of revisiting to revoke, you revisit to reaffirm. I’m wondering what, from a legal standpoint, is there any reason we wouldn’t be able to do that, understanding there’s some risk you’re trying to mitigate if we’re not able to get a quorum, but there’s ways to address that. So, why would we want to revisit to revoke instead of revisit to reaffirm?

Mr. Braun: That’s a good question and, actually, when I originally wrote this, I had filled in a date. And then I started to think about the fact that, “How do I know in the future if that’s going to be the right time that we can get together and do this?” It could expire by its own term and you might not be able to get a quorum together in order to renew it. I think the more prudent action, given the fact that you do meet twice a month, or attempt to meet twice a month, I think the more prudent action is for you to simply, as part of the passage, maybe make a motion after it passes that says, “We will revisit this X number of times”. The only reason I didn’t put an expiration date; one community suggested theirs be December. I think that’s inappropriate. I would hope by then that we can meet. You saw that the Governor (Dewine) had recommended, for instance, the election take place in June. And now the Legislature is saying, “Well, what’s magic about June?” I would say the same thing to you. If you fill in a date, I can’t tell you that that date will work. If you, as a body, would prefer to fill in a date, that’s obviously your prerogative. I just think that, and maybe someone else with more knowledge can speak to this, but I just don’t know what date to even recommend to you.

Mr. Anderson: I guess on that aspect, I wonder if it’s possible to word it so that it revokes unless the body is unable to reach a quorum for a scheduled meeting within that period of time. So, it would have an “auto-extend” to deal with that one situation without ceding all of this authority and accountability with open-ended. So, is it possible to have it end with a clause that if we’re unable to meet with a quorum, over that period of time, that it auto-extends for 30 days?

Mr. Braun: I think that’s something you could do. I just don’t recommend it.

Mr. Anderson: Because?

Mr. Braun: Because I think that there is a high probability that, for several reasons. Number one, why would you put a date and say if we can’t meet, it will auto-extend. It’s better to put it in place and leave it there until you can meet. It also takes away any question as to whether that authority is in effect or is not in effect. There could be questions raised as to whether you could have met, and didn’t meet, whether you were willing to meet. I personally think that this might be one of those instances where you really don’t know “What is the appropriate date to fill in”. I think you could address the issue by simply having a motion that follows this that says, “We will revisit this whenever we are able to meet”. 
Mr. Anderson: On the communication side, you mentioned, so, if were ceding this decision-making, is there any increased requirement for communications of actions taken under this resolution back to the body so that we can monitor and better understand what the consequences of this decision are? Is there anything that is required from that from a communications standpoint?

Mr. Braun: Again, I think if your concern is that an action might be taken and you just want to have notification of that, maybe also, it might be appropriate for Council, and you can decide how you want to word that, to say, anytime, or maybe you want to have the Mayor and the City Administrator give you bi-weekly or weekly updates as to what actions are being taken, maybe you guys can decide that. I would recommend a motion to do that. I think that’s a very good idea. When I originally drafted this, I had something in here that said that, “If money above a certain amount was spent, notice must be given” and then I started to think well, “How do I even anticipate all the other things that might happen?” Maybe what you do is a motion after this that would state you want bi-weekly reports while this is in effect from the Mayor and the Administrator as to what actions are being taken across the City. I would hope they do that anyway. But, I think that’s a very good way to ensure accountability.

Mr. Hawkins: I acknowledge that obviously we do have a serious situation going on and, at the same time, acknowledge, as you stated, it is a very significant thing for members of Council and Council as a whole to give up their power with regard to this situation. You’ve indicated and it’s clear that this would be indefinite unless and until Council were to revoke it. I just want to be clear; that would take a majority vote not a super majority?

Mr. Braun: Simple majority. As it will take a simple majority to pass it.

Mr. Hawkins: And, with regard to the actions that will be taken that ordinarily would be requiring Council’s action, do those actions have to be related to the issue of the emergency with regard to the Coronavirus disease outbreak or can it be anything?

Mr. Braun: Well, I originally, lawyer minds might think alike. I originally drafted this to say, “Take any and all actions related to the COVID-19 virus.” And then I started to think about it. Is that too limiting? And, I’ll give you a very good example. The Mayor, within the last two hours in a meeting indicated, and I’m not going to steal any thunder here, but, maybe we need to revisit, for instance, offering an extension to our residents for the payment of certain income taxes or fees and things like that. I’m not sure that that might not be questioned down the road as to whether that’s directly related or not related, so I chose not to put that limiting restriction in there. But, see, I think that goes back to the fact that if they did take some action that you felt exceeded the intent of this, at your very next meeting, you could revoke that action, as a body. You have, and I want to clarify as well, you haven’t given up your power. You’ve extended your power to them when you can’t meet.

Mr. Ramirez: As the discussions went along, most of my questions were answered, but a couple of new ones came forward. I would like to have a time frame on it even if we had to reinitiate it every meeting, every other meeting. And, also, what Mr. Hawkins was speaking of; does it have to be associated with the COVID-19 in particular to implement this resolution? One instance, you said, like a curfew. So, a curfew can be COVID-19 or it could be just rowdy kids. So, I guess the second part of that question is, “How do we know it’s related to the COVID-19 before we give those powers for the Mayor to take action. Also, I would like to see that we would get, as I understand it, this is a “backup” from us not being available to meet and make decisions and certainly, in those instances, something needs to be done. So, in that instance, as it being a backup, I would be in favor of it. But, I would like to see a term on it.

Mayor Webster: My understanding is this not a “backup”. So, to answer that question. I think it’s probably a matter of trust and I’d just like to say that every time I have raised my hand and taken the oath of office for this office, I’ve certainly taken that as a very solemn duty and responsibility. I think this just takes it one step further and I can just assure and the residents of the City that regardless of what powers that I’m given here, that those will be used with a lot of discretion and very judiciously and everything will be done in the best interest of the City and we will make every effort to communicate any extraordinary actions that we’ve taken under this authority and share that with Council at the next meeting or an email if it’s
Mayor Webster (continued): something that needs to go out right away. I understand your reluctance maybe to give up some of your Council powers, but, believe me, it’s not a power move on the part of Administration, it’s strictly brought about by the emergency. So, I’d appreciate Council’s consideration of this.

Mrs. Emerson: Mr. Webster, you kind of took everything I was going to say. I think it’s time now that we all bring forth our faith. We have elected Doyle Webster to be our Mayor. I think we need to trust him and have faith. We hired Mr. Jones as our City Administrator and we also hired Mr. Braun for our Law Director. This is a true emergency. I do not think we need to put time limits on this. I think we need to watch and see how it goes. We have the capability of revoking this. So, I think as far as putting time limits on it, I totally disagree. I also have full faith in City Administration and Mayor Webster that they will keep us informed of what’s been going on. They have in the past, and I have full faith that whatever goes on and whatever they pass that they will keep us informed. The only question I have for the Law Director is he has the City Administrator and the Mayor follow what the Governor’s says, is that correct?

Mr. Braun: Yes. This would not empower them to take any action inconsistent with or less restrictive than obviously the President, or the Governor would put in place. There are still basic restrictions on what they can do.

Mrs. Emerson: I just strongly suggest to everybody up here on the dais that you pass this without limiting and tying their hands. They need to be able to work. That’s all. Thanks.

Mrs. McNear: You know, this is, first of all, I don’t have the opportunity to vote one way or the other on this situation, but, folks, let’s keep our eye on the ball here. This is a situation that is changing by the second. This is something that is very grave. Let's face it, we don’t really have a lot of power and we just don’t want anyone’s ego to get in the way of this where we’re thinking we’re ceding our power to the Mayor and the City Administrator for “X” period of time. This is so we can take immediate action to protect ourselves, our families, our residents, our community; in whole all of the people that work in this City. Please, please pass this. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: I just want to make sure I was clear from earlier. The questions I was asking were in no way to imply any lack of faith or that this is in no way; this is an emergency, I get that. I just want to clarify for expectations so that it doesn’t get in the way of your duties when it becomes one of those moments when you need to do some of these actions. I’d want to make sure it’s clear what, so we know, what you will and won’t do and what the expectations are going in so that you don’t have any doubt in your mind that it’s okay to do that. That you’re going to have the full support of the group up here. I support this resolution, we are in an emergency, and that’s important. I just want to make sure expectations are managed, especially around communication when extraordinary actions are taken. Going in, before I heard Mr. Braun describe some of the reasons not to put a date or an end, I felt like that was really important. Because I’ve seen so many other communities do that and it seemed appropriate. I understand the risk and the concern there, and we can come back together and do whatever we need to do. I don’t think you’re going to run off and buy 12 chippers because now you can say that’s related to COVID right? (Laughter). I know that we’re going to deal with it appropriately. It is an important situation. I do ask that you do make extra efforts to communicate to us when you take actions under this order, and it’s to help us help the community understand why we did that. Right? Because on face it looks like it’s a blank check and there are people that would want to twist that and undermine the work that we’re doing. I want to be able to tell them, “No, this the things we did because of it, and it’s to get ahead of it.” So, I support it, as written, but, I ask that you take extra steps to communicate when you do those things. I do think we can make a motion after this to ask for something formal just so we have a “guardrail” for when we get those, but, I would hope that you would exceed that communication. It doesn’t have to be a 12 page email; just a note saying, “This is the situation we had, and here’s what I did.” Because people come to us with these questions too. “What have you done?” And, otherwise we play this game of “telephone” in the community if nothing is happening and that just becomes a feedback cycle that makes things worse. It generates more calls for you too. So, I agree with Mrs. Emerson that this is important. I’m comfortable with what it is, but, please take extra steps to communicate when you work on these. Thank you.
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Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I did contact Mr. Braun when I got this. I had questions about it. I point-blank asked the question, “Is this a blank check?” “Does this give up all the power that we have?” Because these are questions that people will have. When people hear we’re declaring a state of emergency, they hear, “Emergency” and they go into emergency mode. I want to make sure that we have the correct information that we’re bringing back to people who have questions about this. When people hear of a state of emergency, they think, “Oh, well, what’s going to happen? Is the Mayor going to have Martial Law?” I don’t think that that’s the case that’s going to happen here. I have faith in the Mayor and I have faith in John (Jones), the City Administrator that things will be done appropriately. I think that you will communicate with us as you have communicated pretty much everything that you’ve done in this City; even when it wasn’t required, we’ve gotten communication back about certain things. I think that it is important that we have the open communication, which I’m sure that you would do. I do support this and I think it’s a great idea and I don’t think that we should have a date on this because we don’t know what this is going to look like yet. It’s better to be safe than sorry if we can revoke it at a later date. It’s easier to have a “no date” and revoke later. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: I appreciate all your comments, and I certainly understand where you’re coming from. Mr. Anderson, as far as communications, my pledge to you and the rest of this Council, we certainly will keep you informed on any action we take with this new found authority, if you will. But, I think if it makes you feel any better, just like tonight I had these two ladies here. We didn’t have to do that, we didn’t have to bring those people in here, but I thought it was important that you guys hear it firsthand from the people out there on the firing line. I will certainly continue to do that; to keep you guys up to date on everything that’s going on involving this emergency.

Resolution No. R06-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much Council. Appreciate it.

President Vanover: Following that, there was, while it’s still fresh in our minds, discussion about what Mr. Braun pointed out, are we doing a motion or what that we revisit this on a timely basis? Every meeting? Well, we don’t know whether we’re going to be where, why or what. But, I think that it is not “carte-blanche” and we’re not looking to do that, I think that we still hold the key that we can reel that back in. Discussion on that…

Mr. Anderson: I’d like to make a motion to add revisiting this ordinance as a reoccurring item on our formal agenda until further notice.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

Motion to add Resolution No. R06-2020 as a reoccurring agenda item until further notice passes with seven affirmative votes.

Mr. Anderson: I might need some help from Mr. Braun on this. I do want to add, and I don’t know if it’s to make a resolution or a change that we do get at least a written report of actions taken under this resolution and I’m open to bi-weekly or some other period just so we have some formal touchpoint via email that would go to Council or something like that. What would be the best way to make a motion like that or add that? Mr. Braun had mentioned a motion like that would be possible.

Mr. Braun: Yes. I would just say you could make a motion that advises the Mayor and/or City Administrator to notify Council at least twice a week of what, if any actions have been taken in furtherance of the efforts related to the Coronavirus.

Mr. Anderson: Would it be less burdensome to the Administration if we just asked to include that in the Administrator’s Report that’s already part of the general process? Would that be something that would be less intrusive?

Mayor Webster: You mean the Pending Legislation Report he puts out?

Mr. Anderson: Yes. Because there’s already a section for other items of interest.
Mayor Webster: That would be the most convenient place for us to communicate rather than twice a week. I think that’s a little overkill, personally.

Mr. Anderson: I’m not looking for it to be intrusive or add burden, because I know it’s busy, but I think if we add that to the Administrator’s Report, that would be a good place for the public to also know to look since that gets posted.

Mayor Webster: Okay. That’s a great idea. That would at least summarize everything that’s taken place. But, believe me, if there’s anything significant that takes place between then, then we’ll fire off an email to you guys right away.

Mr. Braun: I will tell you if any of you are interested, I received 16 emails today from Mr. Clayton with updates of what is going on around the State if you’re interested, I’m sure he’d be happy to forward those to you.

Mr. Anderson: I think we get those emails too forwarded several times. The reason I like it there is because then the public also has an opportunity to review it too, which I think is important. Not just the intermittent emails that we’ll get. Do you need that as a motion or can we just assume that that will be picked up.

Mayor Webster: Consider that done.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Old Business

President Vanover: I gave to you this evening the schedule of payment for the different boards. I’ll give you a chance to digest it and look at it and next meeting we’ll bring it up. That way, everybody gets a chance to see what it is and what we’ve got.

Mr. Ramirez: Back up one if you would. I believe on this list, unless it’s changed since I’ve been on the Recreation Commission, the annual pay would be $450 as they only meet nine months out of the year.

Mayor Webster: They only meet nine months.

Mr. Ramirez: So times $50, so it would be $450 and not $600.

Mayor Webster: And it’s the same way with Health, the Health Board only meets nine months a year.

Mr. Ramirez: Thank you.

New Business

Mayor Webster: I brought up the subject of cancelling next month’s meeting. If you guys would take that up.

Mr. Anderson: Is there legislation that would be pushed off or purchases that are already scheduled? I know the gun ordinances were discussed, but that’s not a pending issue. What would we be kicking down the road if we didn’t meet?

Mayor Webster: We have a couple of issues that we need to talk about. If you decide to do that we can work around that we want to share with you and I do have one resolution that I would like to add to the agenda if you decide not to meet next time and it involves the Board of Health and I think it’s extremely critical that we have a full Board of Health. It’s a resolution confirming my appointment to the Board.

Mrs. Emerson: I agree that we should do all that we can to minimize contact with each other so, I would like to go to the once a month meeting.
Mr. Hawkins: I would agree that any opportunity to reduce the amount of folks being in close proximity makes sense. Obviously, I think that is there’s something that comes up that is appropriate for Council to come together and is an emergency despite the resolution we just passed, I think everybody would be willing to come together and meet.

Mr. Anderson: And to that point, I was going to make a similar comment that I agree that limiting exposure is a good thing. I think we should lead by example. If there isn’t something that’s important now, I would ask that everyone keep that date open anyway so that, if we do need to call it as an emergency, we can know that that’s a good date, so, I’ll do that. That way we can avoid using the emergency powers if we can help it. Thank you.

President Vanover: The only person that might object would be my wife because she’s working from home until the first of the month, so we’re in close contact (laughter).

Mr. Ramirez: Looking over the home charter rule, it looks like Council should not be required to hold more than one regular meeting each per month. Thank you.

President Vanover: So, would we need a motion? (Mr. Braun nods ‘yes’)

Mr. Anderson: I’d like to make a motion that we cancel our regularly scheduled April 1st meeting.

Mr. Hawkins: Second.

Mr. Anderson: Just one point on that. So we’re just planning to do that and then at the 15th meeting we can decide again for the next month is the intent that I envisioned with that just so everyone knows it was intentional for one meeting. Thank you.

Motion to cancel the regularly scheduled Council meeting on April 1st passes with seven affirmative votes.

Mayor Webster: Okay, since you people have cancelled the meeting next month (laughter), I’ve got a problem. No, unfortunately, Mrs. Lynn Jones, who, I think, was my first appointment when I was elected Mayor back in 1995, to the Board of Health. She’s been with me all the way. Unfortunately, she has had to move out of the city and so she attended her last meeting this past Thursday and so I need to replace her. Right now the Board of Health has got one member whose husband has had a stroke. She wasn’t at the meeting and not sure of the situation there. We’ve got another one that’s a local pharmacist here and, needless to say, he’s having a hard time getting away from the front desk to attend the meetings and so with this vacancy, we’re really hurting. So, I need this confirmation. This is for Carol Quinlan-Hall. You might know her husband. He serves on Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission, Tom (Hall). She’s a Springdale resident. Has been most of her adult life, now living in Olde Gate. She was a registered nurse in the State of Ohio since 1970. She’s a graduate of the Christ Hospital School of Nursing. Au pair operative certification. Wilmington College Undergraduate business degree. Master’s Degree in 2002 and a majority of her nursing has been spent as an OR nurse and Director of Surgical Services at Mercy Hospital. She worked also in sales and marketing with Delta Airlines. She’s retired. She has time to serve and she would very much like to give back to the community. As a matter of fact, she attended as a guest member at this past meeting and I think everybody was pretty impressed with her. I’d certainly appreciate your support this evening for confirming Mrs. Quinlan-Hall to the Board of Health. Thank you very much.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Braun, do we need to formally make a motion to add this to the agenda? (Mr. Braun nodded ‘yes’). I so move to add Resolution No. R07-2020 confirming the Mayor’s appointment of Carol Quinlan-Hall as a member of the Board of Health to the agenda.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I was just going to say that I think that she is going to be a great addition. I know her personally. I think she’s a wonderful person and I think she’ll be a great addition to your Board of Health.
Motion to add Resolution No. R07-2020 to the agenda passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R07-2020
CONFIRMING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF CAROL QUINLAN-HALL AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R07-2020; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Hawkins: I just wanted to echo what Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup indicated. This is an individual who has a great perspective and I think has the interest of the community at heart and has for a number of years.

Resolution No. R07-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Mr. Jones: With regard to the fact that we have cancelled the April 1st meeting now. We had an ordinance on authorizing the purchase of a John Deere utility tractor for our Public Works Department. It does not hit the threshold of $50,000 that we would bring to Council, however, the Mayor and I had talked about it and we talked with Public Works and we thought we’d bring it before Council just to kind of enlighten you guys as to what was going on. But, it doesn’t meet that. We don’t necessarily have to have Council’s approval, but I wanted to share with you that we do still want to move forward on that. I’m in a situation now where two things; one is a budgeted $71,000, it turns out it’s going to end up costing up $41,954.72, which is great and I appreciate Public Works efforts on that. We traded in an old 1977 Ford 3600 industrial tractor and we got $2,500 for it. We haven’t done anything yet, but that tractor is waiting for us to grab and mowing season is absolutely upon us. I just wanted to share with Council if there’s no objections, we’d like to move forward on that and we’ll end up not having this reappear back on our legislation in the future.

President Vanover: Any objections Council? (None)

Mr. Jones: Thank you very much.

Executive Session

Mrs. Emerson: I make a motion that Council go into Executive Session pursuant to the Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee and Section 121.22. (G)(4) for reviewing negotiations of bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensations or other terms of employment.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

Mayor Webster: Hold on just a minute. I’m not sure. Did you just repeat that from last meeting? Okay, well, I don’t think the second part is apropos. We don’t have any employment issues. So, the first part is fine.

Mrs. Emerson: Okay. So do you need me to reread it?

Mr. Braun: Go ahead and reread it without.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I retract my second to the motion for executive session.

Mrs. Emerson made a motion that Council go into Executive Session pursuant to the Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote to go into Executive Session. Council departed chambers at 8:35 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 9:27 p.m.

Mr. Hawkins: We don’t need a formal resolution, just an oral motion? I’m making a motion to add Mr. Andy Kuchta to the Springrose Board.
Mr. Anderson:  Second.  I just wanted to add.  So this is a motion to replace Amanda Zimmerlin who was previously on the board?  This is the group that is working with the Springrose New Community Authority and that group has to meet again soon to adjust for some bond issues with the Port Authority so we should take care of this tonight.

President Vanover:  Right.  Exactly.

Motion to add Andy Kuchta to the Springrose New Community Authority to replace Amanda Zimmerlin passes with seven affirmative votes.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup:  Planning Commission is scheduled to meet in these chambers at 7:00 p.m. on April 14th.

Mrs. Emerson:  God willing, the Board of Health will meet on April 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room adjacent to here.

Mrs. Ghantous:  Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the chambers here.

President Vanover:  Something with the COVID-19 stuff, Council we had decided that we would visit new community members.  Probably right now is not the best time.  I would say we would put them all on hold.

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. 10-2020; an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council for the Full-Time Patrol Officers in the Springdale Police Department and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote.  Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 11-2020; an Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Contract with Motorola Solutions for the Purchase of Eighteen Replacement Portable Radios and Accessories and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote.  Item Number III was addressed with Resolution No. R05-2020; a Resolution Authorizing the City of Springdale's Participation in Financing Public Improvements in Cooperation with the Port Authority and Authorizing the Execution of Documents to Effectuate Such Financing. That passed with a 7-0 vote.  Item Number IV which was Amending Various Sections of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale related to the right to bear arms was discussed, but there was no legislation for this evening.  Item Number V will be addressed at the next meeting.  We also had Resolution No. R06-2020; a Resolution Declaring a State of Emergency In The City of Springdale Due to the Coronavirus Disease Outbreak. That passed with a 7-0 vote.  Which will be reviewed at every meeting.  We also made the decision with a 7-0 vote to cancel the April 1st 2020 meeting.  We also had Resolution No. R07-2020; Confirming the Mayor’s Appointment of Carol Quinlan-Hall as a Member of the Board of Health.  That passed with a 7-0 vote.  We also added Andy Kuchta to the Springrose Community Board with a 7-0 vote.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins:  Are you wanting Item Number V with regard to the tractor for the 15th or are we good based on the other discussion.

Mr. Jones:  Thank you Mr. Hawkins.  Mr. President, we plan to go ahead if there are no objections and get that done so we can have that for mowing season.  So we will remove that item.

Mr. Hawkins:  So, there’s nothing that we have listed on here unless there’s anything from Administration or Council.
Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved
Tom Vanover, President of Council

________________________, 2020