

City of Springdale Council

January 20, 2021

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on January 20, 2021.

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

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

The minutes of the January 6, 2021 meeting were considered. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes with one abstention (Ghantous).

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Jones: Mr. Coleman asked that I report on behalf of the Civil Service Commission. They did not meet in January. There were no items or lack of items for the agenda. However, the next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 4th at 2:00 p.m. and it will be here at the City Building. That's all. Thank you.

Rules and Laws	Mrs. Emerson	-	No report
Finance Committee	Mr. Hawkins	-	No report

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: The Planning Commission met on January 12th and we had two new orders of business. Our first thing, actually, before that, was we elected our new officers. We have Dave Okum as the Chairman, Steve Galster as the Vice Chairman, and Bob Diehl as our Secretary. We also voted Dave Okum as the Municipal Liaison to the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. He has served for many, many years at this and he asked to be on it again, and we're glad to have him do that. Our New Business was Springdale Plaza, 425 East Kemper Road. It was a Minor Modification. It was where Michael's used to be, Michael's Craft store. There will be an Aldi's grocery store going in. And, the timeframe that we were given was within the year. So, that one was approved 6-0. And, then we had the Tri County Commons at 11750 Commons Drive, Storage Cube for a Final Development Plan. That is where the home furnishings used to be and there's a Storage Cube going in. It is indoor climate-controlled storage. That was passed by a 6-0 vote and that is all that I have. Thank you.

Board of Zoning Appeals	Mrs. Ghantous	-	No report
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Board of Health

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health met on January 14th and they have been pretty much just busy with the COVID-19 and vaccinations. As of January 8th, we had 85 Springdale residents from 75 different homes under isolation. We have had 738 cases and six deaths in Springdale and that is of January 10th. As far as Public Health Accreditation, they have not rescheduled the site visit. They are looking at possibly in May. For Medicaid Administration Claiming, for November 2020, we received \$8,308. Recent Food Program activity, Home2Suites on Pictoria Drive is approved for operations. They're not yet open, but they're hoping by Super Bowl, they will be open. Bugatti's restaurant at 340 Glensprings Drive is approved and plans to begin operations in early February. Juicy Crab on Princeton Pike is in operation now. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup already told you about the Aldi's. I wanted to share that news, but she stole it. As far as the Nurse's Report, the Narcan Report for November of 2020 was nine doses, the December 2020 report was ten doses. For vaccinations, so far, we have given 400 doses for COVID-19 and we are still in Phase 1A, and we're starting Phase 1B as of yesterday, and the tentative plan is as of January 19, which was yesterday, we are starting people 80 years and older. On the 25th, they're going to do ages 75 and older. On February 1st, it will be 70 years and older, and then they're also going to implement K-12 teachers and staff so that they hopefully can get to the hybrid education, or in-class education. February 8th, they're looking at ages 65 and older. You can contact the Springdale Health Department if you have any questions or concerns or to schedule an appointment to get the vaccination at (513) 346-5725. That concludes my report, unless there's any questions (none).

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Capital Improvements report Mrs. Emerson - No

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI Board met for its first meeting of the year on January 14th. We thanked the outgoing Board President and then seated a new board. Other than that, it was largely administrative. There was no action taken otherwise. Thank you.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: I'd like to start off by reading something that's fresh off of the presses. We just got this in the office today. It's a Resolution that's been awarded to our Springdale Health Department, and it's from the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners. It's a Resolution in Recognition of Distinguished Service for 2020. It's in response to the COVID-19 response.

"WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director's Journal Entry making COVID-19 a Class A reportable disease in Ohio, and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern, and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency for the entire State of Ohio to protect the well-being of the citizens of the Ohio from the dangerous effects of COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, Ohio's local health departments have worked tirelessly since March 2020 with state and local partners to coordinate response to this worldwide pandemic by implementing science-based public health mitigation efforts including case investigation and contact tracing, promoting and providing testing for all citizens, providing technical assistance to government, business, schools and other local entities to provide safe environments for their employees and customers, and enforcing state-issued orders aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 in their communities,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners recognizes Springdale Health Department for its exemplary performance in leading the response to COVID-19

Dave Covell, President"

We really appreciate that and we're glad to see our Health Department get that recognition. Just a few other things. I think I gave you the final numbers of the SOS (Adopt a Family) at the last Council meeting. We had a wrap up meeting today. Just to sum it up in a few words, those people, all the members of the Board and everyone involved with the effort just did a fantastic job and as I indicated last meeting, I think we had 92 families that we helped. So, we've set a lofty goal this year for 2021 of trying to reach out to at least 100 families. Once again, I'd like to thank all of you for your support be it either adopting a family or your financial support. Here again, Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup stole everybody's thunder with announcing Aldi's application at the Planning Commission. We're very, very happy to see the Aldi's store locate here in Springdale and the latest news I got from them was it will probably be early fourth quarter before they're open, so there's a lot of work to do to get a grocery store

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Mayor Webster (continued): ready for opening. Just a brief recap, last time I apologize for my lengthy report, but I just wanted to recap some of the events of the year. This year I'd just like to take a minute or two and tell you where we are going forward here. A year ago, to say the least, our management team was in somewhat disarray with resignations and retirements and so forth, and so on, and I'm very pleased to say that right now we think our management team is second to none and we think we're ready, locked and loaded and ready to go. Over the year, we've welcomed our Assistant City Administrator, Brian Uhl, who is with us tonight by video conference here tonight. Andy Kuchta, has taken over Economic Development efforts and is down front and center. Mr. Lamping is back in the back row back there, has taken over as the Chief Building Official. In addition to that at our Community Center, we have a new Director, Mr. Charlie Wilson, and our Police Department has a new Chief in Mr. Tom Wells. So, we think we've got an outstanding management team and we're looking forward to 2021. We're very excited to be working on our Comprehensive Plan and we'll hear a lot more about that this evening. Also, we've got several new projects on the drawing board and I'm sure that some of those have already been before Council and Planning Commission, and others will be coming in rapid succession. So, we think 2021 looks very exciting and we're looking forward to it. Like I said, we're ready to go. Thank you very much. That concludes my report.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: This evening, I do have the General Fund Report through December 31st, for receipts based on a net budget of \$22.359 million dollars, we received \$22.489 million dollars which is 101% of the anticipated budget. The major general fund resource receipts are from Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court for a total of \$20.459 million dollars which is 91% of the receipts. For expenditures through December 31st, based on the net expenditure of \$20.117 million dollars, we expended \$18.852 million dollars, which is 93% of the proposed budget. Our ending general fund balance, through December 31st was \$3.877 million dollars. Thank you.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: A couple of things tonight from the Parks and Rec through Charlie Wilson, the Director there. Parks and Rec has introduced on-line registration now to its members. They are accepting on-line registration for spring sports. Upcoming future on-line services are in the works and will be rolled out, as he says, over the next six months. If you have questions about that, feel free to contact the Community Center. Also, AARP free income tax help programs are accepting registration and if you need assistance in doing your taxes, if you get it to the Community Center on February 1st, they'll schedule your appointment and you can come on in and they'll help you with your taxes. That's all this evening. Thank you.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun

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No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Riggs: I just have a few items to go through. We have the Community Center Reroofing Project Phase I. We had a final inspection and we learned that the existing lightning protection system does not meet current UL requirements. They changed in 2007, so it's been out of compliance for a while now. But, they were tested and the lightning protection system is functioning as originally designed and the building is adequately protected from lightning strikes. The UL requirements don't allow for copper lightning cables or lightning systems to be installed directly on aluminum or galvanized steel surfaces. But, this has been reviewed and it does not appear to be a problem. There is no corrosion or anything. I just wanted to point that out to everybody. There's no change with the East Crescentville Road Improvements Project. The Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project we had our ODOT scoping meeting on January 7th. The survey work is completed and the base mapping is underway. We're still working on the schedule, but we're looking to get started, construction-wise, in October 2023, and completed the following year in October (2024). That concludes my report.

Mr. Anderson: One question please. Regarding the lightning protection and the UL listing, I understand it was tested and believed to be protective. Did we confirm that there's no issue with not coming up to code for that in regards to our insurance coverage if there were to be an issue with lightning or fire?

Mr. Riggs: Yes sir. It's not a part of the insurance requirement that it has to be UL certified. So, I don't believe there's any issue with that.

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Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Kuchta: I'm just going to introduce Liz Fields with McBride Dale Clarion, the firm that is managing this process for us and is going to be writing the text of the report, and I'm going to pull up the presentation she has for you tonight.

Ms. Fields: Thank you. Good to see you all. I just have a quick update on where we are with the Comprehensive Plan, which we're calling "Plan Springdale". If you haven't been to planspringdale.org, you can go to the website and check it out. It's still in process and will continue to be updated as we go through the process. (Presentation was displayed at this point). This is just kind of our original approach to the comprehensive plan and we're kind of right in between two and three with where we are. So, for the past couple of months, we have been working on the plan with staff and our Executive Committee. We have created and sent out our first public survey and we have an update on that within the presentation and then we've also been conducting forces and trends research and analysis and doing some demographic research and analysis on both Springdale and some comparable cities to Springdale and that will be completed in a forces and trends summary report that will be completed in the next month or so. Again, that's kind of where we are in the project approach. From here, we will continue to do community engagement and community envisioning, that should be "visioning", not "engagement", and then from that, we will write the comprehensive plan. So you can see that overview. This is the overview of the schedule. So, again, we're kind of right in that month three or four, so we've had our kind of initial kickoff meeting with our executive committee, we've had our first public survey, working on that trends report, and then you'll see kind of in the next couple of months, we'll start that visioning report from here. This is just sort of an overview of our project management team for the comprehensive plan update. So, I've mentioned we have an executive steering committee. That is a small group; I think there's about eight of us that's really the project leadership that will guide the plan through the process. So, that committee's really geared towards digging in to the plan in great detail. Looking at all the different sections of the plan as they're drafted, giving good feedback and then at the end of this process, that group will kind of make the recommendation to Council. We will also be putting together an advisory committee. That group will be more of a sounding board for the plan and will be made up of approximately 12 to 20 residents, business owners, commission and board members, basically, a good group to attempt to get the best cross section of the community that we can from a variety of topics and viewpoints to be that sounding board for the plan elements. So, we'll run all the sections of the plan through them, get their input, but they won't be tasked with, unless they choose to, really digging in to all the nuts and bolts of doing a line added text of the document, or just kind of making sure that the ideas are in line with the communities vision. Lastly, we will be creating some additional working groups. These will be both topical and geographical groups to really focus on some of our main topics and dig deeper into some topics. We know for sure Tri County Mall and Economic Development is a huge issue and a huge topic right now. So, we'll want a group that is really in tune to that topic and invested in that topic to kind of really dig in to that in more detail. Same with Parks and Recreation and the Community Center, housing, and transportation and connectivity. So, those are kind of the main four topics that we anticipate that we'll have working groups on, but, if things come up through the process, and we need to add an additional working group to address a different topic, then we can always do that as we go through. As we said, we submitted and have published the public survey. Andy, have they gotten comments, or had they gotten copies of the results?

Mr. Kuchta: They have that. They're going to be handed hard copies tonight.

Ms. Fields: Okay. So, the public survey was sent out. It was originally published in the December community newsletter that was put out, and then from there, advertised on Facebook. We have 104 completed surveys from that publication, and this is just kind of an overview of who responded to that survey. We did have a good wide age distribution of our survey respondents. You have this broken down in more detail in the report that you're going to receive later. Seventy percent of the responses came from the age groups of 35 to 44 and then 55 to 74. We didn't have a very good turnout of people under 35, so, that is something that was kind of apparent from the results and something that we'll work harder on for the next round of surveys. Two thirds of the respondents were female and 80% were white or Caucasian, which is not reflective of Springdale's racial diversity. So, that's another thing that

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Ms. Fields (continued): was a good lesson learned from this initial survey and something that we're going to do a better job about getting into a lot more neighborhoods and get our surveys in front of a lot more people moving forward. Ninety five percent of the respondents live in the City and 70% were long term residents of 20 years or longer. And then 10% of the respondents own or operate a business in Springdale. So, most of them were residents and not from a business perspective. The main takeaways were really that the residents love the City. There were very strong positive comments about the City. Kind of the main top responses were the sense of community and the quality of place that Springdale has. Its location and the Community Center and the services that the City provides. Those were kind of the main or the biggest things that people talked about on a regular basis in the responses. We asked people what they thought the biggest opportunities Springdale has and Tri County Mall and economic development were the biggest thing that people talked about. I think we all know it and it is just sort of where we go from here. Then, following that was the Community Center and community events. Expanding the opportunities, expanding the things that are available to people through the Community Center and looking at that. Then, what's next for the business economy, there was a lot of comments and concerns about turnover and vacancies in some of the business districts and things like that both due to the COVID pandemic, and on-line retailers, and so that is something that we're going to need to think creatively about of how the City wants to approach business and commercial economic development moving forward. There's a lot of "nitpicky" responses of people saying one thing here or there, but, I think this is a good kind of summary of the main things that we heard. Kind of our next steps from here, we met tonight with the Executive Committee to discuss and brainstorm advisory committee members so establishing that committee and scheduling their first meeting is kind of our next priority. Then, also, kind of on our back end, working and finalizing those research and trends; that report. So, that's kind of the next main steps and then, hopefully, we'll get that first meeting of the advisory committee scheduled in the near future, and the idea would be to present them that summary report of the research trends and forces and demographic information that would be presented to that advisory committee and then kind of the next round after that would be working to form the working groups and doing additional public engagement. This initial public engagement was intended to be kind of open-ended. We wanted to hear what people's main thoughts are, what they love about the community, what they're scared about, what issues they have and that really helps us identify and prioritize where we need to dig in in more detail and I think it confirmed a lot of the things that we already know and knew, but now we have some data to back that up. We'll be doing additional engagement probably a lot of on line surveys, maybe some in person events in the future depending upon how quickly the vaccine gets out, but, again, that will kind of dependent as we move through the process. That's all that I have if anyone has any questions or comments on where we're at or where we're going, I'd be happy to talk about it.

Mr. Anderson: Obviously, it's great that we're getting going on this and COVID is obviously making it more difficult to reach out the way we'd want to. I am very concerned about 104 responses and making too many conclusions, or starting too heavy with that, especially when we consider one to two dozen of those are probably people in public office or related to them directly, and 80% is Caucasian and of a certain age group. That's not a good basis to start a comprehensive plan. From your experience in other communities, what type of response rates have you gotten at this stage. Are we off on that and, how do we fix that?

Ms. Fields: You know, you're not too far off. We can definitely get that number up if we do more advertising and advertise in different ways. But, since this is the initial survey and, really, is kind of confirming things that we already know are either issues in the community, or things that we know people like in the community, these responses aren't creating guidelines or creating recommendations for the future. So, I think it was a good lesson learned for us of what we need to do from here on out. But, I think that it was a good mix of responses. We did get differing opinions on topics like housing, we had some people saying we needed more apartments, and some people saying no more apartments, we just need high end housing, so, and I think we can use it as a starting point, but, obviously it's not all the engagement we're going to do. In some urban communities, such as Springdale, especially now, I would say it's a little bit below average of what we could've gotten, but, I did a similar survey in Loveland just a few months ago, and I think we had 200 people instead of 100, so it's not like we're talking about thousands of additional.

Mr. Anderson: What's the population in Loveland compared to Springdale?

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Ms. Fields: Loveland is a tiny bit bigger I believe. I think Springdale is about 12,000, and I think Loveland is maybe, I don't know off the top of my head.

Mr. Anderson: Okay. I heard you mention the Community Center as a possible way to get more responses, and I know with COVID it's tough. Are there other ways that we can reach out? There's whole groups of the community that don't do Facebook as their primary source. I know you get reactions from it, but that's not representative of the population.

Mr. Kuchta: We did learn that, clearly, through this process and we had some really good discussions tonight with the Executive Committee with specific ideas on different ways we can reach different groups, different age groups, different ethnic groups, different parts of the Community, and the discussion around the advisory committee composition was also very targeted towards making sure that we're going to be tapping into people that can help us reach different groups across the community, whether it's we talked about people from churches to be part of the advisory committee, we're targeting folks that can help us engage with the Hispanic community, different parts of the community. I think you're going to see a very broad-based effort as we move forward with making sure that as we really dive into these topics that we're targeting and being very intentional in how we reach the Community as a whole.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Mr. Ramirez: My comments are pretty much on the line with Mr. Anderson's. I believe we're at like one percent of the population has been surveyed and in your business, what is a reasonable number of surveys to get a good indication of what people really want going forward? It's certainly not one percent.

Ms. Fields: We also look at it in terms of, normally this first meeting would have been a public meeting, and we would have been thrilled if 100 people showed up to a public meeting, and we would have asked them the same types of questions and probably had a different demographic come to the meeting, but it still would have been skewed in different directions if this meeting was in person. I think based on the responses and seeing trends in the responses, that's good confirmation of okay, these are topics that a lot of people are responding to. If the data came back where there wasn't trends or there was a lot of different information, we couldn't make conclusions from it, then that might be a good reason to go back out. But, I think, based on what I saw and read from this first survey, 100 was a good representation of kind of a variety of opinions, but, obviously, as we talked about, we wouldn't be satisfied with this every time and with every topic that we dive into.

Mr. Ramirez: So, going forward, you will have other resources to gather more surveys in than we did the first time around, so that number will go up?

Ms. Fields: Yes, and I think that the idea is that we need to be more creative on how we're getting the word out and more multi-dimensional as to do posters and put them up in the different City buildings, and the Community Center, and the libraries, can we do email blasts to parents at schools, can we get on church boards where they put up things. Basically, how much effort you put in to advertisement, you will get responses out of it and I think the more effort we put in, the more responses we'll get and moving forward, it's going to be clear that we need to put in slightly more effort.

Mr. Ramirez: Thank you.

Ms. Fields: Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you Liz.

Communications

Mrs. McNear: One item for elected officials is that the Ohio Ethics Commission has sent out their information. I did submit a photocopy of it in your file. The financial disclosure statements for this year are due on Monday, May 17th. As usual, I will remind you at one

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Mrs. McNear (continued): meeting a month. Just remember to get this in on time because there is a fine associated with it if you do not turn it in on time. That's all I have for this evening. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Mr. President I'd like to make an addition to my report. At the last meeting, it was pointed out that I had not made an appointment to the Springdale CRA Housing Council.

President Vanover: Yes sir.

Mayor Webster: I think I had done that back in March 2020, and I circulated a letter to all of Council, but what I failed to do was to make sure that the person that keeps the records did not get a copy of that so she was not aware that we had made that appointment. That has been made, and the records have been updated.

President Vanover: Okay. Very good.

Mayor Webster: Mr. Lamping has been appointed.

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

President Vanover: First off, before we start in, as you saw in the packet, due to some glitches on advertising, we are not going to have a public hearing this evening. So, at this point, I would ask for a motion to table Ordinance No. 49-2020 to February 3, 2021.

Mrs. Emerson: I would like to make a motion that we table Ordinance No. 49-2020, An Ordinance Amending Section 153.252(F)(8) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio to the next meeting which is going to be February 3, 2021.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I second.

Motion to table Ordinance No. 49-2020 to the February 3, 2021 meeting was approved with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 2-2021

ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2-2021; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Ordinance No. 2-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

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

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet on February 11th at 7:00 in these chambers.

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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. 49-2020; An Ordinance Amending Section 153.252(F)(8) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio. That matter was tabled to February 3, 2021 with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 2-2021; An Ordinance Adopting a Supplemental Appropriations for 2020. That passed with a 7-0 vote. All other items were forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There is a request for a third reading of Ordinance No. 49-2020; An Ordinance Amending Section 153.252(F)(8) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio. There is also a request for An Ordinance Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Contract with Rumpke of Ohio, Inc., for Waste Collection and Recycling Services and Declaring an Emergency. There is also a request for An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Hamilton County for the East Kemper Road/CSX Bridge Repair and Declaring an Emergency. That would conclude requests unless there is anything else from Council or the Administration.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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