

## City of Springdale Council

December 1, 2021

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on December 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mrs. McNear provided the Invocation.

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

President Vanover: Council, at this point in time, I will dismiss the district people and turn the helm over to Mr. Hawkins.

(Council members Anderson, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover departed the dais)

Swearing-In-Ceremony by Judge Melba Marsh

Mr. Hawkins: Welcome everyone again for our December 1<sup>st</sup> swearing in as we always do, and we are fortunate to have, again, with us, the honorable Judge Melba Marsh to do our swearing in. Your honor, if you'd come forward please.

Judge Marsh: Well, thank you very much. If it's December 1<sup>st</sup>, I know where I should be. Thanks very much for having me again. I think I've been here since 1989; not as long as Mr. Vanover, or the Mayor of course, but I've been here for a lot of years. And, I know, I have the job of swearing the new candidates in, but I wanted to start just doing something a little bit differently. I usually say a couple of words, but I wanted to talk about 50 years ago, today. Fifty years ago today, now what was happening 50 years ago today? The first microprocessor was developed, and, of course, I know Mr. Anderson would know that certainly, the Aswan dam was completed 50 years ago today. NPR (National Public Radio) started fifty years ago today. Walt Disneyworld resort opened in Florida 50 years ago today. The voting age was lowered 50 years ago to 18. And, basically, someone received their first oath of office in Springdale, Ohio as Clerk Treasurer, now didn't they? Didn't they Mayor (Webster)? Today is the Mayor's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (applause). Now, they Mayor said that he's not running again, but, you know, we'll wait to see that for sure (laughter). Can you keep someone who's been working for 50 years away from this building? I don't think so. But, before we begin, and I swear in, I was just going to turn to the Mayor. I know that your term isn't up this year, it's up in two years, but I just wanted to know, would you mind just addressing us for a moment. What were the big achievements? Let's start your victory lap now. What was the biggest achievement? What were the things that stand out most in your mind?

Mayor Webster: Now Judge (Marsh), you should know better than to give a politician the microphone. (Laughter)

Judge Marsh: I know, I know, but, it's so interesting.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much for the kind words. I don't know. I really don't know where to start. I guess the Veteran's Memorial, I think is one of my most crowning achievements, I think it's going to be there forever and ever, and I think the revitalization of our downtown area and some of you younger people, Tom I'm not pointing to you here, but remember what that strip used to look like? And, what it looks like today, it's probably two of the most crowning achievements that I have. But, I'm not done; we've got two years left.

Judge Marsh: Oh, I know, I know, but I just wanted to bring that attention today is the anniversary date, isn't it?

Mayor Webster: Yes it is.

Judge Marsh: When you raised your hand for the first time and took an oath of office in Springdale, is that correct?

Mayor Webster: That's right.

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Judge Marsh: Wow. I applaud you. (Applause). Alright, now it's time for my job. So, Mr. Vanover I see you standing up, shall we meet in the "pit" shall I say? Any "Vanoverites" with you?

Mr. Vanover: I've got a whole crew.

Judge Marsh: Please come down. I only stand here so the family can have a view. How many years has it been Mr. Vanover?

Mr. Vanover: Twenty eight at the end of the month.

Judge Marsh: Twenty eight at the end of the month, but who's counting.

Mr. Vanover: Twenty eight last week.

Judge Marsh: Is there any committee that you have not served on?

Mr. Vanover: No.

Judge Marsh: Nope. And, who's going to be our photographer? Perfect. Now line and get right in the middle. And Mr. Vanover would you please raise your right hand for me please.

Mr. Vanover: I Tom Vanover solemnly swear to support the constitution of the United States of America, the constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter for the City Springdale, Ohio, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties in my elected position of Council to the best of my ability so help my God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations. (Applause). And, Meghan (Sullivan-Wisecup). We had a very interesting discussion with Meghan, and come on down all of the Wisecups. I asked Ian, are you the singer? He said, "Yes I am". Beautiful voice. If you haven't heard Ian's sing, just excellent. He said, I just took it for granted. He said, well I'm just going to go into opera and study and I know he's going to go to the (University of Cincinnati College) Conservatory (of Music {CCM}) for next year; that's his hopes and dreams. I just thought his whole hopes and dreams would be with music. But, no, he tells me that he wants to follow in his mother's footsteps and he wants to be on Council one day. I said, "Well, that's wonderful. Serving with your mother." His response was, "Well, I may have to run against her." (Laughter). I said, "Run against her?" And he said, "Yes, I've got the signs. I'll just take off 'Meghan', and I'll put my name." (Laughter). And, mom says, "I double dare you." So, we have not only someone who is interested in legislation, but certainly interested in pursuing his dreams. So, I couldn't think of a better mom to help and guide you on your way. And, so, can you all look in that direction. Meghan would you please raise your right hand.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I, Meghan Sullivan-Wisecup solemnly swear to support the constitution of the United States of America, the constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties in my elected position of Council to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause). And, Mr. Anderson, where's our tech guy? I remember from last time, retired; been a consultant all your life in big, big, business, and you love technology and you're on the OKI Board. I asked you tonight, dealing with all those roads and things, do you ever get bored, and your answer was, "No, I love it".

Mr. Anderson: They're always building roads.

Judge Marsh: And, I said, "Well, your biggest concern now and your son is a freshman at the University of Cincinnati, and what is he studying?"

Mr. Anderson: I.T.

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Judge Marsh: I.T., just following dear old dad. So, that's just wonderful. So, at this particular point in time, would you raise your right hand?

Mr. Anderson: I, Jeffrey Anderson, solemnly swear to support the constitution of the United States of America, the constitution of the State of Ohio, the charter of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties in my elected position of Council, to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause). And now, to our newest member, come on down Mr. Jacobs, and the Jacobs family and friends.

Judge Marsh: Now, Mr. Jacobs told me that he was a teacher teaching history and government to high school students, and then I saw his Facebook video and I thought he was talking about the constitution, how he wanted to invite his students to understand how the process worked, and then I hear from the members of the Council that they had a charter revision recently, and you sat in the back, but you contributed to the new charter revisions, is that correct?

Mr. Jacobs: Yes.

Judge Marsh: So, what did you learn from the new charter revisions?

Mr. Jacobs: Collaboration with other members. And we were successful; all the amendments passed, so that was a great success.

Judge Marsh: Well great. Well that's wonderful. I know you're going to do well. Would you please raise your hand for me?

Mr. Jacobs: I, Dan Jacobs, solemnly swear to support the constitution of the United States of America, the constitution of the State of Ohio, the charter of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and I will faithfully discharge my duties in my elected position of Council, to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause) You have a student who is here? Let's take a picture. Come on! So special! With that, I think we have passed through all of the new members and I say once again, this is always a treat for me to come back every time. I look for the Council wins, who's going to win, who has won, and every time I come back, it so thrilling that I know where I will be on December 1<sup>st</sup>. So, thanks again. I hope I'm invited again, and again, that's a little plug for me (Applause).

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you your honor.

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

### Election of President of Council

Mr. Hawkins: Next order of business is election of President of Council. Opening nominations from President of Council.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to nominate Thomas Vanover for President of Council.

Mr. Ramirez: Second.

Mr. Hawkins: Any other nominations?

(No other nominations were made)

Mr. Hawkins: We'll close nominations.

Mr. Vanover was elected as President of Council with seven affirmative votes.

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Mr. Hawkins: I'll turn it over to President Vanover.

President Vanover: Thank you sir. Thank you all.

### Election of Vice-President of Council

President Vanover: At this point, we'll go for the election of Vice-President of Council.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to nominate Lawrence Hawkins III for Vice-President of Council.

Mrs. Ghantous: Second.

President Vanover: Any other nominations?

(No other nominations were made)

President Vanover: We'll close nominations.

Mr. Hawkins was elected Vice-President of Council with seven affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Congratulations Mr. Hawkins.

### Ordinances and Resolutions

#### Resolution No. R17-2021

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING HOLLY MCQUILLAN-EMERSON FOR HER DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R17-2021; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I want to say that Holly Emerson has been a friend of mine since my daughter Becca and her son Andrew were very young. We were room parents together actually since our kids were in first grade, and we coached together and things like that, and I want to thank her for all of her time that she's put in to the City through the school, through the sports, through everything that she's done. She's definitely been a civil servant in every sense of the word. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Twelve years ago, Holly and I both got sworn in for the first time and so we worked through trying to figure out exactly what we're supposed to be doing up here together, and I appreciate all the time and effort she's put in. She's worked from a place of passion in everything that she's done while she's served here, so she'll be missed, and I appreciate her.

Mr. Anderson: It was about four years ago that I met Holly for the first time after a Council meeting. I wanted to say what really impressed me about her. She said she was going to be here, and I'm a little disappointed she's not, so I would have rather told it to her as well. What really impressed me is after a meeting, she stopped and asked me why I felt about something. It was an issue we were talking about the way ballots were being done at the time. And, we had already voted and made the changes we needed to, but after the meeting, later in the week, I ran into her at CVS, and she wanted to know more. She was curious about why I felt the way I did, which is a unique thing in politics and in civil government. Too often, people just have a position, and they stick to that position and they don't try to understand what the other person is trying to communicate. But that really impressed me that she took the time, even after the fact, that we can always change things up here. She wanted to understand why, and I think that's admirable. So, I really appreciated that about Holly and I think she was a good member while here on Council, and I appreciated her time.

President Vanover: Well, I will say in serving with Holly she kept it entertaining. With Holly, there was never a dull moment. She kept us chuckling at times.

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Mayor Webster: I'd just like to say a couple of words. I enjoyed serving with Holly for the last twelve years, I was not aware she was on all of these different committees, but the one she really, I think, distinguished herself on was Council's liaison to the Board of Health. And, so, with her being a registered nurse, she was an invaluable member of that committee, and we're going to miss her on there, and so I just wish her the best and what more can you say? So, twelve years is a long time, and hope she enjoys her retirement from public service. Thank you.

Resolution R17-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

### Old Business

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: We will have an opening in the (Springdale) Health Department since you will no longer have Mrs. Emerson, and I would like to put for the nomination of Dan Jacobs to go on to the Health Department if that is okay.

Mr. Jacobs: Yes, thank you.

Mrs. Ghantous: Second

Mr. Jacobs was elected to be the Council liaison for the Board of Health with seven affirmative votes.

### New Business

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None

### Communications from the Audience

Ms. Ingle: Thank you Mr. President, Mayor Webster, members of Council, Administration. My name is Christina Ingle and I've served the City of Springdale as a Human Resources Administrator for the past three years. I have accepted a new job opportunity with the private sector, and as my last week with Springdale comes to a close, I just wanted to come and thank everybody for their support of me the past three years. Especially Mayor Webster who created this position in the first place. He saw a need for an established HR (Human Resource) function here and, in my mind, it turned out really well. It really provided a great service for employees. I want to thank Mr. Jones and Mr. Uhl for fantastic mentorship, encouragement, and support. I could not go nearly as far in my career without them. So, thank you Council for supporting the creation of this position, and it's very bittersweet for me to leave the City. I've formed some really great friendships here. I've grown as a person, and a professional, and I will always have very fond memories from working here. So, Springdale has a bright future ahead. I live around the corner; I'm excited about seeing it all come to fruition. Once again, thank you, and I wish you all well.

Mrs. Ghantous: Good luck.

Ms. Ingle: Thank you. (Applause)

Mayor Webster: I'd first like to take a couple of minutes to offer my congratulations to the newly seated Council people; some of you returning, but the one new one. But, anyway, welcome to the team Dan (Jacobs), and we've accomplished much in the last four years, and I think we've got a lot of exciting things ahead of us and all I can say to you Council people is our doors are always open. We've got a great professional team here, and I'm looking to the people to the left of me, and they're here to help, and they're here to make this City run, and make this City a better place to live, work, shop, and play. And, so, if you have a problem, you have any concerns, you need help, give those guys a call. They're here to help you. With that said, good luck, and let's have a great four years. Thank you.

Mr. Jones: I echo what the Mayor said. That was well said, and well-articulated. Just wanted to say, Christina, thank you for the kind words and your service the last three years. We greatly appreciate it, and Brian and I have said many times that the Mayor had the vision to create an HR position, and once I got here about four years ago, the Mayor said, "Let's get that in to place", so that's been a fun few years working with you. I wanted to share also that there will be

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Mr. Jones (continued): an open house from noon to two on Friday. We'll have cake and coffee and some snacks and stuff for Christine. So, if you can join us, we'd love to have you. And, thanks again for your service.

President Vanover: Well, and I will echo that. I'm in and out, and she's always a smiling face. Wishing you the best, and continued enjoyment and growth. Thank you.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Ghantous seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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