

City of Springdale Council

January 16

2013

President of Council Marjorie Harlow called Council to order on January 16, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

The governmental body and those in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance. Mrs. McNear gave the invocation.

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Present were Council members Diehl, Emerson, Hawkins, Knox, Vanover and Harlow. Mr. Squires was absent.

The minutes of January 2, 2013 were approved with six affirmative votes.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICIAL REPORTS

Civil Service Commission - Mr. Potts said the Commission met on January 3. The Commission received an update on the recruitment process for the maintenance worker position in the Public Works Department and also approved the timeline for the administrative secretary in the Tax Department. The City is accepting applications for the administrative secretary position until January 25. Testing for that position will be February 2. The Commission also approved a waiver of the testing requirements for the position of recreation programmer that is currently being recruited. Commission officers were voted on and will remain the same for 2013: Tony Potts, chairman; Thomas Goins, vice-chair; Robert Coleman as secretary.

Rules and Laws	-	no report
Finance Committee	-	no report

Planning Commission - Mr. Vanover reported that they met January 8. The Vineyard Church had asked for a variance request from the Tree Preservation Ordinance. We granted them a reprieve and there was no financial tag to it. As Mr. Diehl stated, they can do more good with the money than what we could. That passed 7-0. McDonald's had minor revisions to the approved PUD Transition District Development. It's going to be a very nice facility. There a couple of issues with landscaping and flow of traffic on the site but the Engineer and staff are going to work that through. That was approved 7-0.

Board of Zoning Appeals -	-	no report
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Board of Health – Mayor Webster said they passed the new food service license fees for 2013. We reviewed the goals and objectives for the Health Department for 2013. The jail and several motels/hotels were inspected. There were 8 dog bites and 2 cat bites in 2012. The mammogram van will be at the Community Center on March 12. Flu cases are on the rise and vaccine is available for both adults and children. Home visits this year will be targeting pregnant women in poor sections of the community.

Public Utilities	-	no report
Public Relations	-	no report
Capital Improvements	-	no report
Public Welfare, Safety & Education	-	no report
Housing Board	-	no report
Public Works	-	no report

O-K-I – Mr. Knox reported that Commissioner Todd Portune was elected President of OKI for 2013. The State has been dividing CMAC (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement) funds throughout the state by formula. This is no longer the case and representatives of regional authorities such as OKI will meet with state officials to determine where the funds should be spent. There is a chance this area might gain. Mr. James Riley, the State of Ohio's Director of the Office of Innovative Delivery talked about the studies that have been conducted for the Brent Spence Bridge replacement. The proposal is to depend heavily on the public/private partnership to get the bridge building by 2015. There will be no toll booths and the Brent Spence would be the only bridge with a toll. Only 50% of the \$2.7 billion needed for the project would come from tolls. The rest

City of Springdale Council

January 16

2013

would come from state and federal funding. Mr. Riley referred to tolls in the range of \$1 to \$2 per transit of the bridge. However, a photo slide he showed had a bridge already in operation with an electronic message board that stated "MINIMUM TOLL \$3.50." There are two Springdale residents on OKI's Board of Directors, Dave Okum and me. Dave is a member of OKI's Executive Committee and had perfect attendance in 2012. I attended all but one meeting and that was with excused absence. Only 21 of 104 members had perfect attendance.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Webster stated we've spent \$31,000 for snow and ice removal. We're still in great shape salt-wise.

Mayor Webster said Derrick and I received a bittersweet letter on January 3rd. Jeff Tulloch submitted his intended retirement letter and he will be leaving as of April 30th of this year.

Mayor Webster said I'd like to go over the final SOS numbers. Sixty-seven families including 194 children were helped. We helped the Calvary Church deliver 20 Thanksgiving dinners and five with the Vineyard Church. We gave away 27 coats during our coat give away. Thirty-eight families were adopted by 14 corporations, 8 community organizations, and 16 individuals. Eleven corporations donated money and/or food, and Springdale Elementary donated food. SOS provided for another 27 families. Sixty-one families received turkeys, 44 received food gift cards, all received canned goods and meats. Most of the people picked their presents up here at the Municipal Building. However, the Health Department delivered a couple and the Fire Department delivered twelve. We would like to have the corporations in on March 6 and we will present them a token of our appreciation.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director – Mrs. Mcnear stated we had a budget of \$15,737,000. Our earnings through the end of the year were \$16,678,816 which was 106 percent of our budget. Our top five sources of income are: earnings tax, \$12.967 million; real estate tax, \$978,000; estate tax, \$683,000; paramedic services \$514,000; local government fund, \$339,000. Our ending General Fund balance was \$4,727,000. The budget for expenditures was \$17.379 million. At the end of the year we had spent \$15,251,000 which was 95 percent of our budget.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Parham said the Building Department conducted a survey on RVs and 5th wheels. As you may recall, we had a resident come to Council about that issue last fall. At that time, we indicated we would gather information and present it to the Planning Commission to discuss. Mr. McErlane surveyed twelve jurisdictions and received feedback as to how they regulate RVs and 5th wheels. He also checked on the current industry standards. For the next Council meeting, we will provide you with more detailed information on the subject. At that time, if Council chooses, you can refer the issue to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Parham said a former resident, Harold Redden, a World War II veteran, approached him towards the end of 2012 inquiring as to whether the City would be inclined to recognize other City of Springdale veterans who served in World War II at the Veteran's Memorial. I told him I recalled that the committee discussed the idea of looking at some sort of recognition for Springdale residents who perished during the time of a conflict, but not as a result of a conflict. If you recall, the names on the wall at the Veteran's Memorial are those who perished while engaged in conflict. There was a resident who died in the States during one of the conflict and that did not meet the definition for the wall. The veteran's committee discussed how to recognize those persons, but did not reach a final conclusion. Mr. Redden asked that Council look at residents who served in World War II. I shared with him that whatever that recognition is, I don't know how you recognize World War II and not any other conflicts. The Mayor and I talked and said we would present the issue to Council and see what direction, if any, you may want to proceed.

Mayor Webster stated this topic was discussed long and hard with the committee. We really didn't come to any conclusion. The walls look pretty barren. There are only six or so names. I think it would be great if we could find some way to incorporate Springdale

City of Springdale Council

January 16

2013

residents who were participants in some of these armed conflicts. There are a lot of ramifications though. Why do you just say World War II? What about Korea, Vietnam, etc. It's probably worth looking into it. If Council wants us to look into it, I suggest we form a committee.

Mrs. Harlow said one of the things we looked into was, if we did list other names, we were concerned about how we would get the names and we were concerned that we didn't want to leave anyone's name off. Just gathering that information was going to be a monumental task.

Mayor Webster said I believe Mr. Redden's father was World War II.

Mr. Parham said he actually supplied me with a list of names: Harold Redden, James Redden, Robert Hede, Robert McGee, Harry Dean, Alston Dean, Albert Himes, Joe Himes, Sam Petrey, Louis Petrey, James Stout, Edward Evers, Paul Evers, Jack McSwain and Dave Sortor and a Mr. Wroot.

Mayor Webster said this is a good start. You have a dozen names. Someone has to research this and find out if it is accurate.

Mrs. Harlow said that is not easy to do. I feel if we are going to acknowledge, that it needs to be opened up for all conflicts.

Mayor Webster stated if we do that we'll probably have hundreds of names but who's going to do all this research.

Mr. Vanover said I did some research on my father. You look at what they did and it is amazing but those from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan have done no less. It did take some time because I actually got a copy of his DD214. A lot of them got lost because there was a big fire in St. Louis. What happens when somebody gets left off?

Mayor Webster said once we decide we're going to go down that route, then we have to have the ability to continue adding names. We have people participating today.

Mr. Hawkins said I agree we'd have to be consistent in looking at all wars, all conflicts. When we first created the memorial what is the estimated total number of names that we could get on the wall?

Mr. Parham responded I don't think there was a projection of how many names you could put there. At the time we had a number of names which are the ones that you see on the wall. I don't think anyone projected out how many more could be added.

Mr. Hawkins asked was there any consideration of what other communities have done that are in similar situations with memorials, not that that has to be the determining factor.

Mr. Parham replied I wasn't that involved in the beginning planning process. I have to think that in the initial phase they were looking at other communities' memorials. Maybe during that time they considered how individuals who served from their various communities had been recognized.

Mr. Knox said I have seen a lot of memorials for veterans and several of them have run out of space to put names on them. Looking at the propensity of this nation to get into wars, that might be something that future Councils have to look at so I personally would favor leaving it the way it is for those who were lost in combat.

Mrs. Harlow asked Mayor Webster, are you looking for a committee to investigate this?

Mayor Webster replied we are just passing on this request that a former resident has made of us. It's a tremendous responsibility, once you start this, to make sure you do

City of Springdale Council

January 16

2013

it right, do it all inclusive. The last thing you want to do is leave someone out, but at the same time, you have to realize what a monumental task you are undertaking.

Mrs. Harlow said I had quite a bit of information on my father who served in World War II, and I was not able to get all the information I needed. Because of the St. Louis fire I had to go to Congressman Chabot for him to get the other information for me. Recently I was researching a cousin who went down in a ship in World War II and I could not find all the information I needed and I had to go to a friend who is a Navy recruiter to get that information.

Mayor Webster said I don't know how much information we would need. We would need verification that the person did serve, what the rank was and if they lived in Springdale.

Mrs. Harlow said you can locate it by state and county on the internet. For World War II it lists the casualties by state and county but it doesn't break it down to the community.

Mayor Webster said maybe we could make an appeal to the community at large. If anyone watching knows of a way we can do this, let us know. We can get back to Mr. Redden and see if he has any ideas.

Mrs. Harlow said I can check with the military and see if they have any ideas too. I know on the Vietnam Wall they have all the names listed but I don't think they have anything for World War II.

Mr. Diehl said I agree it should be all inclusive. I think we should set up a committee including some from the community to set up long term plans.

Mrs. McNear said I'm concerned about how onerous this process could become, first to find everyone initially and then to keep this going. My thought is that we create an intake process so if you have a loved one who fits this scenario, then you fill out the form with all the information you have and we take it from there, instead of us searching and searching all these conflicts and wars. Leave it to the family member to bring it to us and then we take it to the next step.

Mrs. Harlow said we've had a Veteran's Committee before so why don't we bring that back to life. If you are willing to serve on that let me know. Then maybe we can get a form out on our website in the future so that a family member could fill it out and get it back to us. I think it would be appropriate to have two members of the community on the committee as well as three Council people. We can take nominations at a future Council meeting. We can make a decision on whose sitting on the committee at our first meeting in February.

Mr. Parham said the Fire Department applied for a Public Safety Foundation Grant through Firehouse Subs. They received a grant in the amount of \$22,057.98. This is a program that Firehouse Subs has had for a number of years where they assist public safety departments in purchasing equipment and other things. Our application included the purchase of ten sets of turnout gear, two CPR mannequins, four AED trainers, and camera equipment for the Nikon camera at the department. At some point they will present the City with a check. We would like them to attend a Council meeting and get publicity for this.

Mr. Parham said there is an article in today's Cincinnati Enquirer called "Localities Scramble to Solve Fund Woes." If you have not had an opportunity to see it we can make a copy for you. It really speaks to many of the issues that local jurisdictions are facing now with the elimination of a number of state funds; the elimination of the estate tax, the reductions in the Local Government Funds, and the tangible personal property tax being eliminated totally in 2011. The article talks a lot about the struggles a number of the jurisdictions, townships, cities, and villages are facing and as a result, they are not filling positions after individuals retire, they are having lay offs, and they are cutting back their staffs tremendously. The City of Hamilton has shut down one of its fire stations. The

article starts on the front page and is continued on page A6. If you look in Section B of the same paper, there is an article about the City of Loveland and their former Assistant City Manager. About a year ago he was notified that if the City's ballot issue does not pass, his position would be lost. The issue did not pass. I'm assuming they followed through and did not keep his position. He is now serving as the Interim Administrator of South Lebanon. There have been so many reductions in State funding, that many of these communities are trying to fend for themselves without much assistance. When you look at the smaller jurisdictions that have a very little employment base, if any employment at all, as well as the townships that generate their income from property tax, they are struggling to make ends meet. Everyone knows how much the value of our properties have declined, so the property rates may have remained the same but the amount of revenue the townships are receiving has dropped considerably. A number of communities are considering levies to provide their services. Some have talked about closing down their recreation/community centers and other facilities. One of the townships notified the County that they can no longer pay for police service. The County still has the responsibility to cover the community but it simply means the township would not have an officer or two assigned at their location. The article speaks very loudly about what we've been talking about since 2008.

Mr. Parham said we have placed the City's natural gas aggregate rate on our website. We were fortunate enough to lock in a rate of \$4.63 ccf for a three month period from January to March. Duke Energy's rate for January is \$5.32 and their February rate will be \$5.20. We don't know yet what their March rate will be. We have also placed our electric aggregate rate on the website. That rate is at \$4.55 kWh. Duke's electric rate is at \$6.13.

Mr. Vanover said there is a documentary that will air on one of the Access channels. You can go to fracknation.com. It's about fracking. It explains the whole process. It has been a godsend for our natural gas production in the country.

Law Director's Report - no report

Engineer's Report – Mr. Shvegza said Duke has completed their gas main relocation work and Adleta restarted the storm sewer work. They are about 50 percent complete. Roadway catch basins will probably be completed today and the curb will be poured tomorrow. The bid opening for the SR 4 urban paving program will have a bid opening on February 14. ODOT anticipates construction to start in early May with a completion date at the end of July. The estimated construction cost is \$307,700. Construction engineering costs are \$23,950. Legislation is on the agenda tonight.

Mrs. Harlow asked do you know when we may hear back from OPWC on the extra request for funding for the curb replacement on Merchant.

Mr. Parham responded we made a verbal request through the Engineer's Office. We were told that they were not in favor. Later, the Public Works Director attended the Integrating Committee's meeting and made a presentation to officially request the additional funding. Unfortunately, the Committee rejected our request. Their practice has been, if there are any adjustments to any application they simply automatically reject the request. As a result of our presentation and several others at that meeting, the Committee has now decided to form a sub-committee of their staff to examine the process. The intent of this sub-committee is to provide them with a rational basis for actually considering accepting some of the legitimate requests. The request we made, was not a major change from our application. Hopefully, for future applications if the situation occurs that there is a slight adjustment needing to be made to the project which is still consistent with the application, they may consider approving it.

Mr. Vanover said I brought up ponding on SR 747 with Mr. Agricola one day. He indicated that there was a meeting about to transpire about a cure for that.

Mr. Shvegza replied yes, that is a design build project that they are going to do in the pre-construction meetings mid February.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. McNear said I have a letter and CD from Betty McCully, of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission, which is a report for Duke' Energy's application for increased rates. It's in my office if anyone is interested in seeing it. You can also access it on the web at www.puc.st.oh.us/puco. There is a letter from Hamilton County Recycling Solid Waste addressed to Mayor Webster discussing highlights of the recycling program for Hamilton County. Springdale received \$9,277 in residential recycling incentive dollars. John Morrell expanded their recycling process. Hamilton County Recycling also sent letters to all Springdale households. There were 6,014 tons of yard trimmings for the County. There was 299 tons of waste for household hazardous waste. OPW informed us that they have cut checks to Adleta for the Century Circle North reconstruction in the amount of \$10,918.67 and another to Adleta for Merchant Street repair and resurfacing for \$84,334.22. They also sent a check to Oaks Vendor for 41,161.50 for the SR 747/I-275 ramp modifications. I have a letter from the Hamilton County Parks District regarding coyotes and how to co-exist with them. There is a meeting February 6 at the Sharon Center in Sharon Woods to discuss coyotes, ecology, co-existence and conflict. All of these items will be in my office if anyone is interested in additional information.

Mrs. Harlow said I recall that our Ethics Commission is not going to be sending us the paperwork again. Is this something we get off the web?

Mrs. McNear replied yes, they didn't send it to us last year either. I will be on the lookout for it.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE - none

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2-2013

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE FINAL LEGISLATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR THE STATE ROUTE 4 (SOUTH) URBAN PAVING PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Knox made a motion to adopt and Mr. Diehl seconded.

Mr. Parham said this legislation is for the SR 4 Urban Paving project and accepts the funding from ODOT which was originally approved in 2008 for their portion of improvement. Originally, the funding was postponed for another project. The City will be placing \$159,088 in escrow for our share of the project costs.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. McNear reported that the Princeton Gala will be held February 13 to raise money for the scholarship fund.

MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Commission - February 12
Board of Zoning Appeals - February 19

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE - none

UPDATE ON LEGISLATION STILL IN DEVELOPMENT

Maple Knoll Village Facilities Bond - February 20
Amending Section 152 of the Building Code - February 20

RECAP OF LEGISLATIVE ITEMS REQUESTED - none

City of Springdale Council

January 16

2013

Council adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Marjorie Harlow, President of Council

_____, 2013