

City of Springdale Council

December 4

2013

President of Council Tom Vanover called Council to order on December 4, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

The governmental body and those in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance.

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

The minutes of November 20, 2013 were approved with seven affirmative votes.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. McNear said I have a letter from Duke Energy dated November 27th informing us that Duke was filing an application to increase rates with the Public Utilities Commission. If anyone is interested in the details of the letter, it will be on file in my office.

Mrs. McNear said I also have a public notice dated November 20th from Hamilton County and it's a notice of receipt of a 401 application given to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Division of Surface Water and they have begun to consider whether to issue or deny a clean water act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification for a project to extend the John G. and Phyllis W. Smale Riverfront Park to the Ohio River. Again, any details can be located in my office.

PRESENTATION – Springdale Community Lego Team

Seven members of the Springdale Community Lego Team called the "Unpredictables" presented a skit to inform the community on how to be aware of and prepared in case of a flood. The name of their project for this year is called Nature's Fury. Because flooding has a potential to affect Springdale residents as much as City of Cincinnati or any other City near the Ohio River, the group chose flooding as their topic for this year. The group presented each member of the dais with a brochure they created called "Floods? Concerned? You should be."

Mayor Webster said "wow!" We honor all kinds of groups of people in these Council Chambers and this is one of those occasions where I am just overwhelmed and almost lost for words. You have really impressed the daylights out of me with your knowledge especially with tackling a topic as complicated as flooding in this community because it is a problem. A lot of people don't realize that but it's a major problem. And for you guys to be aware of that and to tackle that and put out a brochure like this is tremendously impressive. With youngsters like you on the horizon I think this City is in pretty darn good shape for the future. I certainly encourage all of you to stay involved and keep exercising those brains the way you are doing here. Nothing but good can become of it. Congratulations.

Mr. Vanover said Beaver Run, a branch of the Mill Creek is near my house. In the thirty-two years we have been there I've seen two 500 year storms so it definitely affects us in the City. Keep up the good work.

Mr. Hawkins said I too am very impressed with what you guys are doing. It's great to see you doing something positive that is enjoyable in terms with the Legos as well as getting out and servicing the community by making them aware of this important issue. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE - none

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION R13-2013

COMMENDING TONY POTTS FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO
THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

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

Mayor Webster said I'd like to add a couple of things we probably omitted from the resolution and I'd really forgotten about this until Tony reminded me in the hallway before the meeting. The night I was sworn in as Mayor eighteen years ago I approached Tony and in Tony's words I said something like isn't it about time you started giving back to the community. As I recall, that was Parks and Recreation Commission. Tony has been involved with the government for the last eighteen years and done a marvelous job on Parks and Recreation and it's with great pleasure that I saw him move on to Civil Service and he did a great job there. Tony and Staci, thank you for all your efforts and good luck on all your future endeavors.

Mrs. Harlow said I had the pleasure of bringing Mr. Potts' name forward for the Civil Service Commission. I know the hours he has put in over the years since 2007 have been long. We had a lot of positions that needed to be filled, a lot of transitions with our employees. You've done an excellent job and we thank you very much for your service and we will stay in touch.

Mr. Vanover said to Mrs. Harlow, I am sorry I slighted you earlier during the discussion. We forgot to change our name plates.

Mr. Diehl said I just want to say thank you, not only for what you've done, Tony, but also to that wonderful lady sitting next to you. You have given this community a lot and the community is certainly going to miss you both. Any time you want to move back the door is always open. Best of luck to you.

Mr. Vanover said I too add a hearty thanks. I remember walking the soccer side lines. He has three fine young men. I was thinking of Kevin Thursday when I saw the Marine Corps band in the Macy's Day parade. Thanks for being good parents and for rolling up the sleeves and getting involved.

Mr. Squires said Tony, we will miss you. I hope you continue your public service in Anderson Township and if you need any recommendations you can count on us to give you one.

Resolution R13-2013 passed with seven affirmative votes.

Mayor Webster presented the resolution to Tony Potts.

Mr. Vanover said I left messages for Mr. Goines but have not had any response so assume he is no longer interested.

Mrs. Harlow said I would like to bring forward Mr. Mick Higgins. Mr. Higgins has lived in Springdale with his wife since 1997. All five of their children have attended Springdale Elementary School. He completed his medical laboratory technician program in conjunction with George Washington University. He also went to the Naval Academy Preparatory School and finally to the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. He has a bachelor's degree with concentration in Human Resources from Thomas Moore College and is currently employed in the region. He tells me his employment and military history has given him wide exposure to human resources, budgeting and finance. I think Mr. Higgins would be a great addition to our Civil Service Commission.

Council was in agreement with Mr. Higgins' nomination.

RESOLUTION R15-2013
APPOINTING MICK HIGGINS AS A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
COMMISSION

Mr. Squires made a motion to adopt and Mrs. Harlow seconded.

Resolution R15-2013 passed with seven affirmative votes.

RESOLUTION R16-2013

CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF LYNN JONES AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. Squires made a motion to adopt and Mrs. Harlow seconded.

Mayor Webster said I'd like to make comments about all three of these candidates, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Garrison and Mr. Kellner. We have a good mix on the board. We have two nurses, a retired veterinarian, a pharmacist and a retired medical lab technician. It gives us a good cross section of knowledge to address the many topics that come before the board. This will be Mrs. Jones' tenth two-year term. Mr. Kellner has been there ten to twelve years and this will be Mr. Garrison's second term. All three of these individuals are real contributors to the board and I would urge Council's support on all three.

Resolution R16-2013 passed with seven affirmative votes.

RESOLUTION R17-2013

CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE KELLNER AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt and Mr. Squires seconded.

Resolution R17-2013 passed with seven affirmative votes.

RESOLUTION R18-2013

CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF SCOTT GARRISON AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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

Resolution R18-2013 passed with seven affirmative votes.

Mr. Vanover opened the floor for nominations to Charter Revision.

Mr. Diehl brought up Rob Hormann for consideration. He and his family have been here for thirty years. I personally have known him for the past twenty-eight years and you won't find a better individual who cares about the City than Rob. He served for years in the past in the Springdale Youth Boosters as President. He presently is a member of SYOB. He also served on Parks and Recreation Commission. He coached soccer and volleyball and he was an official in softball and in soccer. I heartedly recommend Rob for the position.

RESOLUTION R19-2013

APPOINTING ROB HORMANN AS A MEMBER OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE

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

Resolution R19-2013 passed with seven affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Harlow stated I wanted to ask the coordinator to come forward and talk a little about the Lego program. I believe it is a long term commitment that the students make to this program. I think they agree to eighteen months. I know they meet a lot and work on their projects. They get into competitions. We're always hearing about kids in the news who aren't doing what they're supposed to do and we had a group of young people here tonight who make Springdale proud for the commitment they are making, for the program and the time they are putting in.

Mr. Vanover said every year they have a new topic that the competition surrounds. They design, build and program robots to do a specific task all within a task frame. It is a big commitment and they are to be recognized as such.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Budget Presentation

Mr. Diehl said the Finance Committee met, went over the budget, made suggestions and approved it. This is a bare bones budget as far as what we are spending. It's a good budget put together really well by the Administration. The only thing that is regretful is that we have no money put aside for the street program at the present time. Hopefully, sometime in the year we may be able to go back and address that again. The first section of the budget is an executive summary by Mr. Parham and I'm going to let him take the lead and walk you through that.

Mr. Parham said in the opening letter directed to the Chair, as we start getting into the budget process, there were a couple of things that were brought to your attention. First and foremost, as we were reviewing with the department directors at their level, we found nothing alarming in that the expenditures were pretty consistent. This was a year that we did not require that the directors reduce their budgets by a specific percentage or dollar amount. In fact, because we had a rather healthy beginning year 2013 balance of over \$4 million, at that time we were expecting to have a repeat at the end of this year. However, as we began to dive into the information, one of the things that stood out pretty loudly for us is that the revenues are not achieving or expected to achieve at the consistent level for 2014. In 2012 as we prepared for the 2013 budget process, we were pretty excited by the signs that indicated that the local economy was improving and that we were, for the first time, projected to hit \$13 million in our earnings tax. We came a little bit short, about \$32,000. That was a positive for us as we had not hit \$13 million in our earnings tax since around 2007. The earnings tax is our primary revenue source at 78 percent of our revenues. As we were examining the revenues, we noticed our 2013 numbers are coming in better than what was budgeted. We budgeted \$13.168 million and we are estimating that the 2013 earnings tax is going to hit about \$13.237. As we start examining 2014, one of the things we recognize is that we are going to come up about \$577,000 short in our earnings tax. That is primarily due to the fact that the GE jobs that we knew would leave the community finally left this year. As we were putting together the 2012 and 2013 budgets, we were aware this would occur and so we accounted for it. Neither budget included revenue from GE. However, seeing the lost of over \$400,000 in revenues, is rather alarming. The other key factor to this decline is some of the organizations that joined the community in the last year or so, projected to hit certain points in their employment base. Unfortunately, they did not hit those numbers. The real drop we saw was with these particular organizations. They did not achieve the employment numbers they were projecting. The information we had was based upon what these employers had shared with us relative to the number of employees they would bring to the community and the wages they were paying those individuals. Quite frankly, in some of those instances it appeared they may have achieved their levels, but for whatever reasons, whether the employees began to work from home or be transferred to other locations, they did not sustain those numbers in Springdale. As a result, it had a very negative effect on our revenues. At this time, we are projecting the 2014 general fund revenues will be about \$1.6 million less than the 2013 estimate. There is about a \$577,000 shortage anticipated in our 2014 earnings tax collections.

As we all know, the State of Ohio has done away with the Estate Tax. We knew that one day we would feel the effects of not having those funds. Over the years, I have identified our share of this revenue source as being somewhere between \$500,000 and \$750,000 annually in collections. Some years they have been higher, some years they have been lower. As you recall, when we were going through the 2013 budget process we indicated to you that we really had no idea whether we would receive any estate tax collections in 2013. At the same time, we could have received a large sum. So we plugged into the 2013 Budget to receive \$100,000. The good news is we received \$729,000 in estate tax collections. The bad news is we will not receive any dollars in 2014, because as of January 1, 2013 there are no longer estate taxes being collected. The money we received this year was all generated in 2012.

The third item contributing to our declining revenues can be found under "General Administration – Reimbursements. Typically, we receive between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a year in this line item. This year (2013), the number was \$199,000. That is primarily comprised of about \$164,000 that was refunded to the community from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation. In 2013, no one imagined we would receive a refund back from the Bureau. Apparently, as they did some 10 to 15 years ago, they generated a rather large balance in the fund, they decided to refund dollars to employers. Back then, they were doing this on a consistent basis (refunded money to employers), but then a number of the unions sued the Bureau. The unions felt the bureau was giving away their money so they had to cease that practice. In any event, in 2013, we received \$164,000 as our share of the refund. We do not expect to receive that in 2014.

Mr. Parham stated "when you add the reimbursements of \$170,000, the \$577,000 from the earnings tax shortage and the \$730,000 from the estate tax collections that totals \$1.4 million which is roughly 91% of the 2014 projected revenue shortage. As you go through the revenues you will see some areas where revenues are higher in 2014 than in 2013 and vice versa. Of course, everyone is aware of our practice of being extremely conservative when projecting our revenues.

As I indicated at the Finance Committee meeting when the question was asked whether or not I felt we would be able to bounce back relative to our earnings tax and revenues, my response then as well as now is that I think we have a great opportunity. Our opportunity is far better than some of our neighbors, because we have a number of office buildings that are vacant such as Executive Plaza I and Executive Plaza II. These buildings have the chance of being occupied by a future employer and can generate addition revenue. An example of this is the Executive Centre I building that was once occupied by GE. It is now occupied by Humana. I fully expect that at some point in time there will be an employer that will take over the other space, as well. When Mr. Tulloch and I talk there is always a list of organizations that are looking at Springdale to locate their businesses. We've always tried to make an investment in the infrastructure of the community in order to provide for safe, easy access for these organizations to move their goods and services because we have an attractive location. I think the opportunity is still there and hopefully in the near future those buildings will be occupied. I also believe those employers who have not achieved the targeted numbers will eventually reach those numbers. Revenue-wise I think at some point we will continue to improve. If you hypothetically re-instate the amount of the Estate Tax into 2014 and remove the amount of transfers, the difference between our 2013 and 2014 General Fund Revenues would be about \$172,000. There are still opportunities for some of the current businesses to expand their employment base and there are opportunities for new employers to join the community that will add to our earnings tax.

For several years, we had severely reduced the amount of our Capital Improvements Program. In 2013, we had a very successful program and were anticipating a rather robust program in 2014 until we took a look at the revenue shortfalls. At that point, it became necessary for us to restructure our program. The primary projects or large ticket items included in the 2014 program are only those where we are receiving substantial amounts of outside funding. Over the past couple of meetings we have discussed these projects. We talked about the SCIP funds that were approved for the Ashmore Court and Woodvale Court project which includes improvements to Elm Alley and the parking lot off Osborn Way. Those funds have been approved and the project is scheduled to being in 2014. At the same time, we reported to you that the SCIP funds for the West Kemper Road improvements have been approved, as well. We are now waiting for the County Engineer to make a recommendation to the County Commissioners to approve our application for Municipal Road Funds (MRF) for this project. The approved SCIP funding is 48 percent (\$515,561) of the estimated \$1.074 million project. The MRF funds will cover another 21 percent (\$225,558) of the improvement costs. The remaining 31 percent (\$313,000) will be the City's share. The capital improvement programs we have in place are greatly supported by outside sources. Approximately, about \$800,000 of \$1.6 million worth of improvements are funded by outside sources. We are fortunate that we have our share of funds and are able to accept this financial support for some of these projects.

There were a couple of other streets that were part of our application process. Unfortunately, we did not score high enough on those streets. Those projects included the improvements on Jake Sweeney Way and Boggs Lane. We talked about the storm sewer improvements and reconstruction work needed on Jake Sweeney Way as well as rehabilitation work planned for Boggs Lane. The most disappointing thing is we do not anticipate getting back into the neighborhoods in 2014, but we will as soon as our revenues begin to turn back around. The people in the Oxford Hills area are excited about the improvement there and the plan is to continue that throughout the community. I can't slight the folks off of Glensprings because three of those cul-de-sacs were improved as a part of the 2013 Street Improvement Program and the other two will be taken care of early in 2014.

Personnel-wise we had to make the decision not to employ any new full or part-time employees in 2014. We are in the process of replacing positions where employees have retired. We had three employees retire this year and we are scheduled to have another three to four retire in 2014. Because of the lead time of getting an officer on the road and prepared to be on their own, we started the replacement process in 2012, because we knew we would have two officers retire in 2013 and one more in 2014. We hired three new officers at that time so we could have them seasoned, on the road with experience, and out by themselves. We are happy to say those three officers have been performing well. The next thing you will notice are promotional opportunities in the Police Department, as we continue to have changeover. The employee retiring in February is a Police Lieutenant. We currently have two lieutenants. We've always been approved for four. When this lieutenant retires, we plan to promote two sergeants to the position of lieutenant. Right now we have five sergeants. In 2010, we increased the number of sergeants from four to five instead of promoting one to lieutenant. That was done to save dollars and still have supervisory coverage for all three shifts. At the conclusion of this process, we will have three lieutenants and promote one officer to sergeant and have four sergeants. Other positions scheduled to retire include an Account Clerk I in the Tax Department and the Administrative Assistant in the Health Department. Mr. Thamann and the department directors have been hard at work identifying individuals to fill those positions. Beginning early in 2014 those persons will come on board.

One of the big things you'll see is that a great portion of the General Fund Budget is comprised of personnel-related expenses (wages, pensions, health insurance, etc.). In fact, seventy-five percent of the General Fund Budget is comprised of those items. To hire a new person at this time when we see revenues are not where we prefer would not be the responsible thing. So we will not hire any new employees in 2014. The budget does call for a recommendation for Council to approve a 2 percent wage increase for all full-time employees in 2014 as well as the part-time firefighters. At the same time, the longevity program and wage increase that the employees enjoy are the things that cause the increase from the 2013 to 2014 budget in the Personal Service line items.

Mr. Parham said in 2012 we were able for the first time to call the bonds on the Community Center debt. As everyone knows, the City decided to take advantage of this opportunity and it proved to be extremely beneficial for the City. We were able to save a net of \$140,000 just through refunding the remaining debt on the Community Center. We are continuing to pay the principal amount of \$400,000 plus the interest. We have already made our 2013 payment in the amount of \$425,289. At the end of this year, we will owe \$1.5 million on the Community Center debt. We are still scheduled to pay off the debt on December 1, 2017. The TIF process continues to move with very little action on our part. There is not much we do here outside of hoping that at some point someone will buy the Bahama Breeze Restaurant, turn it into a successful restaurant, and begin to generate property tax at a higher rate to help pay off the TIF debt. Unfortunately, for the developer who owns the balance of the fifteen acres of office space along Northwest Boulevard as well as the site that is scheduled as the other office tower and parking garage, there is a shortage in the taxes to generate enough service payments. The way the program is set up, any time there is a shortage the developer/property owner is charged with making up that shortfall. So I'm sure they would like to see the market turn and find opportunities to construct something there and sell off the property.

In summary, I tried throughout this letter as well as in the five-year budget document to point out the rather sizable decline anticipated in our 2014 earnings tax and General Fund

revenues. At the same time, I attempted to illustrate that when you compare our current time frame (2013 to 2014) to 2010 and 2011 when things were far more hectic for us, there are a lot of very close similarities. The estimated expenses for 2010 were projected to be about \$17 million. Our 2013 expenses are projected to finish at \$17 million. We are projecting that the 2014 General Fund revenues are going to be slightly over \$15 million. At that time, our General Fund revenues were projected to be over \$15 million. In each of the periods, we started the beginning of the year with a balance of over \$4 million. Back then, we were projecting to conclude the following year of 2011 with a year-end balance of \$1.5 million. This budget projects us finishing with a \$1.6 million year-end balance in 2014. So there are a lot of very similar features in the two periods. I guess the best thing we can look forward to would be we have been through this process before and we know what needs to be done to get out of this situation. We have already started putting some of those things in place. I am optimistic and feel very confident that the revenues are going to turn around and we are going to continue providing services to our community at the highest level. I know you all have been out talking with the constituents. The ones I've talked to have not felt any decline in service levels. That's one of the things we've tried to focus on.

Mr. Diehl said we will go through the budget by department. If you have any questions with the numbers, opposite the financial numbers you will see all the explanation of the charges. The notes to the budget are outstanding and they answer 99 percent of the questions you may have. As we go through if you have any questions let me know.

Mr. Parham said on page 14 under 1101- 52810 – Police Cruisers, you will see that it calls for replacing the DARE vehicle at a cost of \$10,000. We think our DARE vehicle brings value to the community and we think it is important that the vehicle be replaced. Currently, it is not operating. We had a request from Camp Safety which is the group that handles the change over for our vehicles. They like the vehicle and would like for us to consider disposing of the vehicle in their possession. Their offer is to give us a credit for future services. Although, we have budgeted \$10,000 for its replacement, presently, there is no exact plan on how it will be replaced. I have asked the Police Chief to explore the possibilities and try to find a unique vehicle for our next DARE vehicle.

Mr. Squires said under Parks and Recreation – Alcohol and Drug Testing, can you expand on that?

Mr. Parham said there is no notation found on the opposite page for this item, because it is a rather small ticket item. For the Parks and Recreation Department, alcohol and Drug Testing is for the random testing for those employees with a CDL license. This line item in the Police Department is where the department purchase the supplies for their alcohol (DUI) and drug testing programs.

Mayor Webster said there is \$35,000 budgeted for a summer event similar to what we had this summer.

Mrs. McNear said in Capital Improvements there is \$5800 for bus shelter trash cans. Is that a typo?

Mr. Parham replied it is not a typo. There are four trash cans identified to be purchased for some of our bus shelters. (Mr. Parham passed out pictures of the current trash cans as well as the proposed trash cans.) Mr. Parham said over the years these trash cans have become dinged up, faded, hit, etc. The department was proposing to purchase these new trash cans that match what you will find along the Springfield Pike corridor. The proposed cans have been reliable and have stood up over time. In any event, it was the department's attempt to develop some consistency with what we already have. Each of these units is priced at \$1,500. We have not had any issues with them since they were installed in 2002. There are a ton of different trash cans that are available, but trying to find something that will blend in and be durable is what we are seeking. The purchase of the new cans is not a done deal at this point but that is the intent. We are continuing to explore what other options are out there.

Mrs. McNear said I understand \$5800 in the scheme of millions is not very much but \$5800 for trash cans knowing that people run into the shelters and there is a lot of maintenance around them, it seems exorbitant. I'm really concerned about that cost.

Mr. Parham said the bus shelter damage is a different challenge. We correct them when they are damaged. I hear your concern and once again, we are continuing to explore our options and so the final decision has not been made on the purchase of the trash cans.

Mr. Parham said in the same line item the chipper is identified at \$49,000. We have had two chippers that we've run for a number of years. The chipper program is a really labor intensive program that runs year round. This year we have been down to one chipper because the other one broke so we continue to put stress on the existing chipper. We had in this year's (2013) budget to purchase a new chipper. As you recall, there were about \$1 million of capital items scheduled for the General Fund that we held off moving forward on until we had a chance to see how our resources were shaking out. At this point, we have decided to move forward with the chipper. The good news is that it will not cost us \$49,000. The Public Works Department had four vendors come in and bring one of their chippers for our crew to try for about a week each. The guys had a chance to get use to how the unit would operate. The mechanics had a chance to become familiar with the unit and how they would need to maneuver around to service it. They narrowed down their recommendation to two units and then based their final decision on the price of the unit and the trade-in provided. The one we decided to move forward with is a Bandit brand. The current chipper we have that is broken is made by Morbark. Morbark brought out a unit for the crew to consider; however, it was not one of the two final units selected. The price to purchase the Bandit unit is \$42,095. The other brand being considered in the final two was a Woodsman chipper at \$41,000. They nor the Morbark or even the fourth brand (Veneer) offered a trade-in on our old unit. The Bandit purchase price is \$42,095 and they are offering a trade-in in the amount of \$3,000. With the trade-in our cost to purchase the Bandit unit is \$39,095. I would like to request legislation at the next meeting allowing us to dispose of the existing non-working Morbark chipper. It will be a part of the purchase for a new one. Over the years, we have been delaying the replacement of equipment and vehicles due to our financial challenges. We have continued to replace police vehicles, but we have been keeping those vehicles longer, as well. The last few years, the other departments have been lining up at my door because they need a vehicle. In the old days when we use to keep the police vehicles for a shorter time, we would rotate those off the front line and pass the older models on to the departments and let them use them for their routine tasks throughout the community. Right now the quality of those older police vehicles is not worth trying to retain. Therefore we have decided that in some cases we are going to purchase new vehicles; in particular, for the sanitarian in the Health Department. We are also going to strategically replace some of the equipment and vehicles in other departments throughout the organization. At the last two meetings, we talked about the lawn mower in the Parks Department so we are replacing that as well as one in Public Works. In this budget you will see in the Street Maintenance Fund, we plan to replace one of our dump trucks. We need to make sure those big vehicles are ready and prepared for the winter weather.

Mayor Webster said under Administration, maybe this is the time to address bringing in an ordinance adjusting the Mayor's salary for 2014. As you recall, a year ago I requested that the Mayor's salary be increased from \$21,000 to \$25,000 and that the \$4,000 be offset by the City retaining the nuptial fees. I need to do 54 weddings a year at \$75 to generate the reimbursement of that. As of today, I did wedding 46 and have two more scheduled for the rest of the year and the phone is still ringing. I think 54 is the right number and I would respectfully request that an ordinance be brought in requesting the Mayor's salary be \$25,000 again for 2014.

Mayor Webster said on page 70 there is \$39,500 under Zoning Code Update. We received a proposal from Anne McBride's firm for a Zoning Code rewrite and it is higher than what we have in the budget but we have not had any discussion with Anne yet.

Mr. Parham said I want to bring to your attention on page 79 under Building Maintenance Repair, you will notice the estimated expenses for that line item is a very large number. The building is 21 years old and as it continues to age, we may continue to

see an increase in our maintenance costs. This year, we had to replace the boiler for the building. There are things that are going to occur that we can't plan for. As I've always said, this document is a planning document. We are planning for what we intend to do in the upcoming year but we can't plan for some of these things. We didn't anticipate that we would have to replace the boiler. That was a \$20,000 hit. The elevator was \$23,000 where we had to replace the cylinder and the piston in the unit. Last year, we decided to hire a part-time maintenance person to assist with our HVAC system. The building has been open for 21 years and over that time, we have contracted with businesses who were supposed to have performed preventative maintenance on our units. Unfortunately, we find that they really were not performing the preventative maintenance. Now with this new part-time employee, he is able to assist not only Mr. McErlane in monitoring this building, but also the other buildings (Police Department, Fire Department and Community Center). We didn't have anyone in those buildings with Mr. McErlane's expertise but now the new guy is able to provide that and make sure that the services we are supposed to receive, we are now getting. Right now, I think we will see the costs climb, but over time, we should see those numbers decline.

Mr. Parham said in the five year budget, pages 129 and 131 were duplicate documents and may have added some confusion. So we renamed the new project and line item to "Traffic Signal - Battery Backup System" and you can find that on pages 130 and 131 in this document. Under the five year budget we identified them by the years, but they are two separate programs. On page 128 is the Traffic Signal Upgrade for all of our traffic signals. The project on pages 130 and 131 is the installation of battery backups at a number of our signalized traffic signal locations. This project will allow us to lessen the amount of down time of our traffic signals during a storm or outage.

Mr. Parham said in the Parks & Urban Forestry Fund you may have noticed there are dollars budgeted in Arboretum Path line item. After conducting a bit of research, I found these dollars were originally recorded in the Tree Planting line item and at some point were incorrectly recorded in the Arboretum Path line item. The beauty about the Urban Forestry Fund and other similar type funds is it does not necessarily matter which line item the dollars are located. The real key is the dollars are in the fund and we have appropriated the proper amount. We always budget the amount we have available.

Mrs. Harlow said I noticed in District 3 we have trees in the right-of-way that have banding around them. Is that something the City is doing?

Mr. Parham responded those trees could be some of the right-of-way ash trees that we decided not to treat and are now being scheduled for removal. A few years ago we decided to treat our ash trees surrounding the municipal complex, the Glenview Subdivision ash trees and select ash trees located in the right-of-way. There were several others we decided not to treat and so they may be in the process of being removed.

Mayor Webster said Derrick covered all of this but I'd like to re-emphasize a couple of points. On page 79 under General Fund expenses I think it's very worthwhile to note that the money we are proposing be spent in 2014 is \$4,279,500. That is \$13,000 less than what the City actually spent in 2012. I think that's pretty remarkable that we maintained or exceeded the service levels throughout the City in all the departments. Over the last couple of years we've given our employees a 2% salary raise. We've maintained all the benefits. Health insurance is over 10 percent higher this year and we still managed to absorb that. When you give an increase all the other benefits go up with that, especially longevity, life insurance, etc. I think that's something for us to be really proud of. We wholeheartedly urge you to adopt this budget in the way of our appropriation ordinance at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Diehl said on behalf of Council, Mr. Parham, I'd like to say job well done.

Mr. Vanover said a tip of the hat to the Finance Committee. I know the hours and work that go into that.

Mr. Squires asked are all the leaf collections done now? In Royal Oaks and the Terrace there are quite a few homes with leaves on the curb.

Mr. Parham said we schedule to complete the leaf collection program by the end of November. We schedule it for that time frame, because we do not want to get caught trying to collect leaves in case we have an early winter. That happened to us a few years back. To try and collect leaves while there is snow and ice on the ground can be pretty challenging. At the time, the guys are still out collecting leaves. This year you are seeing big piles of leaves around the community. Nevertheless, we continue to equip the vehicles and prepare them for any snow anticipated for this weekend.

Mr. Parham said I recall during the first week or so of 2012 we were getting a lot more leaves collected and placed out at the curb after the deadline. In fact, I would get a call from a resident stating the crew did not collect their leaves. They would see the crew collecting leaves from their neighbor's house heading in one direction. That resident would then place their leaves at the curb and would be upset that the crew did not collect their leaves. They wondered why the crew didn't just come back as they were putting their leaves out.

Mr. Thamann said earlier this evening I received an e-mail from Mr. Agricola, our Public Works Director, and he indicated that today for the upcoming weather they ran two leaf trucks so they picked up everything that was supposed to be out by November 29. Everything west of SR 4 they were able to pick up but they would also run tomorrow if possible.

Mr. Knox said I regret to inform Council and the City of the passing of Mrs. Shirley Fastnacht who passed away suddenly yesterday. She was a leading member of the Springdale Senior Citizens.

Mayor Webster said I'm sorry to hear about Mrs. Fastnacht but we also lost Dan Kennedy who was the father of School Board member Sandy Leach. Dan was a long term member of our BZA, and Youth Boosters coach.

Mr. Thamann said on the leaf collection, the leaves were supposed to be taken out to the curb by the 29th. You will see the leaf truck go by. They are collecting what has been put out there. They don't want people from this day forward dragging leaves out to the curb loose. You will have to have them bagged and they will be picked up with the regular collections.

Mr. Vanover said you should have our Boards and Commissions assignment sitting in front of you. The Charter calls for Council to approve the Planning Commission and BZA appointments. My appointment to BZA was for Lawrence Hawkins continuing.

Mr. Squires nominated Lawrence Hawkins and Mr. Diehl seconded. The motion passed with seven affirmative votes.

Mr. Vanover said I brought Mrs. Harlow in to be my replacement on Planning Commission.

Mr. Knox nominated Mrs. Harlow and Mr. Squires seconded. The motion passed with seven affirmative votes.

MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning Commission	-	Dec 1
Board of Health	-	Dec 10
Board of Zoning Appeals	-	Dec 17

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE	-	none
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UPDATE ON LEGISLATION STILL IN DEVELOPMENT

Agreement with Wood & Lamping	-	Dec 18
Mayor's Compensation	-	Dec 18
Final Appropriation and Transfer	-	Dec 18
Temporary Appropriations	-	Dec 18

City of Springdale Council

December 4

2013

Employee Pay Rates	-	Dec 18
Adopting Annual Appropriations for year ending Dec 31, 2014	-	Jan 8
Investment of Municipal Funds	-	Jan 8
Requesting Advance Payment from County Auditor	-	Jan 8

RECAP OF LEGISLATIVE ITEMS REQUESTED

Disposition of Morbark chipper	-	Dec 18
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Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:

Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2013