

President of Council Marge Harlow called Council to order on December 1, 2011, 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 Mr. Diehl, Mrs. Emerson, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Squires, Mr. Vanover and Mrs. Harlow. Mr. Galster was absent

Council was dismissed.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Ken Schneider introduced Judge Melba Marsh who swore in Clerk of Council/Finance Director Kathy McNear, Councilpersons Jim Squires, Bob Diehl, Ed Knox and Mayor Doyle Webster.

Mrs. McNear called roll. Present were, Diehl, Emerson, Hawkins, Knox, Squires, Vanover, and Harlow.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Vanover nominated Mrs. Harlow to be president who was appointed by acclamation.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Squires nominated Mr. Vanover who was appointed by acclamation.

Mayor Webster said I'd like to thank everyone for their support, not just the voters but all the people who accommodated signs, not just for me but all the candidates up here; people who made phone calls on my behalf, the poll workers, people who worked very diligently distributing fliers, etc. I would especially like to thank the two people closest to me in my life, the first lady of Springdale, my wife Lavonne. I could not have served one year up here, let alone forty without the help and support of her; and our daughter, Julie Matheny, who at the end tried to maintain 500 signs throughout the City. She has been accused of being a paid political consultant. I did not pay her. She did it through her own free will. She also has another name everyone wants to hang on her... aka, "The Mayor's daughter." I appreciate the help of these two.

Mayor Webster said going forward with this government, all of you know the first day you were sworn in to public office you were pretty excited. As I look back forty years ago, I was excited. Does the excitement I have now match that? Probably not. I was a little younger. I didn't know exactly where I was going or what I was doing but I was excited about going down that path. I can honestly sit here and say tonight my enthusiasm and my outlook for this City is just as high. My energy level is just as high as it has been for any of the other ten times I've been sworn in. I'm looking forward to the next four years. I think the City has been through some very rough times but we see a lot of light at the end of the tunnel. Things have turned around. I'm sure we'll have some setbacks as we go forward but I think we've learned we're a lot smarter today than we were four years ago and I think we've learned how to do more with less. That speaks well for the City going forward. Just a word to friend and foe alike. I'm sure there are some people sitting here that don't agree with the voters' choice of returning me

to office but the voters have spoken. That's the important thing we all need to leave with here tonight. Whether we agree or disagree the final voice rests with the people of this City, the fine people of this City and I think they sent all of us here to do one thing, that's provide good government for the City. That's exactly what I know I'm committed to and my Administration is committed to. I think, whatever our differences are, we need to check them at the door, and for the next four years do what's best for the City. I'm prepared to do that and as I've indicated before, my door is open to any and all of you.

Mrs. Harlow said I would like to add a welcome to our newly elected officials. I would like to bring to your attention that we have boards and committees we need to fill. If you have a request for a specific board, please send me an e-mail. Mr. Vanover and I will sit down this weekend and try to figure out what boards we can appoint people to. I can't guarantee that you'll get what you want but we do want to put as many people into their focus areas as we can. We also have some Council appointments that are expiring and we need to look at those at the next meeting. Those are appointments to BZA, Planning Commission, Civil Service Commission and Charter Revision. If you have someone's name that you want to bring forward please have a short bio of that person so that all the Council members can know what their background might be.

Mr. Squires said I think it's going to be a really exciting four years. We are going to do some things in this City that these residents are going to be proud of. We have a good team here and I'm extremely proud to be part of it. We're going to have some setbacks, like the Local Government Fund, but I think we're holding the high cards. We're stronger than a lot of other municipalities. During the campaign I emphasized that businesses want to come to Springdale. We've got everything good to offer them and we're going to go overboard to make sure that they get a good deal. I'm optimistic about the next four years.

Mr. Vanover said I echo Doyle that there's a lot of pride and excitement. I think one of the greatest joys is working with our employees. I've never been more proud and it is an honor to sit up here. I want to thank our staff, Administration, Civil Service people, police, fire, street crews.

Mr. Knox said I believe the City has been quite well run. I'd like to thank the Mayor, Administration and Council, particularly in the financial area because it has been difficult. Not being up here doesn't mean I wasn't monitoring what was going on. While we can overcome the fiscal problems, we also should not lose track of other things that can improve the quality of life to the people of Springdale. I'm looking forward to making some suggestions, most of which I picked up from people as I was knocking on doors.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Parham said at the last meeting we announced that we would have the public hearings for the electric and natural gas aggregates. Unfortunately, when we placed the ad with the Tri-County Press they did not advertise the December 7 meeting, so we are unable to have a public hearing at that meeting. However, in the newsletter we did identify December 7 and December 21 as the dates for the public hearings. If residents do show up we'll try to address those questions but we'd like to ask that the public hearings be held on December 21, and again the first meeting of January.

Council agreed to hold the public hearings for the Electric and Natural Gas aggregates on Wednesday, December 7 and Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Webster said you all received a flier for a sneak peak at Warehouse B, a new business coming to Springdale. The ribbon cutting is December 5 at 3:45 p.m. In going door to door, I think we have been deficient on keeping the people informed of new businesses coming into the City. A lot of people comment on businesses leaving but we don't announce when they come in. We are going to make a special effort in the newsletter to keep people more informed.

Council adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:

Marjorie Harlow, President of Council

Marjorie Harlow
Jan 4th _____, 2011