

## City of Springdale Council

December 1, 2015

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on December 1, 2015 at 6:03 p.m.

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

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council Members Diehl, Harlow, Hawkins, Knox, Squires, and Vanover were present. Council Member Emerson was absent.

President Vanover: Mrs. Emerson advised us that she was going to be late due to getting hung up at work.

Dismissal

President Vanover: With that, it is at this point I will dismiss the outgoing Council members. You are free to vacate. And the Mayor. (Council Members Knox and Squires, Clerk of Council Kathy McNear, and Mayor Webster departed the dais.)

Swearing-In Ceremony by Judge Melba Marsh

President Vanover: At this point, I will turn it over to Mr. Schneider – you can do the introductions.

Mr. Schneider: You want the judge to come up and swear them in individually?

President Vanover: That's what we've done before.

Mr. Schneider: Okay. Kathy McNear, Clerk of Council/Finance Director. Judge, that's your first one.

Judge Melba Marsh: Oh, very good.

Mrs. McNear: Ken, why don't you introduce the judge first?

Judge Marsh: You mean I need an introduction? I've been here so many times; if it's the 1<sup>st</sup> of December I know where I'm supposed to be. (Laughter) I always look at the paper to see who I am swearing in now. I got my trusty robe on. One time I actually came out without my robe and I thought what am I going to do? Luckily for me, I know the priest at the parish house. I stopped by the house and he gave me a robe and said "do you think they'll notice anything with church and state?" I said "with a big cross on it Father, I don't think so." (Laughter) It's interesting – I don't see the young lady here – she was five or six years old and she comes up to me and she takes her finger and goes down by the side of the cross and she says "that looks like" and I said, "Be quiet, kid." (Laughter) Nobody noticed but her. (Laughter) It feels very natural that I'm here. So, I'm going to swear in the Clerk of Court. Are there family members present?

(Mrs. McNear begins naming family members.)

Judge Marsh: Well certainly, please come up, join us! After all, you're the ones that made it possible. All of the times that you are there, door-to-door, ringing bells, encouragement, it's only fair that you're standing here right now. And where's the photographer?

(Family members gather and volunteer photographer gets into position.)

Judge Marsh: Alright. Raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, oh, I'm sorry, wrong role. (Laughter) Are you ready? Repeat after me:

Mrs. McNear: I, Kathy McNear, solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter of the great City of Springdale, Ohio, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties in my elected position of Clerk of Council/Finance Director, to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge: Congratulations! (Applause)

City of Springdale Council

December 1, 2015

Mr. Schneider: Next will be the Council Members. Lawrence Hawkins. Has his son with him. He's lined up to run in the near future. (Laughter)

Judge Marsh: Oh, he said he didn't want any part of politics. (Laughter). I think he's saying if he can't be Mayor later on, he doesn't want his picture taken. (Family gathers.) Oh, that's a great shot. Well, congratulations again. I think I was here for your very first run and your very first win on this Council so it's so endearing to see you re-elected, again and again – that says great things. Would you please raise your right hand and repeat after me?

Mr. Hawkins: I, Lawrence Hawkins III, solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter of the great 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: Congratulations! (Applause)

Mr. Schneider: Dan Shroyer

Judge Marsh: Well, hello Dan. (Family gathers.) I always like these family portraits; I think they're so wonderful. When I go to other places, they don't have this kind of family atmosphere and I always miss it. Are we ready to take the oath? Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

Mr. Shroyer: I, Dan Shroyer, solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter of the great 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)

Mr. Schneider: Carolyn Ghantous, newly elected member of Council.

Judge Marsh: Oh, hello! (Mrs. Ghantous' husband joined her). We're going to take the oath. Was this your first run?

Mrs. Ghantous: Yes, ma'am.

Judge Marsh: Wow, congratulations, very good. I need you to raise your right hand and repeat after me.

Mrs. Ghantous: I, Carolyn Ghantous, solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter of the great City of Springdale, Ohio, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties in my elected position of Council to the very best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause)

Mr. Schneider: Mayor Doyle H. Webster.

Judge Marsh: Well, Mayor, how many times has this been? (Mayor Webster's family joins him.)

Mayor Webster: Somebody might say too many. (Laughter)

Judge Marsh: We would never say that; would we, Mayor? Let me see, this is, I believe, the sixth time tonight, as Mayor, correct?

Mayor Webster: Yes.

Judge Marsh: And, I'm going to think – it's approximately a dozen times over as Director of Finance.

City of Springdale Council

December 1, 2015

Mayor Webster: That's right.

Judge Marsh: So, I'm counting my calculations – this is the twelfth time overall, isn't it, as the Mayor, and you previously served I want to say 25 years as Finance Director?

Mayor Webster: Twenty-four.

Judge Marsh: Excuse me; 24 for the Mayor. So, let's see – if I calculate that out in my mind – half a century, Mayor, of service? It's almost a half of a century, your service to this community. I think that deserves (Applause). Wow, and you don't look over 34, Mayor, something like that? (Laughter) I have to come back here. Are we ready to do this?

Mayor Webster: We are.

Judge Marsh: Alright. Raise your right hand for me and repeat after me:

Mayor Webster: I, Doyle H. Webster, solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter of the great City of Springdale, Ohio, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties in my elected position as Mayor to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations, Mayor! (Applause)

(Newly sworn-in Mayor, Clerk of Council/Finance Director, and Council Members take their position on the dais.)

President Vanover: Mrs. McNear, will you do roll call again, please?

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council Members Diehl, Ghantous, Harlow, Hawkins, Shroyer, and Vanover were present.

#### Election of President of Council

President Vanover: First order of business is the election of the President of Council. First thing, we'll open up nominations.

Mr. Diehl: I would like to nominate a gentleman who has done an outstanding job at Chairman of Council. I nominate Tom Vanover to serve once again in that capacity.

President Vanover: Do we have a second?

Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion.

President Vanover: Are there any other nominations? No other nominations were made. Okay, we'll close nominations and, I guess, by affirmation that is done. Thank you all.

#### Election of Vice-President of Council

President Vanover: Alright, we have the election of the Vice-President of Council. I'll open the floor for nominations.

Mr. Diehl: I would like to nominate Lawrence Hawkins, III, as Vice-Chairman of the Council. He has done an outstanding job for the last four, five, six years, so I nominate Mr. Hawkins.

President Vanover: Do I have a second?

Mrs. Harlow: I second that.

President Vanover: Do we have any other candidates? No other nominations were made. Okay, I guess, by affirmation, Mr. Hawkins, you are Vice President, congratulations.

## City of Springdale Council

December 1, 2015

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Old Business

President Vanover: Alright, at this point in time, we'll open up for Old Business – is there any Old Business?

Mayor Webster: I would just like to take a few minutes, if I may, to thank a few people. You know, this is very gratifying, to have the ability and the privilege to serve this City for 44 years, and good Lord willing, like I said, hopefully it will be 48. Before I embark upon this next journey, I have to take a moment to sort of reflect a little bit and thank some of the people that made this possible. First and foremost would be my bride of 56 years, my wife, LaVonne. Without her support and help, we would have never gone down this journey, which we started 44 years ago. When our daughter, and she'll probably kill me now because you can sort of figure out her age, but when our six-year old daughter was running around the house and wanted to get involved with the campaign, and needless to say, she's been there to help LaVonne and I every campaign since that time. On top of that, not just those two people, but I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people in the twelve elections that have supported my candidacy. I would hope that I've fulfilled your faith and I just want to say thank you very much for your support over the years. Over those years, I've also had the opportunity to serve with probably 75 – 100 different Council people and two Finance Directors – Mrs. McNear and Mr. Knox. I've also been very blessed to have two outstanding and competent City Administrators in Mr. Cecil Osborne and Mr. Derrick Parham. We have some outstanding Directors that Derrick and Cecil have recruited, 130 full-time people and all the part-time and seasonals – all of those people have contributed to me sitting here this evening. It's not been what I've done – it's been the voters' reward for performance. We're not perfect, but we try and we care and I think that's all you can ask for a public official – to be honest and care and try. So having said that, I'd like to congratulate our Finance Director, our newly sworn-in Finance Director. She's embarking on her third time as the Finance Director and I'm not sure, we were just discussing in the hallway, how many – two terms as Council person, prior to that, or three?

Mrs. McNear: Well, it was two full terms and one one-year term, and then two terms completed for Finance Director.

Mayor Webster: So anyway, she's been here a while. We're very fortunate to have Mrs. McNear back with us. I'd also like to congratulate Mr. Hawkins. This is his third or two and a half terms. Anyway, we're very fortunate and very pleased to have Lawrence returning to us once again. I'd also take this opportunity to welcome the two new members, Mrs. Ghantous and Mr. Shroyer. Congratulations. You're embarking upon a very rewarding experience and I hope you gain as much from the experience as I have over the years. If there's anything that myself or Administration can do for you to help you along your way, please feel free to call upon us. The elections are over with and now the hard work begins. I'm very excited about the future of this City. If I weren't excited about it, I would not have put my name on the ballot for a sixth term as Mayor. There's absolutely a ton of potential economic development everywhere we look in the City and I'm just hopeful that some or most of that comes to fruition. It's going to make Derrick's job a heck of a lot easier of putting the budget together. Together we can and we will make Springdale a better place to live, so thank you very much and good luck to all of you.

Mrs. McNear: I just wanted to make a comment. I was joking with the Judge earlier that my family got off easy this time because I was unopposed, but if you look out there, there's a lot of people in the audience today and I just wanted to mention that – while we were up here doing what we do as a calling, the people who are out there are home alone without us – because we miss anniversaries, we miss birthday parties, we miss ballgames, we miss concerts, so that we can serve this City and those people out there are the ones that need to have a round of applause for what they do to support us in our calling. So I want to thank everybody in the audience, especially my family.

Mr. Hawkins: I also want to thank my parents and my kids and my wife for all of their support throughout this busy time. It's probably the most difficult time I could have in terms of having the biggest trial of my life going on at the same time, so I appreciate you guys going to the polls and rallying the troops and helping me out because I would not be here without you guys.

City of Springdale Council

December 1, 2015

Mr. Hawkins (continued): I also want to thank Mr. Knox and Mr. Squires for all of their time; I know there will be a tribute for you guys coming up tomorrow, but I wanted to say thank you for all that you guys have done and the role-modeling that you guys have done also on Council.

New Business

Mrs. McNear: Let's wrap it up and go eat.

Communications from the Audience

- none

Adjournment

(Mr. Hawkins moved to adjourn and Council adjourned at 6:25 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2015