

City of Springdale Council

April 20, 2016

Vice President of Council Hawkins called Council to order on April 20th, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mrs. McNear provided the Invocation.

Vice President Hawkins: Just a reminder – please turn off all cell phones.

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council Members Diehl, Emerson, Ghantous, Harlow, Hawkins, and Shroyer were present. President Vanover had reported at the last Council meeting that he would not be in attendance at this meeting.

Mrs. McNear: This is just a reminder to anybody on the dais please ensure that you use your microphone when you're speaking. It's essential for the recording as well as for the Recording Secretary to capture our verbiage when we're speaking. So again, please remember to use your microphone. Thank you.

The minutes of the April 6th, 2016 City Council meeting were considered. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt; Mrs. Harlow seconded. Minutes were adopted as published with six affirmative votes.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Higgins: The Springdale Civil Service Commission met on April 7th, 2016 with all members in attendance and Mr. Thamann. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the March 3rd meeting and those were approved.

Under Reports, Mr. Charlie Wilson has been appointed to the position of the Assistant Recreation Director. Mr. Wilson currently serves as the Recreation Programmer and he will be replacing Ms. Casselman, who is retiring so the Recreation Programmer position will need to be filled. The hiring process will not include a written examination but a submitted application and resumes.

The 2015 Annual Report of the Civil Service Commission to the State Personnel Review Board was reviewed by the Commission to be submitted.

Under New Business, a number of correspondence for the Violations Bureau Clerk were reviewed; correspondence for notification of the completion of the one-year probationary period for Mr. Paul Vossberg; and then correspondence dated April 1st from Mr. Thamann for a firefighter relative to the extension of his probationary period. The next Civil Service Commission meeting will be held on May 5th. If there are no questions, that concludes my report.

Rules and Laws	Mr. Diehl	-	no report
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Finance Committee	Mr. Diehl	-	no report
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Planning Commission

Mrs. Harlow: The Planning Commission met on April 12th, 2016 in these chambers. All members were in attendance. Under New Business, we had Tri-County Mall at 11700 Princeton Pike before us for a Modification of the PUD. They have a junior anchor store that would go in the corner, where BJ's is, of the mall and it would take up 60,000 square feet. This was approved with a 7 – 0 vote with some modifications that would need to be worked out with Administration. There was one issue that we had with the loading dock and we want to make sure that, because of the way the mall loading docks are situated, there is a walkway close by; we want to make sure that there is a definite barrier, pedestrian barrier, that will keep people out of the loading dock and they will work that out with Administration.

The second item on our agenda was Wimbledon Plaza at 11770 Springfield Pike and this is a revision to the Transition District Development Plan. The Wimbledon Plaza wants to do a facelift and they brought in their color schemes and their plans for revitalizing that shopping area and that was also approved with a 7 – 0 vote.

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Mrs. Harlow (continued): It's kind of interesting – the third item of New Business that we had was the Atrium Hotel and Conference Center at 30 Tri-County Parkway and this is a Planned Unit Development, Zone Map Amendment, and Preliminary Development Plan. As the gentleman got up to the podium to talk with us, he said that after listening to the Tri-County Mall and the Wimbledon's Plaza, he knew they weren't ready to address the Commission, that there was a lot of questions they didn't have answers to that they knew that we would be asking so he requested that we table it, which we did until the next meeting. So we expect to have them back at our May meeting. Also Tri-County Mall told us that they would be back before us over the next few months for redevelopment as well.

An item that Mr. Okum brought up was that the last time that we did a Comprehensive Land Use Plan was in 2002 and he made a recommendation that Council look at updating that plan. He talked about the different points of the way grants are scored and he indicated that, if you have an up-to-date Comprehensive Land Use Plan, that scores you higher on the grant. He also mentioned that there are five mini-grants available through Hamilton County for planning purposes and those would have a deadline for June of this year. That would conclude my report unless there are any questions. Thank you.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: The Board of Zoning Appeals met yesterday evening; that was April 19th. We didn't have any applications so we discussed the new Zoning Map and then we adjourned. It was a quick meeting. Thank you.

Board of Health

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health met April 14th. Concerning Public Health Emergency Preparedness, the Springdale Health Department plans to participate in the regional Ebola tabletop exercise on May 24th and the functional exercise on June 29th, 2016. The Willow's Work Group met April 8th and they continued to work on the Chamberlain Park block party, which will be held on May 7th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Public Health Accreditation for the Springdale Health Department continues to progress; we're on schedule. They hold their last Strategic Planning meeting on April 25th, 2016 and continue to be on track to apply for that for 2017. The Springdale Nuisance Abatement Program, which we refer to as SNAP, was put together in December of 2015 and it was formed with the mission of increasing health, safety, and economic vitality at the hotels and motels in the City of Springdale. Within that group, or committee, are representatives from the Springdale Health Department, the Springdale Building Department, the Springdale Police Department, the Springdale Fire Department, and the Springdale Economic Development Department. Our intent is to create a cooperative effort between the City and the hotel/motel operators, and the visitors and business community. With this goal in mind, the SNAP program is hosting an Informational Forum, which a letter was sent out to all the hotels and motels in Springdale and we're going to provide an Informational Forum and the speakers at that meeting will include representatives of the City of Springdale, the Cincinnati Convention and Business Bureau, and the Ohio Hotel/Motel Association. The hope is to increase the standards within these hotels in Springdale, which in turn will increase their business and reputation.

On to the Nurse's Report - Concerning the Ebola outbreak, a woman died of Ebola after traveling to Guinea and then to Liberia. Liberia and Guinea now have reactivated their emergency response and are tracing that family. There's 100 new cases in Liberia and eight cases in Guinea. The influenza activity in the U.S. continues to be very minimal. The Children's Health Fair will be held at the Springdale Community Center and it will be on Friday, May 13th for third-grade students in the Princeton School District. Healthy U Diabetes Workshop is scheduled for Thursday morning, May 12th through the 16th of June from 09:30 until noon. That concludes my report unless there are any questions.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Emerson - no report

O-K-I

Mrs. Harlow: OKI met on April 14th and one of the reports, from the Kentucky department, was Governor Bevin signed a bill that would prohibit any tolls on any bridge crossing from Ohio to Kentucky, so they are definitely opposed to any type of tolls paying for the bridge.

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Mrs. Harlow (continued): Another report on the transportation part of it was that in 2015, Americans drove 3,100,000,000 miles compared to 2007, when they drove 3,000,000,000 miles, so we are increasing our mileage on the roads and that has an impact on our environment and all of the other side issues that go through. We had another presentation, which was Presentation #7 of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and that is out at the 2040.OKI.org website for anyone who would like to look at it. It will walk you through the transportation, social, and environmental impacts of the draft project list that OKI deems to be important for our society in the year 2040. They also had a 2017 Unified Planning Work Program and I would pass this on to Mr. Parham for his review; he might be interested in that. Any other items were just some general housekeeping items that all passed.

Mr. Okum gave me this from OKI Regional Council of Governments – it's the "Elements of an effective Local Comprehensive Plan" and I'll pass this along to Mr. Parham as well. That will conclude my report. Thank you.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: Several items, but before I get into my report, I would just like to make a few brief comments about an event we had today. We had our 12th Annual State of the City Affair. We had three of our Council people there along with our Law Director and our City Engineer. It was a great event. We had about 100 people. We started off twelve years ago; we had 40 people, I think, so it's grown by leaps and bounds over the years and seems to be very well received by our business community. When you get your invitation next year, please mark your calendar; we'd love to see your smiling faces there. Great event.

Don't forget to return your surveys. I think we've got about 200, 250 responses. We probably sent out around 3,000 so we'd certainly like to get at least the magical 10% on that so if you haven't sent in your survey, please do so. Speaking of the Community Center, I'm pleased to report that our spring sports sign-ups are up about 20% from last year, which is a very positive sign. Don't know the reason for it but you just don't look a gift horse in the mouth, you say thank you.

Arbor Day is next Friday. We have two Arbor Days. We will have one at Heritage Hill Elementary School at 11:10 in the morning and then we'll follow it up across the way at the Springdale Elementary School at 1:00 in the afternoon. We'd certainly love to have your attendance at those two events.

Another thing that goes along with Mrs. Emerson's report about the prescription drug drop box program that we're going to be instituting. This was initiated by a request from Mrs. Rita Hart, one of our Board of Health Members, asking why Springdale didn't have one of these. We looked into it and we will be having one operational by the end of May at the Springdale Police Department. It's my understanding that anytime there's a clerk or anybody on duty, that they'll be able to take prescription drugs. We have a steel mill here locally that will dispose of those at no charge for us. The policy is written and the DEA has been advised, so I think we're already to go. We also, this year, we'll be participating with the DEA on the annual prescription drug take back day and that's on April 30th, so a month after that, we'll have our own and we'll be operational 24/7, 365 days a year. We're very pleased to have that.

I think the only other thing is I do have a couple of Proclamations I'd like to read this evening. One of them has to do with Arbor Day and it goes something like this:

"Whereas, in 1872, J. Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for planting of trees; and,

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and,

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and,

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and,

Whereas, trees are renewable resource, giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and,

Whereas, trees in our City increases property values and enhances the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community; and,

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Whereas, the City of Springdale wishes to encourage its residents to plant and maintain trees in the City.

Now, therefore, I, Doyle H. Webster, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim April 29th, 2016 as Arbor Day in the City of Springdale and urge all of our citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support the City's Urban Forestry Program."

I will be presenting one of these at both of those schools next Friday. In addition to that, a few days early, but I'd rather be a few days early than late but,

"Whereas, the City of Springdale continues its' efforts to address critical issues of safety, energy efficiency, water conservation, and resilience on the built environment that affects our citizens both in everyday life and at times of national disaster, give us confidence that our structures are safe and sound; and,

Whereas, our confidence is achieved through the devotion and vigilant guardians in Building Safety and Fire Prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, laborers, and others in the Construction industry who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings; and,

Whereas, these guardians, dedicated members of the International Code Council, use a government consensus process that brings together local, state, and county and federal officials with expertise in the built environment to create and implement the highest quality codes to protect Americans and the buildings where we live, work, learn, worship, and play; and,

Whereas, the International Code and the most highly adopted building, safety, energy and fire prevention codes in the nation are used by most U.S. cities, counties, and states. These modern building codes are also safeguards to protect the public from national disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildlife fires, floods, and earthquakes; and,

Whereas, Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown guardians of Public Safety, our local Code officials who assure us safe, efficient, and livable buildings; and,

Whereas, building codes, driving through growth, through the innovation, resilience, and safety is the theme for the Building Safety Month 2016 and encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of buildings' safe resilient construction, fire prevention, disaster mitigation, water safety and conversation, energy efficiency and new technologies in the Construction industry. Building Safety Month 2016 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure that the places where they live, learn, work, worship, and play are safe and sustainable and recognizes the countless lives that have been saved through the implementation of safety codes by local and state agencies; and,

Whereas, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, Americans are asked to consider projects to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state Building Departments, Fire Prevention Bureaus, and federal agencies in protecting lives and property.

Now, therefore, I, Doyle H. Webster, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2016 as Building Safety Month."

Thank you very much. That concludes my report.

Vice President Hawkins: Thank you. Mrs. Harlow?

Mrs. Harlow: Thank you. Mr. President, if I could back up to my OKI report? I left out an item, please. On last Thursday, I had an opportunity to talk to Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune. We happened to be sitting fairly close and after the meeting we had an opportunity to talk and I expressed my desire that he would be considerate of our grant that we have requested for the \$300,000 that is before us this evening.

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Mrs. Harlow (continued): He said he was very familiar with the application and he planned on supporting it; he was happy to support it and he also told me that he would like to come out to Council and explain how this funding came to be. I told him that we would welcome him and any of the other Commissioners at any of our Council meetings, so we'll see if we can't get him on a future agenda if that meets with Council's approval.

Vice President Hawkins: Thank you, Mrs. Harlow. Mrs. McNear?

Mrs. McNear: Thank you, Mr. President. My question is for Mayor Webster regarding the drug take back program. I'm very happy that this is being put in place. This is something that I've requested several years ago, probably more like four years ago, but the cost was an issue at that time, but again, I'm very happy that it's being put in place. My questions is, is the program only for Springdale residents or can anyone drop their unused pharmaceuticals?

Mayor Webster: I mean, it's a Springdale program, but that's not to say that if someone from an adjoining community has a prescription – a bad prescription or an outdated prescription, and they wanted to drop it off, they wouldn't take it but it's not meant to be a regional-type resource for the community so I'm not sure how to answer that question. But anyway, this is being paid out of our Law Enforcement fund, so this is not coming out of any General Funds and I'm not sure, I don't have it in front of me – the cost of it, but it was not all that expensive.

Mrs. McNear: Okay, well that's good news. Either way, whoever's paying for it, it's good that it's not very expensive but I know when I had asked about it probably four or five years ago, that was the response I was given about putting that in place so I'm very happy that it's being instituted. Thank you so much.

Mr. Parham: In response to a couple of the questions – I think it was somewhere around \$695 for the drug drop-off box. That is the vessel that individuals will drop their drugs into. The other thing I would just like to make sure that everyone is clear is that this is for pills only. It is not for creams or anything else. If so, then we will have to figure another way of disposing of those items. So when you bring items, bring only pills. As the Mayor indicated, there is a local organization that will dispose of the pills for the City. Our officers will carry the pills to that location and witness them being disposed of. Relative to whom we will take them from, anybody who comes to the window and drops them off. We are not going to ask for identification or anything of that nature. After that, we will simply dispose of them.

Mrs. McNear: Mr. Parham, pills – does that mean capsules as well, just dry medications that are not lotions or liquid?

Mr. Parham: We have not talked about capsules. I imagine capsules would be okay. It is just the creams and liquids, cough syrups, those types of things that would create an issue for us.

Mrs. McNear: My five years of pharmacy work coming into play with these questions this evening.

Mr. Parham: This is alright.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: I do have a Financial Report for this evening. This is General Fund through March 31st, 2016 - Receipts, based on a budget of \$18,490,187, we've received \$5,527,106, or 30% of the anticipated budget. That budget that we have received is made up of five General Fund Receipts sources of Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedics Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court - that amounts to \$5,131,048, or 93% of that's received budget.

For Expenditures, on a net budget of \$16,708,272, we have spent \$4,007,952, or 29% of Budget. Our ending General Fund balance is \$2,613,693. That concludes my report; thank you.

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Administrator's Report

Mr. Parham: Council, I have two items and then Mr. Thamann will have an item for you. The City, has, once again, through the Departments, began to collect City-owned property that is no longer deemed to be needed for public purpose. It is our anticipation is that we will have all that information collected and then, at the May 18th meeting, present an ordinance before Council to approve the authorization for us to dispose of those items just as we did in 2015. The methods in which we dispose of these items are: electronic auction (Govdeals.com), some items are donated, and then others are simply deemed as having no value whatsoever. Those items will be determined to be trash and we will throw them out in the garbage. We hope to have that legislation before you for the May 18th meeting and then sometime after that period, we will determine which items will be donated, which items will be trashed, and which will go on Govdeals.

The second item I have for you is a bit of very good news for us. We were notified today that the Hamilton County Commissioners, at their meeting, approved a \$50,000 grant for the City of Springdale from their Transient Occupancy Tax Capital Grant Program to assist the City with the demolition of the old Sheraton Hotel. That is something we had been looking forward to and that came about today as part of the County's program. I would be willing to answer any questions right now but I am going to turn it over to Mr. Thamann.

Mr. Thamann: Since 2010, the City of Springdale has participated in one of two OML-sponsored BWC programs. The renewal is coming up. We've either participated in the Group Retrospective Program or the Group Rating Program and, for 2017, the City has been given an offer to participate in the Group Rating Program. This program gives us the opportunity to save an estimated over \$34,500 by participating in this program instead of just being individually rated. With that, our projected premiums for 2017 would be in the neighborhood of \$142,000, roughly at 19% savings. So with that, the deadline for the application is May 30th so the Administration would like to have legislation with an Emergency Clause before you at the May 4th meeting for consideration.

Mr. Thamann: It's the Group Rating Program. It's an Ohio Municipal League-sponsored program for our Bureau of Workers Compensation premiums.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Forbes - no report.

Engineers Report

Mr. Shvegza: Thank you, Mr. President. On the 2015 Street Program, an update on that - the storm sewer repair at Cedarhill and Kenn is substantially completed. The grinding of the pavement on Yorkhaven and Cedarhill and Rose Lane has been completed and, in fact, they have resurfaced Rose Lane, in that area, so that portion of the project is substantially complete. The intermediate asphalt layer has begun placement on Yorkhaven and Cedarhill and the final asphalt surface should be complete by the end of April. The cracked sealing and the mastic surface seal on West Kemper and Century Circle North is expected to begin early May and to be completed by the end of the month. The overall project completion date is May 31st. One correction on what I had listed as far as some of the contracts that were arranged with the Public Works Department on the Glensprings extension curb work - that is not underway, that was supposed to have started but it is not currently scheduled to start until April 26th. On the State Route 4 Southbound Lane Addition project, the ordinance authorizing final agreement with ODOT on the project is before Council tonight. That concludes my report.

Communications:

Mrs. McNear: I do have one letter this evening from John R. Myers at 477 Maple Circle Drive, addressed to the City of Springdale; Doyle Webster, Mayor; Kathy McNear, Clerk of Council; Gregg Taylor, Building Department; and Christine Russell, Economic Development:

"I am confused by the city's actions regarding the Sheraton hotel property, as reported in the Spring newsletter. The city was apparently weary of waiting for 'the private sector' to refurbish the building and so they bought it! Then they solicited bids from demolition contractors to tear down the building. All the while, a new hotel is at the top of the

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city's wish list for development at this location. Sounds like a conundrum.

I find it impossible to believe that the only solution to the mold in this hotel building is to tear down this building and begin another new hotel. There seems to be no denial that the market place and the private sector will ultimately determine the overall re-development of this property, as the newsletter reported. I'll assume that the Springdale Zoning Board will still hold sway over whatever is built, as they did in 1981, and as they could have done without ever buying the property. So, what will be gained and at what ultimate cost to Springdale taxpayers, due to this purchase?

As an owner and resident in the Crossings of Springdale since 1980, I can assure anyone that the empty building at the end of Sheraton Lane has never appeared as "a miserable eyesore" to me. There is never any need for anyone to drive to the end of this lane in order to view it closely unless they are lost. Its appearance from around the area is not disturbing. I have to wonder who has found the level of upkeep to be unacceptable and "have demanded that something be done to eliminate this large blighted structure sitting in the city's front door."

I'll assume that the city of Springdale has enough money to do almost whatever they desire, having seen the complex of city owned structures around our extravagant city building, but that does not mean that it is wise to do so. Just my opinion, John Meyers"

That concludes Communications. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: I was copied on that letter also and I did call John right away. I know him and he lives in the area, on Maple Circle, I believe it is. We talked for some time and he is convinced it's a total waste it's something we shouldn't be doing. I talked a little bit today at the State of the City regarding this project and I think that, since there's an insinuation there that we're wasting taxpayer money, I think it's important that we get on record the fact that we bought the property for a \$1,950,000. We've got a contract that hopefully Council is going to approve this evening to tear this building down for \$587,000, and Mr. Parham has been successful in getting grants for \$350,000. When we put all that in the hopper and it comes out that the City's on the hook for about \$2,200,000. Now, we have an appraisal in hand that will more than cover the \$2,200,000 so we haven't wasted any taxpayers' money; we haven't squandered it. At the end of the day, we will have eliminated a blighted property that sat vacant since 2008. It's fallen in disrepair, no taxes being payed to the county, to the City, to anybody else, so we're going to make it a productive tax-paying piece of property that will greatly enhance the beauty of the City and so I think it's a win-win-win for everybody. Anybody that thinks that that's a great building that should be rehabbed, they need to take a drive down Sheraton Lane and just circle the thing a couple of times - I think you'll come to the same conclusion that we've come to.

Mrs. McNear: I don't know how anybody could walk past that building and not describe it as an eyesore. I've walked past it twice a day for the last three days this week alone. Frankly, it's creepy to walk by there. It's not just that it's vacant; it's that all the windows have plywood. The plywood is so old that it is deteriorating. It's not a good look to the City. Even if you drive by on the expressway, you can still see that the building is starting to decay. There's no sign on it; there's no signs of life. This is not something that's contributing to our City. It's a detriment to our City. The parking lot is growing grass and I don't mean in the grass fields, I'm talking about the concrete and the black top has grass growing through it, sometimes as high as three feet tall. Our City employees have to go out there and cut it or we have to contract with someone to cut that grass. It is most definitely an eyesore and it is not contributing to the City and I am, for one, very happy to see that we are finally being able to purchase this property so that we can tear it down and make it something that's a thing of beauty and something that is going to contribute to this community. Thank you.

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Vice President Hawkins: I will also say, I did speak with Mr. Myers as well and tried to reiterate some of the things that Mayor Webster had told him. The other part that I was explaining to him also was that we're getting dollars to help with this being torn down through the diligent work of Mr. Parham and the Administration to get these dollars that are available from the County Commissioners. The reality is, if we were not getting these dollars, they'd go to another city so the City is basically taking matters into their own hands, tired of sitting and waiting for someone else to try to help with this situation. Obviously we're going down a path that's going to resolve this in a favorable way for the City in the long term.

Communications from the Audience

- None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 8-2016

AUTHORIZING A FINAL ORDINANCE WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR THE STATE ROUTE 4 SOUTHBOUND LANE ADDITION PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Harlow made a motion to adopt; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Parham: Council, as you recall, in February, I believe it was, we adopted ODOT's preliminary ordinance. There is typically a preliminary ordinance that we adopt as well as then the final ordinance. This is the final ordinance. Along with this ordinance, we will then make our contribution towards the project. If you recall, at that time (February), our contribution was estimated at \$120,000. As you can see now by this ordinance, ODOT has a new estimate that is a lower number for us - \$99,000. However, as the ordinance indicates, when the bids actually come out if the number needs to be adjusted, it will then be adjusted. We will not know our total actual cost until after the project has been completed. After this document is signed tonight, if it is approved tonight, and signed, we will forward this document along with the signed contracts and our contribution to ODOT. We will deposit our share into an escrow account and then they will begin at some point, the bid process and moving forward with the project. We also applied for MRF funds to cover 50% of our share. We were not approved for the MRF funds. So instead of paying, we estimated at that time, \$60,000 out of our own pockets and \$60,000 from MRF funds; our cost is going to be, right now, at the \$99,000.

Ordinance No. 8-2016 passed with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 9-2016

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TEC ENGINEERING, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE'S TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt; Mr. Shroyer seconded.

Mr. Parham: Council, unfortunately, I did not get an opportunity to discuss this with you at the previous meeting, which is typically my practice. However, the City's contract with TEC, who has served as our Traffic Engineer for 15 years or maybe more (for a very long time) is scheduled to expire on April 30th of this year. As the legislation indicates, this was a three-year contract. The proposal is a new three-year contract, from 2016 to 2019. There is no proposed adjustment to the monthly fee. There are minimal adjustments that are being proposed for the individual rates for the various positions within their organization. I have a couple of corrections to the Pending Legislation Report. I think the Pending Legislative Report indicated there are probably four rates that were being reduced. There is only one that is decreasing. The others are experiencing a very small increase. All of the other rates were increasing by about, overall, a 2.8% increase. If you look at this, this is a three-year contract, so that is less than one percent per year. They do an outstanding job for us. They monitor our traffic systems.

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Mr. Parham (continued): They were very prominent participants in the upgrade of our traffic system that we recently upgraded over the past couple of years. As a result, I would ask that Council would consider this in a favorable motion. I will answer any questions that you may have. And we do have Mr. Ed Williams, Vice President for TEC in the audience. He would be happy to come forward and introduce himself and answer any questions.

Mr. Williams: Ed Williams, Vice President of TEC Engineering. As Mr. Parham stated, we've worked with the City for a very long time on the Traffic Signal System and general traffic engineering services. We have appreciated the work and we appreciate working with the City and building towards the new things to come. If you have any questions, I can give you an entire dissertation on traffic engineering, if anyone wants to take a nap.

Ordinance No. 9-2016 passed with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 10-2016

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3-2016 TO CHANGE OPTIONAL REDEMPTION PROVISIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Harlow made a motion to adopt; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Parham: Council, there are just a couple of adjustments to this document from the previous ordinance that you adopted in February. As you can see, the rate, unfortunately, moved from 2.75% to 3%. The other adjustment is you do not see, in the new ordinance, the closing date. The closing date is this Friday, April 22nd. Instead, language was placed in this document that provided us with more flexibility that indicates we cannot redeem the bonds prior to 180 days after the closing date. Those were the changes to the document. It still provides for an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Ordinance No. 10-2016 passed with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 11-2016

ACCEPTING A BID AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH O'ROURKE WRECKING COMPANY FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER SHERATON/CINCINNATI NORTH HOTEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Diehl made a motion to adopt; Mrs. Harlow seconded.

Mayor Webster: I just have a question – Section 3 sounds like we're paying \$587,000 for some equipment. We're not buying any equipment, are we?

Mr. Forbes: No.

Mayor Webster: So why does it say that? It should be for work performed, shouldn't it?

Mr. Forbes: It's for the services performed, yes. This ordinance is a piece of legislation that's based on standard bidding when we award contracts. My guess is, many times, since those contracts are for equipment, this was a word that was left over.

Mayor Webster: Should we amend that?

Mr. Forbes: Council is free to amend it. What's the most important thing is what you're doing is approving this expenditure for the contract that's attached to it and the contract is very clear of what the services are that you'll be receiving for the payment. If Council is more comfortable to make that simple amendment, you can do that.

Mr. Diehl: Do we have a timetable for this?

Mr. Parham: We do not have an exact schedule when they are going to start. The plan is, that we will sign the contract, we will get them in to sign the contract, and provide their performance bond.

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Mr. Parham (continued): As I think I shared with you at the last Council meeting, there is another issue to deal with. There is additional asbestos that has to be addressed by the contractor which we called out in a bulletin. I believe we forwarded that bulletin to them today.

Mrs. Russell: It will go tomorrow.

Mr. Parham: It will go out tomorrow and it identifies how they will treat this new case of asbestos. The first case of asbestos was already covered under the existing numbers and at that point in their original bid, they indicated it would take them 100 days. They will have to now identify also not only a cost that we will have to pay for the removal of the new asbestos, but also a timeframe in which it will take them to do the work. When they will actually be out there digging, I cannot tell you at this point. When we sit down with them at the pre-construction meeting, we will know when they start.

Mr. Diehl: So we don't know an end date either.

Mr. Parham: The end date that is in the contract is August 31st, but you are going to have to look to adjust that date more than likely, potentially, with this new addition of the asbestos work. It was not considered as part of the original bid.

Mr. Diehl: Thank you.

Mr. Shroyer: Mr. Parham, once they begin the demolition, do they, in effect, take temporary ownership of the property; are they responsible for security and all those things? We basically turn it over to them and they give it back when it's gone?

Mr. Parham: I would say that is correct. Within the documents, they have to provide fencing around the site and they have to secure it. It's their responsibility and they have to provide liability coverage, as well. Yes, it is now their responsibility.

Mr. Shroyer: Thank you.

Mrs. Harlow: In regards to Section 3, just for clarification, I would like to make a motion that we amend the ordinance to state "for said demolition".

Mrs. Emerson seconded the motion.

Vice President Hawkins: Is there any further discussion regarding the amendment? (None.) Mrs. McNear, if you would poll Council regarding the amendment to Section 3 of Ordinance No. 11-2016.

With a vote of 6 – 0, the amendment to Ordinance No. 11-2016 was approved.

Vice President Hawkins: Is there any further discussion regarding Ordinance No. 11-2016 as amended? (None.)

Ordinance No. 11-2016, as Amended, passed with six affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 12-2016

AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH HAMILTON COUNTY RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt; Mrs. Harlow seconded.

Ordinance No. 12-2016 passed with six affirmative votes.

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Old Business

Mr. Parham: In response to the question I received from Mr. Shroyer last week relative to the radios, we have checked with, since we are having two vendors, the vendor for both the Fire Department as well as the new radios vendor. Relative to the Fire Department, the individual spoke about a cost of about \$4,000, somewhere in that range. At the same time, with the infrequent time that we would need to change the radios, the only time, you would know better than me, the last time we changed the template was probably in 2000, when we went to digital radios. Does that sound right? So with the infrequent amount of time and at that cost, it probably would not be beneficial for us. Relative to the new radios, they have a very similar program. Their software is only about \$300, but the training that we would have to send the officer to would cost about \$4,000. Again, changing the template is very infrequent and so we are not changing it that often. I would hate to put in the hands of our folks who, if you are not doing it that often, then you begin to either lose the knowledge of changing them and then we send you back for training and I would rather not incur that cost. The option is out there, but at this point, we think it is probably best that we not take advantage of that option.

Mr. Diehl: Are we going to address terms for Planning Commission and so forth today?

Vice President Hawkins: For Charter Revision?

Mr. Diehl: Yes.

Vice President Hawkins: We can. The only thing that I was going to ask is if Council wants to discuss it, obviously we can. If Council wants to wait until we have everyone present, with Mr. Vanover here, we can do that as well. I think we do have some time but whatever Council's pleasure is.

Mr. Diehl: I think we ought to continue the discussion on the matter. We can decide whether we would like to vote on it later.

Vice President Hawkins: Sure. Your thoughts?

Mr. Diehl: We all got notifications from Mrs. Harlow about communications from past Council members – do you have that?

Mrs. Harlow: I do have that.

Mr. Diehl: I wonder if she can go over that at this time?

Vice President Hawkins: Yes. Mrs. Harlow?

Mrs. Harlow: I passed out to all the people up here minutes that I was able to dig out of my file cabinet from the Charter Revision Committee. A meeting that was held on January 10, 2000 and at that time, Mrs. Boice was Chair; Mrs. Judy Simmons was Secretary; Beth Chavies was a member, Don Fish was a member, and Edgar Smith was a member. That evening, they discussed Council membership on Planning Commission. They discussed whether the Commission make up should be the same as for the Board of Zoning Appeals – The “current practice is the same as for the Board of Zoning Appeals but this year a problem has arisen when an at-large member because the President of Council is an at-large member and therefore cannot serve. Only once, in 1974, has there not been an at-large member on the Planning Commission. Mr. Schneider believes that this should be codified.”

Then the February 22, 2000 meeting of the Charter Revision Committee, addressed again the composition of the Planning Commission and it “proposed that the Commission composition be the same as that of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Schneider advised that to do so would be more legally defensible, especially since this had been the situation in most years. Mr. Fish expressed concerns that occasionally a Council member might not have the knowledge or be able to commit the time required. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Simmons had both found in their volunteer work that many times people took on a job not fully realizing the requirements of a position and the time required to fulfill the commitments of that position. Mrs. Boice said that there are courses offered through the Ohio Municipal League that the City sends Council members to for its training.”

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Mrs. Harlow (referencing Charter Revision Committee minutes, continued): “It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Schneider would prepare ballot language for the Planning Commission identical to the current language for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Further, Mrs. Boice will present to Council the idea of, perhaps six months before the filing deadline, providing an information session for prospective Council candidates which would include a full presentation of all the standing committees that a Council member might serve on.”

Out of that January and February meetings came Ordinance No. 62-2000 that was put before the voters that next fall and that passed. So that laid the ground work for Planning Commission to have one at-large and one district Council person, the same as the original Charter had laid the groundwork for BZA to have one at-large and one district Council person.

I got on the phone and I talked with Mrs. Boice and I said can you go back in your memory and tell me what you recall about this and she said that, if she had to try and bring back the conversations, it was all about balance – that you would have your at-large Council person, who would be taking into consideration the community as a whole and then your district Council person would be the balance for the residents to make sure that there was that residential protection there. I spoke with Mr. Galster, who was also serving on Council at that time and was a member of the Planning Commission and he recalled it the same way. So I have those documents; I think I've sent them all to you but I do have them here if anyone is interested in looking at them.

Vice President Hawkins: Thank you for digging up that information, Mrs. Harlow.

Mrs. Harlow: After listening to Mr. Galster and speaking with Mrs. Boice and thinking about this and going back through the minutes of the meetings from 2000, I'm in agreement for the two-year terms for Council people to serve on BZA and Planning but, I believe, in reviewing this information, it has reinforced my support of an at-large and a district also serving on each of those committees. Thank you.

Mr. Diehl: My only comment is something that Mrs. Boice said that perhaps you look at things different when you're a district person rather than at-large. I can tell you, I'm the only one up here that falls in that category, being at-large and then being a district and I do look at things differently and I would agree with Mrs. Harlow. I agree with the two-years, one from each category. Thank you.

Vice President Hawkins: Any further discussion? Just for the record, I do share your same experience.

Mr. Diehl: I should know that.

Vice President Hawkins: After all the chaos I've caused, right? Any other discussion regarding the Charter amendments? Is Council interested in just having further discussion when we come back for our next meeting with Mr. Vanover present before we're looking to take any action?

Mrs. Harlow: We have plenty of time. If Council deems necessary to put this on the ballot, we have plenty of time to do so, correct?

Vice President Hawkins: Yes.

Mrs. Harlow: I'm in favor of waiting for Mr. Vanover to come back and get his input as well; have everybody on the same page.

Vice President Hawkins: Is everyone in agreement on that? (Council indicates agreement.)

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New Business

Vice President Hawkins: The only thing that I would indicate for New Business is, along the lines of what Mrs. Harlow had discussed in her Planning Commission report and what Planning Commission had discussed, regarding the Comprehensive Plan, if the Administration could possibly research that to see what we may be looking at cost-wise or what we may be looking at timeframe-wise, so that Council could have some more data moving forward to look at that.

Mr. Parham: Mr. Okum attended the Planning Commission staff meeting. We discussed it at the staff meeting at that point in time. I also then asked our City Planner, whose firm was instrumental in assisting us in 2002, I think it was, and I asked her if she would provide us with a proposal so that we can consider that proposal. So that is underway.

Vice President Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Parham.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. McNear: This is a reminder for those elected officials who have not filed their Annual Financial Report with the Ohio Ethics Commission. The deadline is Monday, May 16th. Please do not be late or you will get a big fat fine. Thank you very much.

Mr. Thamann: A couple of announcements from the Recreation Department. Swim lesson registration will begin starting May 1st. The American Red Cross "learn to swim" classes provide instruction for children ages 3 – 12 to learn how to be safe in and around the water. Also, Adult swim lessons are available. If you are interested, please contact the Community Center. Going along with the Mayor, the increase in the Spring sports – let's keep the Fall going. They have Fall soccer registration starting as well May 1st so hopefully we can see an influx in the number of people signing up for that as well. That is for children age 4 and up. Also the Community Center wanted me to remind you that the membership requirement is waived for all first-time youth sports participants. The registration begins again May 1st for the Springdale Sailfish Swim Team so if you're interested, please contact the Community Center, 346-3910 for any of the registration information. Thank you.

Mrs. Ghantous: The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet next on May 17th.

Communications from the Audience

Mr. Higgins: Just real quick, and I would like members of Council to back me up, but Mr. Parham, if you could express thank you to the Tax Department. At the conclusion of the season, I know, my wife reported back they were very efficient. She went up there with a toddler, very friendly, very professional. I know that they work real hard through the first couple of months. If you would make sure you pass on to them job well-done. We really appreciate it. She had great things to say as did Mr. Jacobs as I was sitting next to him. So thank you.

Update on Legislation Still in Development

Mrs. Harlow: Council, if you will review your packet, Item I was the State of Ohio Department of Transportation Southbound Route 4 Lane Addition; that was our Ordinance No. 8-2016 and that was passed with six affirmative votes. Item II was Ordinance No. 9-2016 and that was for an agreement with TEC Engineering for traffic control; that was passed with six affirmative votes. Item III was Ordinance No. 10-2016 and that is to change our Ordinance No. 3-2016 for the notes for the hotel for \$3,000,000 and that was passed with six affirmative votes. Item IV was Ordinance No. 11-2016 and that was to enter into an Agreement with O'Rourke Wrecking to demolish the old hotel and that was approved with six affirmative votes. Item V was Ordinance No. 12-2016 and that was a Memorandum of Understanding with Hamilton County related to the Community Development Block Grant and the Transient Occupancy Tax funding and that was approved with six affirmative votes.

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Recap of Legislative Items Requested for Next Council Meeting

Mrs. Harlow: I have two items that were requested. One would be an ordinance to be before Council on May 18th to rid the City of surplus city materials and the second ordinance would be an Emergency for the May 4th meeting for the Ohio Municipal League Bureau of Worker's Comp Group Rating program. That's all I have. Is that it, sir?

Adjournment

Mrs. Harlow moved to adjourn. Mrs. Emerson seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Lawrence Hawkins, Vice President of Council

_____, 2016