

City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on October 5th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The minutes of the September 21st, 2016 City of Springdale City Council meeting were considered. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt; Mr. Hawkins seconded. Mrs. Harlow abstained from the vote. With a vote of 6 – 0, the minutes of the September 21st, 2016 City Council meeting were approved as published.

Presentation (Ohio Checkbook Process) - Postponed

Introduction of New Employees

Mr. Parham: Council, as we often employ new employees, we bring them in to introduce them to the elected officials as well as to the general public, and then they have an opportunity to meet you as well. So, we have two this evening. We'll start off first and foremost with our Recreation Department, Mr. Greg Karle and his new employee.

Mr. Karle: Good evening. It's my pleasure tonight to introduce our newest employee, our Recreation Programmer, Mr. John Wagner. John is a graduate of the University of Toledo. He obtained his degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies and a minor in Business Administration. He came to us; his previous employer was the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati at the R.C. Durr branch in Burlington, Kentucky. There he was their Sports Director. He oversaw their sports and recreational programs there. I'm very confident John has the educational background, the experience, creativity, and personality traits to be successful in the Recreation Programmer position.

Mr. Wagner: Thank you and I look forward to a very successful career here at Springdale.

All: Welcome.

Mr. Parham: Next we have from the Tax Department our Financial Officer/Tax Commissioner, Mr. Jeff Williams.

Mr. Williams: I would like to introduce the new Account Clerk in the Tax Department, Renee Elliot. Renee grew up in Canton, Ohio. She graduated in 1997 from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Accounting. Since 1990, she has gained experience in Accounting practice and customer service working for Eichel & Krone Company as an Office Manager/Legal Assistant, Von Lehman and Company as a Staff Accountant, and also working for Macy's at the Tri-County Mall as a Sales Associate. Renee has two kids, and she is a resident of Wyoming, and her start date was August 18<sup>th</sup>.

All: Welcome.

Mayor Webster: Yes, I'd just like to take this opportunity to welcome both of you on board. We think you've joined a great organization. We're a little biased; you might have to understand, but I think as time goes on you'll feel the same way. So good luck to both of you and thanks for joining our team.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 29-2016

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A COLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE SPRINGDALE PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS (IAFF LOCAL 4027) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Mr. Diehl made a motion to adopt; Mr. Hawkins seconded. With a vote of 7-0, Ordinance No. 29-2016 passed.

### Resolution No. R17-2016

ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION & AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mrs. Harlow made a motion to adopt; Mrs. Emerson seconded. With a vote of 7 – 0, Resolution No. R17-2016 passed.

### Old Business

Mr. Parham: Council, most of you will recall, probably everyone will recall, over the past couple of years, we've had complaints shared with us by our residents relative to activities over at the Forest Fair Mall. Throughout the last couple of years, we've tried to work with the Mall with very little success, actually no success. At one point we worked with the City of Forest Park working with the City Manager and the Police Chief and then at that point, we had minor success. However, here recently during July of this year, there was apparently a motocross type of event taking place at the mall. A (Springdale) resident raised concerns with the level of noise from the event. We then again contacted Forest Park. We did not try the Mall this time because we've not had any success in the past. At the time of this event, the City of Forest Park did not have anything on their books that would or that could prevent this sort of activity from occurring. But we are happy to announce that at their September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 City Council Meeting, the Forest Park City Council adopted legislation that will now prohibit motor racing and other outdoor automotive events in their City. So this is extremely appreciative of their efforts as they've tried to work with us over the years and finally they found a way in order to prohibit those types of activities. They forwarded to us a copy of a letter that was sent to Cincinnati Holding Company, LLC in Floral Park, New York. I have to imagine that is the ownership of the Mall. The letter informed them of the adoption of this ordinance and let them know that the activities will no longer be permissible, and also sent a copy of the ordinance. I wanted to share that this evening and then my intent is to send a message to the City Manager thanking him and his staff for their efforts, and their Council, as well as to share with resident Mr. Ric Ahner, who was the gentleman who called us on a number of occasions as he was frustrated in trying to deal with that situation. I just wanted to share that with you this evening.

Mayor Webster: I'd like to just add my two cents' worth in. Mr. Ahner is the last person that's been concerned about it. We've had residents over the years, including Mr. Hawkins, that had property that abutted the lot back there, and I'm sure it was very frustrating, perplexing for the residents living in one community and trying to get some enforcement from another community, and come to find out there was no enforcement, there was no law being broken so to speak. So, anyway it was a very bad situation and I'd just like to publicly thank Mr. Ray Hodges, who is the City Manager long-term City Manager of Forest Park, and he sort of took the bull by the horns and had a lot of empathy for our residents along there and got that piece of legislation passed and so we're very thankful to Ray and his Staff.

Mr. Hawkins: Along with thanking Forest Park's Administration and City Council, I appreciate our Administration staying on it for all these years and helping to get to this point and this resolution.

Mr. Diehl: I second Mr. Hawkins' feelings and on the behalf of the people who live in District 1 and Beacon Hill, we thank you very much, and Mr. Hawkins did a lot of legwork long before I became the District Rep, so thank you Mr. Hawkins.

### New Business

Mr. Diehl: As most of you know, I am deeply concerned about the safety issue about people walking on Kemper Road between let's just say the elementary school and Lawnview or Olde Gate Drive. I think it is a very dangerous situation. They have safety lanes built in; at some places they are less than one foot in width, and I just think something has to be done about that for the safety of the walkers and people who are riding bicycles and people who are

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

pushing baby carriages and so forth up there. As you know, about a year or a year and a half ago, we went through the process for people who live on the north side of Kemper about putting sidewalks in. Well after many meetings and so forth, we all said no, we didn't want sidewalks on the north side of Kemper. However, I'm here today to ask that we consider putting some type of safety mechanisms, whether that's sidewalks or a safety zone from two foot maybe back up to six foot in the right-of-way. I'm not asking anything to be done on the north side, especially sidewalks or anything, because the people have voted on that and they don't want sidewalks. I think after our presentation, everybody on Council felt the same way and they didn't want sidewalks on the north side. So what I would like is for Administration to take a look at the possibility of putting either sidewalks in on the south side or expanding the safety lane from basically two foot to six foot off the thing. So that's what I would like what I brought up.

Mayor Webster: Well, one thing, Mr. Diehl I would like to correct you on that. At the end of the day, the residents, because I remember polling them after the last piece of legislation was adopted and everything else and all decisions were made, is would they like to have a sidewalk if we could figure out how to put it outside the utility poles, and I think unanimously, well I think there was one person that said no, but I think thirteen out of fourteen or whatever we had represented that night said yes, they would like to have a sidewalk if we could put it outside the utility poles. And we just could not figure out a way to do that on the north side of the road. So, I hear what you're saying. I agree. I think it is a safety hazard. I think we've taken a bad situation and made it worse from that standpoint, because it's a great road out there and you guys did a good job of engineering that and everything else, but it's a nice, smoother surface that allows you to go a lot faster than you went before and the safety lanes are, you know, I've walked them. They're ridiculous. They really are ridiculous. So I have no problem with doing that. I guess, I think what we should do is we should poll the people on the south side of the road to see if they want sidewalks. If they say "no we don't want them", then I think we're wasting our time, and we spend a lot of time... I personally, just to address what we did two years ago I guess we did that, you know, I think that was democracy at work personally. I think that we presented to the people here's what we're going to do. We're going to put a sidewalk in, and some of them stood up and said, "Well, no use fighting City Hall. You guys say we're going to have one, then were going to have one." Well, we didn't, and I think it was a good exercise in democracy and so I certainly would like to see us approach this the same way. Let's not push these down people's throats. If they don't want them, we don't do them.

Mr. Diehl: I'm not advocating sidewalks at all.

Mayor Webster: Alright, but where I'm going with the conversation, Bob, is this. Okay, I think we need to do a survey of the people. I think somebody said there's nineteen houses, is that right?

Mrs. Harlow: Yes, correct.

Mayor Webster: Eighteen, nineteen houses over there. I think we need to send out a letter to all nineteen of those. But, I think we're going to have to do some preliminary work. Just to send them a letter saying "Do you want a sidewalk?" I mean, the person's gonna say, "Where's it gonna be?" So I think we're going to have Don do some preliminary engineering, some very basic stuff, just to send that to the folks to say, "Okay, we're taking a look at sidewalks on the south side of Kemper Road and here's approximately where they would go." I think it's only fair to the people. We can't expect the people to say Yea or Nay if we don't give them some information.

Mr. Diehl: Well, I agree with what you're saying, however, if they came back and said they didn't want sidewalks, I still think we need to put the safety lane in there.

Mayor Webster: Well, okay, then maybe at that point then we, if they say no sidewalks, then yeah we go down, and if we've got the right-of-way, which I think we probably do, to enlarge that safety lane without making a big project out of it, we could probably do that. And I would have no problem with doing it.

Mr. Diehl: I'm very comfortable with that. I don't want to make anybody angry, saying that we are forcing sidewalks, because that's not my intention. My intention is strictly to provide a very safe walk and bike path.

City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Mrs. Harlow: I agree with Mayor Webster. I'm all for getting the input of our residents, the nineteen houses on that side of the street. And I know it's a dangerous situation. I've seen the people walking and riding their bikes along through there, and if they were offered an alternate of safety lane or sidewalk, give them a choice, and try and go with what the majority wants if it's in our budget to do so.

Mr. Shroyer: I'd be curious to hear from the Engineer. That sidewalk issue was prior to my time here, but if I remember correctly, it seems that I'd heard there were some issues on the south side of the road as far as catch basins and those things. Do we believe that an expansion of the safety lane, apparently we know what's there and what's down there and what can be done now. Do we believe that it's feasible if that's where we want to go?

Mr. Shveg zda: We've looked at it in a very preliminary way. If we're looking at just essentially widening the shoulder from basically the existing painted white edge line that's there to provide a five-and-a-half foot width or something in that range, there doesn't seem to be any major issues depending on how we want to use that.

Mr. Shroyer: That wouldn't put catch basins in the safety lane of tripping hazards over grates or anything?

Mr. Shveg zda: No, they were moved back as a part of the roadway project, so they're, with that particular aspect of widening shoulders, they're pretty much out of the way of that. One thing we did confirm, that some of the, there's telephone poles that are there, on that side, some of those may have to be moved, but we did confirm with Cincinnati Bell that that would not be City cost.

Mr. Shroyer: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Don, I didn't understand you. How wide can we make the shoulder?

Mr. Shveg zda: We kinda looked at it just initially as a five-and-a-half foot shoulder from that white edge line that's there, just as kind of to see what would be in the way, what issues would be, it may be able to be wider. I don't know. We haven't really looked at that, and that's kind of assuming that we would take and widen that shoulder. Remember, we've got new driveway aprons there that we'd kind of widen it between each and butt up against the edges of those aprons. That's why we need to take a look at how we want that shoulder to be utilized, because it may mean some other issues that have to be dealt with.

Mayor Webster: I had a conversation on this topic, oh two months ago, with Mr. Hawkins, and I think he brought up an interesting point that, okay, we could, there's going to be two or three different options that we can explore here. The one that we're talking about here is just expanding what you see out there now. Instead of eighteen inches or twenty-four inches, whatever it is, you make it five, five-and-a-half feet. Or, if you're going to have the utility company relocate the utility poles and put them back into the yards closer to the homes, you could put a full-fledged sidewalk with a grass strip in between, a raised sidewalk. Mr. Hawkins' comment was "I would not, if you just widened the shoulder, I would not feel safe walking down there with my kids." If we're going to do it, we ought to do it right and we ought to put a raised sidewalk set back with a grass strip, just like you see everywhere else. And the more and more I think about it, I totally agree. If we're going to do we ought to do it right once and for all and get the hell out of there.

Mr. Diehl: I have a different comment; let Mrs. Harlow talk.

President Vanover: Well, we've got Mr. Hawkins ahead of her.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Mayor, you basically stole my thunder.

Mayor Webster: Sorry about that!

Mr. Hawkins: No no no, that's fine! That would be my concern. First off, I think it's important to get input from the residents, but to just expand the side of the roadway that we

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

have, all being the same level would create concerns for me, as the Mayor indicated. To raise that level, I think would be ideal. Even from those discussions we'd had previously, I've seen, I think in Mason, there's an area where there's not even a strip of grass in between the roadway and the sidewalk, where they just have elevated concrete and sidewalk right there. Even that would create some change in level that I think would create a little bit of a safer area. My other concern, as we go back to those discussions, initially I was right there with Mr. Diehl. I think the closing comments that both made were "listen to residents; we're not going to do sidewalks right now" but I think we both said at some point in time, we'd like to see a sidewalk there on that piece of road. My other concern is, financially, what will this cost, and to do it the right way? Obviously, if you just expand the berm, that's not that costly, but I want to make sure that we're not biting off more than we can handle all at once. But I think it's something that's important to look at and hopefully important to do at some point. I do have some fiscal concerns at the end.

Mrs. Harlow: Would this stop where the sidewalk starts up here on Kemper, or would we take it to our property line to the west, over Kemper Road, I'm sorry, over Route 4 to our property line to the west and have it all done so that we have a sidewalk that runs throughout our community?

Mayor Webster: I think all we're talking about now is the block between, make sure we've got a sidewalk between Route 4 and Lawnview or Olde Gate Drive.

Mrs. Harlow: And I agree...

Mayor Webster: I don't think we're looking at going west over to Forest Park line.

Mrs. Harlow: And I do agree that I think you pick up a lot of your traffic coming over Route 4, going east, but I think at some point in time if you're going to do the sidewalk through there, you also need to look at doing something that takes it to the city limit.

Mrs. McNear: The idea about expanding that berm from twenty-four inches into five feet or whatever, I think we would just be trading one dangerous situation for another. I know it's very dangerous to walk there. I don't do it anymore. If I want to walk, let's say from Route 4 over to the Tri-County Mall area, I'll go down the pathway behind the school, around the Rec Center, down Harter. I won't walk on that street, because it is dangerous. But if you make that wide enough, my concern is that when people are stopped to turn left or right into their driveways, people are going to use that extended area to go around cars. And the next thing you know, we're going to have a person pushing a baby carriage that's going to be seriously injured or worse. I wouldn't be in favor of just widening that. It has to be a real sidewalk, in my opinion. I just don't think that would be safe enough, unless there's some other way that we can do a barrier. Now you put up some other barrier, whether it's those little plastic orange cones, which look terrible. Those are going to get clipped all the time. It's going to be a problem for our plows. I just don't see that there's a safe way around doing a real sidewalk, and I feel for the residents who live there too. It's going to take up more of their yard. Now granted, it's going to be a situation where it's right-of-way anyway, but we will literally be in some of those people's front doors. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: I didn't have anything else to say.

Mr. Shroyer: Again I would ask Mr. Shveg zda the same question, if we're looking at sidewalks, do we believe that that's feasible as well? We had an idea on the north side. We told the residents we wanted to do sidewalks, and we came back and pretty much said to ourselves that it really wouldn't work out the way we had hoped anyway. Before we go to the residents on the south side, I would like to think that we at least have enough understanding to believe that we have something feasible to offer if we're going to go to the residents. Before we do that, I'd like to know that we have a workable plan.

Mr. Shveg zda: We looked at a sidewalk arrangement basically with a curb and essentially six-and-a-half feet from the back of the curb, as far as the width of the sidewalk. That's kind of, that's in conjunction, or that's recognized ODOT criteria for a sidewalk along a road like Kemper Road. In doing that, there are catch basins in that case that have to be converted to manholes, because they'll be essentially part way within the new sidewalk. We'll have to move the swale that's out there back a little bit and put some additional catch basins there. We'll have to modify

City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

the driveways that are there, because we'll have the curb bringing it up so we'll have to have aprons that transition. And just to give you kind of, again this is just an order of magnitude kind of cost estimate, the widening the shoulder, basically, would cost in the range of about \$55,000. And that's again essentially providing pavement between each driveway, basically to widen it out. The sidewalk option with the curb, the driveway work, modifying somewhat the storm sewer system that's in place, is about \$250,000. You can see there's a wide range of difference, however that sidewalk option would be in conjunction with being an approved ODOT type of format for pedestrians. It does have enough separation from the travel traffic that it would be an acceptable method. So that's kind of what we've looked at, at this point.

Mr. Shroyer: So it's not just add a sidewalk. We would be revisiting the south side of the Kemper Road Project, to curb the roadway and necessary changes and then add the sidewalk.

Mr. Shveg zda: Correct. In order to get the sidewalk in place, yes.

Mr. Shroyer: Thank you.

Mr. Harlow: Would it be possible if you were to look at the safety lane, to have a curb on the street side that might deter any vehicles from moving over toward the safety lane? Is that a possibility?

Mr. Shveg zda: We'll have to deal with drainage somehow, because now we're separating off the flow to...

Mrs. Harlow: Correct.

Mr. Shveg zda: and just, one of the criteria that ODOT has and a lot of different organizations regarding pedestrians, they look at a basically a three-foot separation between where the pedestrians walk and the traffic. So obviously, any kind of barrier there is not going to really provide that. It just takes a wider distance to get the pedestrians further away from the roadway.

Mrs. Harlow: Okay.

President Vanover: Mrs. McNear brought up the point, and if you happen to be over in the neighborhood of where Kemper Road and Chesterdale intersect there, and especially traffic that's turning off of Kemper Road north onto Chesterdale, we have essentially the extended shoulder, actually it's Sharonville. It's not us. But I see it all the time. People will stop to turn into Burger King there on the corner, and people will dog-leg around them because they don't want to stop and there's pretty as a picture, there's a sign right there that says "No Passing on the Right", but if a tree falls in a forest and nobody hears it, does it make a sound? And it's the situation.

Mr. Diehl: I realize that this is going to be a financial burden, but I would just tell you that I strongly believe we can't afford not to do something. Thanks.

Mayor Webster: Well, I think if you've got some ball park idea of what we're talking about here. Do it right, we're talking about a quarter of a million dollars. So, do you want us to have Don draw up some rough plans and then send this letter out to the nineteen people to solicit their opinion as to whether they want them or don't want them?

Mrs. Emerson: Is this, Mr. Parham, is this something, a project that we can apply for aid or help from the State?

Mr. Parham: I think based on conversations Mr. Shveg zda and I had before, the extension of the roadway with pavement only, would not qualify for funding. I think the addition of a sidewalk would be eligible perhaps for assistance. So there's an opportunity if you put in a sidewalk.

Mrs. Harlow: That was my question.

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Mayor Webster: I'm just thinking out loud here. You know we've, about to embark upon this seven million dollar road project. So we know we're going to have to borrow some money. Some we're going to borrow from the state for the Capital Improvement Program, and some just go to the bank and borrow money. We don't know how much. We're hoping that we're going to get a substantial amount of that seven million through grants. So we should have some word of that the end of next month? Is that right, the end of November?

Mr. Shvegza: As a matter of fact, this week they're actually out there looking at the project, so by the end of November we should know.

Mayor Webster. Okay. So if we proceed with going full-blown sidewalk, then hopefully before we, and if everybody says "Yeah, we want it, we want it" we'd hear something back from this before we'd have to make a decision where we'd come up with the quarter million dollars. And so hopefully we get enough grants to maybe, and in the meantime, we could apply for a separate standalone grant for the sidewalk, but hopefully we'll get some relief on the seven million dollar street program in the way of grants from the State Capital Improvement Fund.

President Vanover: Okay, so you're still looking for an up or down vote?

Mayor Webster: Up or down, or whether they want us to proceed with having the engineer...

Mr. Shroyer: While I would agree with the need, the necessity, I think timing is an issue. I'm kind of at the point that I know that we have delayed or pushed back a number of operating-type capital expenses within the departments. Vehicles and other items that we keep waiting to be able to afford. I think at seven million dollars for the street project and hopefully we do get some help with that, but until we know that we're going to get some help with that, I'm going to have trouble supporting another quarter of a million dollars in street-type capital improvements, until we look at some type of a definitive plan as far as capital items that I think we need to operate the City. While I'm in favor of the idea, I'd have trouble supporting that type of an expenditure right now.

Mayor Webster: Well, Mr. Shroyer I know it's something that's dear to you and dear to all of us, but probably more so you, since it's been your career, but we know that we've got two pumpers over there that are going to have to be replaced. We're very much aware of that, and I think you'll be very pleased when all the numbers come in on the budgets, but our plan is to have one replacement next year in the budget. Probably we'll do a lease payback arrangement on that thing, don't know how many years, don't know how the dollars are going to shake out, but probably a minimum of three years to pay that back. So then that would say we've got to keep our fingers crossed on the second unit that it'll last until we can get the first one paid off. If it doesn't and it breaks down, we're just going to have to bite the bullet and go ahead and get the other one on the same three or four year payback.

Mr. Shroyer: I'm feeling better about sidewalks. (laughter) As long as that's part of the thought process.

Mayor Webster: I've told you all along. We haven't, we're very much aware of the fact that we've got a couple big capital items that we've got to belly up to over there. And same thing, few years ago with our ambulance, the whole fleet went to hell in a handbasket on us. And our city dump trucks. One winter we lost all three, three big dump trucks plus one at the parks, as I recall, so we're not going to let that happen with the fire department.

Mr. Shroyer: Great. I feel better. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Shvegza, do we have any idea what the initial cost would be to do some preliminary things, sticking stakes in the ground and what have you for the residents to get their input?

Mr. Shvegza: What I would suggest is we could come up with a scope of what would be done and then we can get a fee for that for Mr. Parham to take a look at.

Mr. Hawkins: Are you estimating that fee to be less than \$10,000?

City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Mr. Shvegda: I'm thinking it's in that range or less than that, yes.

Mayor Webster: Mr. Hawkins, you don't want to put any figures in their mind. (laughter)

President Vanover: You just wrote the check.

Mayor Webster: All he heard was \$10,000.

With a vote of 7-0, Council voted to further investigate the proposed sidewalks.

Mr. Parham: Council, in the pending legislation report, I highlighted, in fact it said that we were going to have an ordinance at this meeting, but that was a typo. We're actually going to have an ordinance at the next meeting if you're in agreement. In 2014, the Ohio Department of Transportation received Federal grants that would pay for municipalities' bridge inspections. Initially, we thought when they came to us, it was for a one-year process, and so they presented us with legislation. Council adopted Ordinance 25-2014 to approve the Ohio Department of Transportation performing the bridge inspections for the City. They came back the following two years in 2015 and 2016 and indicated we didn't need legislation, but as long as we agreed they would pay for those inspections, and they did in '15 as well as '16. They have once again come forward with dollars and want to pay for our bridge inspections. This time they are saying up front it will be to cover years 2017, 2018, and 2019. So if you are in agreement, we would have legislation at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to approve an agreement that will allow ODOT to pay for the inspection of City bridges. That's all I have.

With a vote of 7-0, Council agreed to consider legislation to enter into an agreement with ODOT allowing them to perform inspections of the City of Springdale bridges.

Mrs. Harlow: I have two items that I'd like to talk to Council about tonight. I brought this up before in previous years, and I'm going to bring it up again. I'd like to see Springdale have a Spring Clean-up Day where we set one Saturday aside in the spring and advertise it to our residents. I know that there are some elderly people in our community who can't get outside and look at the front of the house and see what needs to be done. Maybe it's painting shutters or trimming some bushes. My idea would be that if there are people who need assistance, that they could contact their Councilperson. We could work as a committee to find Boy Scout Troops, Girl Scout Troops, church organizations, other volunteers who would be willing to go out and rake leaves up or trim some shrubs, paint front door, something to help people who could not physically do it themselves, and also take care of our own property that day to make sure that it's looking as nice as it could look, and I'd like to know how Council might feel about that.

Mr. Shroyer: I would be glad to support it and participate, and if need be, help organize it.

Mrs. Harlow: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: So, are you talking about just one day, are you talking about an ongoing program, or what are you...?

Mrs. Harlow: Basically set it up for one day.

Mayor Webster: One day?

Mrs. Harlow: yeah. I know that that was something that some of the residents in Heritage Hill mentioned to me that they would really like to see happen. And if it needs to be two weekends, it could be two weekends, but I know that it's done in a lot of other communities and I know that Princeton also had a committee that Mrs. Shroyer was telling me about that went out and raked leaves for people, so I think that we could get volunteers from different organizations to come out and help us those days.

Mrs. Ghantous: I like that idea a lot, and I also like the idea of trying to make contact with residents who for one reason or another aren't physically able to do things. They're older, or they just had surgery, so on so forth. If there was some way to help those folks know that

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

there was a resource and I know in SOS we do some stuff like that, but not everybody that has this issue knows to contact SOS maybe.

Mrs. Harlow: Right. Exactly.

Mrs. Ghantous: So I like the idea of the weekend thing, but I would also like to see that taken a step further that folks that either are older or not physically able for some reason, that we could offer some support, like maybe before they get a notice from the Building Department, or maybe after they get the notice, but if we had something ongoing where people could ask for help, then maybe we could prevent them from even being notified of a problem.

Mrs. Harlow: This just might be the beginning of that program.

Mrs. Ghantous: So I really like that whole idea.

Mrs. Harlow: Good, thank you.

Mayor Webster: I know our Building Department is well aware that SOS is available to help people, and if they run across a situation where it's an elderly person that doesn't have the wherewithal to repair or to bring their house or their property into compliance, they're encouraged to call SOS or let us know, and we've helped a lot of people, even to the degree of painting the house. We had a church group that volunteered to do it and SOS provided the materials. It worked out great.

Mr. Diehl: I'm certainly in favor of that idea and it certainly sounds good, however, I have a question. Who's going to administrate this program? I mean, in SOS, we have a procedure involved how to handle these things and so forth. Have you given any thought to how we're going to administrate the program?

Mrs. Harlow: I have. I think that if President of Council would set a committee, that we could work on it that way, and that way it wouldn't fall to the burden of the Administration, other than to possibly send out some type of a postcard notice that we're doing this on that particular Saturday, or if it's a rain date it would get moved to the next Saturday, but I would like not to put any more burden on Administration and I'm willing to certainly field calls and make calls and that type of thing.

Mrs. Emerson: Our church, Springdale Nazarene, who is very active in the community, which Mr. Webster knows about, we do a service day. It's November 12<sup>th</sup> this year, and we're always looking for jobs out in the community, our church is. So there'd be somebody we could probably turn to for volunteers to help. And that would be inside painting during the winter, any of those items.

Mrs. McNear: There's also an organization called People Working Cooperatively that is a great benefit to our senior citizens as well, and I've seen them do things like replace refrigerators, do some home repairs, thing of that nature. I think there are probably some financial guidelines that go along with that, but they've got a very good reputation and perhaps that's something that is another resource that we can mention to our residents as well. They're located I believe it's in Reading, but very close to Reading Road at 562. Tennessee Avenue, down in that area, but very, very good reputation.

President Vanover: As far as the comment on setting a committee of Council, we have a Housing Committee already. That's the three at large members. Maybe we, I mean we can set a new committee or we can expand the definition of their mission.

Mayor Webster: Well I'm not sure that Housing Committee would be appropriate for this, especially as Mrs. Harlow brought this up, I think she'd certainly want to be a part of it, and this Housing Committee is just the three at large Council people. That's what...

President Vanover: Then we can set a meeting, or set a committee and take it from there. I guess maybe volunteers to serve? You can say tonight, or if you want to think about it and let me know?

City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Mr. Shroyer: I would be willing to serve as part of that.

Mrs. Ghantous: I would like to serve on that as well.

President Vanover: Mrs. Harlow, you want to be involved?

Mrs. Harlow: I would love to be involved.

President Vanover: Well then there are three.

Mayor Webster: We've got the Terrace and the Oaks well represented, I'd say. (laughter)

Mrs. Harlow: We would make sure the Terrace and the Oaks shine.

President Vanover: Okay, then we'll come up with a name or whatever, but the committee is there. I'll let the three of you decide on Chairship and take it from there.

Mrs. Harlow: We'll do some preliminary work. We'll bring it back and let you know what we've come up with and how we want to notify our residents and that type of thing. I think we could probably get it into a newsletter prior to spring, and then maybe send out a postcard. I don't want to add a lot of extra expense or burden onto Administration, but let our citizens know what we want to do. And then I had one more item if we're finished with that one.

President Vanover: Continue on.

Mrs. Harlow: I remember seeing a document that Ms. Russell did for Economic Development, and I was so impressed with it. I thought about that document; it was one that she had done for businesses, that talked about the different amenities that Springdale offered, the different services that were available in our community, the different shops, and I would like to see if Council has any interest in maybe borrowing that information that she has created, and creating a documents and having an open house for realtors, passing this information out to realtors so that when a realtor shows a piece of property in Springdale, or maybe even if they have a client that's looking for a home, that they could hand them that document, a pamphlet that highlights Springdale and lets people know what's available for our Springdale residents. We've got a great place here. We've got fantastic new schools. We've got infrastructure. We've got location. And I would just like to see Springdale sell itself a little bit more than what we're doing. And I'd like to know how Council feels about that.

President Vanover: Comments? Discussion?

Mrs. Harlow: It's just going to lay there? Okay.

Mr. Shroyer: I would agree. I think we have addressed to a good extent the business issue, the economic development issue, and it would seem that marketing our residences would be the next step. I think our business areas, our retail areas are on their way back. It would seem like a logical next step to try to bring the residential areas along as well.

Mr. Hawkins: I agree. I think it's a great idea. I couldn't recall if Administration had done anything similar to this, or maybe it was just what Ms. Russell had done with regard to the businesses. I couldn't remember if we had had some discussion about anything like that previously.

Mr. Parham: Mrs. Harlow, are you speaking about the one that has a map on one side and a list of other amenities and businesses on the other? That's the one she's (Mrs. Russell) holding up there.

Mrs. Harlow: I thought I saw something that had, it was a little bit of a different document. Something like that, but I think more or less something that would be listing our Community Center, listing the churches that are in our community, listing the schools that are in our community, and just a small pamphlet. It doesn't have to be anything very expensive. Again, wanting to keep costs down, but something that a realtor would have to hand to a

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

potential buyer. We have a lot of people who want to live in Mason or Kings Mills or West Chester, and they can't afford it. But I think if we could have them look at living in Springdale and showing them the possibilities of a nice lifestyle in Springdale with our good schools and our good location and our low property taxes, I think that might be interested in at least looking.

Mr. Parham: The document she is presenting there, what we do with that is we hand it to businesses as they're coming into the community. It is a part of the marketing process. It highlights a lot of restaurants, a lot of other stores, probably the schools, where our buildings are located, a lot of what you're talking about is in that document. That's a very easy process and it comes out of her budget. It's a very easy process if Council wants that type of activity, we can take it out of your budget. So that's always an option that's there. I think I'll let the Mayor talk about the other.

Mayor Webster: Yeah, Mrs. Harlow, what you're describing there sounds like the exact thing that Mr. Karle is working on. It's a welcome package that we're going to mail to every resident and we're going to have a supply of those for all the realtors, and it would have all of these things on it. I think the thing that Ms. Russell put together, I think she did it for one particular business that moved in, and we loved it so well we said "Hey, this is great. Let's do this for every businesses of any substance that moves into the City." And so that's what she's done. But I think what you're talking about is something a little bit more comprehensive than just a one page map with some stars...

Mrs. Harlow: Right. I'd like to see something like that come out.

Mayor Webster: And I think what Greg is working on is something that we want to give to every new resident that moves into this City and we're going to start off by mailing it to every resident so they all have it, and also have an ample supply of these for the local real estate agents to have, and that would certainly highlight the churches...

Mrs. Harlow: That would be fine.

Mayor Webster: ... and the community facilities and all the City services and so forth. Everything that you would need to know if you're moving into the City or are thinking about moving into the City.

Mrs. Harlow: I think that would be great.

Mayor Webster: I think that's under way, and we hope to have that shortly after the first of the year, I think. He hasn't given me a date yet, but I think shortly.

Mr. Diehl: I feel one coming shortly.

Mayor Webster: Coming shortly, yes.

Mr. Shroyer: We might also consider in that document, I think we probably have at least some amount of situation where we have realtors that aren't necessarily familiar with Springdale, but have a client that they bring to Springdale to show a particular residence that they found on the MLS. If that document included some type of an area description of the different areas of the City and the types of housing there and the price ranges available, it may trigger a realtor to say "I've got another client that's looking in this range". Or that client may look at the house they came to look at and looks at that document and say, "well here's this other part of Springdale that probably fits better what we're looking for." So if we were to include some type of information that may help to steer either potential buyers or realtors that aren't familiar with our housing stock in different directions, we may pick up some interest from folks in that manner.

Mayor Webster: I don't think we had considered putting that sort of information in there, but I would suggest that probably most real estate agents have that information at their fingertips, that they probably don't need a brochure from the City pointing out price ranges in different neighborhoods. I think they've got that.

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Mr. Diehl: Since we have an expert real estate person here, Mrs. Ghantous, do other communities do something similar to this?

Mrs. Ghantous: No, not that I'm aware of, but other communities might not need to do this like we need to. We certainly suffer from an image problem and I think doing something is a good idea. I like all the idea about trying to get more information, particularly about the services. I don't know any areas that offer the kinds of services that we have here. And people don't know about it. And just like from sitting on the board of Zoning Appeals, how many times have we heard in the past couple of years that people bought a house and they didn't know that there wasn't a permit and they couldn't do the garage, but other things, not just garages, of course that's the hot topic. But so many other things that people don't even know that they're supposed to, the realtors don't even know that they should be advising their folks on those things, so I think that there is a need in our community to do something different because we need to shout out what a great place this is to live, and you don't get that part on the MLS. You don't get that part anywhere. You know, so I think that there are things that when can do. And does Mason need to do it? No. But we need to do something. I think it's a great idea.

Mr. Diehl: Thank you.

Mr. Parham: The document the Mayor is referencing, one of the goals is to not to provide or create a document that is going to be dated. If you do, you're going to find yourself trying to recreate a new version of it over and over and over again, and so we're sort of trying to work on presenting the document that will stand for a bit of time, if you will. And so that's the target. It is right now on my desk. I just have not had an opportunity to review it, but he's done his job and his work. So I have to review the document. I guess, I'm trying to think of my train of thought here, I was trying to piggyback on part of what Mrs. Ghantous shared a minute ago. I was having a conversation with our Building Official in my monthly meeting with him on yesterday, and a couple things we talked about during that meeting is one, our home improvement program that I was going to pitch. We still have dollars that are available. We reduced the amount of funding requests that we made of the County. They gave us \$15,000. We have a number of residents who use it every year, which is a great thing, but we're right now at a stalemate. We've tried posting the program on Facebook. We've tried posting on our website. We've tried presenting or putting other information out just to let the residents know, so if you have an outdoor, I'm sorry, exterior improvement to your home that you would like to have taken care of, you can avail yourselves as long as it's income-based and you qualify for the program. There are also options, and we try to keep it as flexible as possible. We've heard comments relative to SOS. SOS has participated in assisting residents before by fronting the amount of money, and then the reimbursement was made to refund SOS. The program is also set up whereby if you have a contractor and the contractor is willing to do the work up front, we can pay the contractor directly. So if you don't have the dollars to come out of pocket initially, the program is designed to help you sort of get over the hurdle through other mechanisms and other ways. So that wasn't what I was going to talk about, but I did want to hit on that one. Then I have to remember the other thought. Thank you.

President Vanover: You had mentioned the Building Department. Don't we have a brochure out there in a little kiosk that outlines the permits, what's required, cost involved with that? I seem to remember seeing one.

Mr. Parham: I can't recall if that document exists. I know we've always had our Directory of Services document. I'm sure in the department itself, there's information. I'm sure on our website, there's information so that if anyone has the need for that we can provide that for them.

Mayor Webster: And we usually try to have that at least once a year in the newsletter also, just to remind people about where a permit is needed and not needed.

Mrs. Harlow: Can we go back just a moment to the brochures for the realtors? Mrs. Ghantous, what is the best way to get those brochures into the hands of the realtors? I'm worried that if we mail them...

Mrs. Ghantous: Well realtors like free food (laughter)

City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Mrs. Harlow: Right. That's what I figured.

Mrs. Ghantous: That's the best way to get a group is to provide food.

Mrs. Harlow: Do a little open house?

Mrs. Ghantous: But I'd like to think about that just a little bit. I wrote that down here. I'll stew on that a little bit and see what I can think of, but food is definitely a way to a realtor's heart.

Mrs. Harlow: I am a little concerned that if we mailed ten or twelve, fifteen brochures to the real estate agency, that somebody might open them and say "Oh, how nice are these?" and just put them on a shelf and they really would not be...

Mrs. Ghantous: Yeah I don't think that would be the best way to do it.

Mrs. Harlow: I don't either.

Mrs. Ghantous: Because as I mentioned, we suffer from an image problem and I think if somebody just saw Springdale... Naturally I'm out there trying to spread the word, but I'm just one person that's out there trying to make people aware of all the things that we have and what makes this such a great place to live. So I don't think just sending a packet or even delivering a dozen pamphlets to an office is the way to do it. We have to get some buy in.

Mrs. Harlow: Right. I agree.

Mrs. Ghantous: Probably we could just reach out to a core group of people who sell and are interested in our area, because if they're not interested and they buy into poor image for some unknown reason, we're not going to get them on board anyway. So if we could identify some people who sell here pretty much, people who know more about the area and how it's a great place to live, I think that would be the best way. But I'd like to think about that a little bit. Maybe I can talk more about that at the next meeting.

Mrs. Harlow: Thank you.

President Vanover: Mrs. Harlow, are you... Any more new business? Alright, before we leave, I, well actually my wife, there's a scam going on. A telephone operation that you get a call, it's from, it's out of New York. It's a cell phone out of New York, and they'll leave you a message, a recorded message that there is, the IRS has opened a criminal investigation into you, and then they give you a number to call and actually we got one at 10:02, 10:15, and 10:25 last night before I finally figured out how to block the number on the phone system. But it is a scam. My wife being astute did call the police department and advised them that this is going on and it seems that they're working this one hard for the short life that these things typically run. Unfortunately the reality is this number is an offshore number. We just when they called back the second time, I talked to them and just told them that we had advised our local police department and that the FBI had been advised. That's unfortunately about all we can do. You can go in and block the number, but make people aware because when somebody says well the IRS is investigating you, everybody kinda quakes and sometimes the logical thought process of how this actually transpires doesn't always come to the forefront. Just get that out to our friends and neighbors out there.

Mr. Parham: We did put in I think one of the, maybe it was two newsletters ago, there was an article that was in one of the most recent newsletters. There was an article that we did place into the newsletter identifying such a scam. Individuals will call you and indicate that they are with the IRS and threaten you. Actually after we posted the article in the newsletter, I received two calls at my home (laughter). I simply hang up on them. But yes we did identify this issue and placed some information in there for residents to be aware. If you go back on the website or if you can't find them in your home, we always have the newsletters identified on the website. You can find old editions there and read that article.

Mayor Webster: The real way to handle that is the way I did. I got those same two calls and I just gave them Derrick's phone number (laughter).

## City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

President Vanover: Alrighty then.

Mrs. McNear: I've read about those types of scams before and the IRS, their information to residents and taxpayers is that they will only contact you via snail mail. They will not call you and leave a message to tell you you're in trouble. You will get it in writing, so disregard those phone calls.

### Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Harlow: Planning will meet on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in these chambers and my OKI meeting is scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> of October at 10:30 downtown.

Mrs. Emerson: Board of Health will meet October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm adjacent to these chambers.

Mr. Thamann: A few items this evening. First of all, Recreation Department, they are taking registrations now for youth winter sports for basketball, volleyball and also cheerleading. You can contact the Community Center for details on the registration.

Also, on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm, Springdale Youth Boosters will be presenting the Father Daughter Dance again this year. I heard it was a great success last year. The attendees will enjoy dancing, pizza, ice cream floats, and a keepsake photograph. Tickets are available at the Community Center for \$20. There is an additional \$5 charge for each additional girl that a parent brings. Registration should be received by October 13<sup>th</sup> for the dance.

And, on October the 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm at the Community Center, for children aged 2 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, they are invited to a Monster Mania at the Community Center. It'll be Halloween-themed games, activities, and crafts. This is a free event, but they do ask that parents contact the Community Center to give them an idea in advance of who will be attending. This afternoon, again, is Halloween fun and it is sponsored by the Springdale/ Forest Park Lions Club.

The Springdale Fire Department, the annual Open House will be October 8<sup>th</sup>, this Saturday from 11-3pm. Again, I know you heard some information at the last meeting, but they'll be providing instructions on proper use of fire extinguishers, the importance of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, they'll have representatives from the Hamilton County Communications Center, the Springdale Police Department, Children's Hospital Medical Center will also be there providing information to those in attendance. They will also have Sparky the Fire Dog, and they'll be passing out badges for the kids, and also all the fire equipment will be on display.

Finally, the Civil Service Commission will meet tomorrow evening at 6pm in the Administrative Conference Room.

### Communications from the Audience

Mrs. Matheny: Just hearing the Meetings and Announcements it dawned on me that I have an event coming up on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. The Springdale Chamber of Commerce, our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Expo and Chili Cook-Off. So, it's 11-2, so if you're available, stop by. Lots of chili, right Christine? Okay.

Mayor Webster: And the Health Fair is the same day over in the Auxiliary Gym. Get your flu shot. Call for an appointment. 346-5725. Have your blood pressure checked and I think your diabetes, check for diabetes and all kinds of other good things. And that's from noon to 2.

### Update on Legislation Still in Development

Mr. Hawkins: As you look at your internal memorandum, we addressed item number 1 with Ordinance # 29-2016, an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/ Finance

City of Springdale Council

October 5, 2016

Director to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Springdale Professional Fire Fighters and declaring that an emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote.

Item number two dealt with Resolution R17-2016, a Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies for 2017. It also passed with a 7-0 vote.

All other matters were forthcoming for the next meeting.

Recap of Legislative Items Requested for next Council Meeting

Mr. Hawkins: A request for an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/ Finance Director to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council Incorporated for the Patrol Officers Bargaining Unit and declaring an emergency.

Also an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/ Finance Director to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council Incorporated for Supervisors Bargaining Unit and declaring an emergency.

As well as an Ordinance authorizing the Ohio Department of Transportation to provide bridge inspection services for the City of Springdale and declaring that an emergency.

President Vanover: Administration, are we good?

Mr. Parham: That's good.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Emerson seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2016