

City of Springdale Council

November 2, 2016

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on November 2nd, 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 October 19th, 2016 City of Springdale City Council meeting were considered. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt; Mrs. Emerson seconded. With a vote of 7 – 0, the minutes of the October 19th, 2016 City Council meeting were approved as published.

Presentation - Marcie Longenecker, SW Ohio Regional Representative, State Treasurer's Office – Ohio Checkbook Process

Mrs. McNear: This evening I'd like to welcome Marcie Longenecker, the Public Affairs Liaison from Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel's office. She's going to give us a presentation this evening on Ohio Checkbook. So welcome back, and thank you for coming again. This is her second appearance, so Marcie, when you're ready, please take over.

Mrs. Longenecker: Thank you so much for having me this evening, and I really have to give Jeff (Williams) a little hand of applause here, because we have really faced some challenges with this technology and we had it all set up and then as you can see, now we have some kind of issue. As I'm sitting there, the screen got smaller. So anyway, we're just going to go with it, so I hope you all will bear with me here.

What I'd like to do this evening is just give you a little bit of background about the ohiocheckbook.com and what this big push for transparency is, and then I'd like to show you some of the features on the ohiocheckbook.com, which is the state checkbook site, and then I'm going to show you some features of the, I'm going to choose one of the local government sites. We have over 510 local government live sites, and we have 900 additional ones that are committed and somewhere along the pipeline. So I think tonight, Jeff and I talked about it, and we're going to show you the City of Montgomery. And then I'd like to open it up to some questions, and does that sound okay to everybody?

Okay. So first of all, what is ohiocheckbook.com? Well, other states have these transparency websites, but Ohio is the first, this is the first of its kind government transparency website because it is dynamic. It's not static. In other words, you can click on any of the areas there, any of the years and that kind of thing and I'll show you that in just a minute. So that's one unique feature. It also features a Google-style search bar where you can put, it's contextual and intuitive, so you can put in just a few letters and it will bring up... So this allows you to really drill down to real specific information pretty quickly. So then the other thing that Treasurer Mandel is really a proponent of is empowering taxpayers to be able to follow their tax dollars, and many local governments and also state officials have always said to us, well we already do that, but as you know, and some of you that are more financial than others, some people have a hard time reading CAFRs and balance sheets and Excel spreadsheets and that kind of thing, so our challenge was to put this information visually in a format that the everyday citizen can really go on here and understand. So that was what we did. And the way this all got started was Treasurer Mandel found out that Ohio was ranked 46th in the nation for government transparency, and he said, "Whoa! What's that about? Who's in charge of this?" And so he asked his staff to go and check it out and they came back and said, "Well it doesn't seem like anybody's in charge of trying to address that." So he said, "Well, we're going to be the leaders on this, and the first thing we're going to do is put the Treasurer's expenses online." And as we did that, we of course discovered that all of the state agencies, departments, and elected officials, they're all on the same accounting system, the OAK System, so everything is coded the same, so that made it real easy to put all state spending online. So you will find all the agencies, like I said, departments, and any of the elected officials, and this is just the spending side of things because the reason we did that instead of getting really in the weeds and adding the revenues, first of all it was very costly to do that, but most of the questions and public record requests that come in are about spending. So that's why we did this. Josh also interviewed a lot of leaders in Ohio, and he asked them what they

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thought about this, and they said, "Well, we think it's a great idea, but we think you need to follow three things: Don't make it a mandate; Number two: make it easy for us to participate, local governments and it can't cost us anything." So we did follow that.

So what I'd like to do is, and I understand this isn't full screen, but let's just take a look at (computer issues)... So off to the left, this is the dashboard, and off to the left you can see it's highlighting 2016 spending. So this is a pie chart, and as I said, it is all interactive, so you can see as I scroll over each of these departments or funds, you can see what the totals are. So Subsidies and Shared Revenue is a total spent of \$45 billion. Transfers and Non-Expense. So you can go through each of these, and you can keep drilling down. So if we wanted to, we could click on, I'm going to try to get to, it's real skinny, okay so I'm going to drill down to equipment. So as you can see, it keeps breaking it down further and further, and you can keep drilling down. And again this is all interactive, and so you can go over these and keep drilling down. Let's go into Department of Transportation. So we're into the Department of Transportation, and let's go into Office Equipment, so we'll click on that. The total spent there is \$13,646, and you can go up here and it says there are nine transactions, and by that it means nine checks were written to equal that amount. So if you click on that, you can actually drill down and get to the individual check, so let's go into, and again we're at the Department of Transportation, Office Equipment, and let's click on their vendor and the check that was written out to Brown Enterprise Solutions. So this isn't the actual check, but it's a representation of the check. Individual transaction, as you can see there are 35 pieces of information on this check, everything from the date, check number, who it's made out to, how much, even in the memo it tells you it's for office equipment. And then these are called breadcrumbs. You can see if you've forgotten what you're actually looking at, you can see Department of Transportation, the year, all the details there. And it came from the Highway Operating Fund, so it actually tells you which fund that came from. All kinds of information here: where the money's coming from, who it was paid by, all that information. And then, if someone has a question about it, for every check or transaction that you drill down to, we have contact information. This probably didn't win Josh the most friends, but anyway we have contact information so you can call them if you have any kind of questions, the everyday citizen or elected officials or Staff or anyone can call and find out information about these individual transactions.

So we're going to go back up and look at a couple other things here. I'm going to reset this. It's real easy to reset back to where you were just by clicking on that. And then we have the Google-style search bar, which is a really easy thing that we're all used to. We do our banking online, we do shopping online, and we Google everything. So if wanted to go in, and like I said it's intuitive, so you can go in and put in like the letters T-R-A-N-S, and as you can see, it brings up anything that has those letters in it, so you can drill down here and see expense types, agencies, funds, anything that has T-R-A-N-S in it. So it's a real quick way to try to find information. If we want to go into the Department of Transportation, so you can see the total there, and like I said you can keep drilling down. And the nice thing about this is this is a great tool, because as you can see, you can go up here and go by a certain year, you can pick a certain year, you can go by agency if you want to just look at the Treasurer's Office or the Governor's Office or whatever, you could do that. You can go by expense type and put in the expense categories, type and code. Some of this is probably more than the average citizen would want to do, but that's why it's a great internal tool for treasurers and fiscal officers and finance people who work for the state and manage taxpayer dollars. We have a compare function on here, and we do not have this function on the local government sites that I'm going to show you that we also have launched, because as I said, the local governments all have different accounting systems so it's not across the board comparison. It wouldn't be a fair comparison. There's a glossary, state budget, state salaries, an FAQ, and let's say you do a specific query and I'm not going to do it now, but let's say you put in salt. You want to see the spending trend for salt in a particular agency. When you get to that query, you can print it to PDF if you look where I'm pointing here, and just by clicking on that, or you can use the share button and you can share it any number of these ways, if you want to email it to someone. If one of the Council members, if you decide to do your site, if they have a question for Jeff and he wants to go do a certain query, he can actually just click on that and email it to a Council member. You can redraw these graphs over here, so if you don't like the pie chart, you can change it to a bar graph.

So those are just a few of the features with this state site that we're really excited about, and we've gotten a really great response on, and we've had over 550,000 searches since we

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launched the checkbook. Shortly after the launch in December of 2014, we were ranked in Ohio from 46th in the nation to number one, and we were ranked for a second year in a row number one for this year.

So now I'd like to take you for a little spin on the local government and schools site, which you can get to through ohiocheckbook.com, but each local government that is partnered with us has their own website. So it would be like mariemont.ohiocheckbook.com to get to it. So two different ways that you can get to it. So if I click on this, once you're on the Ohio Checkbook site, you can see a map of Ohio, and all of these pin dots represent where we have partners, local governments that have partnered with us and put their expenses or their spending online. And some of these dots, you'll notice, say 20, so if I click on that, it will bring up the 20 entities within that area. And this is all interactive, so you can bring those up and click on that and go to specific local governments. I'm not going to do that right now, since our technology is a little bit fragile right now. You can also go up to the other way you can get to some of these local governments, like let's say, I think we're going to show Montgomery, but before I do that I wanted to show you that you can put it in the Google-style search bar, or you can click on one of those pin dots and do it that way, or you can scroll down and see that all of the cities and villages are listed, and those are all interactive. So if Jeff wanted to look at a similar size city and see who some of their vendors are and see what they're spending on a certain item, he could go in and look at those and compare and maybe make some really intelligent decisions, or call them and find out who they're using or maybe talk to the vendors and say, "Hey! You're giving so-and-so this price" and try to negotiate something. So we've gotten some feedback on that, that that's really helpful information to be able to access some of these other sites. If you just keep scrolling down, like I said you can see the townships. There's quite a few townships that are partners; counties, all of the five counties in southwest Ohio are participants; and then there's quite a few schools. Like I said, we have about 510 live sites and 900 in the pipeline, and these are all special districts like courts and libraries and that kind of thing.

Okay, so let's go back up to cities and I would like to show you the City of Montgomery. So if I click on that, that brings up Montgomery, or at least it should. Okay, so this is City of Montgomery's site and as you can tell, it looks somewhat similar to the state site. Over here on the left hand side is their logo, so we would be putting Springdale's logo in that place, or whatever logo you like. Some people just like their name. We even have one Auditor that wanted his picture in there, so we did that. And then as you can see, you can choose your filters. You can choose your columns, aggregates, down here, Montgomery has, this is an individual decision. They have decided to display six years of data, so each entity can make the decision how many years they want to display, and I would say the average is two to three and we have one that has ten years of data. It just depends on what you want to do. And then some people just start with a couple of years, and then they add other years later. So as you can see, this shows 2010 up through 2015, and once we've built these sites and then Montgomery wants to, when they decide they want to update, it's a very easy process. It takes about five minutes to update. We have a template, and we've worked with a company out of California called OpenGov, and they're the ones that have built these sites because obviously in the Treasurer's Office we don't have enough technology or resources to be able to build all of the sites for 500 entities. So, they have been very helpful and they're very good at what they do, and they do it all over the country and they've worked with hundreds of different accounting systems. So it's a very easy process to update. Springdale has CMI; that's their accounting system, and we've worked a lot with CMI, and as I just spoke to Jeff about, I sent him the intake form. It's a very easy process to just follow the prompts, and he's basically uploading the information onto an Excel spreadsheet and then clicking and dragging it over to our template. And we're very sensitive with private information, so we help local governments redact that information, so like for instance tax refunds, we would go in and help Jeff highlight all of those and put those under an umbrella that doesn't show the individual names. So that's one example of the types of information that we redact. And as you can see, it shows the total over here. Again, we can go in and choose, let's go into, I wanted to show you a couple different types of searches that you can do. Again, we have the Google-style search bar here. Can everybody hear me? I keep moving away from the mic. So you could search by a category of spending, for instance travel. So if we go into this Google-style search bar up here, we can put in travel and search, and it will search all of those years and bring up display information for travel for the City of Montgomery. And then down below this information, let's go into one particular year because it just makes it a little bit more targeted,

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so we'll go into the year 2015. We're still looking at travel, and as you can see, it shows you by month how much was spent on travel. And then if you'd like to go down and look at individual transactions, up here you can see where it says 17 rows. That means there were 17 individual transactions for travel in this particular year, so if we want to drill down to a specific check for travel, we can click on this name right here and it will either search for everything that's been paid out to Michael Davenport, or you can click on this particular check for \$108. So we click on that and it will bring up the check, and like I said, show you information about that check. And this particular government entity didn't want to put their contact information there, so they have a place where if you have questions about the payment, you fill out this form and they get an email, and then they can respond to it in their own time. And that's usually what people do, because that's just the easiest way to do that. The other way to search here, and I don't want to take up too much of your meeting time here, but you could put in Office Supplies and search by expense type and it would do the exact same thing I just showed you. Or you could put a vendor in there, for example Kroger, and as you can see, Kroger Cincinnati comes up. It shows you all of the spending at Kroger for those six years, or you could click on a specific year. And like I said, if wanted to drill down to a specific query and you want to send it to someone, all you have to do is go as far as you want to drill down and then click on the share button, and you can email it directly to someone and it will take them right to that spot. You can redraw these graphs, change it to a pie graph too if you wanted, just by clicking on this over here, and you could go into these individual transactions down here and bring up individual checks like I did before. And if you wanted to break this down, this is probably something treasurers or fiscal officers would do, you can break this information down by account, by check, function, description, and of these. It's not letting me scroll down. Well anyway, there's one under this that's called Name, and that would list all of your vendors by breaking it down by name, so it would list all of the vendors that the City of Montgomery has used in all these six years, and it would list them off to the side, and you could click on each one of those and go into that vendor and get the vendor information. So that is basically the way it works, and I'd like to just stop right now for just a minute and ask if there are any questions anyone has?

President Vanover: I don't see any lights.

Mrs. Longenecker: No? Okay.

President Vanover: Here comes one.

Mrs. Harlow: Can the budget be added into this so that you can do a comparison?

Mrs. Longenecker: Yes. There is one way that we can do that, at no cost. Off to the side, down there below where it says the total spent for all the years, you can do up to three hanging files. You can do CAFRs, or your budget, or whatever you'd like under there, and we have had people that have done that and we do help them add that whenever they want, initially or later, whichever, and then OpenGov also has contracted with, after we've done the Checkbook with them, they follow up, and maybe Jeff's even been contacted by them. I don't know. But they also offer additional things that you can buy and add different, all kinds of reports and things that you can do and purchase. Like the City of Dayton in on OpenGov. They started with our Checkbook and then they added and added, and they have a lot of different types of reports they can get, but there is a cost to that. So our office is totally separate from that, but that is available. Did I answer your question? Lastly I just wanted to just share a little bit of information with you. Like I said, we have exactly 514 live sites, 924 that are committed local government entities. We have 141 townships, 123 villages, 66 cities, 101 school districts, and then about 100 counties, charter schools, courts, libraries, and special districts. Just finally what the value to Springdale is, this is like I said a great tool, not only for Council and Staff but for taxpayers, with a Google-style search bar, share and compare features, and the ability to go and look on some of the other local governments sites and view their information about their vendors is a really helpful tool. The other thing that this transparency site does is, as we all know, there's a lot going on in our world right now, and the trust in government is way down, and there is a lot of cynicism regarding government. And this just really gives you an opportunity to reach out to your community and send a really positive message saying "We have nothing to hide. This is public information. We're going to make it really easy for you to empower yourselves and learn more about the great things that we're doing." I mean it isn't to find what someone is doing wrong; it's to highlight some of the things that you're doing well. And that's another thing you

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can do with those hanging files, is you could do a welcome letter over there. We've had some folks do that and you can really give people information and an introduction to the kinds of things you want them to look at on your site. We also will give you a password, and you can go in and see how many people have visited your site, and how long they've spent on the site, and what they've looked at. So we help you do that as well, and we don't leave you hanging. We're there at your side the whole way, so just wanted to let you know that. Like I said, there's no cost to this, and it is very easy to participate, and we're familiar with your particular accounting system. So we hope you'll do that right thing and join us, and thank you for your time tonight.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much for coming in and sharing this this evening with us. I can see where this would be great as far as increasing the transparency of what's going on with the City. I guess my question, couple questions. First off, how much effort would it take to create this and maintain it, and how often do you update the files, or do we update our files?

Mrs. Longenecker: The updating is up to you all. Each entity decides how often they want to update. Some do it monthly. Some do it every six months, every quarter. Some do it yearly. It's totally up to you and your Staff. And it's not difficult to update. Like I said, once we have initially built your site, we have, actually what we've done, this is probably more than you want to know, but we have actually worked with some of the accounting companies, software companies, and they've created a patch, so the interfacing and mapping is done so the transfer of the data is much more easily done through that patch.

Mayor Webster: Okay, second question. You indicated you have all these cities, 66 cities I think you said, and villages and so forth. Do you have any information on what kind of usage the cities are experiencing?

Mrs. Longenecker: You mean how many people on their site?

Mayor Webster: yeah, how many people visit the site?

Mrs. Longenecker: Right. Well, the local government part of this, we launched this in December of 2014 for the state site, but the local government site happened in, I'd say most of them launched, and we've been adding, we add probably ten every week, so it started like in September of 2015, so it hasn't been that long. To be honest with you, I do a lot of follow up with local government entities that are partners, and people are just getting to the point where they can navigate their site and some of them have gone in and gone to the trouble of trying to find out how many people have been on the site, to be honest, though we haven't had that many and we don't have that much data at this point in time. But I will tell you in terms of public record requests, I don't know how many you all get, but one of the most widely asked questions is if we give people all this information, are our phones going to be ringing off the wall and are we going to just be going crazy with people coming in because they don't quite understand the information that they're seeing. But the feedback we've been getting is it's actually reduced the public record requests, because it seems to arm citizens with information. They can get on it 24-7 in the comfort of their home and it's visual and in a format that they're used to, and they seem to be satisfied with that. So that's the feedback that we're getting on that.

Mayor Webster: Well that was another question I had. You've walked us through here, but I don't think I could sit down at a computer and get onto the City's website, assuming Jeff had it all loaded up there. I don't think I could do that without some instructions or having somebody on the other end of the phone leading me through there, and I guess that's why I wondered how many people are able to take advantage of it, and how many people can actually get on there by themselves and if they have to have assistance, then how much time is the City going to have to provide to have somebody waiting to walk this person through, rather than having them call and say "How much did we pay Joe Blow last year?" and we give them the number.

Mrs. Longenecker: Sure. I didn't show you, just in the interest of time, but there is a place at the top on the site that says "How To", and you can pull it down and it kind of walks you through a tutorial.

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Mayor Webster: It walks you through it?

Mrs. Longenecker: Yes.

Mayor Webster: Okay.

Mrs. Longenecker: But secondly, as far as your Council and anybody else that would like to come in, we have six representatives around the state, and three in the Cincinnati area. We will come in and do a demo with a small group of people or whatever, and when we launch your site, we do a demo then. I mean we'll come in, I've sat down one-on-one with a lot of people and done that, so I'm more than happy to do that.

Mayor Webster: I'm concerned about the 11,000 people in the City that may want to get on it. The two guys right behind you will be the first ones on.

Mrs. Longenecker: Well, and then the other thing too, if someone calls Jeff with a question, he can say to them instead of him digging for information and printing it out and sending it to somebody, he can say "If you get on your computer right now and go to ohiocheckbook.com" and as long as we have him well-versed, he can walk people through how to get to certain information.

Mrs. McNear: The first time I saw this presentation was over a year ago, and my first thought was, "Wow, this has got some great functionality. But how much time is it going to take our internal Staff to deal with it?" And I wasn't really satisfied with the answer at that time, but it's come a long way since then, so now that the upload time is very different from what we had talked about initially, that's why I finally decided that we should bring in Marcie to do a presentation to the overall Staff. Jeff is comfortable with it too. The one thing that we would have to think about is, how often do we update the information? Is it something that we do once a month, once a quarter, twice a year, annually? But I would say if we do this, go conservatively to begin with. Maybe we start out with once a year and only do the current year, versus two or three or ten years. Just to stick our toe in the pool, so to speak, just to give it a try. Now for the functionality, I know Mayor you said you might have trouble with that. It's very similar to a lot of systems that I've seen in the businesses that I've worked with, so it very intuitive if you are used to those types of systems. For someone who's not used it before, probably going to take a little bit more attempts with the help guide or maybe with a person to help walk you through. But I mean I think it's got a lot of good features, and I'd like to see us move forward with it.

President Vanover: Well thank you for taking time and coming back to see us.

Mrs. Longenecker: Absolutely. And I will leave some cards with Jeff, and if anybody would like a private lesson, I would be happy to do that. I'm not a pro at this either. These young people, I have three daughters, and they're just whizzes at this but it takes some of us a little bit longer.

Communications

Mrs. McNear: I do have one item this evening. This is from the Government Finance Officers' Association. This is a letter we have been getting year after year. I think I've used up all my fingers; I'm now using toes to count how many times we've received this. This letter states,

"Dear Mrs. McNear, we are pleased to notify you that your comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 2015 qualifies for a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. An award for the certificate of achievement has been mailed to Jeffrey T. Williams, Finance Officer Tax Commission."

The letter further goes on to say that we will receive this plaque that can be presented at a later date, and we'll ask Jeff to come in at that time. So Jeff, just want to congratulate you again for excellent work and for keeping the streak going. If you'd like to say a few words, feel free to step forward.

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Mr. Williams. Sure! I want to make a comment on the plaque situation. If you look back over in the Administration Wing, they used to send out a plaque every year for each year, and about five years ago they changed that to where they just sent this really heavy marble piece. Now, they just send out a sticker each year, and you just put a sticker on. So when I got notification, "Oh okay, I'll just go put the sticker on." And so you'll see that over there. But we don't need anything special. They don't need to come out and do anything, because the marble piece is very heavy. They might have trouble with that. Thank you.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you, Jeff. Well, the other thing, too. If they kept sending the plaques, we were going to have to have reinforcements put in the wall because we had row after row of those. Congratulations, Jeff. Thank you.

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 33-2016

AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE ZONING CODE.

President Vanover: Council, you've heard the reading. This is a first reading, so if you have any questions tonight, we'll address them. If not, we'll see it next meeting.

Old Business - None

New Business

Mr. Hawkins: Just wanted to check as far as Administration's concerned, what would you guys look for and need if we were going to proceed with the Ohio Checkbook program. Looking for direction from Council, or just something Administration's...

Mayor Webster: I would yield to the Finance Office, as whether they want to proceed with the thing. I don't really feel one way or the other. We get requests, I know Derrick and I have chatted about this briefly. We get requests for open records requests, but I'm not sure any of them deal with the finances to that degree. Correct me if I'm wrong, Derrick, Jeff, I mean it's more zoning stuff, law suits, employee disciplinary stuff, those kind of inquiries. So I'm not sure that we are overburdened with open records requests, so I would yield to the Finance Department on that.

Mr. Hawkins: I will say, I saw this presentation about a year ago at a Municipal League meeting, and it was very impressive. It was still very new. There were a lot of bugs I think they were working through. I think it's great. The concern I had was what the burden would be on Mrs. McNear and Jeff and Finance Department in general, but I agree. I think having it, even if it's only updated once a year or twice a year, I think would be great. So I'd like to see us go forward with it, for what it's worth.

President Vanover: Anymore New Business to bring forward? Mrs. McNear.

Mrs. McNear: Well since we're on that topic, does anybody else have any thoughts on that, and if do want to move forward, do we need any legislation for it, or is it something that we can just notify Marcie that we want to move forward? Mr. Forbes, do we need legislation if we do it?

Mr. Forbes: No. My understanding, there's no cost to the City, so I don't; think there's any need for legislation.

Mrs. McNear: Alright, thank you. Other Council members, do you have thoughts or input on it?

Mr. Shroyer: I would be in favor of it. I think it's a nice project.

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President Vanover: Anybody else? Well, I would say probably it's like once they open the gate, if you don't walk through it, then probably people will say, "Well why not?" I think it is a good idea. I hope it, I know I had some issues navigating the Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp, closing out a report, and I didn't have to call to get help, so I hope it is more, either I'm not intuitive or I hope it's more intuitive than I am, but it does seem to be fairly operable.

Mrs. Harlow: I would be in favor of the Ohio Checkbook as well, and I would request that we put at least a couple years on there so that people who are drilling down or looking at the figures might be able to do some comparisons. I think it would be, it's great to be able to see what the expenditures are, but it's also good to be able to compare what they are from one year to another year.

President Vanover: Anybody else? I don't see any lights, so I guess at this point...

Mrs. McNear: Wait.

President Vanover: I'm sorry.

Mrs. McNear: We've had four people who've given us input.

Mrs. Emerson: I kind of agree with Mayor. I think it's a nice plan, but I'm not sure that the residents are going to use it. I don't know how productive it's going to be. I mean especially when you can call and we can get that information to them anyways, I don't know how many is going to go on this website and really look at the information. So I don't know how productive it's going to be.

Mrs. McNear: So is that a no, or is it an "I don't care either way"?

Mrs. Emerson: I have no dog in the fight.

Mrs. Ghantous: If the financial folks want to do it, then I think it's the right thing to do.

Mr. Diehl: If the vote came up to do, I'm probably going to vote no. I'm not a big believer in data analytics. I'm sure the program is great, but you've got a lot of data there, and what are they going to do with that? There's going to be a cost to this, no matter what they tell you. I wouldn't mind taking another look at this a year from now when they have more experience in the marketplace and get the feedback from other cities, but now I don't think there are enough cities and history to gain that.

Mrs. McNear: Well we have five yeses, one it doesn't matter and one no. So I mean, I really think we should move forward. It is public record as it stands. There are a lot of improvements that have gone in since 2014 when this was first initiated, so I really would like to go ahead and move forward with it.

President Vanover: As they stated, it really didn't need Council action, so it's your operation.

Mrs. Emerson: Do we not want to consult with the Finance Department before we make a decision on that, and see where they stand on it?

Mr. Williams: Where we stand on this is, I mean obviously this isn't something that I contacted them and said, "We want to come out and we want to be on your system." They contacted us. Marcie contacted me. Marcie contacted Kathy, and then there was the question of, my first question was, what is this and how much time is this going to take? When we're talking about taking our data from CMI and uploading it to the state, what kind of process is that? And I've been assured by them that it's nothing that takes any more than ten minutes to do. I think it's nothing that isn't already available. It's already available if somebody calls and they want it, we can get it for them, financial information. Where I think it could be a benefit to the public is if they want to say, "Okay, what were your payroll costs for Springdale? Okay, let me pull up this other city." As opposed to, they can do that on their computer as opposed to contacting the places. So, as long as it's not a huge time commitment in uploading the information, there are some issues of, I had a concern when I saw a presentation on this about a month ago at a

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seminar, of, we transfer money between funds. We transfer it out of the General Fund, say we do \$40,000 out of the General Fund, well the fund we're moving it into is sending that money too, If there's not a vehicle to limit the transfer being shown, it's going to show like \$80,000 was being spent when really only \$40,000 was being spent. So that's something to consider. Another thing to consider is the tax refund information, because that's out there obviously by the tax payer in their name. But assuming we can take care of that stuff, then I have no problem doing this and as long as it's not a time drain then I really have no issue.

Mr. Shroyer: Just for my clarification, as the Finance Director, it's Mrs. McNear's call, right?

Mrs. McNear: And when this first came up, Jeff and I did have several conversations, so this isn't something I'm just throwing out here saying, "Oh by the way, Jeff, we're adding to your duties." So this is something that we have talked about. We've seen this presentation multiple times, so it's just to the point now where we feel comfortable with moving forward versus initially where the upload was going to be a tremendous amount of time. So this is I think the time that we should do that.

President Vanover: Well, and I think you bring up a good point. She touched upon it in that the protection of taxpayer information that's out there. Our information is in a multitude of places and it seems like every day that somewhere, someplace it's being attacked, but as long as we have some measure of that protection, that's going to be the biggest catch or bugaboo that I would have to worry about.

Mrs. McNear: If I could continue too. And let me just remind you that if there's any problems financially, it's the person in my seat who goes to jail. So I'm certainly not going to put us in a position, put the City in a bad position, nor do I want to wear stripes, so if I wasn't comfortable with this I wouldn't be recommending it.

Mayor Webster: Well, would it make any sense to maybe call a couple of cities that maybe have been on this thing for a year or so, just to see what kind of usage it gets? I mean that's my biggest question. Hopefully it's not going to turn into a big expense item, but I just question how many John Does in the City are going to be able to sign on their computer or get on this thing and find what they want without help?

Mrs. McNear: We can make a couple phone calls.

Mayor Webster: Just see if people in Montgomery have been on it for a year or two and get a lot of inquiries. Maybe there's some value to it.

President Vanover: Alright, you've got direction you were looking for.

Meetings and Announcements

Mayor Webster: I'd like to, all of you have a special invitation here for our Veteran's Day ceremony which will be held on Friday, November 11th at 1 pm across the street at our Veteran's Memorial. I'd like to invite all of you to attend. It's usually about a one hour ceremony, and I think we all look forward to it, and hopefully we'll have great weather.

Mrs. Harlow: Planning will meet in these Chambers on November 8th at 7pm, and OKI will meet on November the 10th at 10:30 am.

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet November 10th at 7 o'clock in the room adjacent to here on Thursday.

Mr. Thamann: One note here from the Recreation Department. The City will be holding its tree lighting ceremony on Monday, November 28th at 7 pm here at the Municipal Building. We'll be illuminating the tree and brining on the holiday season here in Springdale. The first grade students from Springdale Elementary School will be here singing carols. The event is free and open to the public. There will be a visit from Santa Claus and also treats and refreshments to follow.

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Communications from the Audience - None

Update on Legislation Still in Development

Mr. Hawkins: As you look at your internal memorandum, item number one was addressed with Ordinance No. 33-2016, an Ordinance amending various sections of the codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio. That was a first reading. All other matters were forthcoming.

Recap of Legislative Items Requested for next Council Meeting

Mr. Hawkins: An Ordinance amending section 155.36, and adopting section 155.037 of the City of Springdale Property Maintenance and declaring an emergency.

An Ordinance providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$2,640,000 real estate acquisition bond anticipation notes. That will be a first reading.

Also an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/ Finance Director to enter into an agreement with company "Project Solutions" related to job creation and retention incentives, and declaring an emergency.

We'll have several Ordinances with regard to annual contracts for the Mayor's Magistrate, Prosecutor, and Public Defender with emergency clauses, as well as several Resolutions confirming Mayoral appointments and Council Appointments for various Boards and Commissions, as well as the second reading for Ordinance No. 33-2016.

President Vanover: Administration, we're covered?

Mr. Parham: Yes.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Harlow seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2016