

City of Springdale Council

November 21, 2018

Vice-President of Council Hawkins called Council to order on November 21, 2018.

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

Mrs. McNear provided the Invocation.

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council members Anderson, Emerson, Ghantous, Hawkins, Shroyer, and Sullivan-Wisecup were present. President Vanover was absent.

The minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting were considered. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Jones: The Civil Service met on their regularly scheduled meeting on November 1st. The Commission discussed the expiration of Violations Bureau Clerk's list that had expired on November 3rd. The Commission then voted to allow the list to expire and to utilize the Administrative Supervisor list to create a new Violations Bureau Clerk list.

Mr. Hawkins: Just making sure. Is your mic on?

Mr. Jones: Well, sure it is, now. (Laughter). Would you like for me to repeat. (Directed at Mrs. Boggs).

Mrs. Boggs: No, that's okay.

Mr. Jones: Are you sure?

Mrs. Boggs: No thank you.

Mr. Jones: I could probably do a lot better job the second time.

Rules and Laws

Mrs. Emerson: I have some information here. If you guys want to thumb through these folders. Before I start, I wanted to just take a moment and thank Wood and Lamping for the many, many years of service for Springdale that you've given us. I would like to go through with Council, the process in which Rules and Laws Committee came to the decision in choosing a future firm for the City. The City mailed out notices of request for qualifications to select law firms on September 28th. Those were the firms that applied four years ago when we were seeking a possible new hire for our legal team at that time. On September 30th, we began advertising in the Enquirer to the public asking for any other requests for qualifications from other law firms and placed the deadline for those to be received by October 19th. On October 22nd, the Rules and Laws Committee met to discuss and review those Statements of Qualifications that we received. The Rules and Laws Committee was comprised of Mrs. Ghantous and myself. Also present at all those meetings was Mayor Webster, President of Council, Mr. Vanover, Mr. John Jones, the City Administrator, and Mrs. Amanda Zimmerlin, Assistant City Administrator. There were a total of five firms that had shown interest and sent in their qualifications. We, as a Committee, agreed to interview all five firms. The firms were then notified by the City to submit proposed rates for legal services by October 31st. The firms were as follows, not in any certain order; Dinsmore, Strauss Troy, Graydon, Wood and Lamping, Frost, Brown, Todd. The Rules and Law Committee met and interviewed all five firms. Some interviews were on November 5th and the rest on November 7th. After much discussion and conversation, it was unanimously decided that Strauss Troy would be best suited for the City of Springdale. They were represented by Joseph Braun and partner Emily Supinger. Mr. Braun is a partner in Strauss Troy and serves on the Board of Directors. Founded in 1953, Strauss Troy is a diverse and full service law firm consisting of 48 attorneys with offices in Ohio and Kentucky. The firm specializes in a broad range of areas including local government law, labor employment, benefit law, real estate, zoning, eminent domain, tax laws, estate planning, and civil litigation. Mr. Braun's concentrated areas of practice are with civil litigation, local government, employment, and general business law. He serves as Solicitor for the City of Loveland since 2015, prior to that he served 11 years as Assistant Solicitor for the City of

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Mrs. Emerson (continued): Loveland. He also served as solicitor for the Village of Georgetown since 2015 and Amelia since January 2017. Previous to these communities, Mr. Braun served as Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Wyoming for 12 years, and currently serves as special Counsel for the City of Reading. His partner, Emily Supinger, served as Assistant Law Director for the Village of Woodlawn and the Village of Moscow from 2002 to 2010, and now is the Law Director of both communities since 2010. She currently serves as the City Solicitor for Wyoming, the Village of Newtown, and the Village of Bethel. Both Mr. Braun and Ms. Supinger are members of Strauss Troy local government practice group; a group who works collaboratively to ensure that our municipal clients receive the highest level of professional representation. The Rules and Laws Committee feels that Strauss Troy possess the knowledge, skill, and experience to represent our City well. We discussed several of the other firms. Some of them had discussed having retainers and then hourly. We decided that an hourly rate was probably the most beneficial for the City. There will be no retainer with them. We are asking for support in this and we'd like to, if everybody on Council agrees, we'd like to bring legislation to the next Council meeting in order to bring them in. Questions? Concerns?

Mr. Hawkins: Not seeing any.

Finance Committee

Mr. Hawkins: The Finance Committee met on November 14th. All members were present. The Finance Committee reviewed the five-year budget draft. Also reviewed a potential contract amendment with regard to the Sheraton property. We also had some discussion with regard to ways and ideas to increase City revenue. We will have some further discussion with that under New Business. That concludes my report unless there are any questions.

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: The Planning Commission met on November 13th at 7:00 p.m. Our first case was Klusty Sign Associates for Take Five Oil Change for 1190 East Kemper Road. They had come the month before and we just needed additional information which they brought forth and everything was agreeable and that passed with a 7-0 vote. The SCP Springdale at 12110 Princeton Pike, Springdale, Ohio came for their Final Development Plan on Phase I, packet two; Buildings two and three. That is the GE Park. After much discussion, we had agreed that, as long as they submit everything to the City for the final final approval. They had some problems with their lighting that they had submitted was incorrect and so they were fixing that and they were also going to discuss different types of landscaping and things like that so that is all going to be submitted to the City for final final approval, but their basic plan got approved 7-0. Nelson Online at 11560 Princeton Pike came before us. It is for Bank of America and we moved them to next month. We tabled it for more information with a 7-0 vote. Cincinnati Commercial Contracting at 135 Northland Boulevard came before us for Jake Sweeney Mazda. They want to build where the used car lot is now on Northland Boulevard, they want to make the Mazda area there. They're not going to have it on Kemper Road anymore. We approved that with a 7-0 vote. Signet Services at 403 East Kemper Road. Spectrum is going in where the Family Christian Bookstore was. Came for signage and we approved that with a 7-0 vote. TJ Ackerman Springrose Subdivision came before us for a final development plan. That passed with a 7-0 vote. If there are any questions or anything you want to add Mr. Hawkins?

Mr. Hawkins: No ma'am.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Okay. Thank you.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals met on yesterday evening. That was November 20th. We had two items on the agenda. The owner of 450 Grandin Avenue was requesting a variance to allow his fence to project past the front of the building. That was approved with a 4-3 vote. Also, the owner of 548 Cloverdale Avenue submitted an application for a variance which also prohibits the fence from projecting past the front building line. Also, for the setback from the building on the side street. This home is on a corner lot, it made it a little more complicated. That application was denied. There were zero in favor and seven against. That didn't work out. Any questions? (None) That's it. Thank you.

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Board of Health

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health met on November 8th. The Health Commissioner's Report; the Medicaid Administration Claiming for the August time study; we will receive \$9,359. That goes to the Health Department. We voted on Regulation R1-2018; it was the third reading for food license fees for 2019. Regulation R2-2018 for the swimming pools and spa license fees for 2019. Regulation R3-2018 for the hotel/motel license fees for 2019. Springdale Offering Support S.O.S. Holiday Program planning is underway. You can sponsor a family, make a donation. If you want to do either of those, you can contact the Health Department at 346-5725 for more information. They are looking for more help and more families to adopt. The Nurse's Report; Influenza Update; Influenza Activity in the United States remains at a low level at this time in Ohio and is sporadic. Influenza A H1N1 virus has been the most common one reported. The Latino Expo 2018 which was held on October 14th. There was about 150 people that attended that. That was held at the Healing Center Vineyard Church. They had a panel of lawyers and police that they had an open session forum where you could ask questions and get answers. They also had flu vaccinations; we gave 77. They had cholesterol screening and there were 100+ levels checked. They had a dentist there that did about 20 consultations. They did some audiology exams, which is hearing exams; about 16. They are planning for next year's event. November is the National Diabetes Month. For the Narcan Report, there was zero for the month of October. That concludes my report unless there are any questions.

Capital Improvements Mrs. Emerson - No report

O-K-I Mr. Shroyer - No report

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: I'd just like to talk about S.O.S. again as Mrs. Emerson brought up. I think we shared this with Council before, but we've got a jeweler in town, Preferred Jewelers, Mr. Dave Dennis who is at 481 East Kemper Road. He has declared Saturday, December 8th S.O.S. Day in his store. Any purchase from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on December 8th. Five percent of those sales will be donated to S.O.S. I think we asked all of you to do your wife's Christmas shopping and husband's Christmas shopping there. Whatever people can do with that would be greatly appreciated. S.O.S. is in full swing with our Christmas program. This year we already had 75 families apply for assistance and, unfortunately, we've only got 45 sponsors, so we are in dire needs of funds. If any of you out there would like to sponsor a family or give us a donation, please contact, as Mrs. Emerson indicated, the Health Department at 346-5725. Later on the agenda, we have Resolution R17-2018, which also addresses a donation to S.O.S. I'll talk more about that when we get into the legislation. Board of Health; we have two terms expiring; Kevin Ketring and Rita Hart. Both terms expire as of November 30th. I'm a little tardy in getting those to you. Those should have been on today's agenda, but I did not make contact with those folks in time. We'll still be okay if we approved them on December 5th, because our meeting is not until the 10th or 12th? The next Board of Health meeting?

Mrs. Emerson: December 13th.

Mayor Webster: What time? The 13th? Okay, so, we're still okay if we approve their terms on December 5th. Kevin Ketring and Rita Hart. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: I don't have a report this evening, but I will have one at the subsequent meeting.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: Thank you, and I am going to turn on my mic this time. Very briefly, just wanted to let you know, Mr. President and Council, that we are meeting with the Fire Union. Their contract expires December 31st. We are in negotiations. We'll be meeting with them again in December. The Fitness Center at Parks and Rec have hired Elizabeth Frazier who is our new Fitness Center Manager. The City has hired Assistant to the City Administrator, Christina Ingle. Both will be introduced on December 5th to the full Council. Mrs. Ingle is actually in the audience this evening over by our Economic Development Director. That's all I have this evening.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you. Welcome.

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Law Director's Report

Judge McDonough - No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Shveg zda: On Beacon Hills and Kenn Road Project, the project is substantially complete. They are dealing with certain punch list items including the reseeding of the problem areas and that will be done Spring 2019. That was because of weather. Jake Sweeney Place Reconstruction is substantially complete. Again, dealing with punch list items. Glensprings Drive Repair/Resurfacing is substantially complete with the punch list items being dealt with. Same with Cloverdale Area Resurfacing and West Kemper Road Resurfacing. The Olde Gate Drive Reconstruction project is nearing design completion. It will be advertised for bids on December 6th with report to Council on January 2, and hopefully award at the January 16, 2019 meeting. Landan Lane reconstruction I'm happy to say that was successful for our SCIP application. We did receive a loan on that. There will be a 20-year, zero percent interest loan for \$139,000. So that schedule that we talked about that is associated with that will be October 22, 2019 bid due to having to wait until we received the project agreement from OPWC. That construction will take place Spring and Summer of 2020. That concludes my report.

Mayor Webster: Don, you said we were successful with the SCIP funding for Landan Lane?

Mr. Shveg zda: That is correct.

Mayor Webster: Do you know how much we got?

Mr. Shveg zda: That was a loan for \$139,000.

Mayor Webster: A loan?

Mr. Shveg zda: Correct.

Mayor Webster: Okay. Thank you.

Communications

Mrs. McNear: I do have one item this evening from O-K-I, dated November 7th. "Dear Ladies and Gentlemen: The term of your current representative on the Ohio Kentucky Indianan Regional Council of Government Board of Directors for 2018 will expire upon convening the Board of Directors of the Council on January 10, 2019. In order for the new Board of Directors to be duly convened at the Board of Directors meeting, it is requested that your agency submit the name of its appointment to the O-K-I Board of Directors. The O-K-I Articles of Agreement require that persons representing counties, cities, townships, or planning agencies must be selected by the governing bodies of that organization. When your agency has taken official action to designate its representative, please return the enclosed form to the secretary. Your reply is needed as quickly as possible and no later than January 4, 2019. Representation on the O-K-I Board of Directors is not a commitment to fund O-K-I. Non federal monies to operate O-K-I are obtained mainly from participating counties through funding agreements. The purpose of local government representation on O-K-I is to assure that the work on behalf of the region is responsive to the local needs. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Mark R. Policinski, CEO, Executive Director. Mr. Shroyer has performed the duties for this particular board for several terms now and I did speak with him the other day. He is willing to do this again unless someone else has a burning desire to replace him on this board. Any takers?"

Mr. Anderson: I'd be happy to take a turn at it Mr. Shroyer if you'd like to. I haven't seen the O-K-I meetings before, but it strangely sounds interesting to me. But, I'm happy to defer to you if you'd like to stay.

Mr. Shroyer: No, that's fine.

Mr. Hawkins: Anybody else have an interest besides Mr. Anderson? (no further responses). It's all yours Mr. Anderson.

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Mrs. McNear: Alright, I'll pass down a form for you to fill out so we can get your information to them. Great. Thank you. That completes the Communications.

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 53-2018

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT AND EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE NO. 004 BY AND BETWEEN HUNTINGTON PUBLIC CAPITAL CORPORATION AND THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO AND AN ESCROW AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE AND HUNTINGTON PUBLIC CAPITAL CORPORATION TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF A BUCKET TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE AND AUTHORIZING OTHER DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 53-2018; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Shroyer: Just a question. In Section 12, it refers to this "resolution" and in other sections referred to "ordinance". Is that significant?

Mr. Hawkins: I'll defer to the Law Director or Administration if they have a question with regard to that or input with regard to that.

Mayor Webster: What was the question again?

Mr. Shroyer: Section 12 calls it a resolution, the other sections call it an ordinance. Is that of any significance?

Judge McDonough: I don't believe that has any significance, but I mean, it can be changed. You can still vote on it tonight and just correct it. If you want to be more consistent, that's fine. It should say ordinance though, because it is an ordinance.

Mr. Jones: I just wanted to share that Jeff Williams provided me that we looked into five different banks or financial institutions. We received rates ranging from 3.50% up to 7.65% and we ended up going with Huntington as indicated at 3.53% on the lease.

Mr. Hawkins: As a matter of procedure, with regard to the changing of the term "resolution" to "ordinance", do we need to do a formal amendment or can we make that change just by everyone agreeing?

Judge McDonough: I think you can do it by vote and it can just be corrected when it's formalized and signed. It will be the corrected version. That would be my recommendation.

Mr. Hawkins: Does anyone have any objection to the term "resolution" being amended to "ordinance" in Section 12?

Mr. Shroyer: Just one other question, with some of the other equipment that we have purchased, I think I recall that we actually financed to purchase. This talks about the lease agreement. Is that different than what we've done in the past? With the fire truck, the other large items were also lease agreements that we end up owning at the end of the lease?

Mayor Webster: It's a full payout lease. This allows us to spread out the payments over three years. The initial presentation is that we were going to pay for it all out of this year's budget and then when we started putting the numbers together, we decided to try to spread this over three years.

Ordinance No. 53-2018 passes with six affirmative votes. (President Vanover was not present)

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Resolution No. R17-2018

AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO USE REWARD POINTS FROM CREDIT CARD ACCOUNTS TO PROVIDE GIFT CARDS TO SPRINGDALE OFFERING SUPPORT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO AREA RESIDENTS

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R17-2018; Mr. Anderson seconded.

Mayor Webster: I said I would have a few comments here. This was brought to our attention by our Accounts Payable Clerk, Debbie Huber. This is the same thing we all have on our credit cards. You get points after a certain time and you get gift cards for those. So, we got a legal opinion as to what we had to do to donate those and, as long as we donate those to a 501c3 corporation, that's perfectly legal. The City is within their rights to do that. The S.O.S. has that tax status. So, that's why we're recommending to do this. This wouldn't necessarily be used for the Christmas Funds as the resolution states, we can use it to help people with food, diapers, formula, clothing, toiletries, whatever. We're constantly getting requests through the Health Department for assistance.

Mr. Anderson: Just one question. Do we have an idea of the order of magnitude; about how much do you think is included in this resolution?

Mayor Webster: We're talking about 29 cards at \$25 a piece; \$725.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Mrs. Emerson: Is this the first year we've done this?

Mayor Webster: Yes it is. I'm not sure, does this have to be renewed on an annual basis, Kevin, do you know? Or would we be able to continue to do this?

Judge McDonough: Is it referenced in the resolution in any dealing with whether it's perpetual or not? Probably not. I did not remember hearing that. I think you should do it every year then. I think you should pass it every year. That would be a good idea.

Resolution No. R17-2018 passes with six affirmative votes (President Vanover was not present).

Old Business - None

New Business

Mayor Webster: If you could just take one of these and pass it down please. As Mr. Hawkins indicated in his report from Finance Committee, we did have a meeting to talk about the five-year budget and we discussed several things in that meeting. Primarily, the revenue stream as it is today. We talked about a lot of things. I'd just like to give everybody some background information and I think we've tried to cover this with each of you individually, but, just so we're all on the same knowledge level here. Several years ago, we started preparing a five-year budget. This gave us some insight as to what our Directors were looking at, what they were thinking about, what they saw as their future needs. To be honest, sometimes it became a wish list, but we encouraged it. We said, "Okay, just do a 'mind dump'; let us know some of the things you think your department may need going forward. Naturally, with that philosophy, always projected a deficit and the deficit would carry over year after year and at the end of the five years, you'd have some "god awful" deficit number of \$30,000,000 or something. We never got excited about that. Each year we could look ahead and begin to budget, pick the worthwhile items out of there and pull them into the current budget. It was a very valuable tool getting us through the '09 and 2010 recession. It also becomes a starting budget for our annual budget. That five-year document for 2019 has been prepared and distributed. I think all you elected officials have that. The annual budget has been prepared. It is a balanced budget. It will be presented to Finance Committee well before December 3rd Finance Committee meeting. The State of Ohio Auditor's Association recommends that cities end their budget year with a ten percent carryover balance. In other words, in our case, it's

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Mayor Webster (continued): roughly \$20,000,000 budget. The Auditor's Association would say that we should have about a \$2,000,000 carryover. Well, our practice has always been to have at least \$1.5 million carryover which would be 7.5%. Well, the disturbing thing about this year's budget that we're getting ready to submit is that we're going to reflect approximately \$1,000,000 carryover which comes out to around 5%. Now, this is very concerning and something that I don't think we should allow to go forth without considering some remedy. All of you know, and you've heard me say on several occasions, that we're operating this City on approximately \$2,000,000 less than what we used to have. Well, when we looked at the spreadsheet and we went back all the way to 2006 to get a good solid basis there, we find out that number really is closer to about \$2.7 million dollars a year less than what we had in '06. Each of the last two years, we spent about \$1.3 million or \$1.4 million more than what we had received, but we had a carryover balance. This year, we just don't have that luxury. We've spent a lot of time going back over the actual revenues for the last ten years and, to be honest with you, we found no surprises. We're very aware of everything in there. Here again, I constantly complain about the State of Ohio and what they've done to budgets and cities, villages, and school districts across this state. When Governor Kasich took office, the State's "Rainy Day Fund" had a balance of \$1.98. That's right, one point nine eight. It now stands in excess of \$2.7 billion and that's billion with a "b". They've reached their constitutional limit and the money that they have been putting in that fund could be very easily re-directed back to restoring the local government fund. But, Governor Kasich and the legislature in Columbus have chosen to do otherwise. The Governor's refrain when he's asked about this is, "The cities always moan and groan and complain. They have the ability to raise their own local taxes." So, they shouldn't be looking to Columbus for some of the money that we send them to come back to local communities. Now, this selfish act on their part, is a huge amount of money. In our case, it came out to about \$709,000. Now, this is local government fund and this is personal property tax; \$709,000. Plus, in their divine wisdom, they decided that they wanted to eliminate the Estate Tax. That hit us with another \$953,000. So, with elimination of the Estate Tax, Local Government Fund, Personal Property Tax, a cool \$1.6 million dollars. Now this came right before the economic downturn. So, in just Earnings Tax alone, we lost another \$3,682,000. Now, that was from '06 to 2010. So, when I look back on those numbers, I'm absolutely flabbergasted that the doors of this City are still open. I'm serious about that. That's a hell of a lot of money for a City our size to lose. The good news, on the Earnings Tax front, is that we're fortunate enough to rebuild that Earnings Tax with new businesses and the efforts of Mrs. Russell back here and we've got that within half a million dollars of our all-time high. We were hoping that would happen this year, but, unfortunately it didn't. We keep our fingers crossed for next year. Now, a couple of items have temporarily hampered our efforts. Our 2018 projections for our local Earnings Tax have been overestimated due to some very strange declarations from some large companies and we, just based on those declarations, we assumed that was going to happen again, and it didn't. We still have not sold the old Sheraton hotel. We've got several new businesses that have gotten approvals all the way through Planning Commission and they've not opened their doors, they've not even broken ground yet. Well, the one GE Park, did break ground about a month ago. These items would have helped, but that still would not correct the overall flow in our revenue stream. We need to look for a permanent solution to that. Nobody likes to raise taxes. We last raised Earnings Tax in 2004. That was 15 years ago. If we had not had the interference from the State government, we would not be sitting here talking about even considering what I'm about to recommend tonight. But, we are one of 32 communities in Hamilton County who levy an Earnings Tax. Fourteen of them are at a rate today higher than 1.5%, our current rate. Another 11 do not give full credit to its residents for taxes paid to another community. After factoring that in, we have another six that are above the 1.5%. The 14 and the six, so, that gives us 20 communities of the 32 that are now charging more than what we are, 1.5%. I'm recommending that we ask our residents for an increase of .5%, a half of a percent to raise our Earnings Tax up to 2%. Twelve communities in Hamilton County are already charging 2% or higher without even looking at what kind of credit they give their residents. So, if there's any sentiment to continue this conversation, I've got another packet of papers to pass out.

Mr. Hawkins: Yes.

Mr. Jones: Can we have the extra copies down there?

(Packets were distributed)

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Mayor Webster: So, John and I have been working very closely with Kevin Frank to research exactly what we need to do if we want to go down this path. He's been very helpful and done a good job for us really. The second page of the packet that I passed out tells you that the purpose of this is to advise about the procedure for increasing the City's Earnings Tax from 1.5% to 2.0%. Talks about where we get the authority, the purpose of it, the timing. On the third page, it lays out a time frame there. The last time we did this, in '04, we had four readings of the Resolution that authorized the issue to go on the ballot. So, to give people plenty of time, plenty of notice, total transparency. If they don't hear about it in the next four meetings, then I'm sorry. They'll have to get to them some other way. Anyway, if we wanted to go that same route, we'd have the first reading of the Resolution on December 5th, December 19th, January 2nd, and the fourth and final reading with, hopefully approval, on January 16th. That would then have to be submitted to the Board of Elections on or before February 6th, because the Election Day is May 7th and we have to have it certified by the Board 90 days prior to that election date. Now, we also have an ordinance that we have to pass. We have to at least present the Board of Elections with a draft of that ordinance. It doesn't have to be passed, you could wait and enact that after the election, but we do have to present the draft of what we're going to adopt to the Board of Elections when we file the resolution. So, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense not to go ahead pass it and file the whole packet at one time. He gives us some dates there. We would propose that the effective date of the tax increase be July 1st. There's some other notifications that we have. The second page speaks about the notice that we need to send to the State Tax Commissioner. That has to be 60 days before the Effective Date, so that would say that we have to notify them prior to the election, which he's advising us to go ahead and do it and if it doesn't pass, we can always retract our notice. The next document that you've got there is a copy of the proposed resolution. Then the proposed ordinance, and a copy of the authority for us to do what we're proposing here. That's all I've got to say, unless there are questions.

Mr. Hawkins: Any questions or discussion?

Mrs. McNear: My recommendation would be to move forward. I support that we do this action. The City desperately needs to do this. We're just going to get further and further behind. We have infrastructure. We've spent a lot of money on repairing streets, but we still need more streets, we still need our rolling stock to be replaced at regular intervals. This is just a matter of we have to do this because of the implications of the things that the State has done to us. It's unfortunate; no one wants to raise taxes. No politician ever said, "We want to raise taxes", but, it's something that we need to do to continue to support the City with the services that we have today. That would be our residents as well as our commercial daytime residents as well. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Any other discussion?

Mayor Webster: Thank you Mrs. McNear.

Mrs. McNear: You're welcome.

Mayor Webster: As I've said before, I'm absolutely flabbergasted at the amount of money that we don't have. One of the reasons that we made it through that was that we totally shut down our residential street repair program. We got by, but then, last year we had to go out and sell a bond issue for \$8.2 million dollars. I remember very vividly what we went through in '09 and '10 with cutting hours, furloughing people. We try not to make cuts to basic services. I think we did a good job of not doing that, but there were a lot of fringe services that we did have to trim back on. I just think it's absolutely ridiculous for us to ask our residents to go through that again when we've got this option to do it and where other communities have already had to do that and the Governor is telling us, "Do that. We're not going to give you any money." We made the last Earnings Tax increase last 15 years, even with these cuts. I see no reason why we couldn't make the next one last for a number of years and that should, our rough estimate is about \$3.3 million dollars that would generate annually for the City. In the budget that you folks are going to see here very shortly in the next few days, we've taking out all the rolling stock so we don't have the replacement of the Police cruisers, we've taken out, practically all of the Capital Improvements. I think we had one left, emergency generator system down at the Police Department. But, other than that, all the other major capital items have been stripped out of the budget. It's one of those things that we can take a roof out of

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Mayor Webster (continued): the budget, but that doesn't mean that the roof stops leaking and, sooner or later, it's one of these "pay me now or pay me later". Somewhere along the way, we've got to replace the roof down at the Community Center. I don't think any of us have been in that Community Center without seeing buckets and water splattering all over the place. That's just the type of thing that we're cutting from the budget and it's a shame; we should not have to do that.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Mayor, you had referenced the Street Program from going back to '09. Before that, we were doing about \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 a year that we were contributing and we stopped that.

Mayor Webster: Every year, we had at least \$700,000 earmarked for street repair programs.

Mrs. McNear: Running a city is not any different than running your household. When times get tough, you pick up a part-time job, you cut back on your expenses. This is a little bit of both of those things for us for the City. We don't spend money frivolously. We cut back where we can. We sell things that are no longer needed for the City and we take those pennies and those dollars and we put those back into the General Fund. There are still things that still need maintenance and it's just the same thing as at your home. After a while, that roof has to be repaired. We try to do patches and it just comes to the point that we have to do this. No one wants to do this, but we have to do this. I think that to protect the facilities that we have, if we don't fix the roofs and we have several buildings where we have roofing issues and leaks, we're going to cause more damage and it's going to cost us more in the long run. Our streets are in pretty good shape now, but there's still going to be others that need to be repaired. There's always something that needs to be upgraded. We don't want to put off rolling stock. Our police cruisers are on the road 24/7. Just think how long your car would last if you had to run that 24/7. So, we need this boost in the income to continue to provide the services that we have. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Mr. Shroyer: Having been employed by the City for 35 years prior to my time here, and having been a Department Director through those lean years, I'm well aware of the lean years. I'm well aware of the fact that things that should have been done, a number of years ago, weren't. Some are being done now. We're, hopefully, making some progress, but the one thing that was consistent through all those lean years, was, as a Department Director, you and your Administration were focused on making it work. That was the directive to the Department Directors was, "We'll make it work". We have what we have, we'll do what we can do. Not, at any time did I through those issues or those years, did I hear you talk about raising taxes. I know that my experience with you for a number of years has been that this must be painful for you, at this point. The fact that you're here tonight with this information in making this recommendation says to me that there are no other options. If there were, you would have already explored them. I have no issue with supporting this direction. If you're telling us this is where we need to go, then I fully support your recommendation. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Thank you Mr. Shroyer. We looked at other options. We kicked some of these around at the Finance Committee that we'd go to an operating levy. Well, to generate \$3.3 million dollars, that would take an operating levy of about 11 mills. That would put the total responsibility on the residents. It would not be the people that work here. They would not pay a part of that. I don't think the residents would pass it. I wouldn't vote for it. Even though I'm recommending that we do something here, I'd have trouble recommending 11 mill levy. We talked about maybe just going with a Fire Levy. Well, that still wouldn't address the problem. We talked about lowering the credit. Don't give 100% credit. Well, here again, that's penalizing the Springdale residents. I think the good thing about the Earnings Tax increase is that the majority is going to be paid by people who come here and work every day. You get a monthly report from Jeff Williams and if you look at that, I think he has that on every month. There's a breakdown of what percent is paid by residents and what percent is business filings business declarations, and how much of it is withholdings. Well, if you add up all the business items, it comes up to 96% and 4% for the residents. Now, it's not skewed quite that bad. I had Jeff go back and dissect that a bit and we went to the withholdings and pulled out the Springdale people and that drives that Springdale number up to maybe 7%. It's still 93/7 split. That's what we're proposing here today is to increase the Earnings Tax at which approximately 93% of that will be

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Mayor Webster (continued): paid out of withholdings and the other 7% would be paid by Springdale residents. I think that's a pretty good split.

Mrs. McNear: As the Mayor says, this is going to be spread amongst everyone who works here, so it's not going the burden entirely on the residents, but, I can tell you that I live and work in Springdale, not just working here, but my full-time profession, I do work in Springdale, so, I will be getting the hit for that and I still say, "I would vote for it".

Mayor Webster: One of the 7%.

Mrs. McNear: Correct, yes. So, I would hope that all the residents would support this. Thank you.

Mr. Jones: Thank you. I'm having trouble with that mic this evening. (laughter) I think I'm losing. Mr. President, we have spent a lot of time on this and hats off and applaud the Mayor for not only his background and wisdom that he brings to the table on this, but his willingness to listen to our Departments and talk to us and look at other alternatives. We have spent hours on this. A lot of time. As he has indicated, and I appreciate your comments Mr. Shroyer, and Mrs. McNear, it is the best option that we can come up with. It's an option that we need to move forward with because, failure to do that, the end result is not going to end well. I appreciate something you said in particular is, this was painful for the Mayor. We spent a lot of time talking about this. He also points out we've gone 15 years and not had to do anything. What I really would like to throw out there is, in reading an article in the Enquirer, it specifically talks about 209 municipalities just, since 2016, have had to take some sort of measure, like this and the vast majority of those contribute that because of the cuts that started with the State. So, we're just one of 210 since 2016 to do the same thing. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Just to give you a little background. The last time that we did this, we had four readings. We had town hall meetings down at the Community Center and they were very, very well attended. We'd have 30, 40, 50 people at some of those. So, if there was a group of people, whatever, half a dozen people, myself and Mr. Osborne, who was the City Administrator at the time and Councilman Steve Galster, I think he was Chairman of Finance, but, anyway, he was very instrumental in helping us do that. So, the three of us, wherever we could talk to somebody in the City, we were there. A senior meeting, a boy scout meeting, a PTA meeting, you name it; we were there. I'm certainly prepared to do the same thing again, and I would hope that you Council folks would help us and talk this thing up and I think the last time we passed it with 68% of the vote. So, it wasn't close. Now, whether we can do that again or not, I don't know, but I sure as heck would like to try.

Mr. Hawkins: Council, is everyone interested in moving forward with bringing this ordinance? Looks like there is full acquiescence with regard to that. So, we will look to bring an ordinance forward for our December 5th meeting to start for a first reading.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much Council. Any other matters of new business? (None)

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers, Planning Commission will meet. Thank you.

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet December 13th at 7:00 in the Conference Room adjacent to here.

Mr. Hawkins: Any other meetings or announcements? (None). Just note we will have the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, November 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Communications from the Audience

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None

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Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you all review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I, was addressed with Ordinance No. 53-2018, an Ordinance Authorizing the City to Enter Into a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Huntington Bank to Finance the Purchase of a Versalift SST-40-EIH Aerial Unit Package – 2018 Ford F550 4x2 Chassis (Bucket Truck) and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number II, was addressed with Resolution No. R17-2018; a Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Use Reward Points from Credit Card Accounts to Provide Gift Cards to Springdale Offering Support in order to Provide Necessary Assistance to Area Residents. That passed with a 6-0 vote. All other matters were forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There is a request for an Ordinance to Dissolve the Special Revenue Fund Known as the “Vehicle Immobilization Fee Fund” and to Transfer the Remaining Balance to the General Fund and Declaring an Emergency. There is a request for an Ordinance to Create the Mayor’s Court Computerization Fund and Declaring an Emergency. There is a request for Several Resolutions Either Confirming Mayor Appointments and/or Council Appointments to Various Boards, Commissions, and Committees; Charter Revision, Civil Service Commission, Board of Health, Tax Review Board, Housing, Building, and Fire Appeals, Volunteer Fire Fighter’s Dependents Boards. So make sure, Council we all look at those and are prepared for our next meeting. Also, a request for an Ordinance Authorizing the 2019 Fee Schedule with CT Consultants, Inc., for Engineering Services and Declaring an Emergency, an Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter into an Agreement with a Law Firm for Legal Services to the City of Springdale and Declaring an Emergency. An Ordinance Setting the Employee pay Rates for 2019 and Declaring an Emergency. We also have a request for an Ordinance placing a tax increase on the ballot for a first reading at our next meeting. No emergency request on that, correct?

Mayor Webster: Correct. The only thing on the resolution. That would just be the first reading of it.

Mr. Hawkins: Anything else from Administration?

Mr. Jones: Nothing.

Mr. Hawkins: Anything else from Council that Council wants to bring forward in terms of any other legislation for the next meeting? (None)

Adjournment

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Lawrence Hawkins III, Vice-President of Council

_____, 2018