

City of Springdale Council

January 2, 2019

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on January 2, 2019.

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

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

President Vanover: Council, the minutes are not quite ready yet, so we will review those at the next meeting.

Mayor Webster: Before I turn it over to John and Amanda here, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Law Director, Mr. Joe Braun who is at his first meeting. Happy New Year to you Joe and welcome aboard. Joe is from the law firm Strauss and Troy. As all of you know, we've gone through a pretty extensive interview process and so forth and lead very capably by our Rules and Laws Committee. This is the fruits of your labor. Welcome aboard Joe. We have some new employees here today. Let me turn it over to Amanda. I think Amanda's got all the information here, so I'll turn it over to Amanda.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: As in the past, when we have new employees, we like to bring them in and introduce them to Council and to the public. So, I'd like to start with Greg Karle in the Park and Rec Department to introduce Elizabeth Johnson.

Mr. Karle: Good Evening and Happy New Year. It's my pleasure to be here tonight to introduce the newest member of the Parks and Recreation staff. Our new Fitness Center Manager, Elizabeth Johnson. Elizabeth, tonight we can not only congratulate her on the new position, but also on her recent marriage. Her husband, Eric is here tonight and they got married in October. We'd like to congratulate her on both opportunities. Elizabeth is originally from Evansville, Indiana. She graduated from Indiana University and the University of Southern Indiana. She has degrees in Exercise Science and holds numerous degrees in health and fitness industry. Additionally, she has worked in corporate fitness, in the private sector, and in public fitness. I think it's an excellent fit for our situation. Her most recent position was with YMCA of Greater Cincinnati. There she was at the Central Parkway YMCA. Her position there was the Senior Program Director of Health and Wellness for them. She managed their fitness center. She also was in charge of health and fitness programming and special events. We're very excited to have a professional of her caliber as part of our team and someone with her personality, educational background and creativity will certainly be an asset to our staff and I'm fully confident that she'll have a very successful career here at Springdale.

Mrs. Johnson: I just wanted to say, "Thank you guys" for the opportunity to come and work for the City of Springdale. I've enjoyed it. Everyone's been extremely nice up here. Your members are outstanding. So, thank you guys.

President Vanover: Thank you. Welcome aboard.

Mr. Karle: I might mention, she's already come up with some excellent fitness programs for the Community to do for the New Year to help work off those pounds from the holidays. (Laughter)

Mayor Webster: Are you going to be in charge of his (Mr. Karle) rehab for his knee? (Laughter)

Mr. Karle: I might need a little help.

Mayor Webster: Put him through the paces down there, would you? Welcome aboard Elizabeth.

Mrs. Johnson: Thank you.

Mr. Karle: Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: Elizabeth, one thing. I'm under strict instructions to share something with you. My parents are in your Tuesday/Thursday Senior Class. They have been, I have been told, "delighted" since you have come on board. They especially wanted to thank you for taking

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Mr. Anderson (continued): the time to learn the names of a number of the “regulars” as they call themselves and also, to adapt and to adjust the program based on, and this was the key, not to give them too much new stuff too fast and to do some of the older exercises that Jay did with them as well. Thank you for that and keeping my family healthy. So, thank you.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: We have two new employees in the Fire Department.

Chief Hoffman: Good evening and thank you for having us here again. Even though the holidays have passed, we’re still celebrating at the Fire Department because we get to introduce our two newest full-time individuals. The first person to my left is Brandon Padilla. Brandon was hired on September 2nd. After he was hired, he went to the Fire Academy up in Columbus. He just graduated from his class a couple of weeks ago. He actually holds a Firefighter II Paramedic Certification as we speak. Brandon lives in Hebron, Kentucky. He graduated from Conner High School which is in Northern Kentucky as well. He has been assigned to Unit I and is under the supervision of Captain Williams.

Mr. Padilla: Hello everyone, I’m Brandon as the Chief said. I’m 19 years old. I just want to take a moment to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to work for this amazing City. Within my short time here, I’ve seen the direction of the Department. I’m very excited and eager with all of my brothers at SFD to keep them going in the right direction and I just wanted to thank you guys again for giving me the opportunity and I look forward to have a long a prosperous career here. Thank you guys. God bless.

President Vanover: Good. Thank you.

Mrs. McNear: You’re welcome.

Chief Hoffman: Thank you Brandon. The next individual I’d like to introduce to you, kind of looks like a guy I introduced a few months back. Because, it’s his brother. This is Paul Hansen. Paul started with us October 13th in the Fall. He just recently graduated from Scarlet Oaks and their Firefighting course which I had the honor to attend the ceremony, which was very exciting. Paul lives in Springfield Township. He graduated from Golden West High School which is in California. What part of California might that be?

Mr. Hansen: Central California. I don’t know if you’re familiar, but central California.

Chief Hoffman: Okay. Paul holds Firefighter II EMT Certification. In the very near future, he’s going to attend the Paramedic Program. Paul has been assigned to Unit III under the supervision of Captain Sarver.

Mr. Hansen: I’d just like to thank everybody for the opportunity to serve this community. I’d also like to thank my family, especially my wife. She’s sitting over there, for supporting me and my career choice and the journey thus far and the future commitment to upcoming certifications. I’d also like to thank God for opening these doors to be here and to be able to work and serve this Community as well. Thank you.

President Vanover: You’re welcome. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: I’d just like to take this opportunity to welcome both of these young men and young lady to the City’s employment. You guys have joined a great organization. I know I’m a little biased, but we’ve got great leadership in our Fire Department under Chief Hoffman and Assistant Chief Stanley and some great captains. We’ve got some excellent Firefighters up and down the line. I’m sure you guys are going to complement that to the nth degree. Welcome aboard and good luck to you. Elizabeth, welcome aboard. Once again, I don’t know what this run is on Kentucky people here. (Laughter). There’s nothing wrong with that; that’s God’s country. Welcome aboard, all of you.

Communications	-	None
Communications from the Audience	-	None

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Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 1-2019

ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION / ESTIMATED RECEIPTS ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1-2019; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Ordinance No. 1-2019 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R20-2018

RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN INCOME TAX TO TWO PERCENT (2.0%) AND DIRECTING THAT THE INCREASE IN INCOME TAX BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS

President Vanover: Council, as we have said, this is the third reading. Do we have any questions?

Mayor Webster: If I may say a few words?

President Vanover: Sure.

Mayor Webster: Most of this is repetitive from the last two meetings, but I think it needs to be said and I continue to get articles from the Enquirer that just sort of drive home the point that I'm trying to make here. Let me go from the top here and just say that all of you have heard me say from time to time that we're operating the City on approximately two million dollars less than what we had in previous years. We go back to 2006, we find out the number is closer to \$2.7 million dollars. Each of the last two years, we've spent about \$1.4 million more than we've received, but we had a nice carryover balance, unfortunately, we do not have that luxury going forward. We spent a lot of time going back over the revenue stream for the last ten years or so and we found no surprises. We were very much aware of the line-items that had been impacted. I constantly have complained to you folks and anyone else who will listen to me about the devastating effect that the State government has had on the City. Back in 2010 and 2011, I believe it was, when Governor Kasich took over, the State had a "rainy day fund". The balance in the fund was \$1.98. That's right one point nine eight. It now stands in excess of \$2.7 billion. There's a constitutional limit as to how much money can be put in that fund. They've reached that limit. It's the natural thing for them to do is to restore the money to the local governments and the school districts and the counties. They've refused to do that. The Governor's refrain is, "The cities always moan and groan about lack of money and they have the ability to raise their own taxes." A lot of communities have already done that. We're at that point here this evening. All of the money the local government cutbacks and the estate tax that was eliminated comes out to about \$1.6 million dollars a year. Also, despite the downturn in the economy from 2006 through 2010, we lost about \$3.6 million dollars in earnings tax revenues. Now, the good news is on that front, we have started to get that back up somewhat. We thought we would set a record this past year. Unfortunately, we didn't. We over-estimated our revenues substantially. Lots of reasons for that, but several companies just did not come through that we thought were going to. Let me get back to the newspaper article for a minute. This past week or so, there was an article in the Enquirer. I don't have the exact date and I don't have the total article because somebody chopped off part of it. I can't imagine who did that, but, anyway, this article is in response to someone who, on the 17th of December took Commissioner Portune to task because he was sort of making the same pitch that I have made here for the last three Council meetings and I am looking forward to making at the next Council meeting about what the State has done. Let me just read parts of this, "In response to Randy McKnight's taunt of Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune's inability to balance the budget, (Do like the state and learn to live within your budget), I submit some fairly recent history that might relieve part of this frustration with the Commissioner. In 2011, the Republicans gained control of all sectors of the Ohio's governance, including tax distribution. At that time, they reversed much of the 80-year-old (since 1930) agreement to share state revenues with cities and municipalities". Eighty years that agreement had been in place. I did not know that until I read this article. I've known it was a long time, but I never knew it was 80 years. "According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, Ohio Municipal League, and Policy Matters Ohio, since 2011, local governments have lost \$1.176 billion dollars; 73 percent of small cities and municipalities have gone to part-

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Mayor Webster (continued): time workers and 93 percent have put road repairs on hold.” Does that sound familiar to all of you folks? That’s why we had to issue \$8.2 million in bonds the year before last to catch up on our road repairs. “Ohio with its 50 percent poverty rate, has three of the top 10 economically-distressed cities in the U.S. - Cincinnati, Toledo, and Cleveland.” They are in the poverty group at the same time the State has all this money and they elect not to help just the small cities, but the big cities also. It goes on to talk about eliminating of the estate tax and the tangible personal property tax. I’ve shared the other article telling about the devastation that they have caused with all of the counties and what the counties have had to do to try and cope with this. Anyway, we’re in this with some pretty good company in this financial situation. I think the important thing to point out is that of the 32 communities in Hamilton County that levy an earnings tax, 14 of them are already at a rate higher than our 1.5%. Another 11 do not give full credit to their residents for taxes paid in another community. After factoring that in, we have another six that would put them above the 1.5% so that totals 20 of the 32 are now charging more than 1.5% and the important thing to realize here is that only 7% of this tax is paid by the residents of the City of Springdale. The other 93% is paid either by businesses or withholdings. So, this is tax on earnings, it is not on pensions, social security, profit-sharing, IRA distributions, interest earned, cd’s. None of those. If you’re a retired person, this is going to have absolutely no effect on you, but it will have a great effect on you if we don’t pass the tax. Because, at that point, then we have to start looking at services and so forth. So we don’t even want to go that route. We don’t want to even think about that. We’d just like to urge you to please come out on May 7th and support the levy from raising Springdale Earnings Tax from 1.5% to 2.0%. I think that covers everything I wanted to cover today. If I missed anything, I’ll pick it up in the next meeting.

Mr. Anderson: Just one question. I’ve gotten a couple of questions on that tax credit that we talked about which I think, in the resolution, is I think it’s in Section five or six, or Section five that talks about we intend to raise the tax credit along with the tax increase, so it moves from one and a half; one and a half to two percent; two percent. Is that correct? The question that I got that I think that I know the answer to is so, if you were, for example, somebody who worked in the City of Cincinnati today, that has a 2.1% tax. If this passes, that would have no effect on that person because it’s under that 2% credit. So, all it does is change what they fill out on the form, but in terms of their end dollar amounts, it’s zero impact. So, that would be true for people who work in Cincinnati, Arlington Heights, Amberley Village, Lincoln Heights, Lockland, all of those that are at 2% or higher. Is that right?

Mayor Webster: Absolutely. The credit will still be 100%. If you live in Springdale and you work anywhere else, you get a 100% credit of any local tax paid.

Mr. Anderson: So, if that community was already at 2%, there’s no impact to them, other than when they fill out the form or have the City help them fill out the form. It’s different numbers.

Mayor Webster: Great point. Yes.

Mr. Anderson: Okay. Good, then I did it right. So, I don’t have to make any corrections, but I think that’s important because it gets lost I think in Section five where it just says “we do a credit”. Thank you.

Resolution No. R1-2019

AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R1-2019; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Resolution No. R1-2019 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R2-2019

REQUESTING ADVANCE PAYMENT FROM HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R2-2019; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Resolution No. R2-2019 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Old Business - None

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. McNear: I noticed an email on my phone just before we started the meeting this evening that the Ohio Ethics Commission has sent out an email warning you about the annual filing requirement. I believe May 7th is the filing date this year, but, I'll make sure everybody has copies of it and I will begin my monthly reminder to everyone to make sure that you file so that you don't get fined. Thank you.

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet on January 10th at 7:00 in the conference room adjacent to here.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: The Civil Service Commission will meet in the Administrative Conference Room tomorrow, January 3rd at 5:30 p.m. I also have a few announcements from the Park and Rec Department. Youth Spring Sports registration, believe it or not, is underway. It's for T-Ball, girl's softball, spring soccer, and new for this year, spring volleyball. Boot camp class is also beginning. So, if you do want to go work off those holiday pounds, they start January 7th and continue each Monday evening and it's a free class, but you do need to register. It's from 5:30 to 6:15. The annual travel Senior Expo will be Friday, January 18th at 1:00 p.m. You do need to register for that and you need to do that by January 14th. As I said last time, AARP income tax help begins February 1st and it runs through April 5th and it's Friday mornings and it is one-hour sessions. You can contact the Community Center for all of those events at 346-3910.

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Tuesday evening, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. here in these chambers.

Mayor Webster: I'd like to remind everyone that the SYB Winter Youth Sports Pep Rally will be held this Friday at 6:30 p.m. down at the Community Center in the new gym. The youth basketball and cheerleading squads will be introduced. Former youth booster coach and team sponsor, Mr. Ron Hogdon will be inducted into the Youth Sports Memorial Hall of Fame. Please come out and show your support for the youth of Springdale. It's about the third or fourth year. Since we did away with the Opening Day Parade, we had to find another venue for inducting these deceased coaches and supporters into the Hall of Fame. We elected to do this at this pep rally and I think this is the third or fourth year that we've had it. It's a nice affair. Urge you to go on out and show your support for the youth. Thank you.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: I apologize, I should have done this under New Business. I just want to make City Council aware of House Bill 312. It was the credit card policy bill. It went into effect actually in November. What it basically is saying is that municipalities have to have a credit card policy. We do have an outline for a credit card policy. We do use that. The bill states that we need to bring it to the legislative body to be passed, but since we are a chartered City, we are exempted from that. Just rest assured we will have a full policy in place by February by the deadline.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you each review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 1-2019; An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Appropriations/Estimated Receipts for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Resolution No. R20-2018; a Resolution Proposing an Increase in Income Tax to Two Percent (2%) and Directing that the Increase in Income Tax be Submitted to the Electors. Item Number III was addressed with Resolution No. R1-2019; A Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Municipal Funds. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Resolution No. R2-2019; A Resolution Requesting

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Mr. Hawkins (continued): Advance Payment from the County Auditor. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number V; An Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement with the Contractor with the Best Bid for the Olde Gate Reconstruction Project and Declaring an Emergency will be for our next meeting. Item Number VI was with regard to the Introduction of new employees.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There is a request for An Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement with the Contractor with the Best Bid for the Olde Gate Reconstruction Project and Declaring an Emergency. That's all I have unless there is anything else from the Administration or members of Council.

President Vanover: Got the "thumbs up" from the Administration.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Emerson seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2019