

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on October 16, 2019.

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, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover were present.

The minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting were considered. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Ghantous seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

### Introduction of New Employees

Mrs. Zimmerlin: As we like to do, when we hire new employees, we bring them into Council so everyone can meet them, and the public can meet them. I've asked Jeff Agricola to come and introduce the two new members of his department.

Mr. Agricola: Thank you. Good evening Mr. President, other members of Council and Mayor Webster. It's always a pleasure to come before you and introduce a new employee. Tonight, however, I have two to introduce, so, it's a little bit more special. The first is Jeremy Hogeback. Jeremy has actually been with us for a little while. He started with us September of last year. Before coming to Springdale, Jeremy worked for Hamilton County Engineers Department, where he spent four years as a maintenance worker for them. During that time, he gained a lot of experience and that really helped out last year. He came with a CDL. He had the experience in the vehicles and he was pretty much able to jump in and cover a snow route as soon as he got familiar with the route last season. He's proven to be a very dedicated worker. He lives in Lawrenceburg Indiana with his wife Brittany and they are expecting their first child in November. During his spare time, he likes to spend time with family and enjoys playing softball. At this time, I'm very pleased to introduce to you Mr. Jeremy Hogeback.

Mr. Hogeback: I would like to thank you guys for the opportunity to work here. I look forward to putting in good 32 years (laughter). Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Mr. Agricola: My second introduction this evening is Colten Phelps. Colten is newer. He's been with us since August of this year. Prior to Springdale, Colten worked for Fairfield City Parks. He did that in a part-time capacity for a number of years while he finished up his education. Colten brings with his time at Fairfield, he gained a lot of experience and he brought that experience to us and he's been a welcome addition to the department already. I know he's working on acquiring his CDL. Hopefully, later this season, he'll be able to help us out. He is a graduate of Ross High School and Miami University with an Associate's Degree in Business. He's a resident of Hamilton Ohio where he lives with his wife, Laurie. Also, like to spend time with family, hunting, fishing, and is a softball player as well. At this time, very happy to introduce to you, Mr. James Colten Phelps.

Mr. Phelps: I'd like to say I appreciate the opportunity here and look forward to many years of service. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: If I could just make a couple of comments before Jeff gets into his presentation. You don't know what a pleasure it is to sit here this evening and have new employees from the Street Maintenance Department, Public Works Department introduced. It's been a long time since we've been able to do that. I'd say we did a pretty good job of recruiting a lot of brawn here, and I'm sure there's plenty of brain to go with that. Welcome to you guys and you've joined a great organization. Welcome aboard. Thank you. Good luck.

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mr. Agricola: Thank you Mayor.

### Presentation – Urban Forestry Update and State Route 4 Replanting Design

Mr. Agricola: Well, my presentation this evening, I know I handed out some printouts of the presentation that will be up on the screen, but, basically, it's kind of an update on our Urban Forestry Program. Wanted to start off with some background on the program and talk to you a little bit about a comprehensive planting plan that we've been working on and spend a little bit of time reviewing the previous project at Springfield Pike Streetscape. That's going lead into a discussion on invasive plants. Unfortunately, our most planted tree is now considered invasive. Then, I will circle back to the Springfield Pike corridor and the replanting plan that we've come up with for that stretch. Then, we'll talk a little bit about our funding that we have for the overall Urban Forestry Program. A little bit of background on the program. We have been a Tree City USA since 1992. With that, obviously, we're planting a tree every year during our Arbor Day Celebration for about the last ten or so years, we've incorporated at least one of the elementary schools and for about the last five years, we've been actually doing both schools. Our program concentrations, basically, are three areas. Removing dead and hazardous trees, pruning the trees that are healthy or require safety-type pruning. Then, planting trees for the next generation of the urban forest. Unfortunately, over the last couple of years, we've been removing more trees than we've been planting, but clearly with the planting plan that we're coming up with, we have the intention of getting back into that as soon as the budget allows. In 2019, aside from all our other normal urban forestry activities that we perform, we've been working on updating our tree inventory; what we have out there, what good trees we have. When we've been out there doing that, it's very clearly identified the need for diversity. Our current urban forest, basically, we have far too much Callery Pear and too many Ash trees. When it comes to the pear, we actually, a little over 70% of our inventory are pear trees. Unfortunately, there's no insect that's killing the pear trees, but, I'll get to that a little bit more. Ash trees, clearly there's an invasive insect that's affecting the Ash trees. Right now, we have over 400 in inventory that we are treating. That treatment is on an every other year basis. That's a pretty large draw on the overall forestry budget. The other thing that we have been doing this year is working on that comprehensive planting plan, looking towards the future. We were looking at neighborhoods and street by street, neighborhood by neighborhood. The catchphrase in urban forestry now is "Right Tree – Right Place" instead of whatever someone wants. It may not work under wires, it may not work here or there, for whatever reason. Through this comprehensive plan, we look to increase our diversity to kind of get away from that 70% of one cultivar, or one species I should say. Also, with that comprehensive plan, we would open ourselves up to the opportunity for grants. We really don't have that opportunity now or we would be way down on the list anyways. So, looking into the future, obviously planting now for the future of Springdale is the goal. Specifically, looking at Springfield Pike is where we want to start with this overall plan. Reviewing the history of the streetscape out there; it was planted in 2002 and 2004. There was actually two phases to that project. That planting included 83 of our favorite pear trees. Basically, those trees have outgrown their location. They've done well. Pears do well pretty much anywhere. In their current condition, size, and so forth, they do interfere with truck traffic. I have a picture there on the right (pointing to presentation) of a semi this morning. He is basically just touching the tree branches even though he's purposely swinging left to avoid me standing on the curb. They are also to the point that they have gotten so large, that they are difficult to decorate them during the holiday season. Clearly, that is always something that we've done up and down Route 4. In the past, I'd say five, eight years, the decorations don't look well to me. There's one or two little circles that kind of come around the tree when, in the past, the whole tree was lit. They're (the trees) are obstructing our lighting and our City banners. You can see there in the bottom picture (pointing to presentation) those lights, if you were coming southbound, you wouldn't see those two lights. Those are some of our issues that we're facing and then there's the big one. Our tree species that we picked has now become invasive. On that subject specifically, basically, Mother Nature "showed us". Originally, the individual cultivars of the pear, and there's a number of them, they were all developed, essentially in the lab and they were developed to produce a fruit that was basically non-fertile, or the seeds were non-fertile. Well, like I said, Mother Nature kind of out-witted us and, through cross-pollination over generations and generations, the cultivars began to produce fruit with fertile seeds. Basically, you have a new tree and now that new tree has taken over. You can see in a couple of pictures there (pointing to presentation). The bottom picture; that's not taken in Springdale, but, that's along a highway. Now, in the Spring nowadays when you

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mr. Agricola (continued): drive up and down the highway you see all the lovely white trees, none of those or very, very few of those are native trees. They're all this invasive tree. It's really amazing how just in the Midwest it is so concentrated because we loved our pear trees in this area. Now, that new tree is considered established outside of cultivation in 25 of the 50 states. Not all of them are yet invasive, however, Ohio has decided that, and it was decided on January 7, 2018 that it was declared an invasive species and, as part of that law that was passed, all sales of pear trees will cease in the State of Ohio by January 2023. Actually, the inventories have really dropped off already. They will be no more by 2023. The other thing that's interesting with the new tree that Mother Nature created; none of the original cultivars had any thorns. On the right side there (pointing to presentation), you have a picture of some thorns. If you've ever tried to go into a thicket of pear (trees), the thorns are about two and a half to three inches long and they will cut you, they will shred your clothes, they do not break. They're nasty trees. It's the only that will outgrow honeysuckle that I've seen. Back to Springfield Pike and what our future plan is; we are looking at a multi-year project to replace the existing pears. We think that it would be too much to go in there and clear cut and we want to phase it in. Phase One we're looking at replacing 15 trees and those 15 trees are located in the stone-walled planting beds. Those are kind of sporadically placed throughout the streetscape. The streetscape essentially goes from Northland to Glensprings. Future phases would remove trees that are in conflict with street lights, banners, or other infrastructure that is out there. Additional tree plantings would occur, of course, paying attention to those previous conflicts and not repeating them. Our species will be limited. This one area we're not going to create diversity. It's because we kind of want that character, up and down, to be consistent. The future design incorporates a tree selection that's a Muashino Columnar Zelkova. That's actually a Chinese tree. It comes from the orient. Actually, I take that back, it's actually Japan. It comes from Japan. This particular cultivar is a tightly columnar form. It's very ideal for planting along roads. It provides some shade while getting itself kind of above the traffic and pedestrians and so forth. It doesn't have that wide characteristic that our pear trees do. The leaves are small. They have serrated edges; it kind of gives it, we don't have many Zelkovas in the City, but if you look at the ones we have, it's a very fine textured looking tree. It's a medium green and then it turns either yellowish red or kind of a rusty red in autumn. I have a picture there (pointed to presentation) of a Zelkova leaf in fall. So, it does have some pretty nice color. Similar color to the pears that we have out there, however, Zelkovas will drop their leaves when all the other trees are dropping. They don't wait until December. The other key issue was because of its location. It is salt tolerant and most importantly; non-invasive. Just a quick review on our Forestry Program and its funding. Our annual Urban Forestry Program Funding is basically through the General Fund. Through that annual work, we do items like, we re-grind the chips as part of our composting program. We do our EAB treatments, which I mentioned before, are quite extensive, and, considerably expensive. We do all our hazardous tree removals that exceed the capacity of our in-house arborist. We do our stump removals out of that annual fund. When we have the funds, and we have the requests, we do a tree planting every so many years. Like I said, our focus over the last period of time has really been on tree removals and not such tree plantings. A lot of our residents, in the past, they would call up and say, "Hey, I've got a problem with my tree, but if you take my tree, can you plant a new tree?" It's interesting; a lot of our residents are saying, "Can you take my tree? I don't want another one. I'm tired of raking leaves." It's unfortunate, but a lot of the requests are not coming in like they used to. Then, we also have special project funding that's available through our Parks and Urban Forestry Fund. A little background on that. That's funded, or the revenues for that come through basically the Tree Preservation Ordinance that we have. Basically, that ordinance speaks to the requirement that developers preserve trees wherever possible when they're developing a site. Clearly, there are cases when you can't save trees. Otherwise, we wouldn't have any development. The ordinance speaks to either you have to replace trees to a certain number, or you have to pay into this fund if you can't preserve that tree. Clearly, we've had some rather large developments in the City the last couple of years. So, this fund has received revenues. For the first time in a number of years, we do have revenue in there and funds available. This would be used to cover the expense related to the Springfield Pike replanting and it will allow the overall program to kind of start working our way back into subdivisions for planting and so forth. At this point, that kind of wraps up my presentation, but I don't know if anyone has any questions.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mayor Webster: You indicated you're going to do 15 trees next year, or in 2020? Is that right?

Mr. Agricola: That is the plan, yes. That is the plan to start with those 15 trees.

Mayor Webster: How many of those tree wells do we have up and down (the street)?

Mr. Agricola: There are 15 tree wells.

Mayor Webster: Fifteen. Okay, so that will take care of all of those.

Mr. Agricola: So we're going to do every one of those stone walled tree wells.

Mayor Webster: Okay. Now, do we have any of these Japanese trees planted in the City anywhere?

Mr. Agricola: We do. We have only a handful. One right off the top of my head that stands out is on (Route) 4. Just at the end of the service road, so it's at the south end of the service road, there's one planted right there. So, it's on the west side of Route 4 as you're heading south.

Mayor Webster: Does it look better than this picture?

Mr. Agricola: The picture didn't turn out as well, but, that tree over there is not a columnar form. That is actually a fairly broad tree. It's actually planted behind the sidewalk. It's relatively broad in its shape. These trees will be columnar. Your comment regarding not. Is it because of the . . .

Mayor Webster: Well, I mean, pardon my expression, but this is one ugly tree. I would hate to see us propagate those all up and down State Route 4 if this is indicative of what they actually look like.

Mr. Agricola: That is pretty indicative of what they look like; yes. We can certainly revisit that species.

Mayor Webster: Does anybody else have any comment on it? They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Mrs. Emerson: On the picture here, that the Mayor's talking about; can that be trimmed up and shaped better?

Mr. Agricola: They can be trimmed and shaped, but, I guess my question would be what shape would you be looking for? Is it what concerns you there how it's kind of ragged on the edges?

Mrs. Emerson: Yes.

Mr. Agricola: Okay, well, that is somewhat the characteristic of a Zelkova. That's what a lot of people like about the Zelkova.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I was just going to say the same thing basically saying because it looks shaggy like it needs a haircut.

Mayor Webster: Shaggy is a good word.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I just didn't know if they're all shaggy. I think it looks beautiful when it's in the red state when the leaves are red. But, the top one, it looks like an unkempt tree.

Mr. Agricola: Okay.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: That's my thought.

Mr. Agricola: Well, we're certainly not looking to put a tree out there that would require us to care for it and shape it and so forth. We would prefer to have a tree that everyone would be comfortable with and we can certainly go back to the drawing board on this particular selection. I will say, on my behalf, that this selection was suggested by our State Urban Forester, but, we can certainly go back to the drawing board.

Mayor Webster: Well, I'd be anxious to hear some other comments.

Mr. Anderson: I've had Zelkovas on my properties before and they were always very hardy and grew quickly and were very sturdy trees. So, you can put me in the column of all trees are beautiful and if this is one that's easy for us to maintain on Route 4, I'm fine with that. I like tree diversity, so, I'm glad in your plan that we may maintain Route 4 with Zelkovas, but don't lose site of the diversity as we go through the neighborhoods. I have pear trees that are dying around me now and it's terrible. Twenty years ago we would have said, "Ash trees would be great" and now there's an invasive (bug) and they're dying. I'm nervous about any time there is uniformity of trees on any street, because it just opens us up to that risk. Bottom line for me; shaggy, wide, tall, skinny, healthy is great, but all trees are beautiful. Thank you.

Mrs. McNear: Jeff, I don't know if you know what kind of trees I have in my side yard, but they are very tall and columnar.

Mr. Agricola: They're columnar sweet gum I believe.

Mrs. McNear: I'm not sure. We have people knock on our door asking us what they are. When we're out working in our yard, people stop and say, "What are those trees? They are beautiful." Now, they grow very tall, but they are very columnar and they're really beautiful.

Mr. Agricola: There are a number of columnar varieties out there that we can choose from; believe me. We're not limited to a small list. So, there's plenty of other choices that I can come to.

Mrs. McNear: I don't have much of an opinion on the tree that you selected. It's really hard to tell from that picture what it looks like in the end, but, if people think it's horrible looking, then we should look for something else.

Mr. Agricola: Sure.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Mr. Anderson, other than 'all trees are beautiful', would you like to see these Japanese trees all up and down Route 4. All 15 of those tree wells? Do you think those would look nice?

Mr. Anderson: On Route 4, the uniformity, I think the tall columnar tree, in general, would look good where the one tree is a little bit scraggly at the top, as you described it, I don't see them that way. I think we're focused on it because how the picture is set up. It's not a military barracks or street, right? There can be some whimsy in the tree at the top, so I'm not worried about it. I would rather have different types of trees on Route 4 if it was my choice and I was King of the City, I would put different types of trees, not just 15 of the same, some wide; some tall, so that people can use them in different ways. The wide trees are better for sitting under; the tall trees are better when they're around signals and signs, but, Route 4, if we're worried about signals, signs, and banners, then they should all be columnar, but have three different types of columnar trees down that road, then it doesn't matter if one or two of them are shaggy or not, because they are intentionally different. If you do 15 of the same, then people are going to expect them to all look uniform and we'll be having people wanting to trim them and I think that's just silly; multiple trees, but I think it looks great.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mayor Webster: Okay, so, what's everybody else's feelings? Do you think they should be uniform or should we mix it up?

Mrs. McNear: I like uniform.

Mayor Webster: Please?

Mrs. McNear: I like uniform for that stretch of road.

Mayor Webster: I see a couple of nods here.

Mrs. Ghantous: I like uniform for that stretch of road.

President Vanover: I can go with a mix. The big drive, obviously, is the shape. Because, we don't want to put, for example, an ash (tree) out there because it will dominate and the trucks will be doing the trimming for us. My drive would be getting that extra bonus of the fall color. Columnar trees, the sugar maple, not sugar maple, what's the big tall, I can't think now, they grow real tall, real column, but they'll come to a point. We've got a few in the neighborhood. But, you've got issues that you have to deal with where these are. I love to see trees, but I also understand; well, you and I (referring to Mr. Agricola) have had several conversations about the pears and the end result that we have had. If we could mix, that doesn't bother me too much. I think it would be into the character of the corridor versus straight uniformity.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I had a question as I look at this. Would this be any easier to decorate than the ones we currently have? I know you said that was an issue with the other ones. What would be the difference when we're talking about decorating them for the holidays and things like that because I know that you said that was a problem with the other ones. I want to know is this going to be easier? You said it loses its leaves earlier. Is it like an empty tree with lights on it?

Mr. Agricola: It does lose its leaves earlier. We are typically decorating those trees in full leaf. Then, when it defoliates, then we go back out there and re-work the strands. Because of the sheer size of those trees, and how wide they have gotten, we're restricted in the amount of lights that we can string along without running a large extension cord up into the tree. Because they are so big, some of them we can only get one and a half or two passes around.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Right.

Mr. Agricola: So, maybe two thirds of the tree has no lights on it. Clearly as these trees get more vertical in height, we'll be limited at some point, but, when a tree is only six or eight feet in diameter, you can get around them much quicker. You can place more uniform decorations that way. Clearly, at some point, as the trees get larger, we would have to only do a portion of the tree, but, hopefully it could be done uniformly down the street. Those are kind of our points about the decorations. The other thing is because of the overhang and because of the truck issue that we have. We're out there constantly replacing lights. We find them in Route 4 because the trucks grab them and rip them off of the tree. In keeping a columnar tree and keeping the tree out of the roadway would help that situation.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I just wanted to know the difference. I just wanted to make sure we all know the differences. I don't really have a preference on if they are all uniform or if they're different from each other as long as they're what we need for the City; away from the road, away from obstructing views and everything else. That's my only thing.

Mrs. Emerson: On the size when we re-plant these, what kind of size are we initially putting in?

Mr. Agricola: They would probably be two to three inch caliper trees which would probably be, with a columnar tree you're looking at ten to twelve foot (tall). Somewhere in that range. It really would depend on the stock that's available at the time that we place the order and really what's available out there in the market. Once again, we would try and clearly get

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mr. Agricola (continued): trees, once again, that were all similar size. Then, as we would do other future phases of the replanting, we would not necessarily be building in species diversity if we stayed with a single species, but we would be building age diversity. That is also very key for an urban forest. You don't want all your trees, whether they are the same species or not, to be the same age.

Mr. Hawkins: Regarding the diversity. I normally would lean towards what Mr. Anderson was saying in terms of having some diversity there, however, on that stretch, I probably would lean more the other way towards it being a little more uniform, but I'd want to see if they're going to be different species, what that would look like and how that would be laid out. I'd probably reserve judgement on that until I saw what that plan would be. I understand the funding is going to come by way of the City's Parks and Urban Forestry Fund, which comes from our General Fund. What's the estimated cost for Phase One?

Mr. Agricola: At this point, actually the Parks and Urban Forestry Fund is not funded through the General Fund. That's actually funded from the revenue received from the developments that occur. We started 2019 with a balance of \$36,000 in that fund. This year, we received (approximately) \$187,500 and that was from Springdale Commerce Park, Phase One. We're anticipating an expense for Phase One of \$39,000 in 2019. It may not be physically spent, but it could be encumbered in 2019 if we're ordering trees; we're paying for trees when we're placing the order even before they are dug and received. So, we're anticipating a balance moving forward into 2020 of about \$185,000. The next anticipated receipt into that fund is in 2021 and at this point, Phase Two of Springdale Commerce Park looks to be about \$128,000.

Mr. Hawkins: And then, with regard to the trees that are going to be replaced, are those trees just going to be cut down? Or are they going to be replanted someplace else?

Mr. Agricola: They would be removed and added to our compost. They are not salvageable. They're too large.

Mr. Hawkins: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Agricola: Part of that \$39,000 for 15 trees might sound high, but there is a tremendous amount of infrastructure on Route 4 and we're working in a very tight space with lots of utilities. We have, obviously electric running to each one of those trees for our Christmas decorations. You can't get in there and remove a tree that's been there for as long as they have been there without doing damage to existing infrastructure. Part of that budget kind of plans for some of that collateral type of damage and some of that re-work. We're anticipating probably losing electric to each one of those trees and we would have some expense in replacing them.

President Vanover: Growing up and seeing in the spring Dogwoods would be the white and when you suddenly realize that there are almost no dogwoods visible because of these and you and I have said that every other year I take about three or four of these pears out because the birds are planting them just as fast as I can dig them up. Well, you and I talked, our Semco development; that landscape operation over there did us a huge favor because that whole ODOT field was nothing but those pear trees. In the fall, when you go through; if you see these purple red trees, those are those pears and they're the last to lose their leaves and I've lost my love affair with them, that's for sure. Any other comments?

Mr. Agricola: Appreciate the feedback. At this, point, we'll kind of go back to the drawing board. We'll come up with some additional ideas relative to species. Then, we'll make the pitch again and see how those species float.

Mayor Webster: I didn't hear a human outcry that we don't want those Japanese trees. Quite, the contrary, we've got one person thinks it's going to be beautiful, so I'd say don't knock yourself out looking for other trees. Are we good with that?

President Vanover: Well, I would like to see a little more diversity that uniformity and in diversity, you can have uniformity.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mayor Webster: Bear in mind that are going to be a lot more trees up and down there to be replaced other than these 15.

President Vanover: Right. Yes.

Mayor Webster: There will be plenty of room for diversity.

President Vanover: This is the first start.

Mr. Anderson: I agree. As long as we end up with a diverse, urban, viable tree set that doesn't break the bank. The Zelkovas are great, but if you're saying there's another columnar tree that's robust, hardy, and fits the bill that is \$20,000 for the 15 trees, I'd be really excited about those and I'd probably think they're even more beautiful (laughter). They're expensive though, I get it. That's fine, but I think the attributes of the tree in this position are just as important as the uniformity. So, salt resistant; grows the way that we want it to grow, but it's still nature; it's going to grow the way it's going to grow, so it's great. Just make sure they don't have those gumballs that drop or those big brain fruits or the nuts because that's just a hazard. Thank you.

Mr. Agricola: I agree completely. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: What's the goal for when you'd like to start and finish this project ideally?

Mr. Agricola: We wanted to begin Phase On as soon as possible. At this point, if the desire is to see some additional possible selections, we can pull those together relatively quickly. I can get something out. I don't necessarily need to do a presentation. I can get something out to the Administration. They can distribute it and then we can have feedback that way as well. We can try and speed up some of this. But, we were looking to begin as soon as possible; possibly with removal and stuff like that even over winter.

Mr. Hawkins: How long do you think it would take to go through that whole process of getting them out and getting the electric re-run if necessary, fixing any damage and getting the trees in?

Mr. Agricola: The thought was we would be ready to plant in the spring.

Mr. Hawkins: Okay. Thank you.

President Vanover: One quick question Mr. Agricola. You mentioned about the EAB treatment and it's every other year. Is there any end to that in sight? Has there been any feedback?

Mr. Agricola: There's been a lot of study on that and, unfortunately, the initial thought was that yes, after the wave, kind of the large population moved through; population would drop off; distress would drop off and potentially, the insect would go away for the most part. It's not appearing as though that's the case. It appears as though there's enough residual sprouting from the stumps from wild trees and so forth that remain, not necessarily in the urban forest, but the forest itself that those are keeping the insect alive with a very low volume of insects, but it seems like they're still around. Moving forward, the best indications now are we may be able to, with the chemical we are using right now, it's "TREE-äge", it's an every other year treatment. We have an "A" and a "B" list. That's why we're treating every year. The best case scenario that they're looking at now, which you may be able to reduce your frequency of treatment to every three years, maybe as the population continues to drop, maybe you can stretch it to four. Personally, I have an ash tree, a very large ash tree at the house. I've treated it one time. It was about four or five years ago. I have some die-back in the tree, but I have very little die-back in the tree. That's with one treatment of "TREE-äge". That's just one tree though, so that's the best case scenario that they're thinking right now is maybe we could back off on the frequency of treatment. However, moving forward, my recommendation would be to look at our ash trees that we have on municipal property and in the neighborhoods and look to reducing that inventory because it's a heavy burden on the budget. Annually, depending on which list you're looking at, we're spending between \$12,000 and \$15,000 a year to treat ash trees. You're looking at doing that effectively forever. You

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mr. Agricola (continued): may be able to stretch the treatments a little bit, but that's very expensive. We have ash trees. We have a subdivision that is entirely ash trees; the Glenview subdivision. Those trees have other issues that make them somewhat not desirable as an urban tree. Certainly if it some of those trees were in my yard, I'd be calling the guy in my position and saying, "Can you remove my tree?" I think there's opportunities to reduce that inventory over time. Clearly we have some ash trees that are very large, very substantial trees, although bigger means more expensive to treat, but, when you have those kind of those signature trees, you should be saving those trees. I would recommend certain ones probably to be treated for as long as we have to. But, we can reduce the inventory, in my opinion. Thank you very much.

### Committee and Official Reports

#### Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: I was going to say to Mr. Agricola that he has two new hires, he may need to hire a couple more people with all these treatments. That's a lot of tree work. Moving on to Civil Service. Civil Service did meet on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the meeting, discussion centered initially around a Rule 7 appointment regarding probationary period. The gist of the Rule 7 change that we approved was to extend the probationary period for Police Officers to one year following the initial field training period. What we've come to realize is that once the individual patrol officer has completed that field training period, they're halfway, or further into the probationary period. Therefore, there wasn't significant time to really evaluate the individual for continued employment. It's either continue to extend the probationary period at that point, or, go ahead and do the probationary period extension upfront in order to allow for more time to have the individual trained properly and evaluated properly. Again, we think this is a "win-win" for the City and for the employee as well. Next item that we discussed was looking at on-line applications for positions here at the City of Springdale. The essence is that we would be posting on the City website a fillable application format those positions that are open. I think a majority of municipalities are already doing on-line job applications, so this kind of brings us forward with technology. Details are still being worked out, but, again, we think that this will be a good opportunity for individuals, that may not otherwise be able, to apply for a position to do it via on-line now. We're in the process of reviewing job descriptions for the Police Department, and with the assistance of Ms. Christina Ingle, who was with Chief Mathis, to move forward with these job descriptions. They involve all the positions from Patrol Officer, all the way to Chief. We are currently awaiting the final revision which should occur here fairly soon and we expect to approve these job description revisions at the next meeting. There are a couple of other positions that you may or may not have seen in the paper that we are looking to fill. One of them, particularly, is the re-posting of the Property Maintenance and Zoning Inspector position. We actually thought we had the position filled, but due to some circumstances, the individuals either didn't make it through the process or decided that they no longer wanted to be considered. Rather than removing the Building Inspector Certification in order to create a bigger pool, we thought that we would be better off to stick with that certification because we wanted the higher quality employee. Again, our recommendation was to re-post that position. Then we moved forward with the re-posting of the Fire Lieutenant position in the Fire Department. We were in a position to move forward with that earlier, but due to some discussions with the Fire union, things kind of got bogged down, but, they've now been resolved and so we're scheduled to have a promotional examination on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for the filling of the Fire Lieutenant position. The final posting was a posting for the custodial position in the Police Department, which we also approved that and that ad is running currently and we hope to have a good pool of candidates from that posting and can move forward with getting that position filled. This past Saturday at the Springdale Rec Center, we tested for a Firefighter position. This was the initial written exam. There was 188 individuals who had submitted an application and of that 188, 144 actually sat for the test for the written exam. We're moving forward with trying to get the patrol officer positions filled as well. Again, that was for one vacancy at this time and to have that number of applicants showing interest says a lot for the City of Springdale and how individuals perceive job opportunities here. With that, that completes my report.

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

### Rules and Laws

Mrs. Emerson: Rules and Laws are continuing to work on the Street Ordinance and we're continuing to gather information from other communities and plan on having a meeting before the next Council meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> and I'll be able to give you updates on that at the next Council meeting. Thank you.

### Finance Committee

Mr. Hawkins

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No report

### Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: On October 8<sup>th</sup>, Planning Commission met in these chambers. We had RDA Group Architects on behalf of Morris Home and Ashley Home Store at 11755 and 11765 Commons Drive. It was a Revision to a PUD. It's the Ashley Home Store over by Dave and Busters. They had the Morris Home and Ashley Home Store wanted the entrances to be more uniform whereas the Ashley Home Store now has an A frame kind of a sign. They wanted it to be squared off like the Morris Home sign so that they can keep it uniform across while still keeping the entrances separate from each other and that was approved 7-0 and it was the shortest meeting that I have been to in two and half years that I have been on Planning. That concludes my report.

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: I'm going to be reporting on two BZA meetings. The first one was held on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Kerry Automotive at 155 West Kemper Road submitted a request for a variance for increased lighting levels. You know you've been hearing me talk about that for a long time. Numerous modifications to reduce the lighting levels on the street and into the neighboring homes took place and we got a great explanation about all the things that they did to make that better. The Board was satisfied with the end result and that passed with a 7-0 vote. Then, we had Tri-State Signs on behalf of Jake Sweeney Mazda at 135 Northland Boulevard requesting a variance to allow a pole sign and I'd like to ask Mr. Anderson to talk. That was a long BZA meeting because there was a lot of back and forth and Jeff (Anderson) was really instrumental in coming up with some of the compromising conditions and I thought he could explain that a little better.

Mr. Anderson: Sure, I can try. This was a situation where the dealership had changed hands back and forth a number of times and it was a real challenge for the business to be able to meet branding requirements in that site with the changes that we have had in our Zoning Code. So, what they had originally asked for was an additional large pole sign and they already have one. It's more of a block sign and, depending on, we don't have a lot of good descriptions in our current code for how we deal with these pillar signs, like these big boards that look like giant billboards almost, planted into the ground. Some people would define those as pole signs too because they have concrete pillars that go into the ground, but the pillars are covered. So, we're in a situation where we were trying to reconcile the needs of the business and also the existing Zoning Code and, depending on who was interpreting how that fit in, what the sign was. So, working with them, we thought we'd stayed in the spirit of the Zoning Code to allow a certain amount of square footage of the signs that they already have. So, they already have one of these signs that is "grandfathered" in. What they wanted was two of these monument signs and we had come to an agreement to shrink the total signage at the site and stay and allow them to have a second ground sign whether they define it as a ground sign or a post sign; it didn't matter to us, as long as they kept the square footage down and conform with the rest of the Zoning Code. This actually let them meet the marketing requirements they have that they're reintroducing I think it's Mitsubishi or Hyundai or one of those; Mitsubishi and they're really struggling because they want that to launch properly. We came to a conclusion that was ultimately approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously where we reduced the total signage of the sign, allowed a second ground sign in this monument style and the other takeaway from that was we're going back and looking with our planners. We need to update our code to accommodate these new kinds of signs that everybody is putting out there so we don't have to have this back and forth. Did I get that all? (Addressing Mrs. Ghantous)

Mrs. Ghantous: That was perfect. Jeff really did a great job with that, because it was getting very confusing going back and forth and back and forth and we were trying to work with them to launch their new brand. So, anyway, thank you to Jeff and thank you for that explanation. As he said, that one passed with a 7-0 vote. That was the Mitsubishi story. The Jake Sweeney Mazda story we did allow that variance as well. That was two different things.

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mrs. Ghantous (continued): So, Jeff explained the Mitsubishi aspect, but both items passed with a 7-0 vote and I think we made a good compromise on all of that. That was the end of the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. We met on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We didn't have any applications at all, so we just went over the minutes; approved the minutes and adjourned. It was a quickie. That concludes my report unless somebody has some questions. Thank you.

### Board of Health

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health met on October 10, 2019. All members in attendance. We had first readings for three of the regulations; R1-2019 was for licenses for food facilities, R2-2019 was for licenses for fees for swimming pool and spas, and R3-2019 was for licenses for hotels and motels in Springdale. Produce Pop ups – we had one on September 27<sup>th</sup> and that again was very successful. The next one is Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and that is at Heritage Hill Elementary. The Ohio EPA 2019 Mosquito Control Grant. Due to the low West Nile Virus numbers and the low mosquito activities in Ohio for the summer of 2019, the Ohio Department of Health labs stopped accepting mosquito pools for testing early in September. The Springdale Quality of Life Committee had their first meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> and they are trying to organize the Spring Sports Camp. Nurse's Report – We had six doses of Narcan given and that was for two overdoses. One person got two doses of that so there were only two overdoses in Springdale. The Annual Health Fair was held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Walgreens gave 40 vaccinations to those 65 years and older. The Health Department gave 25 flu vaccinations to employees and adults without insurance. They also did blood pressure checks, and BMI screening. They had several vendors there. One was ProScan, Tri State Medical Reserve Corps. Miracle Ear did some hearing testing and Hamilton County Solid Waste and Recycling and Springdale Modern Dentistry were all present. The Latino Expo 2019 was held October 6<sup>th</sup>. It was at Heritage Hill Elementary School. They had about 150 in attendance. The Springdale Health Department provided vaccinations for those without insurance and blood pressure checks, BMI screenings, and UC College of Medicine provided volunteers to assist. The Ohio Department of Health sent out a Health Alert and that was August 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was for the Center of Disease Control Prevention. Multiple states are investigating the occurrences of severe pulmonary disease among people who are vaping. As of September 26<sup>th</sup>, state and local public health officials in Ohio had confirmed 21 cases of vaping-related severe pulmonary illnesses and are investigating 19 other reports of this illness. The Ohio Department of Health is now requiring healthcare providers or "any individual having knowledge to report by the end of the next business day all suspected cases of severe pulmonary illness of unclear etiology with a history of vaping in the ninety (90) days prior to symptom onset". That concludes my report unless there are any questions.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Emerson

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No report

### O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI Board of Directors met on October 10<sup>th</sup>. One item of significance for this group is one of the things that was covered was the Ohio and Kentucky Surface Transportation Block Grants or STBG and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grants. Springdale had submitted an application to be included in these federally funded reimbursements for a signal replacement. We had requested federal funds just under \$600,000 with a match from Springdale of just under \$150,000. That project scored very well from the committee that reviewed the projects and ultimately was recommended to the Board to approve it. We as the board did approve that; the entire suite of grants, including Springdale's request, so that will be included pending the Executive Director's signature in the fiscal year 2021-2024. So that is good news. Any questions? (None)

### Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: Had the pleasure last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of cutting ribbons for three new businesses in the City. Needless to say, they occupy some previously vacant storefronts that had been with us for a while. Modern Dentistry at 403 East Kemper Road took the place of the Christian book store; not all of the space, but most of it. On Friday, we did a ribbon for the American Heritage Girl Scouts. Their world headquarters is now located at 35 Tri County Parkway. On Saturday, we did Ross Dress for Less at 45 East Kemper Road. I think that was Bed, Bath, and Beyond in there before. It's very encouraging to see some of the vacant store fronts get occupied. I think we sent all of you a picture of the sign that we now have up for the hotel. We've got one up on Route 4 and the exact

## City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mayor Webster (continued): same sign, but bigger out on 275. Don't want to forget to announce that October 31<sup>st</sup>, Thursday, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. will be trick or treat. So, please slow down when you're going through our neighborhoods and watch out for our children. We also, today, kicked off our Christmas Program for S.O.S. (Springdale Offering Support), so we now need sponsors for the children. Anyone wishing to sponsor a family at Christmastime, please call Officer Jim Beckman at 346-5539. That concludes my report.

### Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: I have the General Fund Year to Date through September 30, 2019. Receipts – we have a net budget of \$18.839 million dollars and we have received \$15.007 million dollars, which is 79% of the anticipated budget. Those receipts are made up of five General Fund Receipt Sources which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court. That is a total of \$13.641 million dollars which is 91% of those receipts. On the expenditure side of the house, we have a net budget of \$19.156 million dollars and we have spent \$13.533 million dollars, or 71% of that budget. Our ending General Fund Balance through September 30, 2019 is \$2.831 million dollars and that concludes my report. Thank you.

### Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: It is with mixed emotions that I report to you tonight that our Economic Development Director, Christine Russell has submitted her resignation. She'll be leaving us effective, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Christine knows how our Administration and staff feel about her, but, I wanted to share with you that she's leaving and we're going to miss her. Thank you for your service (addressing Mrs. Russell). Also, our Building Official Gregg Taylor is retiring at the end of the year. As a result of those two positions leaving us, we need to get them filled as soon as possible. We've used Management Partners in the past on several different vacancies that were to be filled and been quite successful with getting folks in here as a result of that. We're bringing it to you tonight just to share with you that we're planning to use Management Partners again to recruit for those positions and get them filled as quickly as possible and we anticipate that the cost is going to be \$15,000 for each position to go through the entire process. Just wanted to bring you up to date on that. I've been sharing with you, I appreciate the fact that Chief Mathis provides me with this information. I hope that you like it. Several of you asked me about the speed zones, speed radars, can we do this and that in different areas. So, on Dimmick, we ran it for 21 days. The average speed there was 21 miles per hour in a 25 (mile per hour) zone and 2,433 cars were recorded over 21 days. On Kenn Road, north of Yorkhaven, speed was monitored for 16 days and the average speed was 26.6 miles per hour, again this is consistent with every report we've brought you. Pretty much, the majority of the people comply; 85% of the people average 31 miles per hour. Of those, I asked the Chief again this afternoon, "Is this number correct?" and he said, "It is"; 41,157 vehicles were recorded over 16 days. Again, averaging 26 miles per hour. Just wanted for those folks in the audience and also up here, want to wish you luck on November 5<sup>th</sup> as you venture your way in to either an election or re-election. Good luck to everyone. That's it tonight.

### Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun: I just have two things to report for Council. One, I wanted to make you aware, if you saw the front page of today's Wall Street Journal, I had reported to you at a previous meeting that the opioid lawsuits are making their way through the courts. Those are the lawsuits that I was talking about. We're expecting some kind of notification from the court in the next 60 days, but those settlements total about \$18 million dollars, which is significantly more than had previously been reported to us, which means that that could dramatically affect our share of those funds. When we get those new estimates, I'll share those with Council, and I share those mainly because, at some point, you'll have to make a decision to participate or not participate in those settlements, just as every City, Village, and Township in the state will have to do. The second thing I wanted to make you aware of is that the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals recently issued some zoning decisions that will dramatically affect the ability of us to enforce certain parts of our Zoning Code. We're analyzing those decisions now and will probably be issuing some legal opinions on those to assist you in complying with those in the next 30 days. That's all I have to report.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Engineer's Report

Mr. Shvegza: As far as updates on our projects; Olde Gate Drive Reconstruction Project is completed. The punch list is being put together, so, obviously the contractor will have to address those issues. We have received the last payment request other than the release of retainage, so we're processing that now. The 2019 Street Maintenance Program is basically completed and, again, we're looking to prepare the punch list for the contractor to address. Landan Lane Reconstruction; no change on that. Again, we're looking at bidding that out late this year for construction next year. Fire Department Vehicle Exhaust Removal System; the equipment will be delivered to the site this weekend with the work to take place next week. East Crescentville Road; basically all the pavement cores and analysis have been completed with the proposed pavement section and the design for that and the traffic counts are completed with the signal warrants and the speed studies complete. Currently the Stage One submittal to ODOT is being prepared at this time. Beacon Hills Subdivision Streets Grind and Resurface; plans will be finalized by mid-December, out for bid in January, back to Council for award at the first meeting in February, and we anticipate construction starting spring of next year. That concludes my report.

Communications	-	None
Communications from the Audience	-	None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 41-2019

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CLARK, SCHAEFER, HACKETT AND CO., FOR PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE FOR THE YEARS ENDING 2019 THROUGH 2023

President Vanover: Alright, Council, this is a first reading. Is there any discussion at this point? (None)

Ordinance No. 42-2019

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TEC ENGINEERING, INC. FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING SERVICES NECESSARY FOR THE STATE ROUTE 747 AND KEMPER ROAD INTERSECTION PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 42-2019; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 42-2019 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business	-	None
New Business	-	None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the conference room adjacent to here.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: The Planning Commission will meet in these chambers at 7:00 p.m. on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: I want to let everyone know that youth sports registration is still underway for cheerleading and basketball. You can contact the Community Center for that. Our Father-Daughter Dance, hosted by the Springdale Youth Boosters will be presented on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and fathers and daughters from Pre-K and up will enjoy music, dancing, food, and, of course, create long-lasting memories. Tickets went on sale on October 1<sup>st</sup> and they are \$25 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. Monster Mania will take place on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

City of Springdale Council

October 16, 2019

Mrs. Zimmerlin (continued): and that is for children ages 2 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be Halloween-themed games and Club Rec will be designing a haunted room for tours. Basketball skills and drills clinic will take place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. That's for boys and girls seven to twelve and you can register by November 8<sup>th</sup>, by contacting the Community Center. I also want to let everyone know, if you haven't already noticed, that West Crescentville is closed at the railroad tracks and it will be from October 15<sup>th</sup>, through Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and there are detour routes posted.

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 in the chambers here.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number One was addressed with Ordinance No. 42-2019; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter into a Contract with TEC for the Design Engineering Services Necessary for the State Route 747 and Kemper Road Intersection Rebuild Project which passed with a 7-0 vote. We also had Item Number Two which was addressed with Ordinance No. 41-2019; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter into an Agreement with Clark Schaefer Hackett for Professional Accounting Services for the Audits for Year-End 2019 to Year-End 2023. That was a first reading. All other matters are forthcoming.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a request for a second reading for Ordinance No. 41-2019; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter into an Agreement with Clark Schaefer Hackett for Professional Accounting Services for the Audits for Year-End 2019 to Year-End 2023. There's also a request for An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance of not to Exceed \$1,320,000 Real Estate Acquisition Bond Anticipation Notes by the City of Springdale, Ohio in Anticipation of the Issuance of Bonds, providing for the Pledge of Revenues for the Payment of Such Notes and Declaring an Emergency. As well as a request for A Resolution Establishing the Springrose Meadows Community Authority. Also, Three Resolutions Appointing Citizen members to the Springrose Meadows Community Authority Board. As well as A Resolution Appointing a Local Government Representative to the Springrose Meadows Community Authority Board. All other matters would be forthcoming.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2019