

City of Springdale Council

December 1, 2019

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on December 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

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, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover. Council Member Shroyer was absent.

President Vanover: Council, at this point, I will dismiss the "At-Large" members. (Council Members Ghantous, Hawkins, and McNear and Webster departed the dais.)

President Vanover: Mr. Jones I will turn the ceremony over to you at this point. To introduce.

Judge Marsh: How about if I introduce myself? (laughter)

Mr. Jones: Actually, our attorney, Joe Braun asked if he could be the one to introduce you. So I'll yield.

President Vanover: Defer to our legal counsel.

Mr. Braun: I'll allow her to give her bio and resume, but, for those of you that don't know, we're very honored this evening to have Judge Melba Marsh from the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. (applause) She is one of our favorite judges down there. Probably the favorite, but, I'm going to allow her to introduce herself to you and she'll explain a little bit about what she's going to do and, again, this is an exciting evening for everyone and we'll try to keep it informal and things like that. Go ahead Judge.

Judge Marsh: Thank you. I'm the official "swearer-inner". I'm Melba Marsh, I'm one of the Hamilton County judges of this County and the Court of Common Pleas. And, if it's the first of the December, no matter what year it is, I look at my watch and think, "Do I have to be in Springdale today?" Because, if it is an election day, of course, the offices of the Council of Springdale, I have been at the official swearing-in for "mmmm" years. I won't tell you exactly the number of years, but, I have been for several years. It's always an exciting time for me, because we get to meet the individuals who've gone out and, who've knocked on doors, and we get to meet their families; the people who have been their support. Who has been the rods behind them, and this is an opportunity for us to celebrate the entire team. So, when I call a name, I wish the entire team to join us, not only the candidates, but, the candidate's family, and I usually put them right in the middle. I don't get in the middle; not even in a wedding. If I do a wedding, you always see couple, but you always see the minister looking back. I never do it that way. I always have the couple stand over to the side, and I'm the voice from the side over to the side, because, let's face it; you've come to see one group of people haven't you? You want your pictures to be of them, not of a Judge looking back. (laughter). Alright, and if we could have the Hawkins Family; Team Hawkins (applause). Now, as this family comes forward, I remember little Leia in a baby carriage in a little holder. Lawrence IV, he was just a little toddler. Now, before we get started, we have some news to make your presentation before I swear him in. Leia, what are you going to be when you grow up?

Miss Hawkins: The President of the United States.

Judge Marsh: The President of the United States? (applause) Who's going to finance that campaign? (laughter) My daddy? Isn't that what you told me? My daddy's going to finance my campaign and you said, "I'm not going to look for donations; I'm going to look to my daddy to finance my campaign. Is that what you told me little Leia? (laughter) Leia, evidently, heard about PAC money and she's wants to do it that way. At this particular point in time, Mr. Hawkins, would you please raise your right hand to be sworn in. Please repeat after me.

Mr. Hawkins: I, Lawrence Hawkins III, solemnly swear to uphold the constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and to faithfully, and impartially perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, so help me God.

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Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause)

Mr. Hawkins: I appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve. I appreciate my family and all of the help that they gave to me while campaigning. I had the kids running around and helping me this year. I appreciate that. Thank you.

Judge Marsh: Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you. (Applause)

Judge Marsh: And, if we could have Carolyn (Ghantous). Team Carolyn. (Applause). Hello Mrs. Ghantous. How are you? I remember that Carolyn was elected last time, is that correct? You'd think I'd forgotten about that. I remember she became a member of the Council the last time we were here, but, the one thing that interested me, I thought about Carolyn, and see if I have this correct, Carolyn served on the Springdale Planning Commission for over eight years. Do I have that right? The other thing that I remember; very well associated with the PTA, and the Soul's Ministry of Tri-County, and there's something else. The support, the veterans group. Did I get that right?

Mrs. Ghantous: SOS, Springdale Offering Support.

Judge Marsh: The SOS. Very good. Those are your things? I forgot to ask Team Hawkins, but would you introduce your support team to us?

Mrs. Ghantous: Certainly, this is my husband Nick, , my granddaughter Kenzie, my granddaughter Rheece, and my daughter, Jamie.

Judge Marsh: Are you ready to take the oath for the second time? I want you to raise your right hand.

Mrs. Ghantous: I, Carolyn Ghantous, do solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and to faithfully, and impartially perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause). Speech!

Mrs. Ghantous: I appreciate my family's support and the support of all of my constituents. Thank you. (Applause).

Judge Marsh: And we have our new member, Team Joe Ramirez. Come on down. (Applause).

Judge Marsh: Your first term, your first try out even! Wow! Tell us who's on Team Ramirez.

Mr. Ramirez: My wife Pam, my mother-in-law, Shirley, my son Joe, my daughter Kristen, my daughter-in-law Beth.

Judge Marsh: So, what's it like to be the "first-timer" on this prestigious board? Tell us.

Mr. Ramirez: I'm not new to the City, but, I really enjoyed that. I really enjoyed running. I personally want to congratulate the other three people running; the Mayor (Webster), Carolyn (Ghantous), and Lawrence (Hawkins III). It was a clean, nice competition that we had. I'm really looking forward to working with them.

Judge Marsh: Outstanding. Well, would you take the oath for me please? Raise your right hand.

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Mr. Ramirez: I, Joe Ramirez, solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and to faithfully, and impartially perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause).

Mr. Ramirez: I appreciate being a resident of Springdale and look forward to the next four years.

Judge Marsh: Great. Thank you. (Applause)

Judge Marsh: Now, if you notice under the name of Kathy McNear, there's something a little typed there, but it basically says, "Clerk of Council", doesn't it? I don't have my glasses on, I should put them back on, Finance Director.

President Vanover: Yes.

Judge Marsh: Well, I know you've all had your civic lessons, and you know that the Clerk of Courts/Finance Director is the Chief Financial Director of the City of Springdale. Correct? I thought so. What does that mean? Well, she pays all the bills, collecting all the taxes, investing City funds, and maintain all the property that is a part of the City of Springdale, am I correct?

Mrs. McNear: Not the property anymore.

Judge Marsh: Okay. Maintaining property?

Mrs. McNear: We have a department for that.

Judge Marsh: You are currently serving your fourth term and I think, if I remember, swearing you in, you were first sworn into this post in 2007.

Mrs. McNear: That was my first. This will be my fifth. I have completed 12 years. I also did 13 years as a Council member.

Judge Marsh: I'm trying to think of anything else I should remember. Eight of those twelve years, you sat as President of the Council. Am I correct? I got one right. (Laughter) Tell who's on your team.

Mrs. McNear: This is my son Austin; you've met this lady here, this is my mother-in-law Shirley, behind her is my daughter-in-law Melissa the little guy is Crosby. My husband, Jim, my sister Jan, and my father Jack.

Judge Marsh: Outstanding. Thank you.

Mrs. McNear: There's more in the audience out there.

Judge Marsh: There's one in the audience?

Mrs. McNear: More; the Ramirez Family.

Judge Marsh: Well, this is time for .picture-taking. You don't want your picture taken? They're shaking their head "no". (Laughter). They're awfully shy. Please raise your right hand.

Mrs. McNear: I, Kathy McNear, do solemnly swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio and to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of my office to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Judge Marsh: Congratulations! (Applause)

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Mrs. McNear: This is a really great night with all our families to say, "Thank you", to all our families, because they support us so that we can do what we do. It is a big time commitment. There are family birthday parties that are missed, there are anniversaries, ball games and concerts, all types of things that we miss because we are supporting the City. I wanted to give a "shout out" to my family and all families here that help to make that possible.

Judge Marsh: Outstanding. Thank you. (Applause)

Judge Marsh: Once again, Mrs. McNear, always perfect.

Judge Marsh: Well, we've come to the last one. The best. The one and the only; The Webster Team. Team Webster. (Applause)

Judge Marsh: Now, let's see, we have Team Webster. Now, it's interesting about this team. I first met Mayor Doyle, I mean Webster Doyle; Doyle Webster, when he was the Parks and Recreation Director, and I'm trying to remember the Mayor then. Was that Ray Norrish?

Mayor Webster: Ray Norrish.

Judge Marsh: Did I get that right? Then you became the Clerk of the Treasurer, or, basically, the Clerk of Council/Finance Director. I'm trying to remember, help me with this. You were the seventh Mayor of Springdale since its incorporation, you've run 13 times and are 13 and zero.

Mayor Webster: Yes.

Judge Marsh: And, this is your seventh time in running for Mayor. I got them all right! (Applause) At the same time, you know, I would think that if I'm going to do the figures, help me with this one. It's somewhere 44 and 48 years of service.

Mayor Webster: Forty eight.

Judge Marsh: Forty eight. I knew it was somewhere in the forties category. In this age, that one point, that one factor is so significant. It is such an extraordinary accomplishment. I'm sure we all congratulate you. (Applause). And, at the same time, in all of those years, you served as Vice-President of the PNC Bank, formerly the old Central Trust Bank, and then right in the middle of all of this, I remember reading that you accepted the position with the North Side Bank and Trust Company. So, you've been doing all of those juggling acts, and, at the same time, serving this grand City so well and doing everything else in regards to bettering this whole community. Who is on Team Webster:

Mayor Webster: My lovely wife of 60 years, Lavonne (Applause), our daughter, Julie Matheny, and my son-in-law Harry Matheny. (Applause)

Judge Marsh: I didn't mean to choke you up.

Mayor Webster: Please?

Judge Marsh: I didn't mean to choke you up. Are you ready to take the oath? You said this would be your last time. But, if I remember four years ago, (laughter)...now let me think about this. He (Mayor Webster) stopped me and said, "This will be my last time". But, that couldn't have been, because that was four years ago, and now you're standing right back here. (laughter). But, when we got in the hall a few minutes ago, he said, "No, no, this is my last time." And, I reminded you (Mayor Webster), "That's what you said before". So, I'm just saying. Will there be an eighth time? I'm just saying, I'm just saying. Are you ready to take the oath?

Mayor Webster: I, Doyle Webster, do solemnly swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of my office as Mayor, to the best of my ability, so help me God.

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Judge Marsh: You got it! Congratulations! (applause) This is why I love coming out. I hope this is why you love having me come. Because, it's a party, and I'm always good for a party. (laughter). Mayor, what would you like to say?

Mayor Webster: One thing; you are talking about all of these years of service, the most remarkable thing is that I'm only 50 years old. (laughter)

Judge Marsh: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: Thank you very much.

Judge Marsh: Thank you for having me. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you. Mrs. McNear would you do roll call.

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

Election of President of Council

Mr. Vanover: Council, our next bit of business is the President of Council election. We'll open the floor for nominations.

Mrs. Ghantous: I'd like to nominate Lawrence Hawkins for President of Council.

Mr. Anderson: Second.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'd like to nominate Tom Vanover for Council President.

Mrs. Emerson: Second.

Mr. Vanover: Alright, we have two; any further nominees? (None) At this point, we'll close nominations. We'll do a voice count, right? Because, we have to track.

Mrs. McNear: Just call out.

Mr. Braun: You can do it however you prefer; it just has to be a voice vote. That's the only requirement.

Mrs. McNear: I'm going to call each of the Council members and they can tell me their selection.

Mrs. Ghantous: Hawkins.

Mr. Anderson: Hawkins.

Mrs. Emerson: Mr. Vanover.

Mr. Hawkins: Hawkins.

Mr. Ramirez: Mr. Vanover.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Vanover.

Mr. Vanover: Mr. Vanover.

Mrs. McNear: Well, we have four to three for Mr. Vanover.

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Election of Vice-President of Council

President Vanover: Okay, next up we have an election of Vice-President of Council. We'll open the floor for nominations.

Mr. Anderson: I'd like to nominate Mr. Lawrence Hawkins III.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

President Vanover: Motion seconded. Any other nominations? (None) We'll close nominations. Well, actually, by acclamation, we'll make this one quick and Mr. Hawkins will continue to serve.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. R19-2019

COMMENDING DAN SHROYER FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R19-2019; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Mr. Anderson: I talked to Mr. Shroyer prior. I just wanted to make sure it was on the record too, that I truly appreciated his time here. When I first started on Council, he made a special effort, as a first-time Council member that I was, to reach out and he was very welcoming and he was willing to spend some extra time with me to talk about what's been going on in Council, even some of the "nuts and bolts" of how to use the dais since I hadn't served on some of these boards. Just the way that he was welcoming to me; it speaks to his character. He was always welcoming and wanting to learn. He was also very inquisitive; willing to talk about issues and willing to think through in the discussions. It didn't seem that he came into meetings with a set idea of what how he wanted to vote. He had ideas, but, he was willing to listen to discussion, and change his view and I think that's unique in public service. So, I just wanted to go on record saying that I really appreciated Mr. Shroyer's time on Council and I appreciated the way that he welcomed me as well. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: I'd also like to express my thank you and gratitude to Dan Shroyer for not only his four years on Council, but also his ten years as the City's Fire Chief. We didn't always agree with things, but that matters little. At the important things, he was willing to give up his time and dedication to make this City a better place and I think our hats are off to anyone who steps forward and does that. Dan, all I can say is, "Thank you very much and you ran a very good race". Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Just echoing some of what's been said. Mr. Shroyer always works very hard. He investigated issues that came up. Some issues that haven't even come up, he looked into on his own and gathered information and brought that information to Council. I just wanted to say I appreciate his time and service to the City of Springdale.

President Vanover: I'll add that he was a fisherman, so he can't be too bad a guy (laughter).

Resolution No. R19-2019 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business

President Vanover: This is in honor of Judge Marsh. It has become a calendar mark that if it's December, Judge Marsh is here and it's close to Christmas. You can mark your calendars. Thank you.

Judge Marsh: Thank you.

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New Business

Mayor Webster: I'd just like to take a few minutes to publicly, from the dais up here, to thank some people. First off, my immediate family. I would not be sitting here this evening, nor would I have been sitting here for the 13 previous swearing-in's without the help and dedication of my wife, Lavonne, and, my daughter, Julie. My daughter Julie was sort of born into politics. I think she was about four or five years old when I first ran. So, that's really all she knows. Anyway, and Mrs. McNear alluded to the fact that this is a family affair and, if your family isn't behind you, and supports you, it can make for a very long four years, I'm sure of that. Fortunately, I've never had to endure that and I just want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you, you two ladies for helping me be as successful as I have been. Also, I'd be remiss if I didn't say congratulations to Mrs. Ghantous, Mr. Ramirez, Mrs. McNear, and, Mr. Hawkins. I'm sure you guys worked very hard, well, most of you worked very hard (laughter). It's not really hard work when you run unopposed (referring to Mrs. McNear), but, that says you're doing a great job. Anyway, congratulations on another four years. I look forward to serving with all of you. I was talking to someone out here before about campaigning and they said something about knocking on doors.

I know this is going to sound corny, and some of you up here may say, "You're full of it", but I thoroughly enjoy going out campaigning and knocking on doors. There's nothing that I would rather do than to spend an afternoon knocking on doors and talking to the people of this community. I really feel that I come to this seat this evening with a pretty darn good knowledge of what's on the minds of the people of this City. I say that because I knocked on probably 2,000 doors, 1,800, give or take a hundred, but I talked to a ton of people and I think they were loud and clear. They're very concerned about the fact that we do not have a grocery store in this City, as all of us are. If we could snap our fingers and we could ask Mrs. McNear to write a check tonight and create a grocery store, I'm sure that if someone made that motion, it would pass unanimously. So, you're not alone out there. We all want a grocery store. The other thing that's on people's minds is the demise of Tri-County shopping center. Here again, I think if we could snap our fingers and make some things happen; we would. We've got some ideas, we've got some vision, but, it's pretty hard for the City to implement that vision without a willing partner in the form of an owner of that gigantic mall over there. I think at this point, we keep our fingers crossed, we try to push as much as we can. In fact, we had an interesting meeting within the last week or so trying to "light a fire" if you will, under the owners of the mall to make something happen over there. But, it's going to be a long, long road to hoe, but I think that we just have to persevere and try to continue to prod the ownership of that mall to do something before they lose their one major anchor.

In closing, just let me say in addition to thanking my family, I'd like to thank all of the people of this City for their support over the years, not just this election, but in the previous 12 elections, where I was on the ballot. I think that I certainly take some consolation in the fact that, even though we only had 35% turnout of the registered voters in this past election, that tells me that 65% of the people weren't "up in arms" that they needed change; that they weren't somewhat happy, or, at least the majority of those were happy, or they'd been at the polls supporting change. So, even though you didn't vote in the election, I still, I'm sure, sometime in the past, you have participated in a Municipal Election, so, anyway, thank you to all the voters who did participate and not just the ones that voted for me, but if you went out and voted, that's a real privilege that I'm glad to see you take advantage of. With that, I would just like to say, as I said four years ago, I'm just as excited this evening as I was 48 years ago. I think there's a lot to be excited about. We've got a comprehensive plan staring us in the face that we need to get implemented, and I'm anxious for the City and Council to get to work on that and the Community, because I think we certainly need it in order to develop a good plan, we have to have the input from our constituents. We will be reaching out for that. I think it's also exciting that somewhere along the way, we're going to have a new development in the old Sheraton site, along with, hopefully, something happening in Tri-County. It is an exciting time to be involved with the City of Springdale, and, as I've said, our door is always open, and all the ideas don't generate from the corner offices over there. So, let us know what is on your mind and if we can be of any help, in any of your pet projects, please don't be bashful in asking for help. With that, thank you very much.

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Communications from the Audience - None

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Ghantous seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2019