

City of Springdale Council

January 8, 2020

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on January 8, 2020.

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

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

President Vanover: I'd like to welcome everybody to the new year. First thing off, minutes are not available at this point in time, so we will catch them most likely next week.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 01-2020

ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION/ESTIMATED RECEIPTS ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 01-2020; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mayor Webster: In the Pending Legislation Report, we indicate that this ordinance is consistent with the 2020 Budget. It is, with a few exceptions. I have asked Jeff Williams to come up and give us a list of those exceptions. The reason that I'm doing this is that we did have, I know, one big ticket item from 2019 did not get implemented. It was a dump truck for \$96,000 and I don't want you people to see that running up and down the street and say, "Hey, we didn't talk about that at budget time." Well, you did last year and we just didn't get it done. So, that is carried over and is included since the appropriation died at year end, it had to be re-appropriated in order to make a legal expense this year. Anyway, that's just one example. So, Jeff (Williams), do you want to bring them up to date on the other exceptions.

Mr. Williams: Hello. How is everybody tonight?

President Vanover: Good.

Mr. Williams: Any changes that were made in here, some were made out of necessity based on, here's what we estimated, versus, here's what actually happened and if we were to pass it "as is", we would budget into the negative. Some of the situations are that. Some of the situations are, "Hey, wait a minute, we're normally going over these line items, I think we should change this." I'll go through that as I go along. The changes in the general fund, the only changes here were in the Fire Department, we added \$600 for their credit card fees. Then, in the Health Department, we added \$7,000 additional for their animal control. Those were the only changes to the General Fund. The next change is to the 061 Fund, which is Street Construction and Maintenance, which is Page 85 of your budget book. The Personal Services, we had budgeted \$115,000. For the past two years, we have gone over that. That got changed to \$145,000. We were about, I mean, in 2019, I believe we were at about \$130,000. The reason for the big jump is now we have more money coming in to this fund because of the gas tax increase and, therefore, provides an opportunity for more payroll out of that fund. So, I took that up to \$145,000. As the Mayor was talking about, for the Capital Improvements which was in the book at \$344,000, we took that up to \$441,000, based on that dump truck, because, even though that was supposed to be spent out of 2019, they didn't have the information to even put in a purchase order at that time. So, that basically just got moved over so that activity can be bought in 2020. Page 89 is fund 062, was a State Highway Improvement Fund. Again, this is a payroll situation. The funding here is partially from the gas tax and that increased. We did go over on payroll in this fund for the past two years, so, I just upped that to \$60,000; from \$40,000 to \$60,000. Next is the Grants Fund, Page 93. Here we just had some small changes. The advance out of there for \$2,000. It was anticipated that that would be needed to advance some money from the General Fund into the Grants Fund for one of the grants, but, as it turns out, they got full reimbursement on that grant, so we didn't need it anymore. We added in \$1,000 for the Target grant, which, the Police said, "Well, we think we'll get that again next year". So, we

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Mr. Williams (continued): added in \$1,000 for that. Then, the Fire Department Grant for the exhaust system, there was some money left over after they did that project, so they're still going to spend that and that's going to be in 2020. The next change is Page 107. Drug Law Enforcement Fund. This is one where, based on actual activity, if we would have budgeted the whole thing, then we would have budgeted into the negative, so I just had to take a couple of dollars off of that. Same thing with page 111 which is the Law Enforcement Fund. Same situation there. Page 119, the Law Enforcement Training Fund, same situation there. We just took \$9 off to make it work. The next one is the Street Improvement Operations Fund which had a very small change. We had budgeted a total in that fund of \$894,000 and some change. It needed to be taken down to \$893,743. Now the reason for this is because this one we're budgeting at zero at the end of 2020. So, we're budgeting to use this all up. Based on, this is estimated versus actual activity, we just needed to make that change in the budget so we wouldn't be budgeting in the negative. The next one is Page 185, the Parks and Urban Forestry Fund. Here we had a good amount of money come in. We had like \$187,000 come in in 2020. It gave us a good fund balance. We budgeted \$57,500 and I looked at that and I said, "Well, if we have a project in this fund that we want to do, we're limited to this amount, yet we have a lot of fund balance in that fund. Basically, I just took that, the total appropriation of that fund, up to \$190,000 just in case something comes up that they want to do. That doesn't mean that, "Hey, we're going to spend this money"; it just means that the authority is there just in case something comes up. Then, on the revenue side, on Page 208, again, we had talked about that advance in for \$2,000. That's not going to happen. Then, the Grants Fund on Page 211; just added in \$1,000 for the Target Grant. So, this document reflects the changes that I just went over in here. Are there any questions about that?

Mr. Anderson: Just one question. You were talking about the Forestry Fund and moving the spending authority to \$190,000, which is the full balance that remains. When we say that the authority is there to spend it, that's still limited to those line items that are described in the budget.

Mr. Williams: That's correct.

Mr. Anderson: That money can't just be re-appropriated for different uses since the authority is there. It's still just for tree planting.

Mr. Williams: No, that being a special revenue fund is limited to what the purpose of the fund is. So, we can't buy a vehicle out of there; it has to be specific to that fund.

Mr. Anderson: So, in this case, that would be limited to urban forestry, tree planting, and tree trimming, tree health.

Mr. Williams: That's correct.

Mr. Anderson: And those types of activities. It would be like general park maintenance, or, if they wanted to contribute to part of a park remodel, that would be a different; it couldn't be used for...

Mr. Williams: No, you couldn't do that out of that fund.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Mr. Williams: That's correct. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: You'd referenced when you were talking about the dump truck, I think you were talking about the Capital Improvements Fund. You had indicated that it was going to go from \$340,000 to around \$400,000?

Mr. Williams: That was in the 061, the Street Maintenance Fund. So, it was budgeted for 2020 at \$344,000 and some change. It went up to \$441,000 and some change. That change is strictly based on that dump truck which was supposed to be in 2019 at \$96,750.

Mr. Hawkins: Okay.

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Mayor Webster: But, the dump truck is not going to cost us for \$440,000.

Mr. Williams: No, total Capital Projects.

Mr. Hawkins: No, the issue was the difference in the price and I didn't hear the "40" from the "440"; I just heard the "400", and so I was wondering where the other \$20,000 was on it. So, thank you.

Mr. Williams: Thank you.

President Vanover: I don't see any more lights. Thank Mr. Williams.

Mayor Webster: Thank you Jeff.

Mr. Williams: Thank you very much.

Mr. Anderson: Just one administrative follow up. Not for Jeff (Williams). Are we going to or can we get a new budget with the updated documents distributed or how do we get those updated?

Mayor Webster: We were not planning on re-publishing that document for a third time.

Mr. Anderson: Okay.

Mayor Webster: You've got the information right there in the Ordinance and you just got an explanation as to what it was.

Mr. Anderson: A couple of the page numbers that were referenced were off from what was listed here, so I'm wondering if I have an out-of-date document. But, if it's posted on-line, I can find it. It's still posted on-line, is that correct?

Mayor Webster: That document there, to my knowledge, has not been updated and posted. That document is on-line as is. Right?

Mrs. Zimmerlin: It will be on-line. Is it already on-line Jeff?

Mr. Williams: It is not on-line yet. This document is not on-line yet.

Mayor Webster: Not that document, but the one he's holding in his hand? Is that one on-line?

Mr. Anderson: No.

Mr. Williams: No. Not yet. I usually don't put it up until we get into January. But, what I can do is I can send out an email to everybody listing what the changes were and what accounts were changed.

Mayor Webster: I don't think that's what Mr. Anderson wants. He wants to see that book re-done with those changes.

Mr. Anderson: To be clear, an on-line posting of the current budget is all I'm looking for. It doesn't have to be printed out and distributed. I just wanted to make sure this is available that somebody could find the budget easily and not have to go and know that there was an ordinance that they need to reference in order to find out what the line item is. I'm just asking for the current document to be posted as it has been every year, but I want it to be the current one, not the old one.

Mayor Webster: So when do you normally put the budget out there Jeff?

Mr. Williams: In January. What I can do is I can just take the document and just cross out and put the new number by it if that's fine. Then that will match to what has passed. If that's okay with everybody, then we don't have to print everything back up.

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Mr. Anderson: That would be great. I just want one place to stop to see the budget. That would be great. Thank you.

Mr. Williams: Okay. Thank you.

Ordinance No. 01-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 02-2020

AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF TICKETS PRODUCED BY COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS BY THE SPRINGDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 02-2020; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Hawkins: For the Administration. Is there, obviously we're changing over the computer software for the Mayor's Court and I know there's a cost that associated with that process, but, big picture; are we thinking that this is going to be less expensive long term than issuing paper tickets?

Mrs. Zimmerlin: Yes. Not only in materials, but also staff time and processing.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Ordinance No. 02-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 03-2020

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE 2019 S-21 SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 03-2020; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Anderson: I have just one question for Administration. When I was reviewing the changes in the supplemental, I went to our website; that referred me to American Legal Publishing Corporation for the current code and ordinances. I found that they had published the 2019 S-21. It was already published as it was, before it was passed tonight or reviewed tonight. So, my question is, is that standard practice that it's published early or was this just a mistake because we're getting it later than usual? If it was an error, is there a way that we can follow up with them to find out why they published it prior to it being approved?

Mr. Braun: Mr. Anderson, no; they should not have gone ahead and put it up. You advised me before the meeting and I had a chance to talk with Mr. Jones and Mrs. Zimmerlin, and we will notify them that in the future we don't want them to update our code until Council has taken its action. I would point out for you that we don't control that site. It's a third party vendor. What we can also do is we have an annual contract with them for these services. We'll make sure we put a provision in there that says that they agree that they will not update it until we have notified them. But, yes, they "jumped the gun" in going ahead and updating it. So, for readers who view this on-line and now that you'll pass this this evening, it will be in effect, but it should not have appeared today.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you for the clarification.

Ordinance No. 03-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 04-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 153 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO

President Vanover: Council, you have heard the reading of Ordinance No. 4-2020. This is a first reading.

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Mayor Webster: This doesn't require a public hearing?

Mrs. Zimmerlin: Yes sir. It does. The public hearing is scheduled for the 15th (of January).

Mayor Webster: Okay. We usually reference that in the body. Don't we?

Mrs. Zimmerlin: We can add that for next time if you'd like it.

President Vanover: Yes, I would say just for "legalese".

Mrs. Zimmerlin: Sure.

President Vanover: To keep everything clear. Again, this is a first reading. Any other discussion this evening? (None). Then the public hearing is the 15th?

Mrs. Zimmerlin: 15th. Yes sir. Next week.

President Vanover: Okay.

Resolution No. R1-2020

AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R1-2020; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Resolution No. R1-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R2-2020

REQUESTING ADVANCE PAYMENT FROM HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R2-2020; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Resolution No. R2-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business

Mr. Anderson: I was hoping to get an update on the parking ordinance that was being worked on last year. I haven't heard anything in the last couple of meetings. Can we get an update on that?

Mr. Braun: I'll report that the committee has not yet scheduled a meeting, but we will be circulating a copy of that to them in advance of the meeting and then, ultimately, it will come back to Council.

New Business

Mr. Ramirez: Will this be a good time to have a discussion?

President Vanover: Sure.

Mr. Ramirez: I'd like to bring before Council something that has become very popular and I wanted to bring it before Council, have a discussion, and see if we want to move forward with this. It pertains to the DORA and the DORA is a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area. You can designate an area of your city where you can allow open beverages by buying a special cup in these special establishments that sign up to do this. I just read in the business news that Wyoming is having their second reading this month to establish this. If you don't know what it is, a number of communities have established this. Amongst them would be Liberty Center, Mason, Middletown, Hamilton, quite a few up north; Worthington, Grove City. I thought at this time it might just be a good idea to see if we wanted to establish an area like that. And, if we do, to gather some thoughts on where that might be. So, the intent is to have an area where people can gather; whether it will be food, drinks, entertainment. Downtown Hamilton has their concerts, and be able to buy beverages and you have to buy them in a designated DORA site

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Mr. Ramirez (continued): with a special cup. You can only drink it, you can only bring that outside or you cannot bring it into other establishments. At this point, I just wanted to see if there's any interest in this and if so, how would we move forward.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: My question; I have a few questions on this. Number one, would this require any kind of special liquor licensing? Number two, who would be selling this? Would the alcohol be sold by the City? Is it a BYOB (bring your own beer). What are the parameters? Because if I were to buy the cup, and I don't really drink alcohol, so a beer or something, and I pour the beer that I brought from my car into here, how would you know the difference between that and one that one that I bought, say, from the concession stand?

Mr. Ramirez: Well, I did some research, I'm not the legal representative, but some research is when you go into an establishment, then you have to buy that cup and it will say, "City of Springdale", or some other DORA establishment. Let's say it's for BJ's; you can buy it in BJ's, you can walk out of BJ's anywhere around the designated DORA site and drink that beverage. Once that's empty, you must throw that cup away and, if you want to back into BJ's and buy another one, you can, or any other establishment that's selling these cups. To answer your question, you can't bring your own in. I guess it's no different than smuggling a flask in to a marina or whatever, but, it would not be legal. You would have to purchase it in that bar.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: So, it would be say we, I know we have the concerts at the Rec Center. If you had open container in that kind of the area of the City, you could not do that, am I correct? Because I know that right now you can't have alcohol outside the Community Center. I was wondering how liquor licensing would work for that. Do you have to have a special liquor license in order to have a DORA area?

President Vanover: Mr. Braun is "chomping at the bit" down there.

Mr. Braun: So, I formed Loveland's DORA and my office and I helped Emily to do Wyoming's DORA and I also advised privately on another community. So, I know a little bit about these. If it would be helpful to Council, I could put together a kind of Q and A memo that might be helpful to circulate to you at your next meeting to kind of give you a flavor. It is tied to the liquor establishments and the liquor licenses that they have. The City itself doesn't hold the liquor license for those businesses, but those businesses have to sign on to the DORA and then you have to designate a specific geographic area that must be a minimum size and it can't be too big. There's all sorts of restrictions that I can kind of summarize for you. The hardest part to what the Councilman (Ramirez) suggested is finding where might fit this. For instance, if you have six establishments that want to sign on and you draw your area, you can have, for instance, like in Loveland where the Chamber of Commerce owns a liquor license that's floating for events, they can participate in that DORA, but, they're going to have to be a signer on to that, and it's a rider on to their liquor license. I can provide you with kind of a Q and A sheet. Some other things that are just kind of unique about it; the City, at least in Loveland, bought, and Milford as well, bought the initial round of cups for these businesses, paying for those. Thereafter though, they went to the vendors directly. You can put the City logo on there, you can put things like the Police Department wanted to make sure there was something on there about not drinking and driving, being cautious, so you have a little bit of control over what that cup looks like, but there's also other things to be aware of. You can make your DORA be one that's 24/7 or, you can make one that's only on certain designated dates or events that each year Council has to approve. For instance, that's what the City of Loveland did. Now, the City of Milford did one where it's all the time in the designated area. Hamilton has done things, and then if you do it in those designated areas, you have to place certain signage advising the public that "no liquor beyond this point" and then there's questions about if it's a floating DORA on different dates, you have to notify the public "tonight's a DORA night", there's different things like that. So, if you would be open to that, I'll prepare just a Q and A memo and I'll circulate it and then maybe if you decide that is something you want to pursue, maybe a committee or one of your committees, your ad hoc committees can pursue it in more depth. I will also let you know the State of Ohio is very good about answering questions. They have someone up there who is amazing at advising and helping you to craft it. So, we could utilize their services.

President Vanover: Excellent. Excellent.

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Mayor Webster: Well, I was going to touch on some of the things that Mr. Braun just indicated. I think where this really works well is if you have a cluster of establishments, which I'm sitting here scratching my head thinking and I don't think we have a cluster anywhere in the City. But, I think this is one of the characteristics of an entertainment zone and this is what I would love to see us create over at Tri-County Mall if we could ever get the mall to redevelop the Sears site. Even with a certain expenditure for improvements, that would qualify us for additional liquor permits and I know this is not out of the realm of possibility, say \$100 million development goes in, we would probably qualify for another ten to twelve liquor permits. That would be really a godsend to that mall because, hopefully, they would be an attraction for restaurants to open up in the mall, also develop those out lots, and so then that's where I would see this entertainment zone, then it's passing the proper legislation to allow something like that to happen, because at that point then, we would have a cluster hopefully of eight, ten, twelve establishments and you could mingle around those. I could see a real benefit of it. Right now, it's people walking around with cups of beer. I just don't see it applicable to that environment, and I don't see any of the cluster of restaurants for that to make sense.

Mrs. Ghantous: I was just wondering Joe (Ramirez), what was your vision? How did you envision this working?

Mr. Ramirez: I was going to steal the ideas from the other cities that it's been successful in. There wasn't much of anything going on in downtown Hamilton and now the restaurants and the bars are thriving. People are coming out of their homes and migrating to the downtown area and enjoying themselves with their friends and neighbors and I agree with Mayor Webster that Tri-County mall seems to be the best location and it's more like, "build it and they will come", or "designate it and they might buy into it". That was my vision.

Mrs. Ghantous: Thank you.

Mrs. Emerson: I was going to kind of tag off of the Mayor also. I can understand Liberty Township; they've got a downtown area with entertainment and that kind of thing, there's several restaurants and bars around that you would get your drink and walk around and watch entertainment and things, but, Springdale isn't there yet. It, like Mr. Ramirez said, if "we build it and they will come", I don't know. I think it's a great idea, whether it fits here or not right now, I don't know. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: I also wholeheartedly agree with the vision that Mayor Webster just described in terms of entertainment district and how that fits into it. When I heard Mr. Ramirez talk about it, I was immediately reminded of the work that we started last year for the Bridge Comprehensive Plan, which was one of the things that we talked about was this idea of an entertainment district and a DORA and those things fit into it. Maybe this is a good opportunity for us to go back to that point and see what we can do to make that portion of that bridge plan more concrete and either form a committee tonight to start that part of the work so it's not just talk, but we can talk about making it real. Or, doing something with that. I just feel like we stalled a bit on that comprehensive plan and if we had that, this would be easier for us to do something with. So, is there an opportunity for us to take this idea and either start or continue that work from last year. Can we form a committee? Or, how do we take that next step to take it from an idea to something more concrete now? Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Again, I think the idea of a DORA is a great idea. I don't know if it's ripe yet for the having the entertainment district or the cluster of restaurants. Obviously, it's been great in Hamilton. I see it on a daily basis in Liberty (Township), and the vision that I would hope is that, with the mall, that you get some mixture of folks living there, as well as talking about some ideas about apartments. You see that in Hamilton. That was a big part of what took place as well as restaurants coming in as well in Liberty. That would be a wonderful thing in addition to adding some restaurants, bars, things of that nature. I would say it's something that, I'm hearing a lot of support up here for that idea. It's something that may be an additional tool as Administration tries to work with the mall in providing different ideas that the Administration would relay to those owners of the mall, that, in terms of redevelopment, this is something that our City's legislative body seems to be in support of in general as they may look at different ideas of revitalization there. Thank you.

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Mayor Webster: I knew you were going to say that, Mr. Hawkins because there is a draft of a letter sitting on my desk right now waiting for me to approve that is to the owners of the mall laying all this out for them and asking them what the hell they're going to do to try and make that mall viable. I knew this question was coming, so it's in the works.

President Vanover: Well, and I have talked to several people. I think that would be perfect for the redevelopment of Tri-County Mall. Not only additional restaurants, microbreweries are booming all over and, unfortunately a lot of them are held off into industrial complexes which it has to become a destination. If we could "set the table" so to speak, and plug a couple of these plates on the place setting, I think it would be phenomenal. I think that there's possibility for taking one of the old store pads and making a concert venue; small one that, again, would add to that flavor that is there. But, unfortunately, we don't own the mall, so we have to step on somebody's gas pedal to get this to happen. I agree, and I think the support is here. I haven't heard one negative. I think, Mr. Braun, if you would do that Q and A; that would give us a chance to kind of "mull over", think this over and I think it's ripe for further discussion. I think the bridge plan is a good point. It was in there; the chance to be proactive on a very deserving thought process anyway and see where we go from there.

Mayor Webster: I think, at Tri County Mall, the important thing is to try and open up some lines of communication with those people. Up to this point, we have not been able to do it. We speak a different language; it's just that simple. He speaks Chinese, we speak English. I point that out in this letter that I've drafted that we need someone that we can communicate with and some of the ideas that have been put forth this evening, need to be communicated with somebody over there. I can't pick up the phone in the morning and call over to the mall and talk to the guy. I just can't do it, unless I learn Chinese overnight, which I doubt that's going to happen.

Mr. Hawkins: With regard to the mall and those owners, while it's not a good thing, the whole east side of the mall is empty except for a barber shop. The only positive from that can be it makes it ripe for development and repurposing. So, I don't know if they're going through some thought process with regard to that, but, it seems like now is an excellent time for those things to take place with that whole side being open and available.

Mayor Webster: I wanted to make sure I wasn't talking "out of school" here, but, we've been approached, several months ago, by a developer that had some grandiose plans for the Sears facility and take that down and to generate some of the things that we're talking about here tonight. Not necessarily the restaurants and that, but at least make the huge investment in a huge residential development over there. Maybe create 400 additional high-end apartments. Rent starting at \$1,500 going up to \$4,000 a month. So, if you bring 600, 700, 800 people into that mall, as permanent residents, you can imagine what that would do the existing establishments and also the enticement for new ones to come in. It would also give the mall incentive to go ahead and spend the money and develop those out lots. I think they've got at least two already pre-approved that they could come in to the Building Department tomorrow with plans and not even come before Planning Commission, because they've already been there and so they're just waiting to be developed. The biggest thing is, "where am I going to get a liquor license". I think the whole key is to have somebody make that huge investment and then the City qualifies for the additional liquor permits and then we can be selective and can use those as enticements to get establishments in there. I think it's a building block approach. And, Jeff (Anderson), you're right. This is all part of that comprehensive plan. Believe me; that has not fallen through the cracks. We're aware that we need to get cranking on that. We're trying to get some of our players in place and I'm pleased to announce that we have this week, engaged a new employee for our chief Building Official and, hopefully, we will have another new one coming on board the 27th, our new Economic Development Director. I think those are two key players that we need to get involved in this thing. Things are moving, a lot slower than I'd like to see, but they're moving.

Mr. Ramirez: If the mall doesn't work out, I'm looking at some of these other cities that have a DORA in place, such as Loveland, and Wyoming. Mr. Braun, is the Wyoming location downtown? I know Springdale is really not an identified downtown area and Tri-County mall would certainly not be downtown, so, maybe Springfield Pike I guess, is as close as we have to downtown, but, looking at some of these other locations, like Wyoming, Loveland, Milford,

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Mr. Ramirez (continued): they have created their downtown by bringing this forward and creating a DORA and now that's established as their downtown entertainment area.

Mayor Webster: How many liquor licenses do we have downtown?

Mr. Ramirez: How many do we have? I do not know that.

President Vanover: None.

Mayor Webster: So, you could pass this ordinance, but, no one could take advantage of it since there are no liquor licenses up and down the strip here. You've got to go all the way to Rooster's to find, or BJ's.

Mr. Anderson: I didn't want to imply this was falling through the cracks, I was hoping we could take more concrete action to help the City keep things moving. One of the things that added some urgency to that request is I know there's another city in the Cincinnati area that has a dying mall, and they've gone so far as to engage with architects to develop plans to do a similar type of approach to their mall of replacing some of the retail space that's empty and replace it with housing and an entertainment district. So, they've got plans and they're courting developers currently to try and make those same investments. Not that we're competing, but we're competing and I just don't want to fall behind because I think that mall is a great site logistically and it's the right time to make a change, so, if there's something we can do, as Council, or something I can do specifically, if it's start one of these committees or get us a little closer to that concrete plan so that we can do things like engage the architect and build that picture so we can share that vision, not just with inside of Administration or the dais, but also that we can share that with the rest of the community. Because, we've talked about it here tonight, but there are people that still wonder what it is we're doing with the mall. I know that we're taking action like you described tonight, but the sooner we can show that vision and share that vision more publically, I think it will also make it easier for developers to come in, because the community will be behind it, which is a little bit different than just saying we're ready for it to. So, I just want to keep it moving. If there's something we can do, or I can do, tell me and I can spend the time. We can go to meetings, we can draw pictures and plans, we can do all that stuff. We're ready to help. Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: I appreciate what Mr. Anderson is saying. I would echo that from the standpoint; I know the Administration is working and obviously you guys are doing some things that we don't about always in full, but the other thing that may be helpful is, depending on how the mall owners are reacting, they may need to be "spoon fed", which goes down the line of developing plans to hand to them, which, again, I'm not questioning what Mayor Webster or Mr. Jones or Mrs. Zimmerlin are doing, but, I'm just saying it may be something, if it has not been considered, that they may need to be "spoon fed" plans to help initiate some of that change. I'm sitting on the Convention Facilities Authority Board and we're dealing with the Millennium Hotel downtown in Cincinnati which we've dealing with since I've been on there and they've been dealing with probably since longer than that, so we're talking at least four, five, or six years. That's a situation where, very similarly, it's owned by a conglomerate out of Asia; they've got a portfolio that's as thick as this dais is and they can care less about that hotel, because they've got plenty of money coming in from other places. So, you get the City, the County, and the CFA engaged in trying to get them to develop that area because it is important for this area, but you almost have to "spoon feed" them to get them to do it. So, it may take that. I don't know. You guys are engaged in that conversation; obviously we're not, so, we don't know everything. Just as a suggestion piggybacking to what Mr. Anderson said, I agree, if it takes that, "spoon feeding" them, "Hey, here's a development idea, take this and run. We've taken the cost to even develop architecturally." That's something I support as well.

Mayor Webster: I think it comes back to communication. I think we can spend all the money we wanted and all the plans we want with the present situation and it would be a waste of money. Waste of effort. It really would be. If we can get them to talk to us on a regular basis and give us somebody we can communicate with, who we can have meetings with, or we can discuss ideas; an interchange of ideas, yes; I think we may be coming back to you (Council) and saying, "Hey, we need to engage the services of XYZ to do some preliminary plans, but I think, right now, we have to get the door open to communicate with them.

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President Vanover: Well, correct me if I'm wrong, but it was what, about ten years ago, that we spent a lot of time and money and rolled out a revitalization plan that the City had bought into. We had some developers that were interested, but, again, the anchor on that parade was the mall. They just didn't do (anything). They threw a few graphics up and all that stuff.

Mayor Webster: I think at the same time, we fell on some financial hard times.

President Vanover: Sure, that did not help with the situation at that point too. But, it's not like we haven't been trying to light fires. But, I think, I really do think just the conversation or enthusiasm in the conversation; I think the time is ripe for all of us and I don't think there's a person up here, and there's probably not a person in the City that wouldn't love to see this. To me, it would be a feather in our cap and whatever it takes, I'll empty the wife's silverware drawer of spoons and we'll do whatever we've got to do.

Mayor Webster: The letter will go out tomorrow.

President Vanover: Good. I'll give you postage if you need it.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet next Tuesday, the 14th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers. Also, I've been asked to let everyone know horse races are coming up February 29th. I will have more information about that for next week's meeting about sponsoring races again. They are taking sponsors for races; \$50 a race and I will have those papers next week for anybody who would like to sponsor a race. They are selling tickets now at the Community Center for horse races, or, you can buy yours at the door. I believe they are \$8 and I will know even more next week when they send me everything else, but, they wanted me to do the preliminary today to get you "revved up" and ready to sponsor next week. Be thinking of your horse names. Thanks.

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

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers here.

Mrs. Zimmerlin: Youth Spring Sports registration is currently underway. It is baseball, t-ball, girls' softball, spring soccer, and spring volleyball. You can contact the Community Center for more information. Also, the City offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th for the MLK holiday. The holiday hours at the Community Center will be 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Monday.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 1-2020; An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Appropriations/Estimated Receipts for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2020. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Resolution No. R1-2020; A Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Municipal Funds. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Resolution No. R2-2020; A Resolution Requesting Advance Payment from the County Auditor. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Ordinance No. 2-2020; An Ordinance Allowing for the Issuance of Tickets Produced by Computer or Other Electronic Means by the Springdale Police Department and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number V was addressed with Ordinance No. 3-2020; An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting the 2019 S-21 Supplement to the Springdale Code of Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number VI was addressed with Ordinance No. 4-2020; An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 153 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale. That was a first reading. All other matters are forthcoming.

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Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: We'll have a second reading and a public hearing regarding Ordinance No. 4-2020; An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 153 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale. We'll also have An Ordinance Amending Sections 32.05 (E) (1) and (7) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency. We will have a request for An Ordinance Creating Section 32.05 (F) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Springdale, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency. As well as A Resolution Authorizing the City of Springdale's Participation in Financing Public Improvements in Cooperation with the Port Authority and Authorizing the Execution of Documents to Effectuate Such Financing, and Declaring an Emergency. We will also have a resolution with regard to the appreciation and retirement for Chief Mathis and that concludes the request for legislation unless there's anything else from Council or the Administration. (None)

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2020