

City of Springdale Council

April 15, 2020

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on April 15, 2020.

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, Ramirez, Sullivan-Wisecup, and Vanover were present.

The minutes of the March 18, 2020 meeting were considered. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to accept the minutes. Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission	Mr. Jones	-	No report
Rules and Laws	Mrs. Emerson	-	No report
Finance Committee	Mr. Hawkins	-	No report

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: There is no report, however, I did want to say, because of last month, we had said that we were continuing things and that it was the last time that they were going to continue due to COVID is why we cancelled so those things that were continued will be continued to the next meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals	Mrs. Ghantous	-	No report
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Board of Health

Mrs. Emerson: I'm going to defer that to our Health Commissioner, Matt Clayton.

Mr. Clayton: We did have our Board of Health meeting last Thursday. As we discussed in the Board of Health meeting, many of our activities have been impacted by COVID-19. We continue with some activities. Certainly, our Emergency Health Preparedness continues. We have really stepped up our efforts to provide health education and health communication. I think the members of Council can speak to that. The reports have been on a daily basis recently. Disease investigation, contact tracing, epidemiology have all been on the increase as a result of our COVID-19 efforts. We've had the opportunity to work with our businesses to address the opportunities to make the operations safer to continue an operation in a manner that is safe for the employees and the customers. So, those were points of discussion during the Board of Health meeting. Obviously, we talked quite a bit about COVID-19. I'd like to provide some information in regard to that topic now if I may.

President Vanover: Sure.

Mr. Clayton: I have provided some information to each of the members of Council. I put this into a graphic form showing the COVID-19 cases in Ohio, in the United States, and globally. And as we can see from these charts, those numbers are increasing. We're making every effort, obviously, to keep those numbers low. In Springdale, we have moved to a total of eight cases. Today, we had two additional cases, so now we're at eight cases. Fortunately, at this time, we've had no deaths. We certainly hope that it stays that way. The numbers have really been staggering. Just to look at the numbers on the spreadsheet. To look at Ohio, having gone from March 18th, where we had 67 cases, to today's number where we have almost 8,000. To look across the United States where we began tracking on March 18th, at 7,301 cases to our current number of 641,315. And, across the world to go from 205,242 cases on March 18th, to 2,073,459 cases; that's in less than a month's time. Deaths have also increased at a rate that was rather exponential. Fortunately in Springdale, again, there have been no deaths, but across Ohio, we've gone from zero deaths on March 18th, to, in less than a month, we now have 361 death of Ohioans that are attributable to

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Mr. Clayton (continued): COVID-19. On the global level, that number has gone from 8,273 to 134,041 deaths recorded as of 2:00 p.m. today. As I mentioned, we are also providing a lot of resources to our businesses. Many of the businesses in our community have reached out in an effort to be good stewards to ensure that our constituents, as their customers, are safe. So, we've worked with them to give them an understanding of the Ohio Department of Health Director's order to stay at home and how the required measures can be employed in a way that can keep people safe. I'd like to entertain questions from Council at this time if I may.

Mayor Webster: I see our cases have doubled in the last couple of days here. Anything significant about that? Are they concentrated in one area?

Mr. Clayton: That's actually a great question. We've had some unfortunate news of late. One of our long term care facilities has had cases. Unfortunately, the individuals who have contracted COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 are individuals with a comorbidity (presence of one or more additional conditions co-occurring with a primary condition), or a serious medical condition. Also, individuals who are advanced age; in their late eighties and early nineties.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I don't know about today, but I know that up until now, Hamilton County has been the third leading COVID cases in the state of Ohio. Is that still true and what are we seeing with those kind of numbers?

Mr. Clayton: I appreciate that question. If we look at Hamilton County, obviously the dense population is a factor. Hamilton County Health is leading the effort to create a zip code-based map for COVID-19 cases. We are providing information to them. I gave them numbers today. The number of cases, the increase in Hamilton County has been concerning, but I think that that primarily has to do with their population.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Thank you.

Mr. Hawkins: Mr. Clayton I appreciate everything that you've been doing. I love the COVID-19 report that's up and available. It's great for gathering information. I know that, as a Health Department, you guys have certain obligations when we have somebody that is positive for COVID-19, but if you could discuss, so that the residents understand, what the Health Department has to do in terms of that monitoring a little bit, I think that would be helpful based on some questions that I've had from residents.

Mr. Clayton: So, when we have an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, who is a resident, the information is first provided to us through the Ohio Disease Reporting System. The healthcare provider who completes the test will enter information and contact us as soon as possible. When we get that information, we do begin the investigation right away, not only because it's required by law, but out of concern for our constituents. The requirement for the individual will be to monitor their temperature and monitor their health on a daily basis. They'll report back to our nurse their temperature, if they have a fluctuation, or if they have changes in symptoms. In some cases, we have individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and have very mild symptoms and in some cases, of course, the symptoms are severe. At this time, individuals are being requested to stay at home and recover at home until they develop pneumonia-like symptoms. Having that communication with our Public Health Nurse is very helpful. The Stay At Home Order requires those individuals, when they have tested positive for COVID-19 to stay at home so there are times that they may need items and may not have an individual who can go pick those items up for them. In that regard, our Police Department has been very helpful. They have helped us to transport items from the store to that individual's house. I do believe also that, in the course of those communications, as people are dealing with this illness, which is frightening, has an impact on their mental health in many cases, and they are feeling the depth of the isolation. Just contact with our staff seems to be productive and we've been very happy to be there for them, be a resource for them, and, in some cases, just be a friend.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

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President Vanover: I think that's about it. Thank you Mr. Clayton.

Mr. Clayton: That you Mr. Vanover.

Capital Improvements Mrs. Emerson - No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: The OKI Board of Directors did virtually meet on April 9th to discuss matters that were time-sensitive for a number of the bond issues that were going forward with the group of interest might be. The biggest was the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) update. Springdale does have items that are included to get funded by OKI. All those continue to move forward without delay in spite of the COVID interruptions. There's no interruptions expected right now at this time. The only other thing that was important for other people was that the transportation survey we talked about last time in the report, giving the web address. OKI still needs responses to that and they're going to start reaching out randomly around Ohio to get updates because it really does affect long-term planning. We're talking about COVID and it's obviously taken up a lot of cycles right now, which, it should, but this planning is important too, and will affect us in the decades to come. If you see stuff like that, if you get a phone call asking for input, it only takes about five minutes. They just ask you about, well, this is a little strange right now, your work travel and commute. So, they still need that information, so just so you're aware, that's not "spam"; it is important. Thank you.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: I'd like to talk a little bit about the State of Emergency Resolution R06-2020 that you passed last meeting. I appreciate you doing that. We try to provide you with bi-weekly reports. I hope that satisfied the requirement and that you guys are satisfied with the reports. There is certainly some value in continuing with that. As a matter of fact, I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that we cancel the May 6th meeting and go on to the May 20th. That would give us five weeks between meetings. I certainly would appreciate it if you would extend those emergency powers through that time period. Mr. Anderson, for your information, I've not purchased twelve chippers (laughter), ten will do just fine.

Mr. Anderson: Ten. That sounds fine, thank you. (laughter)

Mayor Webster: I'd like to talk a little bit about the tragedy that happened to Officer Kaia Grant on March 21st. It was certainly a dark day in the City's history. The support has just been overwhelming. Other Police Departments, as I'm sure Chief Wells will probably make some comments about that, but I just could not believe the outpouring of support. I won't start mentioning communities, because I don't want to leave anybody out. But, it was the entire Tri-State area really and I think the procession on Sunday a week ago certainly bore that out. I got calls and emails from Mayors, Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus was very, very supportive of us and I even received an email from a former councilmember that left town 30 years ago. He felt the urge to reach out to me. A fellow named Jim Beemer. I suspect none of you remember Jim, but he was a good guy. The loss has just affected everybody in the entire area and, as I said earlier, it was just so senseless; so evil, so selfish. We can only hope that justice will be served. I just wanted to thank everyone for their comfort and support and prayers. I have two proclamations tonight. One for an excellent Health Department, and one for National Law Enforcement Week. So, with your permission, I would like to ask our Health Commissioner to step forward and I will read this Proclamation and present it to Mr. Clayton.

Mr. Clayton: We have to stand six feet apart. (laughter).

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“WHEREAS, started in 1985, National Public Health Week takes place each year during the first week of April to recognize the important contributions public health has made to our nation. National Public Health Week also highlights issues that are important to creating a healthy future; and

WHEREAS, the Springdale Health Department works to prevent disease and promote good health within the City of Springdale, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, since 1974, the Springdale Health Department has created and supported a strong public health system that engages residents and community partners to foster a healthier community; and

WHEREAS, a hallmark of the City of Springdale’s Health Department is extensive collaboration among a wide range of public and private sector partners; and

WHEREAS, in April, the nation celebrates National Public Health Week to recognize the important role that public health departments play in sustaining and improving community health to create a brighter future; and

WHEREAS, the Springdale Health Department is committed to ensuring that Springdale families are healthy and its collaborative efforts with individuals, families, community partners, and policy makers will promote good health among future Springdale generations.

*NOW THEREFORE, I DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim **April 6 through 12, 2020** as*

“NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK”

In the City of Springdale and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.”

Congratulations. (applause)

Mr. Clayton: Thank you very much. It’s ironic to accept a proclamation for Public Health Week during a pandemic, but I want to accept this award or this proclamation on behalf of the staff of the Springdale Health Department. I just want to mention their incredible efforts and work ethic and devotion that they put forth. I’ll recognize Debra Boggs, who is here tonight. Also, Ella Jergens and Amy Ellis and they have worked tirelessly to serve the community. I’m very proud of them and I’m also very appreciative of our elected officials. Mayor Webster made some, in my opinion, some very courageous decisions early on that were not necessarily be very popular. Things like, closing the recreation center temporarily and we’ve also had incredible support from the City Administration and from the other departments. So, it’s been a very busy several weeks, and we’ll continue to be busy for the next several weeks as we continue to protect health, promote health, and try to safeguard our residents and our community. Thank you to everyone who has helped us so much in this. Thank you Mayor.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: As all of you know, in these very chambers, on February 19th, we swore in Chief Wells. No one could have predicted the events of his first 45 days. He experienced what every Chief hopes they will never have to experience. I just want to tell you that this Chief was an absolute rock of a leader during these most difficult times. His every action made us extremely proud of our selection, and showed what leadership skills are developed within our own Police Department. This was the first Springdale officer to die in the line of duty. As a matter of fact, it’s the first female patrol officer in Hamilton County that died in the line of duty. I received nothing but praise regarding the performance of our entire Police Department during these most trying times, but, especially those of Chief Wells. It is with a very heavy heart that I read this year’s Police Law Enforcement Week proclamation. Every year, I read this and I announce the number of officers who have given the supreme sacrifice, but this year, and next, will have a very special meaning. Thank you Officer Kai Grant and may you rest in peace.

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“WHEREAS, in 1962 President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15th of each year as Peace Officers’ Memorial Day, and the calendar week of each year during which such May 15th occurs as Police Week; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, there are more than 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across our great country, including 33 full and part time officers within our own department; and

WHEREAS, more than 21,200 law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice and have been killed in the line of duty, including 146 officers during 2019; and

WHEREAS, events are often held to honor the men and women who have died in the line of duty to protect and serve; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the Springdale Police Department unceasingly provide a vital public service by safeguarding the lives and property of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, by the enforcement of our laws, these same officers have given our country, state, and city internal freedom from fear of the violence and civil disorder that is presently affecting other nations; and

WHEREAS, this administration joins in this special tribute to acknowledge all officers who have given the supreme sacrifice – their lives -- in defense of all citizens, including Springdale Police Officer Kaia Grant, who was killed in the line of duty on March 21, 2020 while protecting the citizens of Springdale.

*NOW THEREFORE, I DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim the week of **May 10th through May 16th, 2020** as*

“POLICE WEEK”

In the City of Springdale and urge all citizens to observe this week in ways appropriate to its significance.

Chief Wells: Good Evening. Thank you Mayor Webster and members of Council. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to speak in front of you tonight. There is part of me where I don't know where to begin, and I could stand here and talk to you for the next four hours about what this has been like. But, what I want to tell you, first and foremost, is I appreciate so much all of the support that we have received. The two words I want say tonight are love and support. From the moments that this happened, with Mayor Webster and Mr. Jones meeting us at the hospital to be there and support not only our department, but of course Kaia's family and with the support that has come in. Of course, and the outward signs like you tonight wearing the memorial shirt for Kaia and all the little things. I came into work on Monday morning and my mind was completely awash of "How are we going to get through this?", and there was Parks and Rec out there turning the front of our building into the most beautiful, they were getting all the winter weeds and all that out together and then Public Works never called, no one asked, but they came up there and they turned our building into a beautiful place because they knew attention was going to be focused on us. They even planted a "K" in flowers right in front of the Police Department which was so meaningful. I just wanted to thank the citizens of this City for turning out, the citizens of Wyoming and for all of Greater Cincinnati and for the amazing support from the Police Departments around our area, especially the Colerain Township Police who literally came in and took over operations here. We had help from several others, Sharonville, Blue Ash, and Cincinnati policemen, but Colerain Township, who just went through the same thing last year, stepped up in such a major way and literally took over our operation so I had nothing to worry about when it came to that. It was just tremendous. Again, what I wanted to say was, "Thank you all so much". This has always been a tremendous place to work. I have always felt so supported here. I could not even have imagined. You think, in your mind, as a Police Officer that this could happen to you or to somebody that you know, but,

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Chief Wells (continued): until it actually does, you have no idea the depth of this. The best way I could describe it to you is it's almost like having "9-11" happen right inside your building; something of that magnitude. To me, this eclipses that because it's so personal. But, the amount of support, like the Mayor said, from all over the United States, literally Police Chiefs from all the major cities, the FBI, our elected officials from around the State as well as the U.S. Government. We even got a bouquet of flowers from the New York Yankees, which, I thought was just a totally classy move. Our officers; I am so proud of them for their resilience, all of our employees. Our place is made up of not just the police officers, but all of our employees; civilians and sworn in alike. This affects them all in different ways, but each one of them very deeply. I couldn't be prouder. They're all back to work and we're going to take this one day at a time and get through this. The main way we are doing this is with all your love and support and I cannot tell you and everybody in this City how much we appreciate that. So, thank you for this. This had extra special meaning tonight Mayor. Thank you so much. I appreciate it. (applause)

Mayor Webster: All of these accolades tonight for our Police and our Health Department are certainly warranted. I would just let us not forget about all of the first responders. Especially, the men and women of our Fire Department across the street and those doctors and nurses and all healthcare providers who are putting their lives on the line every day for all of us. Mrs. Emerson, thank you very much. We appreciate that. That concludes my report.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: It's a little too early in the month for the reports to be ready, so I'll have a report prepared for the next meeting. Thank you.

Administrators Report

Mr. Jones: A few things here this evening. Mayor Webster and I have been working closely with Management Partners in the recruiting of the Assistant City Administrator position. We spent five, the most part of full days of conducting interviews. We had 48 initial applicants. We narrowed that down to twelve and then did a second round of interviews. Mayor, I really want to thank you publicly for all your help throughout this process. You've been quite the trooper. We narrowed our selection down and selected Brian Uhl. That is spelled U-H-L. Brian comes to us by way of Liberty Township. He has been working most recently as the Director in the Office of Innovation of Sustainability. For the last couple of years, he has a unique background the Safety Services Field in Police and Fire. So, you'll get to meet Brian on May, well, I was going to say May 4th, but if Council follows the Mayor's lead, it would be May 20th. Let me act like that didn't happen. He's going to start his first day on the job on May 4th. Then, we will be introducing him at the May 20th meeting. I apologize for the confusion. You'll get a chance at that time to be introduced and get to hear a little bit more about Brian. I want to thank Stephanie Morgan who's our person who represents us for the 2020 Census. She's gone to the meetings and provided all the paperwork and so forth whenever it's needed and she shared with me last week that 48% of our residents have now responded to the Census, which is real consistent actually with what Ohio and what the national statistics are showing. They are about 46% to 50%. Right in that range. We're doing okay there. I want to thank Stephanie for that. For the second month in a row, we've had to cancel our staff meeting. I meet with our Directors regularly. Most of them I see daily, but I wanted to share we are also are honoring the social distancing. Mr. President, since I'm up here, if you don't object, I would like to go ahead and read the Engineer's brief report.

President Vanover: Go right ahead.

Mr. Jones: Thank you very much. Don Shvegza has asked that I report that regarding Landan Lane Reconstruction; the project construction will begin on April 27th and the project should take two months. Pertaining to Beacon Hills Subdivision Grind and Resurfacing; the contractor is scheduled to be working there in either late April or early May. Also, with East Crescentville Road Improvements near Chesterdale; letters have been mailed to the residents according to Mr. Shvegza. The plan developments are on the way and Stage Two of that and the project is scheduled out. Now, this is clear up in March of 2022, but those things had to be done well in advance. That actually concludes my report unless there's some questions or comments.

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Mayor Webster: If I may just make one minor correction. John, if I heard you right, you said Mr. Uhl comes to us by way of Liberty Township. That is true; he lives in Liberty Township, but his last place of employment or, his current place of employment is Springfield Township. He spent 23 years there.

Law Directors Report

Mr. Braun: Just briefly I wanted to let you know I have been busy working on a myriad of policies, procedures, and questions with Mr. Clayton, something I never thought I would be doing as Law Director is working that closely with the Health Commissioner, but it's been a learning experience for all of us. I also wanted to quickly report that at your next meeting I'm drafting, and will be bringing forward to you, at the recommendation of the Building Department, a minor revision to our rental occupancy inspection program. In working with Mr. Lamping, in reviewing that, there was some language in there that he believes needs to be clarified in order to basically do what Council did in your first revision to this program where you made it expressly clear that this is a voluntary policy. So, there is some language that, if read a certain way, and the way that Mr. Lamping has interpreted it, and also as some residents have interpreted it to him, needs to be cleaned up just a little bit. So, in your next Council packet, you will see from me, a proposed amendment to that program just reinforcing the fact that it's a voluntary program and that the only time that it would not be voluntary would be is if a resident, a renter, were to file a formal complaint, and then we would need to follow up. If there's any questions between now and then, or you have any concerns, feel free to reach out to me or City staff, but I didn't want it to be a surprise in your next packet that it will be there. Any questions? Otherwise, that's my report.

Mr. Hawkins: I just want to make sure I'm clear. So, the rental agreement had been changed, but there's an issue when we made that motion to change it, but, there are some things that need to be clarified. Is that fair?

Mr. Braun: Yes, that's absolutely true. Your previous Council changed the first sentence of a certain section to say "may" versus "shall". But, neglected to realize that the word "shall" does appear later in that paragraph and creates the illusion, I think, that certain types of situations are still "shall" be inspected. So, we're going to make it crystal clear by just saying what everyone should have said in the beginning which is this is a voluntary program. So, we're going to make that very expressly clear to both residents and the Building Department.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 12-2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY REPLACEMENT PORTABLE RADIOS AND ACCESSORIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 12-2020; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Ordinance No. 12-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Ordinance No. 13-2020

AUTHORIZING A PRELIMINARY ORDINANCE WITH THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13-2020; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Ramirez: Just for my own inquisitive knowledge, what does the changing from vehicular detection to be upgraded to radar? How does that work and what is that?

Mr. Anderson: I'm not an authority on this, but I'd asked about it in a previous change. I believe it's the difference between using the induction wires that are underground; you'll pull up and then the metal detection versus a mass-mounted that detects vehicles from above. That's my understanding of it. Which, I'm grateful for my own personal benefit and anyone who rides a motorcycle. It's very helpful because it'll detect that as opposed to sometimes the undergrounds don't get picked up, so it's better.

Mr. Ramirez: Sounds logical. Thank you.

President Vanover: And, also bicycles. Because there is never enough mass on those.

Ordinance No. 13-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Council should have received the updated version (of Ordinance No. 14-2020).

Ordinance No. 14-2020

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A BID AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LYKINS ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 14-2020; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Ordinance No. 14-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R08-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY FOR THE CITY'S ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R08-2020; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Mr. Anderson: Just one question on this. Can I get some clarity on what our relationship is with Supernova Partners and Affordable Gas and Electric and did they work the previous contract for the City?

Mr. Jones: They did Mr. Anderson. We're currently working with replacement of the prior person that was working as a consultant and we are working closely with them. Same thing as before. They make the recommendation and then we, as outlined here, if it's not at or below the amount that's being recommended, we simply won't do it.

Mr. Anderson: Is that a fee contract that we pay them to do that, or do they get a percentage back from the suppliers that they recommend?

Mr. Jones: Correct. They get a fee off of the total price. It's a pretty nominal fee. I have that with me, but it's outlined and it's consistent with what it was during the last contract as far as the consulting fee.

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Mr. Anderson: And you said it was the same company. It's just a different contractor with the company as last time.

Mr. Jones: Correct.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Resolution No. R08-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R09-2020

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF APPORTIONING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Ramirez made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R09-2020; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mayor Webster: I'd like to chime in. It's exactly right. Prior to 1988, every single year, the City of Cincinnati sued the Hamilton County Budget Commission because they weren't satisfied with their share. So, we adopted this formula back in 1988. It's worked out well. It's just a damn shame that we didn't have something on the books with the State for that so they would not have been able to confiscate all of our funds starting back in 2008 and 2009. Anyway, I'd urge that Council keep this.

Resolution No. R09-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business

Ongoing discussion of State of Emergency resolution

Mr. Anderson: I know, Mr. Mayor, you mentioned earlier that the notes that went out with that. I wanted to let you know I appreciated getting that email that described the activity that's been going on in the emergency. I thought the level of detail provided was great. I would ask that if we could also add just, like we talked about in the last meeting, just a short summary on the Administrator's Report just so it's publicly posted to for people who might be interested. I think the last time, we talked about having it in that Administrator's Report or posting that so the public is aware of the work that was done too. I think that would be beneficial. The one question I have is, so, we saw what happened two weeks ago. Are there other things on your radar that you could let us know that might be coming up in the next two weeks that would require this emergency power? Especially if we're talking about skipping our next meeting. Are there things that you're thinking that we should talk about now that you might have to use the emergency powers for, or is it still unforeseen right now?

Mayor Webster: If we're aware of something, yes. But, most of the stuff that appears in there, we're not aware of.

Mr. Anderson: In the past, I'm just wondering, looking forward, are there things that you think might be coming up that we can talk about now, or is it still just to make sure that we're covered for the future?

Mayor Webster: I'm not clear exactly what you're asking for. We put it out every two weeks. This Friday, we put it out so the stuff that you've got in there, all the legislation you're aware of in the report, so, we just attach everything that we have done. Now, we're aware if something is going to happen, I don't have a problem putting it in there, but I don't think you're going to get a whole lot out of it.

Mr. Anderson: I'm just asking if there are things that you're working on that would help us to understand what was going on.

Mayor Webster: We're aware that if something's going to happen that we're going to exercise this newfound power, we'll be more than happy to share it with you.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

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Mr. Hawkins: I also appreciate the information that you've been providing Council during this time and, based on the circumstances that we're in and appear to continue to be in as we're going into May, I'd be in favor of continuing the State of Emergency Resolution at this time. I don't know if there's any other discussion, or if you want to form a motion.

Mayor Webster: I'm not sure how we left that. Does that stay in place until you guys take action to the contrary?

President Vanover: Yes.

Mayor Webster: Okay.

President Vanover: Yes. Just ongoing until we pull the plug. While we're talking about that, thoughts on canceling the first meeting in May and picking up this current schedule of the second meeting.

Mr. Hawkins: I'm also fine with canceling the May 6th meeting with the same idea that we operated before that folks should keep that calendar date open in case there's something that comes up and we need to meet.

President Vanover: Then, actually, I guess we need to take a vote and make a motion, get a second.

Mr. Hawkins: I move to vacate or cancel the regular Springdale City Council meeting scheduled for May 6th, 2020.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I second.

Motion to vacate or cancel the regular Springdale City Council meeting scheduled for May 6th, 2020 was passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Meeting is officially cancelled, unless something would come up that we would need to change that. Also, I know the State has been busy with changing the availability of format on video meeting other than zoom. But, and I was made aware by Mr. Newman, who is the President of the ICRC and they do have that capability to do remote if it would come down to it. I don't think there's any pressing need for that right now, but, just in future cases, Lord only knows what may happen, but we just all hope and pray that everybody stays healthy and we get through this unscathed as we are thus far. We did have one item that I distributed. The request from Mr. Coleman on the fees updating the fees, or changing the fees. But, there really isn't any pressing need to do that because nobody is meeting right now. So, unless somebody has a pressing desire to go with this, at this point, we'll just "let it hang".

Mr. Anderson: Just on that. I wanted to share. I agree, it makes sense to revisit it. Personally, I would rather wait at least a month or two after the COVID activity has died down. Not just because the meetings aren't occurring, but I want to make sure we're in a good fiscal position to understand the economic impact on our local businesses. A couple of months of run of payroll after, would make me feel a lot better. I think we're in a good place because of the tax increase that we managed to get last year. But, I would feel better knowing that with a few months of payroll before we make any changes.

President Vanover: I completely agree. That was really kind of my thought in the back of my head about that is just let's make sure what our books look like before we revisit that and then also have a true picture of what the effect is going to be the bottom line effect. So, we'll just let that float out there.

New Business

Mayor Webster: I had a conversation with Mr. Hawkins a couple of weeks ago regarding this and it deals with Police staffing. I know this is something that is near and dear to all of us. But, this goes back for years and years and years. I've always been concerned about the fact

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Mayor Webster (continued): that we establish, Council establishes the staffing levels of the Police Department. Right now, that stands at 34. I know for a fact that we very, very seldom have 34 Police officers. And, so, especially with the events over the last month here, with us unfortunately losing an officer, and another one injured to some degree, and some uncertainty as to whether he's going to be able to continue as an active Police officer, I wanted to go ahead and get some staffing in place just in case he doesn't come back. Now, I had a meeting with the Police Chief and I asked him to go back over the last five years and look at the staffing levels. Also, that was 34 consistently over 60 months. Also, tell me what percent of the time, or how many months did we actually have 34 Police Officers. Well, you'd be surprised to know that only 13 out of those 60 months did we have 34 police officers; 22% of the time. Thirty one of those months, we had 52% for 31 months for 15 months, we only had 32 officers, which was 27% of the time. The point I'm making here is that, for instance, we went through disciplinary action with an officer, terminated him; tied up in court one year that we went without a Police officer. He's counted in our numbers, he's counted in our budget, but there's no one out there performing that duty. Just like right now, we've had several openings where we wait until we know absolutely certain that the person is not coming back before we fill that. What I would like to do is, and the officer with the litigation here is a prime example, is a year ago, I would have liked to have had the authority to go ahead and start the recruiting process to get a person on board. The absolute worst thing that is going to happen to us is that we wind up with 35 officers for some limited period of time until somebody else sought employment elsewhere, retired, or whatever. It's the same way with injuries. We get somebody that is severely injured, we know they're going to be out on recovery for some period of time, if and when they come back, then they'd be on light duty, and so, in the meantime, the streets suffer so to speak. I think that this proves that if we would have had this extra officer, that we would not have gone through these periods where we only had 32 officers for 16 months and 33 officers for 31 months. What's that; like 47 of those 60 months that we were at least one short, sometimes two short. I don't think at the end of the day that you're even going to know that this happens by a budgetary standpoint. But, I would like to get Council's concurrence to go ahead and do that. As standard policy; not just given today's situation, but just going forward that if we know that we're going to have an officer out for an extended period of time that we've got the authority to go ahead and start the recruiting process. The other one is when an officer gives us a six month notice they're going to retire. Once we get that written notice, I'm not talking about just locker room talk, I'm talking about a written notice, "Okay, I'm retiring as of July 4th", it's January 4th. I'd like to have the authority to just go ahead and start the recruiting process because we never know what we're going to get. We might get someone who is trained and certified; we may get someone that we need to send off to school for several months. So, I just think it makes sense if we're concerned about having officers on the street, that we adopt this approach. I was talking to one of the, I believe it was Sharonville, don't hold me to that, but it was one of our local Police departments during this tragedy and explained to them this predicament and he says that they have a policy that the overstaff by two. If they're approved staffing level was 34, they would shoot to have 36 officers, just to make sure they've got that covered. Anyway, I think, is that consistent with what I told you? (Addressing Mr. Hawkins)

Mr. Hawkins: Yes. It is.

Mayor Webster: I'd like, maybe Jeff (Anderson) that's one of the things I should put on the coming events report. Anybody have any objections to us adopting that?

Mrs. McNear: Mayor, I know you said there wouldn't be any impact to the budget. I'm just wondering if there might be an improvement to it because we probably have some overtime situations to cover shortages of officers.

Mayor Webster: I don't want to justify it. Let's just assume that in the worst case we end up with 35 officers.

Mr. Ramirez: My thoughts as well. Since we're running short-handed a lot of times, it might be financially to our benefit to hire the extra officers. Do we run short-handed when they're not here or do we have people working overtime?

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Mayor Webster: Well, I guess it depends on the situation. It depends on who or where the vacancy is. I think there are times. We have minimum staffing levels to have on the shift or out on there on the street and we don't need those and will call somebody over from another shift or call somebody in that's supposed to be off.

Mr. Ramirez: So, for safety's sake, having a full force out or financially it would be to our advantage not paying someone overtime when we can have the extra officers on hand. So, I'd be in agreement with that.

Mr. Anderson: I certainly support full staffing of both Police and Fire. There's no question about that. If that means having to have a "bench" of sorts or additional work, I support it. I just want to make sure we remember it was two years ago Mr. Shroyer had a couple of meetings under the Public Safety Subcommittee of this Council to look at that ordinance specifically because there was concern that the ordinance that is being used for staffing is out of date. I wonder if we need to not just give a "yes", it's great to over-staff or it's okay to over-staff. If we do need to go back and do some of the things we talked about two years ago and update the ordinance, not just the number, but the levels was another concern. I believe that the ordinance, at least at the time, did specify not just the number of officers, but also certain levels of positions would be filled and I don't believe that, at least two years ago through now, that we're meeting those numbers for level or number of at least Police. That was also true for Fire and I know we've made some adjustments in the contract to account for that. I just wonder if we need to do more than just say, "Yes, over-staff." I wonder if we need to actually adjust the numbers to be appropriate and, in that ordinance, also account for the fact that these days, we need to have a "bench", a "buffer" because of the nature. I think it would be good to have that ordinance say, "this is our approved staffing level and what's budgeted with the authority to go over by this amount for this period of time". But, there has to be a limit too on the high end of it. We can't just overextend and be over by two and be out of alignment with the ordinance. I wonder if we could get some advice from Mr. Braun about what we need to do for a level or if we can just say, "go for it".

Mr. Braun: We could put it in an ordinance if that's how you want to do it as a policy.

Mr. Anderson: It already is an ordinance.

Mr. Braun: But, I mean, you're talking about

Mr. Anderson: To add the buffer?

Mr. Braun: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: I wonder if that would be a better way to account for it. I also wonder if we need to adjust or correct the current ordinance in order to account for the levels that we're talking about.

Mr. Braun: If you would like, I could work with the Mayor to come back with some language in an amended ordinance for you to consider based on the dialogue we're hearing if that's what you want.

Mayor Webster: Mr. Braun, we have an ordinance on the books dictating the complement of officers for the Police Department. I'm not sure if we've got one on the books for the Fire Department or not. We'll have to look that up.

Mr. Anderson: I know we do for Police because it goes to the level it says that you have this many at this level on staff. It doesn't go into policy saying how many need to be on patrol, but it says in terms of the organization, it states levels in numbers.

Mr. Braun: Maybe what we'll do then is between now and our next Council meeting, since we have a significant amount of time, we'll search for those, we'll pull those up and we'll bring that back to you for a report. So you don't have to do that.

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Mr. Anderson: Certainly, this would be a great opportunity. In the short term, we have openings. I agree; don't let this question stop us from doing what needs to be done for public safety, especially during the pandemic. Especially when we hear stories about how the Police Department is supporting Public Health directly. There's a clear link and I'm fine with that. I just wanted to make sure on the back end, we correct whatever ordinances need to be done, and not just do a half measure.

Mr. Braun: We can do that. Okay. We'll come back to you then. I'll work with the Mayor.

President Vanover: Council, do we have a "thumbs up"? (all nodded in agreement) Okay. Mayor, you've got concurrence.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: As of today, Planning Commission has a May 12th meeting planned in these chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of health will meet on May 14th at 7:00 and I'm not sure if it will be in these chambers or the conference room adjacent to here.

Mr. Anderson: At least as of right now, the Board of Zoning Appeals is scheduled for a meeting on April 28th in these chambers. That's to be determined based on applicants and COVID.

Communications from the Audience

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None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I, An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Contract with Motorola Solutions for the Purchase of Twenty Replacement Portable Radios and Accessories and Declaring an Emergency was addressed with Ordinance No. 12-2020. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 13-2020; Authorizing a Preliminary Ordinance with the State of Ohio Department of Transportation for the Traffic Signal System Upgrade Project and Declaring an Emergency; that passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 14-2020; An Ordinance Accepting a Bid and Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into a Contract for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel and Declaring an Emergency; that passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Resolution No. R09-2020; A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of an Alternative Method for Apportioning the Local Government Fund which passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number V was addressed with Resolution No. R08-2020; A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Execute an Agreement for the Purchase of Electricity for the City's Electricity Aggregation Program; that also passed with a 7-0 vote. All other matters were forthcoming and we did also have a vote to pass to vacate the May 6th meeting.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a request for An Ordinance Authorizing a Joint Project Funding Agreement Relative to the Resurfacing of State Route 4 Between the City of Springdale and the City of Fairfield and Declaring an Emergency. There is a request for A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to File a Funding Application for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funding Through OKI for the Northland Boulevard Reconstruction Project. There is a request for An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Springdale's Participation in the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Program for 2021. That would be a first reading. There's a request for An Ordinance Declaring Certain City Property as Surplus Property and Authorizing the City Administrator to Dispose of Said Surplus Property. Which would also be a first reading. There may also be an Ordinance concerning staffing for Police and Fire or at least

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Mr. Hawkins (continued): information thereof. I don't believe there's anything else unless there is anything else from Council or the Administration.

President Vanover: We're at (Item) 16. Before we go, I want to say a "hats off" to A, the residents and people of Springdale in supporting our retail neighbors through this. I've been in several of the establishments picking up carryout and stuff and they're hustling. Sometimes I think they don't miss us. Also, a tip of the hat to those same establishments in getting involved. I know this week, well, through tomorrow, Cane's 15% of their drive-thru/carryout is going to the food bank, so it's really, again, kind of the quality of people in businesses that we have in the area that are stepping up, even when they're hurting that they're making needs met elsewhere. It's good. It's tough for everybody. There's no doubt about that. But, we're in it together, whether we like it or not. We just keep plugging away.

Mr. Ramirez: On the lines of supporting the local restaurants. There is a website where, if you have your favorite waitress, or wait staff that you like, you can go online and donate specifically to that waiter or waitress and Pam (Mrs. Ramirez) has done that and our friends over there at Rooster's are not making any tips, and they're making \$2.35 an hour, so, if you feel inclined, you can go on the website and, I don't have it, Pam does, and make donations.

President Vanover: Okay. Good. I wasn't aware of that one. Be safe.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Emerson seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2020