

City of Springdale Council

July 1, 2020

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on

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

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

The minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting were considered. Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Before we get too much further in, I've had a request from Administration for an Executive Session. We'll need a motion to add that to the agenda.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'd like to make a motion to add an Executive Session to our agenda under New Business.

President Vanover: Actually, we'll do it under New Business 9(b).

Mrs. Emerson: Second.

President Vanover: Any discussion? (None)

The Executive Session was added under New Business 9(b). with seven affirmative votes.

Communications	-	None
Communications	-	None
Ordinances and Resolutions	-	None

Old Business

Mrs. McNear: I have one item of Old Business this evening. At the last meeting, Mr. Anderson brought up a question about the reimbursement for COVID-19 from the State. Our portion in Springdale will be \$239,000, which we have received. So far, we've expended about \$10,000. Now, anything we don't spend we have to return and the timeframe for those expenses is March 1, through December 31. Again, we have to return that. This is not sitting in our General Fund. It is in the Grants Fund. Also, we have received some additional funds. One was through the Fire Department. That was approximately \$12,000 or \$13,000 and another one for the Health Department which was about \$15,000. In speaking with Mr. Williams, he doesn't anticipate a lot of other expenses that we could apply against that \$239,000, but we still have a few months yet to go. That concludes my update. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: We've got some items we want to talk to Council about that \$239,000. So, are we prepared tonight to do that? (Administration nodded). Okay. So, whenever you want.

President Vanover: Go ahead. You've got the floor, let's do it.

Mr. Uhl: A couple of things that we've been talking about over the past week or two, looking at the CARES Act funding and some different things that we can do. So, we're researching right now some different options how we can better prepare our staff to be better positioned to telecommute, but to also increase our ability to maintain continuity of operations for government services through telephone systems, laptop computers looking at procuring some of those for our identified staff members in each department, elected officials, so that we could have virtual meetings. Kind of enhancing that ability, but also looking at equipment that we can purchase to help clean, and sanitize some of our parks, our jungle gyms, the swing sets and the common areas of the Rec Center, meeting rooms, lockers and stuff like that. We're looking at this to see what we can do to kind of enhance our services and maintain that continuity of government operations to maintain a high level of service to the residents.

City of Springdale Council

July 1, 2020

Mayor Webster: As Mrs. McNear mentioned, this is almost like a grant in that if you don't use it, we're going to take it back. So, we've got to be prudent even though it's not going to come out of our General Fund, but, at the same time, there are certain things we can do with it and certain things we can't, so that's what Brian (Mr. Uhl) was alluding to. We're still looking into it, but, we're starting to go down the path that, "Okay, let's get prepared for the next step", then if it happens. We'll have, hopefully, our laptops with the cameras if we had to go to virtual meetings, we would be prepared to do that and a lot of other things in our emergency preparedness plan that we think we can spend this money on.

Mrs. McNear: Mr. Williams does continue to attend meetings and get updates from the County on some of the things that they're looking at to for potential opportunities. So, we want to make sure that we're following that to the letter of the law. We don't want to have to give funds back at a later date, but, we are making sure that we're keeping abreast of all those items as they come up. Thank you.

New Business

Mayor Webster: Yes. It gives me great pleasure to issue this proclamation. I enjoy it every year, but, especially this year. I want to present this to Mr. Karle and I think all of you know Mr. Karle is celebrating his 39<sup>th</sup> year with the City of Springdale. I just asked him before the meeting if he's starting to count down the days and he hedged his answer. He didn't come out, "yes" or "no", but I suspect he knows exactly what it is, but, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Karle: Seventh (from the audience)

Mayor Webster: August 7<sup>th</sup> will be Greg's last day with us, so, it's been a great 39 years. Congratulations to you Greg. Without further ado, I'd like to read this proclamation.

*"WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the City of Springdale; and*

*WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and*

*WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and*

*WHEREAS, parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and*

*WHEREAS, parks and natural recreation areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and*

*WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and*

*WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and*

*WHEREAS; the City of Springdale recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.*

## City of Springdale Council

July 1, 2020

*NOW THEREFORE, I, DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim the month of July 2020 as*

### *PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH*

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

Mayor Webster: Just reading through here, I can't help but make the comment I think Greg (Karle) has certainly contributed to every one of these "Whereas" and he has certainly made this community a much better place to live and work and to recreate, and I'm sure that I speak on behalf of all the people of this City Greg. Thank you very much and we wish you a very, very, happy and long retirement. So, I've also asked Greg to give us an update as to what's happening down at the (Rec) Center and what's open, what's closed and what's true tonight may not be true tomorrow, but, anyway give you an up-to-date snapshot of where we are.

Mr. Karle: Good evening. It's a pleasure to be here tonight. I certainly appreciate the proclamation and the recognition of Parks and Recreation Month. My whole career, as the Mayor has said, has been a long one. I certainly appreciate the City Councils, and the Mayors that have served the City have always highly regarded Parks and Recreation and it's great to be here and have that kind of support. Tonight, I've asked our two Assistant Directors to join me and express our gratitude to the Mayor, to Council, to Administration for your support each and every year for Parks and Recreation. I think you'll agree 2020 has been a really weird year and unique and presented a lot of challenges for us. We never in the 50 year history of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Community Center have been closed to the public for any length of time. I think the most we were ever closed is probably for a holiday, one day. But, we were closed to the public for ten weeks. I think when you have something like that happen, I think the community, it's unfortunate, but it jars them into realizing how critical those services are and how meaningful they are. When we were able to come back, I can't tell you how many people were just really thrilled to be able to come back and come to their familiar places and see their friends and neighbors. It's a great thing.

I also wanted to say that I have the (the Assistant Directors) here tonight because I can't tell you how proud I am of both of these gentlemen in helping us be prepared to ensure as soon as the Governor of Ohio gave us the "go-ahead" to open the Community Center, to open the swimming pool, we were open that very day. That's the hard work of all of our staff. Each and every person from the lifeguards and custodial people and the Parks people, to our Administrative staff. Everybody did a great job of preparing and we had that philosophy from the get go that we wanted to be ready to open as soon as we get the word and I'm proud to say that we were able to do that and do it safely. We wanted to make sure that we had the proper protocols in place and had it ready so the public could come back safely. We have opened our facilities and brought back programs. It's gratifying as I said to see families out enjoying the pool. I think we're having one of our busiest pool seasons in many years and I'm sure people are dying to get out and be out in the fresh air, but, I think attendance has been higher than we've had in a number of years.

I think we're starting to see people return of all ages to the Community Center. The first day we were open, there were senior citizens there wearing face coverings and taking precautions, but to a lot of people, just being there is important to their mental health as well as their physical health and people are coming back as they feel comfortable. I don't think we're back to our full usage by far, but, people are coming back and the facilities are certainly getting used and appreciated. It has been our goal all along to open safely and with as few restrictions as possible. In order to do that, we've relied on the guidance of the (Springdale) Health Commissioner (Mr. Clayton), and our Law Director (Mr. Braun), to help guide us in making sure we're following all the correct procedures and protocols.

As far as what's open now, every part of the Community Center facilities is open with the exception of the saunas. Most of them, or virtually all of them have restrictions of capacity. For example, the exercise studio has a capacity I believe of 17 users. Some of the larger group exercise classes we've moved to the gym to accommodate them. (At the) Fitness Center, we have capacities of 20 people.

## City of Springdale Council

July 1, 2020

Mr. Karle (continued): Just this week, we began to re-open the meeting rooms for community and private rentals. Again, they have limitations of, if you can picture our rooms A, B, and C; each one of those now just has a capacity of 20 people to allow for social distancing and we require, obviously the other safety protocols to be in place. The basketball courts; we have opened them. The outdoor basketball courts as well as indoor to play. As the Governor allowed contact sports, also, the athletic fields, playgrounds, our staff has stepped up cleaning and sanitizing those routinely and trying to keep those as safe as possible. The meeting rooms, again, another restriction we have is we have one meeting per day. Previously, we would have multiple meetings, maybe in the morning or in the afternoon and evening, but, in order to clean the room and have it prepared for the next group, we have to limit that to just one group per day. So, that's the basics of it. If anybody has any questions or comments?

Mayor Webster: Greg, could you elaborate a little bit on going forward about the concerts and where we stand on the concerts and I guess the (ComeUnity) Bash right now because I know it's up in the air and I think we're all aware of the fact that Governor DeWine's going to have a press conference tomorrow and some of the vibes coming out of that are not good, I might add. So, anyway, do you want to elaborate on where we are?

Mr. Karle: Sure. We had to postpone our first concert. It was scheduled in May. We moved that to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. So, it's a week from Thursday, but we're still under the orders of no concerts indoors or outdoors, according to our Health Commissioner (Mr. Clayton) and the information he's received. We do have our second concert coming up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. So, those are, at this time, not a permitted activity. As far as the ComeUnity Bash, as with all of our programs, we plan and have to do a lot scheduling and organization for that and we've done those things, the plans are in place. But, as of today, festivals and events such as that are not permitted. So, we do have time with the (ComeUnity) Bash, I would say in order to preserve some of the expenses, a decision should be made by, I'd say, the first week of August whether to go forward or not to go forward with that. But, as the Mayor said, I'm not real hopeful that the trajectory is working in our direction currently. In a month, it might change, but, that's kind of where we are right now.

Mayor Webster: From an official position, we have not cancelled those two concerts. But, we probably will make a decision on that tomorrow afternoon after the Governor speaks. Any questions?

Mr. Jones: Greg, would you mind introducing the two gentlemen with you? I know you identified their positions, but would you introduce them.

Mr. Karle: I'm sorry. I apologize. Matt Beaty, Assistant Director, and Charlie Wilson, Assistant Director. I apologize.

Mayor Webster: Nobody recognized them. They were out of uniform. (laughter)

Mr. Karle: Thank you very much.

Mayor Webster: Fellas, thank you very much.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Mrs. Emerson: Thank you.

Mr. Jones: If we're still under New Business, I'd like to share a few things. Thank you. Our current census response rates as provided by Stephanie Morgan, again, she's our person that liaisons and gets this information, little more detailed, but not too much this time. Just to let you know, nationally, the results are 61.8%, Hamilton County, 63.4%, Ohio, 66.4%, I'm talking about response rates, and Springdale is 66.5%. Some additional facts, Ohio ranks ninth of all the states in responses. Hamilton County ranks 56<sup>th</sup> in our state, and Springdale, for all cities and jurisdictions, ranks 368<sup>th</sup> in Ohio. We just want to encourage people to be sure to fill out that census. That really doesn't take very long, but, more importantly, when it comes to funding, grants, and that kind of support that we need here in Springdale for things, like we just mentioned, we got some money in, \$239,000, those kind of things are important

## City of Springdale Council

July 1, 2020

Mr. Jones (continued): that we have those census filled out because that's how monies come about for things of that nature. I got a few other things here. Since we had the Parks people here, I'll remind you that there are some openings there for part-time parks maintenance worker, part-time custodian as well. They wanted me to indicate that on Tuesday evenings, the adult corn hole league has started. It's just \$25 per team. Starts in early September. Registration is underway for youth soccer and volleyball. The Community Center is going to closed on the fourth of July, however, as a reminder, the pool will be open from Noon until 8:00 p.m. Going along again with the Director's presentation from the Mayor this evening, Greg does leave on August 7<sup>th</sup> after 39 years as the Mayor stated. That's quite a run. We thought we would have some interest in his position. Brian (Uhl), and I and the Mayor, frankly, are very pleased. We have 78 applicants for the position. We stopped after three weeks. Tuesday, at 5:00 was the deadline. So, just to give you a little sampling; of those 78 applications, we secured 30 applications from 16 states. Ohio, of course, lead the way with 48 applications and then we're going to start our interview process. Brian (Uhl) and I will actually initially doing some phone interviews tomorrow and then we'll bring the Mayor in on it, and, we're hoping that by the end of the month, to have somebody secured. I think that we're looking forward to putting that position in place after Greg and that's some really big shoes to fill after 39 years. We, too, appreciate his commitment to our City. Most of you know Greg retired nine years ago, and then decided, "Well, I'll stay on just a little bit longer". I think this time it's actually going to happen, but he's stayed on nine years longer. That's all this evening. Thank you.

Mrs. Emerson: I move to adjourn into Executive Session with the City Legal Counsel in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(8) to consider confidential information related to the marketing plan, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance or negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance which is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project that is related to a request for economic development assistance.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I second.

President Vanover: Discussion? (None) Seeing none, Mrs. McNear will you poll council.

The motion passed with a 7-0 vote to go into Executive Session. Council departed chambers at 7:22 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 8:31 p.m.

### Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: On July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we have Planning (Commission) in these chambers.

Mr. Anderson: Board of Zoning Appeals meets in these chambers July 21<sup>st</sup>? Is that right, Mrs. Ghantous?

Mrs. Ghantous: It was a different date than I thought. I just looked at it today.

Mr. Anderson: It's the one that moved. Sorry for the confusion. It moved because of the holiday. I believe it's the 21<sup>st</sup>, but check the website, the Springdale website. That will have the latest information.

Communications from the Audience

-

None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, we had no pieces of legislation that were voted on. We do have one matter that will be forthcoming.

City of Springdale Council

July 1, 2020

Recap of legislative items requested

Mr. Hawkins: There's a request for An Ordinance Authorizing the City to Fund the Employees' Health Savings Accounts in 2020 and Declaring an Emergency. That's it unless there's anything else that Council or Administration has. (None)

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020