

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on August 19, 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 July 15, 2020 meeting were considered. Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Emerson seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Thank you sir. The Springdale Civil Service Commission did meet on August 6th at 2:00 p.m. In addition to the Commissioners, the attendees included Mr. Brian Uhl, Assistant City Administrator, Police Chief, Thomas Wells, Police Lieutenant, Dale Morris, Ms. Christina Ingle, Human Resources Administrator. Following the disposition of the minutes from the emergency meeting on June 12th as well as the regularly scheduled meeting on July 2nd, we went right into our reports for the Civil Service activities. The following hiring activities have concluded, or are still in process. The first one, Technical Service Administrator, has been hired. That individual was due to start work on August 17th. Firefighter/Paramedic physical fitness test occurred on Saturday, August 8th at 10:00 a.m. So, that activity is continuing forward. In the Police Department, for the Patrol Officer position, four candidates have been hired and the plan is for the City to hire two additional officers before the end of this year. Maintenance Worker position is still in process. Interviews have been occurring. Have not yet received an update whether or not the offer was made. I believe that was the case that it was made. Fire Lieutenant promotion; again, that activity was in process and interviews have taken place and another activity the concludes with an offer that possibly was made and we just weren't made aware yet. Fire Captain promotion; that particular was in process as well. The interviews were wrapping up. The final one was the Police Sergeant activity and that written exam is going to occur on September 18th. So, as you can see, a lot of activity is going on within the hiring aspect for particular Civil Service positions. We had before us a revision to a couple of job descriptions. One was the Custodian in the Police Department and the other one was the Office Manager in the Police Department. The purpose behind the revision of these job descriptions was that those positions actually report to the Administrative Services Supervisor rather than to the Assistant Police Chief. So, following the revision, the motion was made, seconded, and approved. Those job descriptions are now official. The last item; Chief Wells attended the meeting and requested that the Civil Service Commission certify some additional Patrol Officer candidates. He explained to the (Civil Service) Commission that the City is seeking to hire the best candidates possible and we certainly agreed and said that we want those individuals that are considered outstanding candidates and, for that reason, the initial list of candidates that was presented we weren't real comfortable with. We thought, "Well, we're going to be doing hiring going forward, so, why not take a look at the next ten candidates and see whether or not there are better candidates within that group. An individual that scores a 90 may be a really good test taker, but that doesn't necessarily mean he's going to be a good "people person". It is significant and important that our officers have good people skills. So, for that reason, we took that request under consideration, discussed it, and we agreed that that was the right thing to do and a motion was made, seconded, and approved. We'll be looking at additional candidates for the Patrol Officer candidates. With that, that concludes my report for today. The next meeting is scheduled for September 3rd. Questions. (None)

Rules and Laws Mrs. Emerson - No report

Finance Committee

Mr. Hawkins: Finance Committee met today, August 19th. All members were present. The discussion with regard to the meeting tonight was about how the approximately \$236,000 received for the Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars were to be spent. There's going to be more detail in terms of what took place, what's taking place with regard to that in Old Business, but I can tell you that the process that's gone through has been intricate. There's been layers of

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mr. Hawkins (continued): review. Critical evaluation by the Administration, and it was all spearheaded by Mr. Uhl. Administration did an excellent job with regard to this whole situation. There will be more detail with regard to that in Old Business.

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: We met on August 11th and our first Old Business was Kleingers, on behalf of Springdale Commerce Park at 12110 Princeton Pike. It was a Minor Revision to a PUD. It was just the record plat for the Industrial Park. So, we just approved the record plat as it was. That was a 7-0 vote. Under New Business, we had Michael Dicks at 473 Smiley Avenue. That's in the new Springrose community. He had requested a fence. He has a corner lot, so he had the unusual, the same thing that all of our corner lots have, which is technically two front yards because of the streets and where it is. We were given two different options that we could choose from, and we chose the smaller area fence. That was Option 2, and that passed 5-2. Then, finally, we had Hixson Incorporated at 55 Merchant Street for a minor improvement requiring Planning Commission approval. It was to add compact car parking spaces. That passed 7-0. That's it. Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Mr. Ramirez: None.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous - No report

Board of Health

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health remains on summer session and will resume on September 10th.

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Emerson - No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: The August OKI meeting was cancelled. That next meeting will occur in September.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: First off, I've got kind of bittersweet one. We had an unusual situation happen in the City of Springdale. The first week in August, we had three people retire. One person right off the bat on Monday morning, Retirement breakfast across the street at the Fire Department. Captain Terry Bretz left us after 28 years of service with the City of Springdale. Then, later on that morning, Sergeant Andy Davis, also 28 years with the City, hung it up. His last call, a very moving ceremony down at the Police Department. Then, later on that week, on Friday, Mr. Greg Karle retired after 39 years with the City. I'd like to thank Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup, Mr. Ramirez, and Mr. Hawkins for helping to give him a nice send off. Then, next Friday, Debbie Dunfee, who is also 28 years, I don't know what's the magic thing about 28 years, but Debbie is going to say good bye to us next Friday. We also have a little reception for her planned next Tuesday from Noon until 2:00 p.m. So, you're all invited to stop up and say good bye to Debbie. I want to call up Jeff Agricola, but let me finish the last item I've got before I turn it over to Jeff. We had in the budget this year, we talked about this earlier, the comprehensive plan. We had some money earmarked for that this year. Well, with the COVID-19 that we had to deal with, we just didn't feel people felt safe coming and making presentations and everything else. So, needless to say, we were a little busy with a few other things. So, we sort of put that on the back burner, but last week we did have a meeting with Anne McBride's firm. Dale McBride & Clarion, and we would like for those folks to come in and make a presentation to the Council on the 16th of September just to go over the scope of what they would see this project entail for the City of Springdale and also just to see if there's any interest in signing on with those folks to do the comprehensive plan. We think there are a lot of advantages to doing that. I'd like to hold that recommendation off until we see their scope presentation on the 16th. I will say this much, I think we're in a very unique position as we embark upon this because we have three people on staff, Mr. John Jones, Mr. Brian Uhl, and Mr. Andy Kuchta have all played integral parts in comprehensive plans for other communities. I think that's really going to bode well for us going forward with this plan. So, we've got a lot of in-house expertise and we'll see what Dale McBride and Clarion has to offer on the 16th. Also, this is another project that has sort of been put on the backburner for a number of different reasons. But, as you recall, we had Jeff Agricola make a presentation to

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mayor Webster (continued): us. Jeff (Agricola) (Mayor Webster addressing Mr. Agricola) was that late last year? December? January? I don't know, a number of months ago about the street-scaping along Route 4. Well, as you can tell, nothing has been done down there and there's some good reasons for that. But, I did want to have Jeff come up today and give you a brief update on where we are and what our plans are going forward with that project. So, Jeff do you want to take over. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Mr. Agricola: Thank you Mayor. Members of Council, the Mayor asked me just to kind of give you an update with where we are and what we, unfortunately, we've not been doing a lot, but, basically where we're at and where we're going from here. Clearly, COVID has impacted a lot of different things and this also has seen some impact from that as well. Not only internally with the Department. We've been, especially earlier this year, considerably busy with other things, but, then also with reaching out to outside sources with information and all that. Everything is just more difficult these days. But, beyond that, as we started this year and started looking at the potential of that project occurring, it occurred to me that next year we have another little obstacle, if you will for urban forestry. And it's the 17 year cicada. Brood X (10) is ours and those guys will start emerging sometime in May and they do their thing, and then eventually the females will find a deciduous tree somewhere and to lay their eggs. In that process, they're actually scratching smaller twigs where they lay their eggs and they do that repeatedly over multiple locations and they say they can lay up to 600 eggs. In each one of their little indentations, they only lay a couple of dozen, so they're doing this over, and over, and over again. And. Depending on the tree species, its location, if there's a large number of cicadas in the area, and then the overall health of the tree, this damage can add up and actually can be really detrimental to the tree. Clearly, young trees are even more susceptible. They like the smaller branches and a young tree just typically has a lot more of the smaller branches for that damage to occur. So, for all these reasons, I went to the Mayor and I said that we probably do want to postpone this project even further at this time. Clearly, the event occurs early to mid-summer next year. But, the other side of that is that the regional nurseries where we would be getting stock are also going to be potentially affected. So, moving into next summer, it would be great if we had a plan, but maybe a fluid plan to see, depending on the trees that we move forward with in the plan to see how those fared at the regional nurseries. Maybe we can move forward as early as a fall planting, or, at least a start of a fall planting in 2021. Maybe it needs to move into 2022. At this point, it's kind of up in the air. But, I think it would be unfortunate for us to move forward on the front end and then have our new start to the urban forest along the corridor be damaged and then we're kind of stuck. At least at this point if the stock gets damaged at the nursery, it's not ours. We have the ability to choose the trees that we want to accept. I think we'd be in a better position doing that. If anyone has any questions.

Mrs. Emerson: Would we consider taking down the trees to save some time on the switch over? Six months or so before we would decide to plant, go ahead and start taking the trees down to get the process moving quicker or not?

Mr. Agricola: We'll certainly remove the trees under a separate operation and it will clearly be in advance. As I said last time I was here, I would view this project as a phased project and we would approach them not all at one time because the opportunity we have here is not only to build in species diversity, so we don't have maybe something along the lines of an emerald ash borer problem in the future, but then also build in some age diversity. I'm not talking substantial age diversity, but maybe over several years we would complete the whole thing. Some small trees scattered throughout and then the next year come back. All of that though is still kind of "to be determined" and to be worked out and planned.

Mayor Webster: Jeff, when you take those trees out, aren't we going to incur some damage to those tree wells?

Mr. Agricola: There probably will be collateral damage to either the tree wells or the pavers immediately adjacent.

Mayor Webster: So, I'm not sure that we'd want to go in like this summer or fall and start pulling those trees out because we're probably going to have a mess there and, like Jeff (Agricola) indicates, hopefully, we'll get back to planting trees in the fall, but, it very possibly could go to the spring of 2022. So, I'm not sure we'd want to leave those like that. I think we

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mayor Webster (continued): probably would be better off just leave this. Even though we're going to have ugly Christmas lights out there (laughter).

Mr. Agricola: Well, we will do our best to address that issue.

President Vanover: You were going to do the inventory of the, what was it, Cleveland Pears?

Mr. Agricola: We have a number of different pear cultivars. But, if I remember the numbers off hand, roughly our inventory within the City, it's actually, pains me to say, it approaches 70% pear. And, that's too many. That's too many of any given tree. Especially too many of pear.

President Vanover: And, I know some of them have been declared "invasive species".

Mr. Agricola: The entire family, within the State of Ohio. Its sale is prohibited, beginning in 2023. But, because of that pending date, pretty much all the nurseries have eliminated stock because there's no reason to continue cultivating that stock that may or may not have an eventual sale. So, they've done a lot to eliminate and begin to utilize that space for other trees. So, there's really not much out there right now. You can still find there here and there, but not like you used to.

President Vanover: Well, maybe we can post sign for the cicadas to "nest here".

Mr. Agricola: Unfortunately, nothing really likes them well enough to kill them.

President Vanover: Except the birds that spread them. Any other discussion, or questions? (None) Thank you sir.

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: The General Fund Update through July 31st for receipts. Based on a net receipt budget of \$22.359 million dollars, we have received \$13.315 million dollars, which is 60% of the anticipated budget. Those receipts are made up of five general sources which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court, which totals \$12.382 million dollars or 93% of the receipts. For the expenditures through July 31st, we have net budget of \$20.172 million dollars. We have spent \$11.532 million dollars, which is 54%. Our ending balance for the General Fund as of July 31st is \$3.668 million dollars. That concludes my report. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: Several things this evening from the Health Commissioner, Matt Clayton. COVID-19 cases, as most of us are certainly aware of, reached a peak in June after businesses began to reopen. Case numbers have since begun to trend downward consistent both in the region and in the state. From early July to mid-August, Springdale averaged less than one new COVID case per day. The decrease in numbers likely resulted, according to Mr. Clayton, from folks being more socially responsible in their interactions, including masks, social distancing, hand washing, and refraining from getting into large gatherings. The Health Department is working with Princeton City Schools and Calvary Academy, the Cincinnati Center for Autism, and so forth and will continue to do that to make sure businesses are safe in their reopening and continue their businesses as possible. We've had some new hires, so, when you have folks retire, you certainly have some new hires coming in. Most of you know Charlie Wilson, former Assistant Parks and Rec Director is now the Parks and Rec Director at the Rec Center. Steven Sanders comes to us by way of Wyoming. He is now the Assistant Parks and Rec Director. Anthony Pagan is the Technical Services Administrator. We have Ben Gramke coming in as a Police Officer. We have Brian Losekamp coming in as our Fire Captain, moving up in the ranks. Also, being promoted, Joe Parks is now a fire Lieutenant. All those folks mentioned there, at some point, will be brought in for introductions. We feel bad that we know that we have it on the list to be determined when they will get here, but, in fairness to everybody involved, they specifically asked to hold off until their families can join.

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mr. Jones (continued): Because it's a big deal when they get introduced and stuff, so they've asked that we hold off. The Census information as of August 19, 2020, nationally, it is at 64% response rate. Hamilton County is 65.3%. Ohio is 68.2% as is Springdale at 68.2%. In the Parks and Rec Department, Mr. Wilson asked that I let folks know that they are still accepting applications for part-time positions including Customer Service, Park Maintenance, and Custodian. As most of you should know this by now, and we're disappointed, but we certainly know everybody understands the situation, Junior Olympics, August 22nd has been cancelled. The ComeUnity Bash for September 12th has been cancelled. Youth Boosters Movie in the Park for September 18th has been cancelled. On a more positive note, Winter sports registration is now happening. We are taking applications and registration for the Corn Hole League. That is a \$25 fee. They are encouraging folks to get signed up as quick as possible. Slightly different, we put in place this year and will continue to run through September 7th from 12:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., the parks pool and concession stands will remain open. The Community Center roof project is scheduled to be completed in early November. So, I hope I didn't steal the Engineer's thunder. That's all for tonight. Thank you.

Mayor Webster: John, if I might correct you on one minor thing. Steven Sanders came to us by way of Woodlawn.

Mr. Jones: Did I say Wyoming?

Mayor Webster: Yes.

Mr. Jones: I'm sorry. I realize that now. Thank you Mayor. Absolutely from Woodlawn, and thank you for catching that.

President Vanover: Mr. Uhl do you have anything at this point?

Mr. Uhl: Not at this time.

President Vanover: Okay.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun

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No report

Engineer's Report

Mr. Shvegza: As far as an update on Landan Lane Reconstruction, that work is basically been completed. Just today they put the final course down, so they'll be doing a little bit more work on that and that will be done. Beacon Hills Subdivision is basically completed. We're waiting on final paperwork to close out that project. On the Community Center roofing, actually the bid opening will take place tomorrow on that and we had a pre-bid conference meeting. We had the potential contractors attend and, actually, we had 18 contractors attend that particular meeting. On East Crescentville Road, basically, the Stage 2 plans were completed and submitted to ODOT for their review. We'll be working with Greater Cincinnati Water Works on their plans for replacing the water main in the vicinity of that project also. That concludes my report.

President Vanover: Mr. Shvegza, actually, today on our neighborhood side of the embankment, there in the old GE Park, or Springdale Commerce Park, they had a bucket truck, and I was hoping that they would be working because I've gotten a couple of earfuls from some neighbors with water runoff coming off of the property down and I know they abut back to it. Was there any discussion about that or were you aware?

Mr. Shvegza: We have gotten with the contractor out there. We've notified them that there are a number of areas where they have erosion conditions throughout the project and they are supposed to be addressing those, so that may be contributing to that water issue.

President Vanover: Yes, I hope so. Plus, I noticed that there is a number of dead trees that, well, dead trees and shrubs.

Mr. Shvegza: There's a lot of dead plantings out there that yes, they're going to have to be addressing shortly.

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Communications - None

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 25-2020

AN ORDINANCE REDUCING AND RECERTIFYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS LEVIED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 25-2020; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 25-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 26-2020

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF FUNDS TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT – KEMPER ROAD INTERCONNECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Emerson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 26-2020; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Ordinance No. 26-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 27-2020

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING THE 2020 S-22 SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 27-2020; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded.

Ordinance No. 27-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Resolution No. R18-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURES RELATED TO THE MARCH 2017 STREET IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R18-2020; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Anderson: This might be a question for Mr. Williams since I know he's here. I know in the disclosure you mentioned there's a new section that wasn't there previously relating to COVID-19 and it's uncertainty on our finances. I assume that's a standard disclaimer. But, you mentioned here "we cannot predict the time or the affect it will have on our finances." We've been living with this for six months now. I'm wondering when do you think we would be able to better understand, at least, the trends. I know it may not need to go in this disclosure, but it's an opportunity to ask the question.

Mr. Williams: First of all to address the disclosure on that page. This was the paragraph I was instructed to put in there. As far as your other question about when we would know what effect on our finances, that's a good question. We look at the earnings tax. So far, the earnings tax really hasn't been affected because of the Executive Order from Governor DeWine which basically said that if you were working in Springdale and you're working from home, they still have to withhold you like you're working in Springdale. Now, when that is lifted, and, at this time I don't know when that will be, either they're going to change their payroll to withhold them where they are living, working from home, or, they'll continue to

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mr. Williams (continued): withhold them from Springdale and they'll be entitled to put in for a refund. At that time, it could be that we see our refunds jump or, we see some kind of change to the negative of our earnings tax. Other accounts that we've identified that could potentially have a COVID affect, the cinema admissions tax. So we know that won't be affected because they haven't been opened. The theatre has not been opened. So, we received a normal fourth quarter. So, in January, we received fourth quarter from last year. That was a normal amount. About \$20,000 to \$24,000 and then it really fell off. So, it all depends when the cinema opens, to get some of that back. Transient occupancy tax I'm looking at, so far, that doesn't seem to have any affect compared to last year. But, if you remember we budgeted about \$40,000 for the new hotel, which hasn't opened. So, we're off budget from that. We budgeted about \$160,000 for transient tax and we'll probably just hit a normal, which is somewhere around \$100,000 to \$110,000. Local government funds; what we get from the State, what we get from the County, and that's derived from sales tax, so that did take a dip. We started off the year at normal levels, it took a dip, but now it's coming back. We also have Community Center revenues. Obviously they were closed and we'll have to see what the overall affect is as the money starts coming back in. We looked at gas tax and license tax that are out of the street construction and maintenance fund and the State Highway Fund. And, though there was a dip, for a couple of months, it's coming back. With the gas tax there was a change to the law that increased the allocation. Now, I don't think we'll reach the full amounts because, obviously, people are working from home and they're not driving and not filling up. But, where we budgeted, what we projecting and what we're seeing is not too far off. I'm trying to think of any other ones that were looked at. I thought maybe building permits would be one where we'd see an affect. There hasn't been any downward affect that I can see based on the numbers that were brought in. I said the Community Center, and I think that's all really that we looked at.

Mr. Anderson: And, that helps. You mentioned at the top that this was language that you were told to drop in. Did that language come from the Law Director or did it come from one of our finance groups? Where did it come from?

Mr. Williams: Bond counsel.

Mr. Anderson: Bond counsel. Thank you.

Mr. Williams: Bond counsel. Yes.

Mayor Webster: Generally speaking, Mr. Anderson, I've applied a couple of different metrics to the earnings tax and I am satisfied we're going to come into budget on earnings tax, maybe slightly over, but I don't, as Jeff (Williams) indicated, with the Governor's action of mandating that the employer still have to withhold a Springdale tax even though they are working from home is a godsend to us because a lot of people are working from home. As long as that Executive Order is in place, we'll continue to get those taxes. I don't think our earnings tax is going to be impacted at all. Here again, that's what John (Jones), 78% to 80% of our total revenue that comes from that source. I also asked Jeff (Williams) to put together a list of our ten largest tax revenue sources other than earnings tax, and it's been a couple of months since we've reviewed that, but there were some deviations like the admissions tax, transient occupancy tax are going to be way down, but there were other ones that were going to be up that are going to make up some of the difference. Overall, I think we're going to be okay. I certainly think the expenses are going to be less because of all of the events we've cancelled and a lot of other things.

Mr. Anderson: That was the read I was getting when Mrs. McNear would give us the report. It seemed like it was tracking still pretty well, and I guess it's nice to have an action from the Governor that's actually to the benefit of us, so, that's a nice change. It's one we can put a star next to. It's just the language on the disclosure sounded more ominous than I expected, which is why I was curious where that came from. Because it seemed like we were trending the right way, and I just wanted to make sure if there was a different trend that we were tracking it. So, thank you for that.

Mr. Williams: You can tell by this paragraph that this was written and put together at an early on phase, based on that language. Thank you.

President Vanover: Sure. Thank you. Any further discussion? (None)

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Resolution No. R18-2020 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business

Mayor Webster: Under New Business I'd like to have Brian Uhl come up and make a presentation on the CARES Act and this is something from the Finance Committee meeting and So, we'd like to share this with Council. Brian has done a great job with putting this thing together. The floor is yours.

Mr. Uhl: Thank you Mayor. Thank you Council. Thank you Mr. President. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you tonight to kind of lay out some of our projected purchases and how we will use the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act. Last month, Council had an appropriations ordinance before them that passed which allowed us to appropriate the \$236,092 that were granted to us. We've been working diligently with Department Directors to come up with a list of items that will benefit their staff, and also the general public on the mitigating effects of COVID-19. Initially, we put out some general parameters and told them the explanation of what the funds had to be used for and then we compiled their lists. In just a quick overview with the (CARES) Act, there is a three-prong test that each purchase has to kind of go through. The first one being it's a necessary expenditure incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. The second one being the expenses cannot have been accounted for in the most recent City budget as of March 27, 2020. And, the third part of that was the expenses are incurred between March 1st and December 31st of 2020. Those were the things that we had to make sure everything kind of fit within. As we met with Department Directors and different departments, we compiled a list of items. The initial rules and regulations that kind of rolled out with this Act; we weren't sure we were going to meet the threshold. We had a \$3,300 submission threshold and some of the rules were a little more restrictive, and we weren't even sure that we were going to get to that point. However, they modified the rules and provided a little more guidance, and some more webinars, and some more training on how the funds could be spent. Once that information made its way towards us, we realized, yes, there's a definite need, and we can do a lot of good things for the City with this grant funding. A couple of important dates I want to highlight. The costs obviously have to be incurred between March 1st and December 31st 2020 time period. October 6th is our first reporting guideline. We'll have to report out initially to the County on our expenses. October 22nd; any funds that are not spoken for through the County, meaning municipalities have not sent a resolution to the County to receive those funds; those funds will all go back to the State and back to the Federal government. Then, all invoices have to be paid by the end of December. So, everything has to be paid for. It can't just be encumbered. The items have to actually be expensed. So, after our meetings with the Directors, we got the list back from each department totaling \$374,000. So, there was a couple of layers of review that needed to go forth to make sure that we stayed within the grant funds that were awarded to us. With the overwhelming response we received from all the different Department Directors, we had to kind of prioritize and set a focus. We established that that focus needed to be the health and safety of our employees and the public. Although it's kind of a broad brush, we felt that we could kind of narrow some things in and, especially with employees. If we don't have staff that can perform the services for our residents, we're of no good service to our residents, and general public, and visitors. So, we looked at what we could do internally to prevent the spread of the virus, take the necessary precautions and funneled our list down. Once we funneled the list down, kind of went through a vetting process, I went back to each Department Director and had them explain different things that weren't obvious to me as far as the tie into COVID. We went through a lot of different back and forth processes with different members of different departments. After that process, City Administration sat down, we invited in a couple of Department Directors here and there to kind of go through the list again. There was a lot of side meetings again to kind of vet some of these items. Our third review was our Network Administrator. We had these ideas on how we were going to increase our infrastructure for information technology and allow some employees to potentially work off-site if we had a stay-at-home order again and had to displace the amount of employees that we had in specific facilities. So, we had to meet with them to find out to make sure that the items and direction we were looking to go wasn't going to cause an extraordinary expense that we weren't accounting for, which was very beneficial and helpful. We looked at a couple of options to make sure that not only could employees work remotely, but make sure that we increase firewall protections to make sure that we maintain the security of our local networks. The next layer of review was with our Law

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mr. Uhl (continued): Director, Joe Braun. We went through each item by item and talked about the application on how it would be used, and also the immediate tie-in with COVID-19 and the current state that we're in. The next review was that Mr. Jones and I met with the Mayor where we went through again, item by item and talked about the different things that we were looking for. We met this evening with Finance Committee as Mr. Hawkins alluded to earlier. Again, we went through everything and then last night I emailed the documents to all Council members so they could take a look at that and come with any questions today that we could hopefully address. So, just to highlight a couple of areas, the Information Technology portion takes up 60% of the expenses within this particular grant. A lot of it is for hardware. We had to, like I mentioned, we have to increase some security measures for our firewall to allow VPN access for our employees to be able to access the servers for the City. With that, we had to supply the hardware, the laptops and what not for employees to do that. Also included would be the laptops for all elected officials. If we had to go to another State of Emergency where we were not necessarily meeting here in Council chambers, we had to have the ability for Council members to conduct business and normal Council meetings. So, we decided that we need to go the laptop route for all elected officials and realizing the various committees that you serve on, we felt the laptop version was a good option for all of you to make sure that you could get the notes and meeting minutes reviewed and what not. Cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing was another area that we looked at. In some of the discussions we had with our various departments, we never thought in the past on how we would be cleaning playground equipment, park benches, bus shelters, and all the outdoor equipment. Parks Department did a great job of coming up with some items that they could use to clean, disinfect, and more importantly, protect these pieces of equipment for use with the general public. Through some discussions we had with a couple of different vendors who came in to look at cleaning the public spaces and facilities, we learned a little bit more and we learned of a product that is an antimicrobial surface protectant that not only could be used for hard surfaces and contact areas, so all your touch points with doorknobs, door pulls, counter tops, but, you could use it on carpets, chairs, and what not. Anywhere where there is not paper. We asked if this is a product that you can use and apply on park benches, bus shelters, playground equipment and the answer was, "yes". It's indoor, it's outdoor. The nice thing is that we learned is that it has a 30 day surface life for high touch point areas, and up to 90 days for normal use areas. And the routine cleaning and disinfecting does not take away any of those antimicrobial properties. So, we felt that this was a good product to get as well so that we can take care of the outdoor equipment, but also the interiors of all of our City vehicles, jail cells, all of our public spaces, all of our surface areas here in the City building, the back of our ambulances. We saw wide use of these products. We then looked at different touchless equipment for door openers, touchless faucets, soap dispensers and looking at putting those into the Community Center, some of the areas where we have a lot of volume, a lot of high traffic areas with our general public to make sure we're doing what we can, again, to not only treat and disinfect those areas with the antimicrobial surface protectant, clean on a more regular basis, a more frequent basis; getting equipment that allows us to do some of these things more efficiently and faster and allows us to do something maybe more routine. Then a couple of miscellaneous items with the Health Department to help them set up a mobile vaccination station. Looking at some different equipment that they would need to set up a field vaccination station when, hopefully sooner than later, a vaccination becomes available for COVID-19. I can dive way deeper into the weeds with CARES with this grant funding. There's a lot of information I sent over to you as well that hopefully explained and answered some questions preliminarily, but I'd be happy to field any questions that you may have now or later.

Mr. Anderson: A few questions, but I can just start with one. I don't want to monopolize the time. You mentioned the 30 day surface cleaning and 60 day long life. Recently First Student, with back to school stuff advertised similar products and then had to retract statements around claims around its efficacy, especially around hard surfaces. I just want to make sure, how are we verifying those claims for cleaning if we're going to then make statements like we did today that we're doing deep cleaning that will have that kind of life? I know with First Student, the product, which might be the same one, the vendor wasn't actually certified to make that claim even though it was being pronounced publically. So, what are we doing to certify the vendors that we're using are meeting the claims that you are describing?

Mr. Uhl: The product itself is vetted by the actual manufacturer. So, it's not just a vendor. They brought the product to our attention. We did our own research on the back end to vet the product itself.

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mr. Anderson: I know in the case with First Student, the challenge they had is the vendor was making a similar claim, but then had to retract as well because the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the Federal government did not verify that in the labs. It was certified overseas, which then they had to backtrack those claims. I guess that's more a word of caution that when we actually get to the point of invoicing or getting the quotes that we check especially

Mr. Anderson (continued): the claims of 30 days because the last note I saw, at least from the CDC, said there isn't a product that does that certified in the U.S. (United States). So, maybe they've gone through certification.

Mr. Uhl: That's a good point. The study that was done on this particular product itself was conducted by The Ohio State University to verify the longevity of the antimicrobial properties within the product. That's a great point. We will definitely look into that to make sure we're getting the right product and make sure that it lives up to its claims.

Mr. Anderson: Great.

Mrs. Emerson: On the same note that Mr. Anderson was talking about, on the application of this product, is that something that we would do or do we hire somebody to come in and do the sanitation?

Mr. Uhl: Great question. So, as we met with these different vendors, we learned a little more. One of the vendors in particular explained to us that if they were to come in and do a deep clean, the regular maintenance and the cleaning and disinfecting and the application of this particular material could all be done "in house". We would just have to get the necessary equipment to do it, which is a cheaper version and has a lot more longevity for us moving forward with obtaining the equipment. So, it's an electrostatic application with handheld applicators.

Mr. Anderson: On the hardware, you mentioned 60% of it was hardware related. In the list there was, and it was a great list. Very detailed, which I loved. There was a lot of laptops, equipment, network, firewall type stuff. The average life of those devices is around three years; two to three years depending, or maybe longer. Are we then, if this is approved the way you're expecting, are we baking a refresh of those into our five year budget moving forward, or are we waiting and seeing? How are we handling it; because it's in our five year planning period. If we're going to buy \$200,000 worth of network equipment, are we budgeting in three years to refresh it all at the same time? And, is that possible with our budget?

Mr. Uhl: I'll answer real quick. As a general statement, I believe with a lot of this equipment we will look at the replacement schedule as we need it. I don't think that we'll have that large chunk coming out maybe in a three year span. We'll still have desktop units for key personnel. The laptops will be available if they have to work remotely. So, I think we'll get some longevity out of the equipment itself.

Mr. Anderson: Are we going to update our five year plan for some amount of refresh? Or, are we just going to wait and see for now, and then talk about it at the next budget cycle? I guess it depends on how much we're going to use it, but, at some point it should be in the plan if we're going to accept the money to buy the stuff.

Mr. Hawkins: There hasn't been a discussion with regard to an adjustment to the budget as of this point. Obviously, the things that we have going on right now that we're going to utilize the grant money for are not things that we had anticipated previously. Not to say that we couldn't look at doing things like laptops and things of that nature, but, I also think because of some of the fiscal constraints that we had, those are things that probably got pushed to the side versus some of the other things that we've higher prioritized. So, it's something that, as we get around to budget time, can be looked at in terms of future planning, but, it also comes back to the idea that I don't think that we, as Council, or the City would be doing these things right now if we didn't have this grant, because of the financial constraints. So, if we're looking at it down the road three, four, five years, if we don't have the fiscal ability to prioritize these above other things, then we probably wouldn't go through and do these. It's something that

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mr. Hawkins (continued): we'll look at, but I think that's the reality that we're still in that financial situation and hopefully, three, four, or five years, we'll have a different situation over at Tri-County Mall and lots of money and we can do lots of stuff (laughter). It's not that funny.

Mr. Anderson: I just want to make sure we're doing it consciously that, as we're deploying this equipment, we should be setting the expectation that we don't know that we're going to maintain it after it reaches its end of life until we've put it back into the budget. Part of it's just I think it's important that, as we're going to share this new capability, that there are people that want to work from home long-term, and they should know that that may not be the case, that this is to enable it in case there's another outbreak. This isn't a wholesale expansion of our capability; this is short-term for not until the five year or three year (budget) has been updated. That's my understanding. I just wanted to make sure that that's what we're doing if we're going to accept the money.

Mr. Hawkins: The reality too is we're talking about technology, and so in three, four, or five years what we're dealing with technology-wise is probably going to evolve some too. As we were talking in the Finance Committee meeting about some of the stuff that's going on in court; hearing a whole case in Montgomery County. I didn't set foot in Montgomery County once. My client was in Alabama the whole time. He never came up to Montgomery County. So, there's a whole bunch of different things that we're going to evolve with, but, I think it's a great point Mr. Anderson in terms of us making sure we're thinking about it future-wise, but the reality is we're getting all of these things because we're getting this grant. I don't think we would financially be in a position to do these things otherwise.

Mrs. McNear: Mr. Jones, I'm going to go out on a limb here and guess that we do not "trade up" our laptops or any of our computer equipment on a three year cycle. Considering the ages of some of the equipment I've seen in this building. I have one that's so old that I try to plug in my laptop to it and it didn't have the right connection because it's so old.

Mr. Jones: You're correct.

Mrs. McNear: Thank you.

Mr. Uhl: Mr. Anderson, just to address some of your concerns. I agree with you. Those are great points and something that we'll definitely look into moving down the road. As Mr. Hawkins alluded to, these were things directly associated with kind of the pandemic and the state of emergency we're kind of in with the health crisis going on, so we may realize in two years the need to replace some of this technology may not be there any longer as well. As the equipment ages out, it may be something that we look at not necessarily replacing and we'll evaluate as we continue on.

Mr. Anderson: My last question. Thank you for indulging me. There was one item I was hoping you could just verify for me. I love the item, nothing against it. It was from the Fire Department. It was a machine to assist with CPR and it was \$15,000. We're comfortable if that meets that first test about being necessary for COVID. I know that it can have respiratory impacts, but that's why we're buying into this because of the increase in that case. It's not just something that we wanted for some time?

Mr. Uhl: The device itself, and I had the same question that you initially did, and we talked about this and it was brought to my attention that Covington Fire Department actually did a news story on them purchasing one for this with their CARES Act money. Again, we went back to the Fire Department and said, "Let's talk this through". And then, after a meeting with Joe Braun, we realized wearing the PPE (personal protective equipment) is what will fatigue the firefighter in doing compressions for a sustained period of time. That's the biggest obstacle is wearing the facemask, and the PPE to do the compressions. This device will allow to have the "heavy lifting" if you will out of that whole process.

Mr. Anderson: That makes a lot of sense. Thank you for that clarification.

Mr. Uhl: Thank you.

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Mrs. Emerson: Just an “add on”. That’s an awesome piece of equipment. Not only does it save the firefighters from the CPR, but it’s more accurate, and more precise. It does a much better job than a human does.

Mr. Uhl: Correct. I’ve seen it in action, and it is a great device.

Mrs. Emerson: Amazing piece of equipment.

Mr. Uhl: Their initial request was for three.

Mrs. Emerson: It’s amazing.

Mr. Uhl: Thank you.

New Business

Mrs. McNear: Council, you have a request for an Economic Development Liquor License Transfer. This is going from Delicio Coal Fired LLC to Las Islas Marias of Cincinnati Inc. at 370 Glensprings. That’s the former Beef O’Brady’s and Perkins restaurant to orient you for that. This is a transfer of multiple license types. We have a D2, which is “wine and mixed beverages for on-premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m.”. It is also a D2X which is, “grandfathered permit beer only for on premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m.”. A D3 “spirituous liquor for an on premises consumption only until 1:00 a.m.” D3X “grandfathered permit wine only for an on premises consumption until 1:00 a.m.” A D6 “sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. and midnight”. Are there any objections to this transfer? (None) Great. Thank you. We’ll take care of getting this filed.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Emerson: Again, the Board of Health will resume session on September 10th at 7:00 in the conference room adjacent to here.

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 in these chambers.

President Vanover: I’ll ask the million dollar question. We are anticipating returning back to our normal Council schedule? (It was confirmed by Mr. Jones)

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you look at your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 26-2020; An Ordinance Authorizing the Payment of Funds to the Ohio Department of Transportation for Traffic Signal System Upgrade Project – Kemper Road Interconnect and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Ordinance No. 25-2020; An Ordinance Reducing and Recertifying Special Assessments Levied for the Purpose of Constructing Certain Improvements at Pictoria Island and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 27-2020; An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting the 2020 S-22 Supplement to the Springdale Code of Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Resolution No. R18-2020; A Resolution Authorizing the Filing of Continuing Disclosures Related to the March 2017 Street Improvement Bonds. That passed with a 7-0 vote. All other matters are forthcoming.

City of Springdale Council

August 19, 2020

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There is a request for A Resolution Authorizing the City Administration to File an Application with the Ohio Public Works Commission for Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) Funds and/or State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) Funds, and Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Execute all Contracts and Other Documents with regard to the East Kemper Road/CSX Bridge Repair. That's all unless there's anything else from Administration or Council. (None)

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2020