

City of Springdale Council

May 5, 2021

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on May 5, 2021.

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.

Mr. Hawkins: At this time, I move to amend the agenda tonight to add Resolution No. R05-2021. A Resolution Opposing Any Efforts By The State of Ohio To Abolish The Springdale City Health Department Which Has Proven Invaluable In Protecting The Health, Safety, And Welfare Of The City Of Springdale During The COVID Pandemic.

Mr. Anderson: Second

Motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution No. R05-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Council, just for convenience sake, with Matt (Mr. Clayton), we're going to put that at the head of Ordinances and Resolutions.

Mrs. McNear: I just want to make a comment that the minutes reflect what I said about when I would be missing in July. It's actually going to be August, so, the minutes still state that it will be July because that's what I said, but the correction is that I will be here for the July meeting, but not for the August meeting. Thank you.

The minutes of the April 21, 2021 meeting were considered. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded. The minutes were approved with seven affirmative votes.

Communications

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I was contacted by Kiana Trabue. She is a councilperson for the City of Woodlawn and she previously worked for Tri-Health. She would like us to announce that on June 5th and June 26th Chosen Ministries at 30 Triangle Park Drive, 45246 will be having a vaccine clinic through Tri-Health and you can call the church for information. That's 873-7124. Again, that's at Chosen Ministries at 873-7124 on June 5th and June 26th. Thank you.

Communications from the Audience

Chief Wells: Mayor Webster, Members of Council, and City Administration, thank you for having us up here tonight. If you know me, you know I speak sort of quickly, so I made sure to bring a colleague of mine from the (Ohio) Highway Patrol to make sure I keep my tempo down here. So, we really appreciate the invitation here tonight. On the very serious topic of Police Week, I understand that the City and Mayor have prepared a Proclamation for us to commemorate Police Week, and I just wanted to say a couple of words before he does that, if that would be okay Mayor (Webster). The Police Week was started by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, and every year, the police officers from around the country who lost their lives in the line of duty are recognized on May 15th of each year, during what is Police Week. There are normally ceremonies in Washington D.C. in which officers who gave their last full measure are recognized, and this year there was a little bit of a change because of COVID-19, so that will take place in October, and members of our department will be attending that ceremony along with Kaia's family, and I just wanted to say real quickly before I introduce the two officers that are here tonight to receive the Proclamation, that, again, we just cannot tell you how much we appreciate the steadfast support that we've received from this governing body throughout this situation, and we were very humbled and relieved to be able to end the court case last week with a conviction of the individual who caused all of this, and so I think that that will help us continue in the healing process. So, with that said, I'd like to introduce Police Officers Barrie Norris and Mark Martin to come forward please to receive the Proclamation.

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Chief Wells (continued): Just to tell you briefly about them, Barrie Norris is a veteran of our Police Department. I know you are all very proud of the work that our Officers do, and Barrie is responsible for training many, many of our officers over the years, so the quality of officers that we have are directly attributable to Barrie's excellence in what she does. Barrie was also involved in the 2001 apprehension of Clayton Lee Waagner, who was a national fugitive, and we are tremendously fortunate to have Barrie on our Police Department. Police Officer Mark Martin started with us in the last three years now, and when Mark came to us, he was a Captain in the Army Rangers, and saw deployment in Afghanistan, and he's been involved in several life-saving efforts here. Unfortunately, the scourge of drugs has affected us all over the place, and we, unfortunately are not immune from that. He is just a tremendous person. He is as enthusiastic as you can imagine. He was the person that spearheaded the effort to have the Kaia Grant Memorial Resiliency Fitness Center put together in our police facility and as their Police chief, I feel like kind of a dad, and I can't tell you how proud I am of both of them. With that said, Mr. Mayor, I'd like to give you the floor.

Mayor Webster: I've got three Proclamations to read, so let's start off with the Police, and I'll go down to the podium if you guys don't mind.

"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 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 38 full and part time officers and 10 support staff within our own department; and

WHEREAS, more than 21,500 law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice and have been killed in the line of duty, including 360 officers during 2020; 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 made the ultimate sacrifice – their lives – in defense of all citizens, including Springdale 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 9th – May 15th, 2021 as

POLICE WEEK

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

(Applause)

Chief Wells: I know that you have important business to get to, but I also wanted to make a very brief and special introduction if I can have these two gentlemen come up to the front. We are very fortunate tonight to have joining us, Kaia's father and brother. Kevin Grant and Kellen Grant. They are here from Atlanta. Even though the ceremonies will be held in October for the Police Memorial in the National Police Memorial; tomorrow, the Ohio

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Chief Wells (continued): Peace Officers Training Academy will host the State of Ohio's Memorial Service and we will also be attending the memorial service here in Hamilton County at Cincinnati Police on Monday, and these two fine gentlemen are here from Atlanta, GA to participate in those, and I wanted to make that introduction so you could all meet the two of them. (Applause)

Chief Wells: Thank you very much.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Mr. Monson: I'm Jay Monson. I live at 12158 Audie Court, Heritage Hill, Springdale, Ohio. I'm here on behalf of my wife, and a few of my neighbors and stuff that's going on over at Heritage Hill. We don't need any new special laws, we just need the laws enforced over there. Parking in the grass, I mean, all of the little things is just going up and it's getting worse and worse. I believe in "live and let live", but we've come to a point over there that we've got houses that they've turned them into motels, or apartment buildings, and people parking the wrong way, parking in the grass, just wherever they want, parking over the sidewalks. I don't want to have to call the cops every time somebody does something like that. But, you know, maybe just come through and enforce the law. If we start enforcing that stuff, maybe the other things would straighten out. I haven't seen it. Maybe he was selling candy bars up the street, I don't know, but, according to neighbors catty corner to them, they say they're selling drugs. My wife says she sees strange cars coming to the dead end street there, turnaround, and come up. They come down, they talk for a minute, and then they leave. A lot of traffic on the weekends, and stuff. I don't know what's going on, but I pay taxes, I have enjoyed living in Springdale. I don't have any plans of going someplace, but there is some changes that's going to have to be made in Heritage Hill. Thank you.

President Vanover: Well, I have been bending the ear of our Administration for some time, and there are forces working, but I completely concur that that is the situation that definitely needs to be addressed.

Mr. Monson: I understand that and I appreciate everything you all have done, but you can't stand back and complain if you're not willing to come and make a stand.

President Vanover: I agree. I agree completely.

Mr. Monson: This is the first time I've been here.

Mayor Wester: Jay, you're welcome anytime. Don't be a stranger here, okay. The one thing that I think that is foremost in everyone's mind is this car show that took place this past weekend, this past Sunday, and over in Dave and Buster's parking lot in that area. We spent a lot of time today, and this week really, talking about that and I'd like to have our Police Chief (Wells) come up and tell you; give you a brief summary of where we are on that. But, believe me, we are not happy with those activities, and we find out that the sponsors of this are just as unhappy as we are. So, I think there are better days ahead, but, anyway, we've approached the subject with a short term solution, which means that they've got an event coming up in a couple of weeks. Chief (Wells) will elaborate on that, and then also a longer term solution to the effect of taking a look at other cities to see what they're doing and see if they've got some legislation on the books to try to control this uncontrollable activity. Chief (Wells) you want to take over?

Chief Wells: Sure. I'd be glad to. Good evening again. There's no question about it that we want to have order here in the City and we want to be able to have events that help spawn business and everything else here in town, but there's no question that the event that occurred this weekend was very unsettling, and somewhat chaotic. We had been working with the organizers. They have always been up front with us about when they were going to do the events, and they are also somewhat subjected to the fact that they advertised via social media, and so they don't always know how many people are coming. As it turned out, we think, largely, because of the cabin fever from COVID-19 and the beautiful day that it was, there wound up being approximately 2,000 cars that turned up to this event which is an

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Chief Wells (continued): extreme number. We had made preparations. We had numerous officers that were already on duty. We cancelled off days for this. The event hired off-duty detail officers, and as Murphy's Law has it, we had a very serious auto accident that occurred just as the event was getting underway on (Interstate) 275 which tied up most of our units, and then we had a suicidal individual at one of our motels, and so that tapped our resources completely at that moment, other than the off-duty officers. I happened to be here and was monitoring the situation from the station, then, when I did go by on 275 to see how it looked and I was also astounded by the number of cars. I asked Lieutenant Morris, and Lieutenant Ott to make contact with the business owner, the property owner, and the people from Full Throttle, as well as the organizers of this event, which is a group called Good Enough. They scheduled a meeting, which we had today, and, what I would consider a very productive meeting. All the people that are a part of this, want this to be a good event. They do not want there to be any problems, they don't want there to be noise, and they don't want traffic issues.

We know that one of the issues was the fact that they were having a problem with inflow, because they didn't have enough of their own people there. Again, not expecting that number of cars, so that created a problem a serious traffic problem on Kemper Road, and of course, there were noise issues resulting from the backfire from cars. We believe a lot of that was probably coming from (Interstate) 275 as people were coming and going, because, as soon as they'd get up on the highway, there was a tendency for people to open it up and show off their cars. Of course, when they do that on (Interstate) 275, they have an audience right down there at the event. So, that's certainly an issue.

I've actually spoken with Lieutenant Kuntz who is a longtime friend of mine. He's the Post Commander here in Hamilton County to coordinate not only with the State Patrol in getting us some additional resources to deal with that in the future, but, again, like I said, the meeting today I felt was very productive, and, again, they want to have a good event. We've laid out some plans with them as far as, number one, our involvement as the Police Department, as well as the City. Some other different City Departments to try to help enable them to put a better plan together, and to also make sure that they have enough resources on hand to successfully handle the event on the property itself.

All the people involved in the meeting were all on the same page, that, if this creates an issue another time, they're done doing that. They don't want to do that anymore. We certainly understand the interest of the community. We don't want to have a disruptive situation occur. What we've decided to do in discussions today, I met with the City Administration, and the Mayor, is to allow this next event, with a much more inclusive plan involving us, and then seeing how that comes out and if there's a problem, then that's the end of it. If it runs well, then we'll see about what we can do to maintain that, and, like the Mayor said, have some other plans down the road that involve permitting and that sort of thing when it comes to some of the laws we have here; legislation that would be submitted to. I'll be happy to take any questions if you have any about that situation.

President Vanover: The first complaint I got was from the inside of my house. I remember the days of Tri-State Drag Strip, and Edgewater, and I thought, when it started about 2:00 in the afternoon, thought I was right next door.

Chief Wells: It was very loud. Yes.

President Vanover: Loud. Well, I guess I was partially right, because I kept telling my wife that they're up on (Interstate) 275 and there is not much we can do because once you get up there, by the time we get there, they're gone. That went on until probably 8:00 or 8:30 p.m., and then fireworks started, literally, and it was, I got called out on social media, people in the Terrace here heard it, my neighborhood, Jay

Mr. Monson: I'm glad the Mayor brought that up, because I was supposed to bring that up and I forgot.

President Vanover: But, the only thing that even comes close and it pales by comparison, was a few years back Mars Music did a battle of the bands out in the parking

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President Vanover (continued): lot, and unbeknownst to anybody, my neighbors showed up on my doorstep over that one. But, that was unbelievable, and, while we've got our Highway Patrol, when the weather gets nice, if you want to ride a motorcycle, ride a motorcycle, but, our long straight stretch, I hear them non-stop, and it's irritating, and the volume of traffic, I know, and I've been there and (Interstate) 275 is my backyard, literally. I'm about 100 feet below the roadbed, but, between crotch-rockets, the little Japanese sports cars, and semi-tractors power braking, jake braking, they'll rattle my windows. I know we have limited constraints on some of those, but, if there's something we can do, an interagency.

Chief Wells: Actually Lieutenant Kuntz is here to discuss that tonight. He's going to talk about some of the initiatives, and Highway Patrol is going to be here in Springdale.

President Vanover: That's great.

Chief Wells: That's separate from this whole incident with the show. That was already in place before then.

President Vanover: Brian (Uhl), thank you for being the beating board Monday morning because I have one rule, "If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy".

Chief Wells: I'd certainly like to help enforce that rule. Yes sir.

President Vanover: That's my statement. Anybody else. (None)

Chief Wells: The only other thing I was going to add is that the only reason when I met with the Lieutenant today and with that group is that the only reasons that it was even up for discussion was because the level of cooperation that we've received from the group and, again, they were very committed to wanting this to be a good event, and not something that creates problems for the City. They're also business owners here in town, and they want good things for Springdale as well. That was really the selling point to see if we could possibly try this again, and, we're going to give them another shot, but be assured that if it doesn't work out the next time, that will be the end of that.

President Vanover: Okay.

Chief Wells: Thank you very much.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Officer Kuntz: Good evening. Mr. Mayor, Councilmembers, City Administrators, I appreciate the opportunity for me to get to speak to you folks tonight. I understand how valuable your time is, so I'll be brief and to the point, and not waste it. With that being said, I do have to share a little bit of a back story so you have an understanding of where I'm coming from. I do have some notes here just to keep myself on track.

So, as all of us know, 2020 was a very unique year in public safety. It started for the (Ohio) Highway Patrol in March (2020). In fear of the unknown, and not sure what was going on, basically we "tapped the brakes a little bit", as most law enforcement agencies did in the country in an attempt to minimize exposure to our people and still protect the citizens. We focused on aggressive violations and violations that created a substantial risk to society, but we weren't enforcing the law the way the (Ohio) Highway Patrol typically does. And, one thing we started noticing, rather quickly, when this took place, was people's behavior changing. I live over in Clermont County and as I was driving into the patrol post one morning, a vehicle passed me going the same direction and then I just started following it and we're doing 110 mph (miles per hour). To be so brazen to pass a law enforcement officer in a marked police cruiser doing 110 mph, kind of lets you know where society was going, and that was quick. That was probably within the first month. We started seeing this behavior more and more and started hearing of the unbelievable speeds that our troopers were stopping people and issuing citations for. The highest one I can think of off the top of my head was 143 mph. With that being said, through this process, through the quarantine

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Officer Kuntz (continued): process, we saw a drastic reduction in traffic volume. Which, we thought, would be a good thing. We also saw a drastic reduction in traffic crashes. But, the alarming trend we started to see simultaneously, at the same time, was although there were less crashes, the fatalities were going up and the serious injury crashes were going up. It's pretty easy to figure out why. People are driving faster, therefore, that's why the injury crashes are happening more frequently.

We started looking around to gather as much information as we could so we could make a focused effort approach towards addressing the issue. We're still, this is probably May or June 2020 when this is taking place. ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) has these devices placed around our County that are traffic transponders. These traffic transponders are very unique. They will measure traffic volume in both directions. They will also measure vehicle speeds. Now, obviously, we don't take enforcement from that, but the speeds are captured for statistical purposes. One thing we saw, was a drastic increase in the speeds through the transponders when we started looking. I want to share a couple of numbers with you, if I may. So, the closest traffic transponder to the City of Springdale is located on Interstate 275, and it's right at U.S. 42, so it's in the city of Sharonville. But, I just want to give you some numbers from that transponder, if I may. So, I ran this before I came over tonight. And, from May 1st 2020, to the current date. That traffic transponder measured 33,744,733 vehicles that passed that stretch of roadway. Basically, a year and a month, 33 million and a half vehicles passed. What's alarming about that, is 406,698 were in excess of 20 mph over the posted speed limit. So, just so you know that this problem isn't unique to this area, I'm going to share one other location with you and this is probably the worst location in the County. It's located on Ronald Reagan Highway, right near Interstate 75. So, that percentage of traffic that was over 20 mph was 1.21% (was referring to transponder at I-275 and Route 42). The transponder on Ronald Reagan shows that 9.4% of all the vehicles that pass it are in excess of 20 miles per hour. This is not a citywide problem; it's not a county-wide problem, it's a statewide problem.

So, with that being said, to give you some other comparison. In 2019, we had 45 souls that lost their life in Hamilton County in traffic crashes. And, as we know, one traffic crash if someone loses their life, is bad enough. The last thing we want to do is see an increase. In 2020, as you already heard me say, the volume of crashes went down, but the seriousness went up. We had 61 people lose their lives in the county. There were days when I was wondering, "Oh, my gosh. I can't come in to work without hearing of someone losing their life". By June, we were full steam at it again and we realized now that the momentum of that train is moving so fast, we can't even slow it up. Through that process, we also saw a reduction in our manpower to where we are now at 13 officers for the whole county. So, it's hard to focus efforts in specific areas when you have that little bit of manpower. With that being said, we owe it to the community members, the citizens of the State to do everything we can to address this problem, and that's the purpose of my discussion tonight. And, 2021 is off to a negative trend already. So, we're currently at a 45% increase in fatalities from last year's numbers. I already told you how high last year's numbers were. Currently, there's been 19 crashes that had fatalities and 21 souls have lost their lives, year to date. And, which to put all this together, I've developed a service initiative to where I am, basically, I pull these statistics weekly, and I sent Chief Wells a compilation of the statistics in PDF form that I pull weekly, this morning, so that he will be able to share with you folks at your convenience, and we want to do this right. We want to be transparent with the communities. Interstate 275 travels through your City. And, you have a more than willing and able Police Department. I understand that, but, we also want to do our part as community members to help address the issues that we know that are taking place. These programs that I can use, they're called OSTATS. Actually anybody can log in to the Patrol's website and pull statistics specifically for their area, their county. You can even narrow it down to specific roads. So, in these statistics, I've identified the five highest crash routes in our County. Interstate 75 is number one. It's the worst one we have. Interstate 71 is number two. Interstate 275 is number three. Then, it goes to US 42, and US 27. So, what I'm committing to the City, is anytime we have units working, they're going to be focusing on those five roads. We're going to be aggressively targeting aggressive violations to try to get this problem under control. And, I wanted to be able to put out to the Community that if folks, just as you mentioned, have an issue, or have identified a problem, feel free to contact me, feel free to contact Chief (Wells), and he can pass the information to

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Officer Kuntz (continued): me, and we will help in any way we can to continue to address these issues. I appreciate your time. I'd be more than happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Webster: I have two more proclamations. Do you mind if I do those now?

President Vanover: Go right ahead.

Mayor Webster: The first one I have reads as follows,

"WHEREAS, the City of Springdale is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and economic value of the homes and buildings that serve our citizens, both in everyday life and in times of disaster; and

WHEREAS, our confidence in the resilience of the buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians – building safety and fire prevention officials, designers, builders, and others in the construction industry – who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings and enforce modern building codes which protect the public from hazards such as snowstorms, tornadoes, floods and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, Building Safety Month is to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown protectors of public safety – our local code officials – who assure us of safe, sustainable, and livable buildings that are essential to America's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Building Safety Month 2021 encourages all Americans to raise awareness about the importance of safe and resilient construction; fire prevention; disaster mitigation; training the next generation; and new technologies in the construction industry; and

WHEREAS, each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local building and fire prevention bureaus in protecting lives and property.

NOW THEREFORE, I DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2021 as

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to recognize the contributions which building departments and fire prevention bureaus make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life."

With that, I'd like to present this to Carl Lamping, our Building Official. Carl, great job. (Applause)

Mr. Lamping: Thank you very much. Thanks. Appreciate it. Thank you all very much.

Mayor Webster: So, you no longer are going to be referred to as, "the new guy".

Mr. Lamping: No longer?

Mayor Webster: I'm going to take that title away from you.

Mr. Lamping: I've been trying to get rid of that for a while.

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Mayor Webster: Mission accomplished tonight. Mr. Agricola.

“WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of the City of Springdale; and

WHEREAS, these infrastructures, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving and protecting our nation’s transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders and children in the City of Springdale to gain knowledge of and to maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the year 2021 marks the 61st annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association.

NOW THEREFORE, I DOYLE H. WEBSTER, Mayor of the City of Springdale, do hereby proclaim the week of May 16th – 22nd, 2021 as

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

In the City of Springdale and call upon all citizens and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing our public works and to recognize the contributions which public works officials make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.”

With that, I’d like to present this to our Public Works Director, Mr. Jeff Agricola. (Applause)

Mr. Agricola: Thank you Mayor. Thanks Council.

President Vanover: Mr. Agricola, before you walk away, we had a contractor doing some, I guess a final repair on the street in our cul-de-sac, and it’s where we’d had a water main break, and they notified the neighbor, which the patch was right at the end of their driveway, but I come in at 4:00 p.m., and they had every driveway blocked off. That was the only neighbor notified about that. Luckily, everybody was gone and didn’t hear anything else, but, they might be a little bit, well, and actually they were supposed to work Tuesday, of course it rained, and then today, I guess they showed up late morning or early afternoon during a dry spell and knocked it out, but, there was no forward notification of the other six or seven houses on the cul-de-sac.

Mr. Agricola: Okay, and that was just today?

President Vanover: Just today.

Mr. Agricola: You said that was the final restoration work?

President Vanover: Yes.

Mr. Agricola: Got it. We’ll contact the Water Works Inspector regarding that and let him know that obviously the proper notification needs to be given.

President Vanover: This was Adleta.

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Mr. Agricola: Well, I figured it probably was. They do most of the final restoration for Water Works. But, we'll contact Water Works directly on that instead of going directly to the contractor. Okay?

President Vanover: Good enough. Thank you sir.

Mr. Agricola: Thank you sir.

Ordinances and Resolutions

Resolution No. R05-2021

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY EFFORTS BY THE STATE OF OHIO TO ABOLISH THE SPRINGDALE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS PROVEN INVALUABLE IN PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R05-2021; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Mayor Webster: First off, Council, thanks for allowing us to add this to the agenda at the last minute here, but, I got a call at 5:12 p.m. tonight from our State Representative telling me that they had "snuck in" the budget bill, a proposal to eliminate all the City health departments. I'm sure that doesn't include the major six cities, but at least includes Springdale, and departments the size of ours. As this resolution points out, this is just another step by the State of trying to take control of another aspect of our government. As you know, we've resisted the statewide collection of earnings tax, which they've tried on a number of occasions and I'm sure they'll be back trying that again. Matt, you can correct me here, but I think it was about five years ago they decided to, if you wanted to continue to be a Public Health Department, you had to be accredited by the State, and that was four, five, maybe even six years ago.

Mr. Clayton: Yes sir. That was passed in 2014 that we had to obtain a national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Incidentally, our site visit for accreditation is scheduled for next week, so we're 99% along the way. The original resolution to look for at the Ohio State House just called for the abolishment without any regard to the accreditation efforts of local health departments.

Mayor Webster: We've got a Zoom conference call next Thursday. Hopefully, that's going to be the final step for us to gain accreditation. Now, the reason they set the bar so high is that they wanted to get rid of local health departments. Sharonville immediately folded up their health department as did many other smaller communities in the State and in the region here. So, we placed a very high value on our Health Department. I'm sure I'm the only one sitting here that can remember when we used to rely on the County's health department. I can tell you we don't want to go back there; it's winding the clock back. I'm very proud of everything we've done over there and I'm very proud of what Matthew and his staff does and especially during this pandemic with the work that these people have done is just extraordinary. I get compliments from everybody throughout the City on what a great job that they've done on getting this community vaccinated. We've got other communities reaching out to us, "Can you do our community?", "Can you come over here and do ours?" So, it just goes to show what kind of job that we're doing and the envy other communities have towards our City Health Department. So, I'd like to see us pass this and do everything we can to try to resist the State's takeover of our Health Department.

Mr. Braun: I just want to echo what the Mayor had said. I've met with Mr. Clayton and talked with him. I would also bring to your attention that our Charter actually forms our Health Department and if they were to attempt to use State law to remove our Health Department, it raises a serious "home rule" issue that we may need to address as a City down the road. As you know, the Mayor brought up the income tax fees that the Supreme Court had to smack down the legislature about. There's been many other things. Mayor's Courts are on that list and some other things. But, our Charter, and several other across the State actually call for the creation of our Health Department. So, I would bring to your

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Mr. Braun (continued): attention that there are legal remedies out there as well that may be pursued collectively that we may be looking at possibly participating in, but, I do think that the passage of this is important, and, because we drafted it kind of “on the fly” tonight, it doesn’t talk about “home rule”, but perhaps in our cover letter to them we’ll address some of those issues as well.

Mr. Hawkins: The irony of this is with what everybody has dealt with over the last year; that this is coming out of Columbus now. Obviously, I’m sure everybody echoes the wonderful job the Health Department and Mr. Clayton have done. Not just taking care of our City, but folks around the whole region. The other part that probably doesn’t get told and it was told through the course of us going through meetings and you coming and talking about the numbers of people that are positive and how those are being addressed, but, it really stood out to me as you talked about how the Health Department was calling, checking on folks, and at some point, even having things delivered to residents that were being quarantined. There is no way that without having a City Health Department that that kind of attention is going to come to our residents. So, this is disappointing, and it’s amazing that the timing of this that they would do this now, after everything that everybody has had to go through for the last 12 months. Thank you.

Mrs. McNear: The timing of this is just an act of lunacy. Anytime this would not be good, but, in the midst of a pandemic, I am beyond words of how anybody with half a brain could come up with something like this. Also, I can’t vote on this, but, I’m voting anyway that we don’t want this. Thank you.

President Vanover: Well, and I’ll add fuel to the fire. Excluding the pandemic, I can recall when the Health Department was actively involved in mosquito issues throughout the City, the service that our Health Department provides to restaurants in the area, commercial swimming pools. Once it leaves our control, we have no control, and I’m just beside myself on what idiot thought this was a good idea. But, again, this is a second here in recent times that I’ve seen our Governor make moves against the citizens. So, I am wholly in support of this.

Resolution No. R05-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Hopefully, they will listen.

Ordinance No. 11-2021

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL/FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JAKE SWEENEY AUTOMOTIVE, INC. RELATED TO A JOB RETENTION AND CREATION INCENTIVE AGREEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 11-2021; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Anderson: I wanted to highlight and say that I appreciate the updated language that reflects the changes for remote workers. That’s become more of a reality. I appreciate the fact that you proactively updated the language for this incentive, and I hope that will be continued as you do more of these, because we don’t know what that’s going to look like in the future. I think that’s a great addition. Thanks for that.

Mayor Webster: Andy Kuchta is here this evening and he’s prepared to answer any of your questions. I think he’s provided you some data beforehand, and hopefully that explains where we are, if not, fire away.

Mr. Kuchta: This may be a little bit rusty because we talked about this several months ago when this was previewed in Executive Session, so I’ll just give a few facts quickly about the project. This will retain 45 existing employees with a \$5 million dollar payroll. This is a relocation of the corporate offices from their current location at 1280 East Kemper Road. The new location is the former Atrium Hotel, or, what’s left of it at 30 Tri County Parkway; it’s about 24,000 square feet that remains after the company demolished some of the existing

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Mr. Kuchta (continued): building, and as you see there, today, there's a lot of Sweeney automobiles that are parked in the parking lots. The building has been painted on the outside, but it is still completely gutted on the inside. The company does have other sister companies that they own in nearby communities that they have other options, so, we felt this incentive was appropriate to ensure that they remain here and keep those great jobs here in the community. So, the timing is to start construction within the next month or two and to wrap it up by the end of this year and move in by the first of next year. There is a potential to backfill their existing building that they are going to be vacating with one of the sister companies that's in another community. Any other questions? (None) Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you sir.

Ordinance No. 11-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 12-2021

ORDINANCE APPROVING, SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 147(f) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, THE ISSUANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS SERIES 2021 (MAPLE KNOLL COMMUNITIES, INC. PROJECT), BY THE BUTLER COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THAT APPROVAL; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 12-2021; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Mayor Webster: Just a couple of comments. Is the sole purpose of this just to lower the interest rate?

Mr. Dean: I can speak to that if I may introduce myself.

Mayor Webster: If you would remove your mask please so we can hear you.

Mr. Dean: Good evening members of Council, Administration. Thank you for accommodating this request. My name is Michael Dean. I'm an attorney at Dinsmore and Shohl down in Cincinnati. We are working with Maple Knoll and the Butler County Port Authority to issue a series of bonds to refund essentially all of Maple Knoll's outstanding debt. This is similar to a transaction that was done in 2013 with the City as well. But, yes, the sole purpose at this point to accomplish the financing is to get to the lower interest rates.

Mayor Webster: I know I personally support this, and I would think all of Council would. However, I am a little disappointed that, and I think all prior funding ordinances that we've passed to help Maple Knoll, we've always sort of been given a "heads up" prior to the legislation appearing before us. So, all of the sudden, now, out of nowhere, we get this ordinance, dealing with \$75 million dollars for the City to sign off on, with an emergency clause, and I don't think anybody, I know I had no knowledge of it coming. I don't think anybody up here did either. So, I'd like to say going forward, we'd like a little "heads up". I think it would have been nice at the last Council meeting if somebody appeared before us and said, "Hey, we'd like for you to help us and here's what we need you to do. We've got an ordinance coming next week."

Mr. Dean: And, my apologies for that. We were working with Mr. Braun and Mr. Kuchta for, probably, the past month and a half to sort of get this straightened out. We'll certainly communicate better in the future, but, we certainly did make the effort. We'll make more of one next time. I appreciate it.

Mayor Webster: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Ordinance No. 12-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

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Ordinance No. 13-2021

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A SALT CONVEYOR MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH OTHER LOCAL JURISDICTIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13-2021; Mrs. Emerson seconded.

Mr. Hawkins: Just a question for Administration. Do we have an idea what the annual share of maintenance costs may look like? Is it something nominal?

Mr. Jones: I'll allow Jeff Agricola, our Public Works Director to address that, if that's okay.

Mr. Agricola: Council, at this point, the anticipated cost at the start is pretty minimal. Obviously, it's a pretty intricate piece of equipment, and as it does age, maintenance costs will increase and so forth, but, at this point, the way the agreement is set up is maintenance will be shared equally amongst the eight parties. If there is something that is a substantial break or failure while an individual community has it, and it's deemed that they did something to cause that damage, then the responsibility would be on that particular party. We don't have an exact figure on maintenance, it really depends on its use, and its care while it's being used. But, the plan is to have the manufacturer perform the annual maintenance. So, they will be doing it once per year.

Mr. Ramirez: For Administration, where will this product reside?

Mr. Agricola: There is one or two communities that have at least, at this point, offered permanent residence, if you will, for this piece of equipment. I forget which two. I believe it was Amberley (Village) and the second community escapes me right now.

Mr. Ramirez: So, it's not a portable device that will move from community to community?

Mr. Agricola: It will move during the fill operation, but, when it's off season, and it's not being used to fill one of the eight domes, it will reside at one of two municipalities.

Mr. Ramirez: But not Springdale?

Mr. Agricola: Not Springdale; correct.

Mr. Ramirez: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: How does this function get performed now?

Mr. Agricola: Recently, last year, last season, we were able to borrow a similar piece of equipment from a neighboring community. We knew at that time that that was probably not something that was going to be offered to us on a continued basis. Once again, they're very expensive integral pieces of equipment. Prior to last year, for a number of years, we've been filling with the loader, and we can't get full capacity by doing that. We've been lucky with seasons that haven't been too severe and we've been able to refill during the season. And then, even going back further than that, we have a piece of equipment that it's called a "salt thrower". It's kind of a smaller conveyor-type unit that actually throws the salt up. Over the life of that piece of equipment, it's been very "maintenance intensive". It was kind of almost a "one off" type of manufacturer, and some of the components, it's actually a British motor that operates that, and the last time we had to rebuild the motor, it took almost a year to acquire the parts. So, it's very maintenance-intensive, it's become pretty much obsolete, and really the conveyor is the best way to get the optimal storage capacity in our facility.

Mayor Webster: So, how easy is this unit going to be to move from city to city?

Mr. Agricola: It's pretty easy. However, it does require a permit to move. They are very long, and they'll be moved in off hours or weekends or after hours, we will require a

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Mr. Agricola (continued): permit from the State to trailer it on the highway, but, it really trailers very easily. It goes right behind a dump truck and goes down the road about 70 feet long.

Mayor Webster: So, who will move that?

Mr. Agricola: We will move it. The individual municipality that plans to fill their dome will pick it up wherever it happens to be. Say, for instance, if we had just filled our dome, and then the next community is ready to fill, they will pick it up from us, and they will trailer it to their facility, and load their dome.

Mayor Webster: So, each community will be responsible for transporting the (conveyor) to their site?

Mr. Agricola: That is correct.

Mayor Webster: Thank you.

Mr. Anderson: Sorry. Just one quick question. Are any of the communities that we are sharing the salt thrower with part of the cooperative that we buy our salt with? So, we'd be competing at the same time for needing to use it?

Mr. Agricola: Currently, we are cooperatively purchasing through a City of Cincinnati contract. Off the top of my head, I do not believe that any of these communities are part of that agreement, but there are a number of communities on that, and I may be mistaken there, but that really shouldn't be a problem because we can order salt accordingly, and it's just going to take a little bit of scheduling on the behalf of the eight communities to schedule accordingly so that I have the conveyor when we have our material being delivered and then so on and so forth.

Mr. Anderson: Do we get to put our name on the top list on the side of the machine? (Laughter) Do we get naming rights or is it going to be Amberley?

Mr. Agricola: The first one to pass the legislation. (Laughter)

Mr. Anderson: Well, let's get to it then. (Laughter)

Ordinance No. 13-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Ordinance No. 14-2021

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONE CHANGE FOR THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 134 AND 144 MERCHANT STREET IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

President Vanover: If I remember correctly, we have a public hearing scheduled for our next meeting dealing with this issue, and then we'll have the second reading then also. But, at this point, are there any questions or discussion? (None)

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I just want you all to please look over the proposed plans and like it says in here, the Planning Commission does recommend passage of this. We feel that with those empty buildings being there for so long that this would be the best use of this so, please take your time, look this over, and we do encourage the passage of that at our next meeting. Thank you.

Ordinance No. 15-2021

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 134 AND 144 MERCHANT STREET

President Vanover: As I said, earlier, we have a public hearing scheduled for our next meeting, but this is our first reading if there's any questions or discussion? (None) We will see these two in the short future.

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Resolution No. R04-2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC TREASURERS 2022 WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PROGRAM

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R04-2021; Mrs. Ghantous seconded.

Resolution No. R04-2021 passes with seven affirmative votes.

Old Business

Mrs. McNear: This is just your last reminder about filing with the Ohio Ethics Commission for your annual report and it is due on Monday, May 17th. Don't be late. Thank you.

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet in the chambers adjacent to here on May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet in these chambers on Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum we dealt with Item Number I with Ordinance No. 12-2021; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Butler County Port Authority for the Issuance of Economic Development Facilities Refunding Revenue Bonds for Maple Knoll Communities, Inc. and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. We also had Item Number II, which was addressed with Ordinance No. 11-2021; An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Agreement with Jake Sweeney Automotive, Inc. Related to a Job Retention and Creation Incentive Agreement and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Ordinance No. 13-2021; An Ordinance Authorizing the City Administrator to Enter Into a Salt Conveyor Maintenance Agreement with Other Local Jurisdictions and Declaring an Emergency. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Resolution No. R04-2021; A Resolution Authorizing the City of Springdale's Participation in the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers 2022 Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program. That passed with a 7-0 vote. Item Number V was addressed with Ordinance No. 14-2021, and Ordinance No. 15-2021; An Ordinance Approving a Zone Change for the Real Property Located at 134 Merchant Street and 144 Merchant Street from General Business District (GB) and Office Business District (OB) to Planned Unit Development (PUD). That was a first reading. We also had added to our agenda, Resolution No. R05-2021; A Resolution Opposing Any Efforts by the State of Ohio to Abolish the Springdale City Health Department Which has Proven Invaluable in Protecting the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the City of Springdale During the COVID Pandemic. That passed with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Ramirez: I'd also like to note that the Planning Commission has a special meeting scheduled for May 18th to discuss the old Sheraton development. It is a Public Hearing.

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Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There will be Ordinance No. 14-2021, Ordinance No. 15-2021; Ordinances involving the Approving of a Zone Change for the Real property Located at 134 Merchant Street and 144 Merchant Street from General Business District (GB) and Office Business District (OB) to Planned Unit Development (PUD). That will be a second reading with a public hearing. There's also a request for an Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Enter Into an Agreement with W.A. Jones for the Purchase of an Upfit Package for a 2022 Freightliner M2 106 Truck Cab and Chassis and Declaring an Emergency. There is also a request for A Resolution Authorizing the City Administration to File an Application with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) for Transit Infrastructure Funds Related to the East Kemper Road/CSX Bridge Repair Project and Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk of Council/Finance Director to Execute All Contracts and Other Documents Related to the Project. That's it, unless there's anything else from Council or the Administration.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2021