

## City of Springdale Council

September 1, 2021

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on September 1, 2021

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

Mrs. McNear took roll call. Council members Anderson, Ghantous, Hawkins, Ramirez, and Vanover were present. Sullivan-Wisecup attended via Zoom Conference, and Emerson was absent.

President Vanover: Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup is here in a limited capacity this evening because of a COVID-19 exposure. Also, Mrs. Emerson is out for the same reason. Due to legislative changes, Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup can partake in discussion, but an actual vote, she cannot. Just to set the rules so that everybody is on the same page.

The minutes of the August 11, 2021 meeting were considered. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Ghantous seconded. The minutes were approved with five affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was unable to vote; Emerson was absent)

The minutes of the August 18, 2021 meeting were considered. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to accept the minutes; Mrs. Ghantous seconded. The minutes were approved with five affirmative votes. (Sullivan-Wisecup was unable to vote; Emerson was absent)

President Vanover: Council, due to our extremely heavy agenda load this evening, we're going to insert the introductions at this point. So, I guess Mr. Jones, I turn it to you and you can pass it from there.

Mr. Jones: And, I will do that. First up, we're going to call up Charlie Wilson, our Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Wilson: Council, thank you very much for having me here this evening. Before I get started and talking about the ComeUnity Bash, I'd like to bring up Mr. Ed Walterman. Ed here has been a businessman here in Springdale for the last 20 plus years, where he operates his storefront, American Mortgage. Ed contacted me out of the blue in April and asked me if I would like to receive a donation of some very nice high-end luxury concrete outdoor patio furniture total worth being about \$14,000. When I first got this, I was a little hesitant at first, because I was unsure in where we might be able to put these items. But, after talking with Ed here, I asked him if this is something he's able to return? He then said, "It would cost me about half of what I paid for it to return it." So, we made sure we found some space and we gladly accepted his donation. These items include a nine foot table with matching cedar bench tops. These are located off of Room C on our outdoor patio. On that table, we actually have his name inscribed thanking him for his generous donation. With that, comes along a six foot coffee table, and six giant planter pots. Two of which you'll see in front of the Community Center that really make the entry very nice. We've received a numerous amount of compliments on these items. They've been an excellent addition to our Community Center, and our staff put together a little thank you for your generous donation to the City. Thank you again. (Applause). By the way, this is the first time he's actually seen what he donated. (Laughter).

Mr. Walterman: It's kind of a crazy story. I built a new house down in the east end. It was in the Homearama show. My daughter-in-law was my designer. I have a roof top deck overlooking the river. She saw this and she wanted to buy it. She's my daughter-in-law, and didn't really think it was worth that much money, but she bought it, and then when the builder looked at it, he said, "How much does that weigh?" And she said, "13,000 pounds". He said, "Well, you're not going to put that on the roof." (Laughter) So, I had to find somebody who would appreciate it, and I've been in Springdale for twenty some years, and I said, that would be a good spot, but now that I can see it, I can show it to her.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Mayor Webster: I'd just like to say thank you very much for your generous donation and just for everybody's benefit, this is really not the first time that Mr. Walterman has contributed to the well-being of the City of Springdale and we really appreciate your business here, and we appreciate your generosity and thank you very much. We'll appreciate it and put those to good use down there.

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Mr. Walterman: You're welcome. Thank you. (Applause)

Mr. Wilson: The second items is the ComeUnity Bash. I'd like to invite you all to the City's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ComeUnity Bash. This will take place on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We're going to kick off the bash with our Family Mud Quest. This will take place at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. These are two separate heats. What the Family Mud Quest is, is a family-oriented muddy obstacle course built for all ages to enjoy. This will take place out on Field # 5. Registration generally fills up pretty quickly. We do have a few spots left, so be sure to register in a timely manner. During the rest of the day, from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m., we're going to have three live bands set to perform. We're also going to have a couple of our local non-profit groups selling food and beer. Bring your appetite, and bring your wallet and come out and support them. Additionally, we're going to have plenty of family games and activities. Some of these include live performances by the Cincinnati Circus, climbing wall, inflatable games, petting zoo, face painting, balloon animals, and we added a glass-blowing demonstration by Neusole Glassworks. So, we invite you all to come out on September 11<sup>th</sup> and enjoy our event. Thank you. Moving on to introductions. Any questions on the event? (None) Well, this man needs no introduction. But, the City welcomes Steven R. Sanders. Steven comes to us from the Village of Woodlawn, where he served as the Director of Parks and Recreation. Prior to that, he has over 20+ years of leadership experience with the Greater YMCA of Cincinnati. Steven is a graduate from UC (University of Cincinnati), where he has a degree in Communications, and was a dual-sport athlete in both football and basketball. Steven was hired on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as the Assistant Director overseeing aquatics, sports, fitness, and senior programming. He recently completed his one-year anniversary. Steven has been an absolute pleasure to have as an addition to our department, noting his upbeat personality, and his "can-do" attitude. We're very lucky to have Steven, and we look forward to the future programs and activities that he has in store for us. Thank you all. (Applause)

Mayor Webster: Now, I understand you played a little basketball?

Mr. Sanders: Just a little.

Mayor Webster: Do you have any outstanding moments with UC Basketball that you'd want to share? Why don't you get the microphone there and share, if you had any outstanding moments with UC, you might want to share them.

Mr. Sanders: Okay, let me share this and it's incredible that we talk about this, because, it happened November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1989, and at the time, I said, "In two weeks, no one will be thinking about it." So, here we are, thirty plus years later, and we're talking about it. So, the first game at UC Fifth Third Arena at the time; it was the first basketball game since they built the new arena; my first game as a player, Coach Huggins first game as a coach, and the game came down to eight tenths of a second (.8), and we were losing by two (points), and I made a three-pointer at the buzzer to win the game, and we're here.

Mayor Webster: Alright (Applause)

Mr. Sanders: I just want to say it is a pleasure to serve the City of Springdale. The happiest moment; he said my anniversary was August 17<sup>th</sup>, so, when I came to work on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and my key worked, I was happy (laughter). Thank you again. It's a pleasure to be here.

President Vanover: Thank you. Welcome.

Mr. Jones: Okay. Thank you both and we would echo that certainly Steven has been a pleasure to work with. Every time we go down there, there's nothing but a big old smile, and it's a great job. It's a great place to work, so we appreciate that. Thank you Charlie. Okay. Up next, is the Public Works Director, Jeff Agricola, and I believe Jeff's going to have a whole list of folks to introduce, Mr. President.

Mr. Agricola: I do have a few this evening. Well, thank you for the opportunity to come in this evening and introduce our new hires. A little bit of a background. Over the past two

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Mr. Agricola (continued): years, the Public Works Department has seen a number of individuals move on to other opportunities. This includes five individuals leaving the City to pursue other endeavors; one Department transfer, one inter-department promotion, and we had one retirement. The retirement happened to be yesterday, Mike Wheeler left us after a little over 30 years of service; well-deserved retirement. But, you know, all of this changing in personnel that we've gone through has all occurred while we've been attempting to re-staff the department. We've been down positions since about 2008, and we've been working diligently to try and get back to staffing levels, so, even with these six newly hired individuals, who you will meet this evening, our staff still remains below approved staffing levels. We're down one crew leader, we're down one full-time maintenance worker, and we're down two part-time maintenance workers. So, that being said, I'm pleased to say that our crew leader, Rich Borgman, Assistant Director Mike Huxsoll, and myself, we all feel that we have a great group of new, dedicated, and hardworking individuals and I think they're very capable of moving the Department forward. I will introduce these gentlemen to you in the order that they were hired, starting over on this end.

Tyler Carter started with the department on March 25<sup>th</sup> of 2020 after serving in our Parks and Recreation Department for about a year in the part-time capacity. Tyler resides in the City of Norwood, and is a 2019 graduate of Great Oaks Vocational Academy with a certificate in Basic-EMT. When not working with us, Tyler enjoys a lot of outdoor activities, including fishing, camping, and hiking.

Next, Andrew McMullen, the tall guy, he goes by Andy. He started with the Department on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Andy came to us with about 20 years of various landscaping experience with several different agencies in town. Most recently, just before we hired him, he was with Cincinnati State for a number of years. This landscaping experience will assist us in the coming years as we try to work towards raising the curb appeal to some of our facilities and so forth. Andy lives in Delhi Township with his wife and three children who keep him busy with sporting events. He also coaches basketball, and enjoys family camping trips.

Next up, is Steve Jordon. He joined our team February 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021. Steve previously worked with ODOT, District 8 out of the Hamilton County Garage for about five years, I believe. That time allowed Steve to develop a lot of skills and experience that is very similar to a lot of the tasks that we perform, so he's been beneficial from day one when he came in. Steve resides in Ross Township with his wife and three children where he is a gentleman cattle rancher. I'm sure there's plenty of stories there. He and his family enjoy camping in their free time as well.

Next up, Dylan Wray. Dylan joined the department on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Previously, Dylan worked for the City of Lebanon Parks Department as a part-time employee. Dylan resides in the City of Lebanon, and he's a 2020 graduate of Lebanon High School. In his free time, Dylan enjoys hunting, fishing, riding four wheelers, and spending time with family and so forth.

Next up, Jesse Creech. Jesse joined the team May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Jesse came to us after working for a local heating, ventilation, and air conditioning company for about five years. He also has a Certificate in Residential HVAC from the Warren County Career Center. In his free time, Jesse competitively hunts with coonhounds, probably a story there as well, enjoys the outdoors, and spends time with his family and all that.

Finally, last, but not least, Andrew Morris. Clearly our newest member of the team. He actually started as a full-time employee this morning. (Laughter) But, he was part-time with us since March of this year. So, during those five months, Andrew clearly demonstrated desire to learn, work hard, and he's been a good employee for the last five months. So, it was clear that the opportunity was his once Mr. Wheeler retired. So, he is joining the full-time ranks. Andrew lives in Forest Park, enjoys the outdoors, hunting, fishing. Wow, we've got a lot of hunting, fishing, and outdoor guys. But, that's good. So, that's my group that I'm introducing this evening. Anybody have anything that they want to say? (Addressing new Public Works employees).

Mrs. McNear: I just want to say welcome to all of you and perhaps you would turn around so the people in the audience can see your faces and so that we can get you on camera, so the TV audience can see you as well. (Laughter) Thank you.

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Mayor Webster: Well, I told these guys as I walked in, I say, "You cleaned up pretty good." I saw them all yesterday at Mr. Wheeler's Retirement Party, they were all in uniforms, but they clean up very nicely. But, Jeff, wants to take credit for that. He says he let them off one half hour early so they could get cleaned up. (Laughter) Anyway, welcome to the City of Springdale, and nice to see all of your smiling faces out there and good luck to all of you (Applause).

President Vanover: Welcome (Applause)

Mayor Webster: If anyone wants the microphone, they can say a few words.

Mr. Jordon: On behalf of these guys here, I just want to thank all of you guys for our opportunities here.

Mayor Webster: You're very welcome.

Mr. Agricola: Thank you Steve (Jordon). (Applause)

Mr. Agricola: Thanks guys.

President Vanover: Come December you may not be quite as thankful. (Laughter)

### Communications

Mayor Webster: You know, I think this catches this up on all of our new hires and promotions over the last, well, since January and February of 2020. I guess the only other ones; we had several in the Administration, and we didn't bring them in tonight, because from time to time they're here, and you've all met them, but John (Jones), do you just want to recap real quickly the ones that we've brought on board since January of 2020.

Mr. Jones: January of 2020. Let me think about that. You caught me off guard a minute here.

Mayor Webster: Let me do it off the top here. Carl Lamping, is our chief Building Official in our Building Department.

Mr. Jones: Andy Kuchta.

Mayor Webster: Andy Kuchta, our Economic Development Director. You guys all met him. Brian Uhl, our Assistant City Administrator came on board in May of last year, I think, and I guess just those three?

Mr. Jones: And Anthony Pagan our IT Administrator.

Mayor Webster: I don't know why John didn't have these people up here tonight, but anyway, I think you've met all of them. Welcome to all of you.

Mr. Uhl: Thank you.

Communications from the Audience

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None

President Vanover: Council, I know you are just sad and disheartened that we have no ordinances and resolutions this evening.

### Old Business

Mrs. McNear: I don't know if this is Old Business, but I do want to thank Mr. Hawkins for so eloquently filling in for me while I was out of the state at the last meetings. So, thank you very much. I did read that somebody said, "Read by title only" on that really, really long ordinance (laughter), Meghan.

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Mr. Hawkins: I'm thankful that you're back and that thankful that they did that to help me out.

Mrs. McNear: Well, thanks again. I appreciate it.

New Business

Mrs. McNear: Council, you have a TREX request from the Division of Liquor Control for Aldi Incorporated at 425 East Kemper Road. This is a C1 and C2. A C1 is a "beer only in original sealed container for carryout only". C2 is "wine and mixed beverages in sealed containers for carryout". Any objections? (None) Alright, I'll get the paperwork filed on that. Thank you.

Meetings and Announcements

Mr. Uhl: Just one quick announcement for Records Commission will be meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room.

Communications from the Audience - None

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: As you review your Internal Memorandum, there was no legislation for tonight.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There is none that have been requested by Administration. If there's anything from Council. I would ask for the Administration to create and bring forth a resolution with regard to commending Marjorie Harlow for her time on Council. I know Mrs. Ghantous had referenced and offered condolences at our last meeting, but I think that would be appropriate and consistent with what we've done in the past.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear  
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:  
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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