

City of Springdale Council

September 15, 2021

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on September 15, 2021.

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.

President Vanover: Council, one bit of order here. I've had a request from the Administration for an Executive Session. So, I will need a motion to add it to the Agenda.

Mr. Braun: We would recommend that go in after Item 13.

President Vanover: Yes. Item 13(a).

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I'd like to make a motion to add Executive Session under 13(a).

Mr. Hawkins: Second.

The motion to go into Executive Session under 13(a) of the agenda passes with 7-0 votes.

The minutes of the September 1, 2021 meeting were considered. Mrs. Ghantous made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Hawkins seconded. The minutes were approved with five affirmative votes. There were two abstentions (Emerson, Sullivan-Wisecup).

President Vanover: Mr. Jones you have some introductions this evening.

Mr. Jones: Thank you Mr. President. Actually, we're going to start this evening with our Building Official, Carl Lamping, and he'll introduce some staff.

Mr. Lamping: Thank you Mr. Jones, Council. The Building Department is happy to present our two newest employees. They're trying to hide already. Lori Thornton, and Richard Ellison. Lori joined Springdale in December of 2020. She is our Administrative Assistant in the office. She runs the office. And when I screw up, she keeps me straight. She was previously employed with Clermont County Building Department for eight years as a Permit Specialist where she was considered by most of the staff to be a very reliable resource for questions concerning the Department's permitting processes. Lori brings to Springdale great customer skills and knowledge of the overall Department permit process, along with experience in implementing a new computer program, which we recently had the opportunity to use. She has one son who graduated from Xavier University, who is currently continuing his education. In her personal time, Lori enjoys cheering on local sports teams, and visiting Cincinnati attractions, travelling, and spending time with family and friends.

Richard joined us in December 2020 also. He is one of our two Property Maintenance Inspectors. Rich was previously employed with a local university as a Facilities Manager, and was a Residential Home Inspector. He brings to Springdale great customer service skills, and good general knowledge of construction. He grew up in Springdale, and happily, has returned home to work for the City. He is a proud Princeton Viking and Cincinnati Christian alumni. He loves to spend his free time with his wife and two boys, and currently lives in Green Township. He enjoys working on home improvement projects, and serving his church, and riding the emotional rollercoaster which comes along with being a Bengals fan. (Laughter). (Applause) Do you two want to say anything?

Mr. Uhl: Good evening. I would like to introduce Anthony Pagan. Anthony Pagan started with the City back in August 2020. He is our Technical Services Administrator. He is in charge of all things IT and everything that breaks on a regular basis. Anthony came to us with over 16 years of experience with local jurisdictions. Some of those include Montgomery County, Huber Heights, Clark County, and we were able to kind of "woo" him away from his position as a contractor at Wright Patterson Air Force Base where he was in there IT

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Mr. Uhl (continued): department. Shortly after Anthony started, we were full stream CARES Act. Anthony had quite the daunting task, unbeknownst to him, during his interview, and his first couple of weeks here. Shortly after Anthony started with us, he had to configure and set up over 70 desktop and laptop computers. Those include some of the ones that we use for video conferencing here in Council chambers, as well as other meeting rooms. He had to individually configure a bunch of the personalized laptops for Council members, elected officials, and different Department Heads. No sooner than he was done with that, I asked him to help jump in with a new phone system upgrade. He was on the research and procurement team of getting a voice-over IP phone system established for the City. But, in doing that, that required a lot of hardware setup to enable to run efficiently. So, Anthony jumped in with both feet in that task, and he got us situated and got everything lined up for our voiceover IP phone system that we were able to “spec out” and implement and roll out in April. No sooner than we got done with that, he actually installed 134 phones throughout every City-owned facility in the City; 134 phones wall mounted, desk mounted, and made sure that those were all working appropriately, but each phone is assigned a specific location so they have to be entered into the system to correspond with that location, so it’s not a matter of “plug and play”. There’s a lot of work on the back end with that. Anthony was born and raised in New York, until the age of ten and then his family moved to Puerto Rico, where he stayed until the age of 24, and then I believe it was (speaking to Anthony) your sister that was in the military. They came back to the Dayton region. She was up at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, so he came back at age 24 with his family. Anthony is currently residing in Huber Heights. He’s married to his wife Francis, and because of his time in Puerto Rico, he speaks fluent Spanish, and he’s been a tremendous asset to the City, and he has been a tremendous help to a lot of the other departments for some of our Spanish-speaking residents, especially with the Tax Department, Building Department, and I think he’s assisted at Mayor’s Court a time or two or at the Police Department. So, Anthony, it’s a pleasure to have you here. (Applause).

Mayor Webster: I’d just like to officially welcome Anthony, Lori, and Rich to the City family. You’ve heard us over the last few months brag about what a fine group of Department Directors we’ve recruited, and I have to say that John and Brian have done an equally good job of bringing these people on board. I’ve had the pleasure of working with all three of these, Anthony, Lori, and Rich, and they’ve all done an outstanding job and we’re very, very happy to have you guys with us and you certainly make our workforce a lot better than what it was before. Thank you very much. Welcome.

Mrs. Emerson: Brian (Uhl), and John (Jones), it sounds like Anthony needs a raise and a promotion. (Laughter)

Committee and Official Reports

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Coleman: Before I go into the Civil Service report, I just wanted to say that I’ve been around for a while on the Civil Service Commission, and I always thought that Debbie Dunfee, and I said to her that she was the Queen of Multi-tasking, but this guy here (pointing to Anthony Pagan), this guy is definitely the Prince of multi-tasking, and soon to be the King. He can do more things going at one time; unbelievable. So, again, thank you and glad to have you here (addressing new employees).

The Civil Service Commission did meet on September 2nd. All members were present. At that particular meeting, we discussed two specific hiring situations that are being impacted by the situation of employees working from home in Springdale. Due to a loss of revenue from employers, as a result of these individuals working from home, or the employers working from home policies, a maintenance worker full time position, and a firefighter full time position; these are currently under review due to the timeframe of filling these full time vacancies and, again being cognizant of the City’s financial standing, we certainly don’t want to advocate going overboard in terms of hiring individuals and the budget won’t support them. So, again, everybody is being impacted one way or another when it comes to the pandemic and the City of Springdale is no different. So, again, hopefully things will turn around and we can move forward with those positions. There are two items that I also want to report on affecting the Fire Department; good items. The first one is the Firefighter/Fire Lieutenant promotional test will occur on October 1st at 1:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Municipal Building. So, again,

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Mr. Coleman (continued): we still have to keep moving forward with some of the promotions to fill those vacancies as well. The second item is, as a result, the Assistant Fire Chief promotion has occurred, and I'm pleased to announce that Mr. Scott Williams, effective September 13th, is now the Assistant Fire Chief here at the City of Springdale. So, again, trying to keep things moving forward even in difficult situations and difficult times. Thank you. Any questions? (None)

Rules and Laws	Mrs. Emerson	-	No report
Finance Committee	Mr. Hawkins	-	No report

Planning Commission

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: We met yesterday and the first item was a concept plan at 230 West Sharon Road. It's Springdale Family Practice, Dr. Webb's office. He came with a concept; there is a house that is on Sharon Road adjacent to his property, and he wanted to knock down that building and build a parking lot there and it's in a transition area, so that is something that is able to go there, and it was very well received by the Planning Commission and it's actually a very needed thing for that location, so we felt that it would be a good idea, and he is going to go forward with the plan from there. We did have a final development plan at 134 and 144 Merchant Street, The Woodstone. As you all know, they came here a month or so ago to turn 134 and 144 Merchant Street from the office buildings into apartments and townhomes, and that passed with a 6-0 vote. That was all that we had. Any questions?

Mr. Hawkins: With regard to The Woodstone, do they estimate when they think they will have construction started?

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: They're breaking ground next month. And, they said 18 months is what they're hoping, weather, and also right now with materials and things like that, they're hoping to have it done in about 18 months; ready to go.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Ghantous: Board of Zoning Appeals met, I'm so sorry, on August 24th. We only had one applicant and that was Kroger IBC facility located at 11801 Chesterdale Road, Springdale. It was requesting a variance from Zoning Code Sections 13.253(e)(20) and 153.253(c) to allow an accessory structure in the front yard and to allow more than one structure on a parcel. That item was thoroughly discussed and it passed with a 6-0 vote. Jeff (Anderson) do you have anything to add?

Mr. Anderson: No. Only that I'm glad that Kroger continues to expand and refurbish that plant. The change that they added is on the highway side, so it's his "front yard", but I mean, really you're talking about what's facing the highway, and it's still well covered and screened, but it lets them bring in additional lines to Springdale. Anytime you reinvest, I think, is a great thing especially if we can accommodate like we did here.

Mrs. Ghantous: Alright. That will conclude my report. Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Board of Health

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health met on September 9th. For the Health Commissioner's Report for the vaccination rates, and this was as of August 17th, for the zip code for 45246, 58% were vaccinated. For the zip code 45240, 53% were vaccinated. Public Health Accreditation Board met on August 24th to review our documentation and everything for the accreditation. There are 100 measurements that we're required to meet or speak to. We did very, very well. There were eight measure that we didn't quite complete. So, they are asking for some additional documentation. We have up to a year to provide that, but it looks like probably the first of 2022, we'll have that accreditation. It's not uncommon not to pass the first time. Usually when the first time it is submitted, there's always other stuff that we have to add for documentation, so that's not uncommon. They're very, very hopeful it will pass this next time when it's reviewed. For Medicaid Administrative Claiming, we had for the time study for June 7th – June 13th, we received \$6,239 dollars. For the Food Program activity, Panda

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Mrs. Emerson (continued): Express on 925 East Kemper Road, the demolition is complete and the construction is in process. Five Guys Burgers and Fries on 810 East Kemper Road is remodeling and that continues. Aldi's Grocery Store, yes, at 425 East Kemper Road; they're continuing with their construction. It is all in process. There is a Bangin' Grill mobile. Plans were reviewed. I think this is like a food truck that they're talking about. Springdale reviewed some of their plans, and they have not come back with any follow up with those plans. So, we haven't heard anything further on that. For the Grant Assistance for Food Operations; there were seven recipients and it was \$14,285 for each recipients. Subway in Springdale received it, Busken Bakery on Kemper and State Route 4, Tortilleria Garcia received it. DJ Sports Tavern received it. Oasis Mexican Grill in Kemper Square, and LaRosa's on Princeton Pike, and Blue Ash Chili. That was part of the CARES Act money that was provided for businesses that filled out some documentation that COVID-19 had caused them some hard times. That was a really nice added bonus for those companies. For the Nurse's Report, we had 11 ½ doses of Narcan given in May, eight doses in June, five doses in July, and then August and September doses are still pending. For the communicable diseases report. For COVID-19 in Springdale, you'll see the rise here. For May 2021, we only had seven cases, June we had 15, July we had 25, and August we had 80. For vaccinations, again, you're going to see the decline in those. In May, we gave 593 vaccinations, in June we gave 193, July we gave 42, and August we gave 28. The Health Department is preparing for mass vaccinations. We're just waiting to hear from the CDC and ODH. They have reserved the auxiliary gym, starting at the end of September through December to give those out. They're going to have the Health Fair and that's going to be October 5th from Noon until 2:00 p.m. Masks and social distancing are required. Walgreens will be providing flu vaccinations for seniors, and the Health Department will provide employees flu vaccines, and vaccines for uninsured adults and children. Miracle Ear has tentatively agreed to do hearing screenings, and they're looking at having Pro Scan Imaging there and Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District there. A COVID-19 vaccine facts session and vaccine clinic will be held at the Springdale Recreation Center and that's Friday, September 24th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Any questions? (None)

Capital Improvements

Mrs. Emerson

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No report

O-K-I

Mr. Anderson: OKI did meet. The Executive Committee met on September 9th, in addition to normal business. There were two things of interest; one was some discussion of the upcoming transportation bill that continues to work its way through the federal level and how that could affect locally as that clears up. It's something I think we'll be interested in, especially if it affects some highway maintenance. The other thing that I thought was interesting, aside from census work that's been going on, is a couple of months ago I gave an update on the traffic counts. I know we've all seen it. There's a lot more cars out there. It's true, but still going back to pre-pandemic times, all traffic from the traffic study shows that in our region, all traffic is down 6% from pre-pandemic, which is interesting, because it feels like it's a lot more. I think we got used to that low level, but all truck traffic is up 15% from pre-pandemic levels and continues to rise, which shows the change in behavior in warehousing. I just thought that was interesting. I thought I'd share that. Otherwise, that's it. Thank you.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Webster: Not a whole lot to report. As all of you know, John (Jones), and Brian (Uhl) have been up to their elbows in preparing the 2022 Budget, and I think they're certainly on schedule to have that done and their able assistant here, Stephanie (Morgan). But, I guess the one thing that I would like to mention, and Mr. Coleman alluded to it, about the City's finances and so forth. I think the biggest cloud we've got hanging over us now, and where these guys have got a real challenge on balancing the budget is the (people) working from home that we just have absolutely no way of wrapping our arms around that. Now, Andy (Kuchta) has given us a lot of data, but I think no one knows until the first of the year, exactly what's going to happen. How many people are going to stay home and work, and how long are they going to stay home, whether they're going to get tired of staying home, or are they going to get tired of staying home. We know a lot of companies that Andy (Kuchta) has surveyed have indicated that they're going to be very receptive to allowing their employees to work from home. Well, that's going to be catastrophic to the City of Springdale; just pure and simple. I can imagine the impact it's going to have on places like Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, the other big cities. There's going to be some bedroom communities that it's not going to have any impact at all. As

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Mayor Webster (continued): a matter of fact, it may have a favorable impact on their budgets. But, I think, by and large, it's going to have a major impact on a lot of cities in the State of Ohio. Anyway, that's what these guys are wrestling with right now trying to get a balanced budget put together with probably several million dollars less in revenues for 2022 than what we've received in 2021. The only other thing, this afternoon we kicked off our SOS Christmas Program, so, we'll be giving you updates on that as we go along, but, our Treasurer, Julie Matheny, will give a report on a new program that SOS has instituted under "Communications from the Audience", but that concludes my report. Thank you.

Mrs. McNear: Just a comment regarding "work from home". I worked from home for ten years, and, when I was first asked to do it, I went into it kicking and screaming. I did not want to work from home, I wanted to see people every day, I wanted to dress up, and then, about seven years later, they said, "Well, we're thinking about returning people to the workplace." And, I was kicking and screaming. I did not want to give up my pajamas and my workout clothes. So, I retired before they made anybody move back. So, I think people just get used to that flexibility. There's cost savings to individuals because they're not driving to work, they don't have to buy clothes, they're not having the ten dollar lunches because they're grabbing something from the kitchen, so, I would be really surprised if we see 100% return to work at the office.

Mayor Webster: We're hoping there is not a whole lot of people like you out there Kathy. (Laughter)

Mrs. McNear: Well, I agree with that, but, I'm just saying the reality of it, for someone who absolutely did not want to work from, as a matter of fact, I travelled extensively for most of my career, so to go from that to sitting in a room at an office in my house everyday was a big challenge and a big change, but, something that I got used to very quickly.

Mayor Webster: One of the biggest challenges for us is we're going to have to reach out to our residents to make sure they totally understand the impact of this thing, and totally understand exactly what they have to do if they have to be working from home, and their taxes are being collected in Mason, or Blue Ash, or something, exactly what they have to do to make sure those dollars get reverted back to Springdale. And, that's going to be a real challenge, but that's something we're going to have to start working on very shortly here.

President Vanover: I'm already grooming my wife. (Laughter).

Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Mrs. McNear: I have two reports this evening. The first one for the General Fund through July 31st. Based on net receipts budget of \$22.941 million dollars, we have received \$15.054 million dollars which is 66% of the anticipated budget. Those General Fund receipts are made up of five general fund receipts sources which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court. That's a total of \$14.193 million dollars, which is 94% of our revenue. The General Fund for expenditures, based on a net budget of \$21.372 million dollars, we have spent \$11.489 million dollars, which is 53%. The ending General Fund Balance, through July 31st was \$6.252 million dollars.

Moving on to the report for August. Based on the net budget of \$22.941 million dollars, we have received \$17.062 million dollars, which is 75%. Same General Fund resources, which are Earnings Tax, Real Estate Taxes, Paramedic Services, Local Government Funds, and Mayor's Court for a total of \$16.133 million dollars, which is 95% of those receipts. The General Fund Expenditures; Net budget of \$21.372 million dollars, we have spent \$13.064 million dollars, which is 59%. The General Fund ending balance as of August 31st was \$6.807 million dollars. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Jones: When I'm finished, Brian (Uhl) do you have anything additional? (Brian (Uhl) shook his head "no"). I just wanted to double check. A couple of things. I'm going to do a brief report for the Engineer, so we can skip him a little later. He, Shawn Riggs, just wanted me to simply say that the Northland Boulevard Stage One plans were submitted to ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation), and that's the end of his report. So, Charlie Wilson, our

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Mr. Jones (continued): Parks and Rec Director wanted to thank everybody that could make the ComeUnity Bash and Family Mud Quest. Overall, they were very happy with the attendance. The weather was pretty cooperative as well. Now accepting registrations at the Rec Center for youth basketball and cheerleading. Both can be done there via the Community Center, or online. They're also taking registrations for Father/Daughter Dance at the Springdale Community Center. And also, I get this question periodically from folks. The next Shred Event is Saturday, October 23rd at 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Our Mayor mentioned the budget. We do want to thank Mr. Uhl, and Ms. Morgan for their contributions. Our Directors and those folks work hard to make sure that we are putting everything together and it is a little tougher this year, Mayor. That's not what we anticipated, and it's hard to predict something like a pandemic, let alone to work from home. That is really going to impact us and to what extent, we're just doing educated guesses right now. But, we'll get through it, the five year (budget) will be presented to our Finance Committee in the near future, and, we'll go from there. But, we do want to thank the folks. We have a lot of people that work very hard on our budget. That's it this evening. Thank you.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Braun

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No report

Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Kuchta: Our consultants are in the midst of drafting the chapters of the plan. The Advisory Committee has met a few more times. We've drafted goals, and strategies, and so now that's all getting "baked into" the full document that is being drafted. It's going to be a large document, and I thought I would share just one visual with Council tonight that I think is a telling visual on how important this document is going to be. This, on the screen is the current land use map. That is the adopted map for the City. It was adopted in 2002, so, it's 19 years old. And, it's really hard to see, I thought it was going to show up a little better. So, if you follow the pointer, you can kind of see the highlighted "dashed" area. This area is two land use classifications. The red is Regional, Commercial, and Service, and that includes Tri-County Mall, and all the retail, and retail strip centers, and Costco, and all that. And then, the purple down here, is classified as regional business center. So, that's our large office employment center, our suburban office park that is kind of our bread basket, or has been, and I just wanted you to focus on those in that area, and, as we go to the next slide, that is the current draft of the future land use map that will be rolled out to the Executive Steering Committee, and, barring any changes that happen after that, then it will be presented to Council over the next month or two, and we expect it may have some tweaks to it, but it will largely survive in this format, and those two areas that I just showed you, the red, the commercial, which included retail and services, and the purple which was office, with the proposed new map, we are proposing to combine those classifications into regional mixed use. So, as you can see that's very significant percentage of the land use in the City. It is, frankly, the largest economic base of the City between the retail and the office employment, and it's just an indicator of how we are going to have to change, and adapt; be flexible. So, I don't have a full definition for you tonight of what regional mixed use is, but it's what you're thinking about probably; it's multi-family, residential, it's retail, it's office, service, just about everything except manufacturing. So, it's going to impact our Zoning, it's going to impact zone change decisions, because the Planning Commission is going to be looking at this new land use map when they get those requests, and it's going to have an impact beyond our own internal use, because this is going to be up on our website, and when developers and businesses are looking to invest in the community, one of the things that some of them do, is look at what our zoning is, they look at what are land use plan calls for, how recently did we update that plan, and, if they see an area that they're thinking of going to and investing, and it's not zoned the way they wanted, and then they go and look at what the land use calls for, and that doesn't call for what they want to do, then they may not even call us to talk to us, because they think it's going to be a "no-go". So, the flexibility that we're going to have to adapt to how the economy changes, is going to be very key. So, I think this is a very important image to share with you and I think it's going to be a very important document. I'm excited to have it rolled out over the next few months. I expect this is going to be my final update at a Council meeting. We're looking at having McBride Dale Clarion come in and do updates in October and November and start presenting portions of the plan. It's a lot. So, we didn't think it would be good to do it in one meeting, so, we're working with them on figuring out how to separate it into an October update and a November update, and then one more presentation before final adoption in December. Any questions?

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Mr. Anderson: Do you have an idea when community input sessions are being scheduled? I've had several questions asking how the wider community can see this and give feedback before it comes to formal.

Mr. Kuchta: So, after we meet with the Advisory Committee, probably two more times in October, there's going to be an Executive Steering Committee meeting, and, at that point, based on the feedback we get from that meeting, we feel like we're going to have a pretty good, close to final draft of everything. And, that's typically when we'd be looking at doing an Open House with the big boards that have some information on the focus areas, the proposed new land use map, have consultants, and the staff stationed around. We'd be looking at doing that in the first half of December. We don't know if that's going to have to be virtual now based on what happens with the pandemic situation, but that's the plan right now is that public input, whether it's going to be an in-person open house, or virtual, or some of both, is going to be the first few weeks of December.

Communications

Mrs. McNear: We do have one item this evening. I have a letter from Duke Energy, dated September 1st, 2021. This is from Amy Spiller, who is the President of Duke Energy, Ohio, Inc. The letter states:

"To Whom It May Concern:

Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., (Duke Energy Ohio) will be filing an application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to increase our electric distribution rates. This request seeks to recognize in rates Duke Energy of Ohio's investments in its electric delivery system needed to provide safe and reliable electric distribution services for our customers in southwest Ohio.

If approved by the Commission, the new electric distribution rates will take effect in 2022."

That concludes the Communications.

Communications from the Audience

Ms. Matheny: Hello. I'm here to talk about a new program that SOS is incorporating into our plans for this coming year, or I guess, actually, next year. But, we're going to start a scholarship fund. It's going to be in the amount of \$1,000. The criteria is going to be applicants must be a graduating senior, they must be a Springdale resident, they must have plans to go and attend a college or a trade school. Have a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average. They must have been involved in community service and volunteerism, and they must share values, including the importance of family's service to one's community. We plan on doing this. We're working with the school, so that's not going to be a problem at all to get our flyer that we're going to come up with, get the information out to the students there, and they can fill it out accordingly. I'm also hoping that "Mr. Magic Man", Anthony (Pagan) might be able to put a link on the City website next to Springdale Offering Support, so folks would be able to go online directly and apply that way as well. So, we're really excited about it. SOS, does a lot in the community, and this was something that we came up with this year as something else that we could add to our things that we offer, and we think now is as good a time as any. Any questions? (None) Thank you.

Mr. Coleman: I'd like to ask the question, as a resident, and as someone who has concerns. Has anyone heard, or can you comment on, the story going around that Costco is leaving? Is leaving the area? And, I ask the question because, I love Costco, and I've never been there when the parking lot wasn't crowded. It just seems to me that they're always busy, and I've heard from a lot of different residents who said that, "Gosh, we love Costco, have you heard why they're leaving?" And I said, "No, I've not heard anything other than the fact that I did hear that they were moving to Liberty Township." And I said, "Man, is there anything that we, as residents can do try to convince them to stay or figure out a way to keep them here in our community." Their leaving is a tremendous loss to the community. It really is.

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Mayor Webster: Mr. Coleman, it's not a rumor, they are moving. They've officially announced that. They now have and, Andy (Kuchta) you may want to come up here and help, but now, they have, from my understanding, three stores; one in Liberty Township, Deerfield Township.

Mr. Kuchta: Liberty Township. Liberty Township is the new location. The other one is Deerfield Township.

Mayor Webster: Deerfield Township, and Springdale. So that would give them three stores, so, if you look at a map, it's logical that they would close maybe Deerfield Township, but they've elected to close Springdale. It's primarily, and here again, I'm sort of parroting what I've heard from Andy (Kuchta) here, is that they're looking at the household incomes, and I guess they perceive themselves as servicing the "elite". Not the "poor and downtrodden" Springdale people. That's exactly the way I look at it. And they've almost said as much. And, when they made the decision to close the Springdale store, and leave Deerfield Township and Liberty Township open; it's absolutely ridiculous. And, there's nothing, as far as what we can do, there's absolutely nothing that we can do. Those decisions are made in a corporate headquarters in California, or New York, or wherever they're located. I'm not sure where that is.

Mr. Coleman: I wasn't sure if we could flood the website or something with comments and feedback saying, "We'd love to keep the store here." Because, I understand what you said, and it makes no sense to me because the price for the product, is the price that anyone's going to pay. So, as long as we are paying whatever the price is, I can't see why they would want to base their decision on income per se, as opposed to product.

Mayor Webster: What I'm going to do, instead of renewing my Costco membership, is get a membership for Sam's.

Mr. Coleman: Same here.

Mayor Webster: I understand Sam's, I just found out today, from Mr. Lamping back here, that Sam's is going to create a fuel center over there, which they've never had in the past, and so that says that they're here to stay, I think. And, that's good news.

Mr. Coleman: Thank you.

President Vanover: Well, and Mr. Coleman, I'll "piggy back" on that, because when Costco came in, their market focus, and they stated that in a public meeting, was to be within eyesight of Sam's. So, I'm like you, I've been in an out of Costco a couple of times; we're Sam's people, but when a corporation bases their marketing on that philosophy, and then up and changes, it boggles my mind. I'm in there with you, because I go by there, and it is, and I've seen the threads on community billboards and stuff, so I understand what you're saying.

Mr. Coleman: With that logic, it almost sounds like we should caution the people out at Liberty Township that the price of the products are going to go up.

President Vanover: (Laughter) There you go.

Mr. Coleman: Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Ordinances and Resolutions - None

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Old Business

Mr. Anderson: Have we made progress on the ordinance that was going through Rules and Laws about car rentals? I know there was action taken administratively, and there was some meetings. Is there an update on that?

Mr. Braun: Yes. I think they're going to be announcing the next Rules and Laws Committee meeting taking place before the next Council meeting. And, I would anticipate, as I indicated to the Administrator, that we'll have a draft before Council at that next meeting.

New Business - None

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Emerson: The Board of Health will meet October 14th at 7:00 in the conference room adjacent to here.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Planning Commission will meet on October 12th at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers.

Mr. Hawkins: As had been indicated by Mr. Jones, I just wanted to again thank the Parks and Rec Department for all their work and effort with regard to ComeUnity Bash. I think it was well attended, and folks had a very good time. I also want to take this opportunity. We had some discussion with regard to this, I think the last two Council meetings regarding commending Marjorie Harlow who has recently passed away with regard to her time and service. There had been some discussion with regard to potentially a resolution and through research that the Administration had done as well as Mr. Anderson, myself found that what we had done in the past was a moment of silence, and so I would ask if we could observe a moment of silence at this point to commend Mrs. Harlow on her efforts and time that she dedicated to Council. She was on Council from 1998 through 2017, served on the Tax Review Board, Planning Commission, Finance Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Health, Public Relations, and was an OKI representative, as well as spearheaded the Spruce Up Springdale, and she was also President of Council from 2008 to 2013. So, if we could observe a moment of silence in commemoration of her at this time. (A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you.

Mr. Braun: As I indicated, assuming that Mrs. Emerson, and Mrs. Ghantous are comfortable with it, we will have a Rules and Laws Committee meeting. We would like to have a Rules and Laws Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. before the next Council meeting, which would be October 6th. Does that work for both of you? (Both agreed) Alright, so that also would need to be advertised, and staff will do that.

Mr. Anderson: I believe the Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on September 28th in these chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Communications from the Audience - None

Executive Session – Economic Development

Mrs. Emerson: I move to adjourn into an Executive Session for the purpose of an Economic Development matter.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Second.

The motion to move to adjourn into an Executive Session for the purpose of an Economic Development matter passes with seven affirmative votes. Council departed chambers at 7:46 p.m. Council returned to chambers at 8:06 p.m.

City of Springdale Council

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Update on legislation still in development - None

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting - None

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

_____, 2021