

City of Springdale Council

January 5, 2022

President of Council Vanover called Council to order on January 5, 2022

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

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

President Vanover: Mrs. Ghantous advised me that they are out of town and she would not be in attendance this evening. Council, before we run much further, we've got an addition; 5(a), we are doing the Fire Department introductions. While we're talking about (the) Fire Department, if any of those who would like to see that pretty, new fire truck, they have it set up out front so you can see where your money goes. We tried to get them to cooperate and give us a little bit warmer weather. And, those daring enough we'll do a polar bear hose down or something afterwards (laughter).

The minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting were considered. Mr. Ramirez made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Hawkins seconded. The minutes were approved with six affirmative votes. (Mrs. Ghantous was absent)

Communications - None

Fire Department Introductions

Mr. Jones: Ladies and gentlemen of Council, it is my pleasure to introduce our Chief of the (Springdale) Fire Department, Anthony Stanley, and with that, boy, what a great turnout that this group brings with them. Thank you all for being here. Chief..

Chief Stanley: We really appreciate the opportunity to come, and share with you some of our newly promoted individuals. One guy that just recently hired full-time, as you know, we have a wonderful fire department. That wouldn't be possible without everyone sitting here, so we'd like to thank you for all the resources that you give us, all the support that you give us on a consistent basis. So, we're very appreciative and grateful for that. So, we'll bring up Brandon Murphy first. Mr. Murphy is assigned to Unit 2, under Captain Losekamp and Lieutenant Hansen. He started on August 3, 2021. He grew up in Cleves and went to Elder High School where he played soccer. He came to us with three years of experience already in the fire service, which is great. He's a young guy, but he came with some experience, which is always a plus. He's done a fantastic job for us. He's a very hard worker, comes in everyday with a positive attitude. We haven't had any issues with him. He comes to work, does his job, and is eager to learn, eager to train, and he's fit in very well in our fire department. He gets along with everyone, and we couldn't be happier with the job that he's doing for us. Brandon Murphy here. (Applause)

Mr. Murphy: I just wanted to thank everyone for coming here and for you guys especially giving the funds and everything to hire new firemen. That's how we do our job the best. I want to thank Chief (Stanley) for hiring me. I couldn't be happier with the department. We have a great group of individuals. With the help of you guys, we get a new fire truck and we can better protect our City, and do the best job we can. Thanks everyone. (Applause)

Chief Stanley: Let's bring up Josh Cook next. So, Josh Cook, he worked for us for a few different stints part-time, totaling a few years, so he has some experience with us part-time prior to getting hired on full-time on June 5, 2018. So, the thing I really like about Josh, he is a problem solver. So, you come to him with a problem and you can't really figure it out, and he analyzes the problem, figures out a way to solve that problem, and then implements it and does it. So, he's very handy completing projects and stuff around the firehouse. He heads up our SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) Program, so our air packs. He does the maintenance on those and the upkeep with that and making sure everything is clean and tested, and ready to go for everyone. He's big into training. He's on our training committee where he does a great job presenting new ideas and helping implement those ideas in the Fire Department to get guys trained. He's a graduate of Princeton High School, so, he's a local kid, so that's always good, right? And, in his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, riding his motorcycle, and just tinkering with different things. He's done an

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Chief Stanley (continued): excellent job. He was promoted to Lieutenant. Actually, yesterday was his first day as Lieutenant, and he liked it so much he stayed over and worked ten hours of overtime. But, we're thrilled to have in the position. We really feel like he's a solid leader in the Fire Department. He's going to do a really good job in that position, and we're really anxious to watch him grow and develop in the position of Fire Lieutenant. So, Josh Cook. (Applause)

Lieutenant Cook: Well, that's quite an introduction. First and foremost, ladies and gentlemen of the Council, Mayor Webster, John (Jones), Brian (Uhl), Joe (Braun), and Shawn (Riggs), I want to give you guys the utmost thanks for allowing me this opportunity. I've been in the first service for 14 years now, and I really look forward to bringing my knowledge and skills and being able to apply that, not just for the Fire Department as a whole, but as well as the citizens of this great City. So, thank you very much for that opportunity, and you can always count on me to do what's best for the citizens of this community. Second most, I'd like to thank my wife, Melanie, my son, Braelen, and my stepdaughter Lexi for always being there to support me. They've been the backbone of my success, and I owe them nothing but the most heartfelt thanks I can give them. I really look forward to taking my leadership and applying that to this department and making it the best department for you guys, to make you guys look good, as well as performing a great service for this community. Thank you very much. (Applause)

President Vanover: Thank you.

Chief Stanley: Mr. Joe Hansen, come on up. So, Joe Hansen, he started with us full-time March 28, 2017. He previously lived in California where he graduated from Golden West High School; no idea where that is. Sorry Joe. He's heavily involved in our training division as well. He's on our training committee. He frequently comes up with great training ideas and works hard to help implement those. He's a hard worker. Big into fitness. He chairs our fitness committee so he is a representative of his unit day, and he comes up with different ideas on how to acquire equipment, better the workout room. Different workouts guys can do, and works with people to help them become more physically fit, which is a big part of our job. So, we're happy about that. He is assigned to Unit 2, under Captain Brian Losekamp. So, he would be on that shift. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, participating in outdoor activities, and, of course, working out; he enjoys that. The thing I really like about Joe is he always has a positive attitude. So, no matter the circumstances, everyone has a bad day, but you never know when Joe has a bad day. He comes to work, he has a good attitude; is always respectful. We're really excited to have him in this position, and, just like Josh, we think he's going to do a fantastic job as a Lieutenant in our department, so we're really happy about that. So, this is Joe Hansen. (Applause)

Lieutenant Hansen: Good evening. Council, City Administration, Casey Williams, and Chief Stanley, thank you very much for trusting me with this position. I'm going to do this well. I'm excited for this. I love this City, I love my job, and I look forward to a long and fruitful career here in this position. Just leading well; leading a fantastic team. I work with great men and women and I couldn't be happier with this. So, thank you very much. My next big thanks goes to my wife, Christy, for just a great amount of sacrifice that she has just given through time for me to excel in this. For me to be able to go and train. The times I spent preparing for this, to test for this position. A lot of time sacrificed, and I couldn't be more thankful. Thank you, and to the rest of my family, my crew, they guys here who have invested so much into me, so much time, so much of their knowledge, I wouldn't be where I am without them, so, thank you. (Applause)

Chief Stanley: Next, Mr. Scott Williams, please come up. So, Scott has been with us since November 20, 2002. So, he's been here a long time. He's one of our more tenured members of the Fire Department. One thing that I noticed about Scott very early on when he came, I didn't know him before he came here, but, one thing that I really notice is that, you know people always say you don't have to have a title to be a leader, he showed leadership from the first day that he walked in the Fire Department. So, his willingness to help people, the way that he carried himself from day to day, shift to shift, he lead by example. He's very organized, very detail-oriented so that helps him. It developed that routine day to day. So, to be a good officer, you have to be a good firefighter, and I don't know any that's better than

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Chief Stanley (continued): Scott, so, like I said, his incredible work ethic, his attention to detail is second to none. Passion for the fire service, and passion for the Springdale Fire Department. He really cares about the Fire Department. He's an excellent instructor. He's on the training committee as well, so he's taught a lot of trainees, helped develop a lot of our personnel, and he really has a passion for that part of the job. He's an amazing grant writer. So, I don't know if you know that or not, but, Scott has brought in over \$500,000 for the City in grants. So, that's special, from SCBA's to the vehicle exhaust system, heart monitors, reimbursement for a large percentage of the wages and benefits for three of our personnel over the last three years with the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant, the FEMA grant. He has done an excellent job helping us acquire things that we may not be able to get without the grant funds. So, I'm very happy to have him in that capacity, very proud of the job that he's done there. He was promoted to Captain on October 22, 2013, so when I got promoted to Assistant Chief, he actually replaced me on my shift, and I may be a little biased, but I thought I did a pretty good job as a Captain, but he came in and took it to another level, and did an even better job, so I'm very proud of the job that he did there. It wasn't an easy decision. We have very capable officers, Captain Steve Sarver was also in the process. He does an excellent job for us, and, unfortunately, we can only pick one. We selected Scott and he started on September 13, 2021 as the Assistant Chief, and hit the ground running. It was a seamless transition. He's exceeded my expectations to this point. I couldn't be more proud of the job that he has done. I'm very happy to have him, so, thank you guys so much for backfilling that position. I'm very grateful and happy for that. We work well together. We complement each other very well, and we're trying to do the best we can with the Fire Department. We really feel like we're moving it forward and we're going a great job and Scott is a huge part of that. So, in his off time, he enjoys spending time with his family, he's a deacon at his church. He serves his community as a Councilmember, and he also operates a feeding program for the Little Miami School District which is huge for that area. So, helping some underprivileged kids have meals when they would go without. So, that's probably way more than he wanted me to tell you guys. Scott is very humble. If it was up to him, he wouldn't even be here tonight. He wants to stay in the shadows and just do his job, and he really doesn't like all the attention, but, tonight, he's going to get some because it is very well deserved. So I give you Assistant Chief Scott Williams. (Applause)

Assistant Chief Williams: Thank you Chief for your kind words. Again, thank you all for allowing us to be here tonight. We're grateful for the opportunity. Congratulations Lieutenants, and Brandon. They're all doing a great job, and the future of the Fire Department is very bright. I am just humbled and honored for the opportunity to serve as the Assistant Chief of the Fire Department. I come to work every day, try to work hard, give 110%. I think everybody that knows me, knows that. And, I vow to continue to do that and I think that the best days of our Fire Department and our City are certainly ahead of us, and we will continue to make things the best we can. A special thanks to my family for being here tonight. My dad, my mom, my in-laws, my brother is here. My wife, obviously, thank you so much, our four children are here. Without their support over the years, with all the long hours and everything, it's difficult on her to raise four kids when I'm not around, so, we've got some neighboring departments here; Fairfield is here tonight, Glendale, so thank you all for being here as well, and then all of our firefighters as well that are here. So, just very thankful and grateful for this opportunity. I will do my best, I promise. Thank you. (Applause)

Chief Stanley: We had one more promotion in the Fire Department, Craig Kuhlmann got promoted to Fire Captain, but unfortunately, he is ill, so he was unable to attend tonight, so we'll catch him the next time we're fortunate enough to come in front of you. But, just in closing I'd just like to thank you all again for the support of the Fire Department. Don't forget, we have the fire truck over there. We'll actually leave it inside since it's so cold outside. You can come inside and see it once the meeting is over. We'd love for you to do that. We can't thank you enough for that. To my knowledge, it's the biggest capital, as far as vehicles, the biggest capital expense in the history of the City, which is a huge deal. We're very, very grateful for that. We can't thank you enough. Thank you again for the opportunity tonight, and congratulations to the people that got promoted, congratulations to Brandon Murphy on being hired, and I'll second what Assistant Chief Williams said, thank you all for coming out tonight. It's a special night, and this shows you how special these four people are. We're very grateful. Thank you very much. (Applause)

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Mayor Webster: Congratulations to you new guys. You've just joined one of the greatest fire departments in the greater Cincinnati area. I might be a little biased, but I think I've got a right to be. I've been part of this government now for 50 years, and I can honestly say that when I look at the structure in our Fire Department with our Chief, our new Assistant Chief, our Captains, and our Lieutenants, I have never seen a group more talented and dedicated than this group that we have today. And, I think it bodes well for the City in the future, and I'm sure all of you are aware of the fact that the last time that this group met on December 22nd, they gave a zoning approval for a massive redevelopment of Tri-County Mall. Once that comes to fruition, eight, ten, twelve years from now, we're probably going to add about 6,000 residents to this City. I think that this department has the structure in place, and I think it certainly has the personnel in place to handle that challenge because you don't put 2,400 housing units or 6,000 people into a community without it creating some additional "calls", if you will, on our EMS and our Fire Department. So, I think that we're very well-structured to handle that, not only in the Police, but also in the Fire Department, so I couldn't be prouder of where we are today, and I'm anxious to get across the street to see that new Fire truck, but I hope you leave it out there until the weather turns a little warmer, if you don't mind. But, anyway, congratulations to you guys, and thank all of you, you men and women of the Springdale Fire Department for your dedication and all of us sleep a little better at night knowing that you're on duty out there taking care of us. So, thank you very much, and have a Happy New Year. (Applause)

President Vanover: Well, I would echo every single word. Over the years, I've interacted with the Fire Department, and have never been less than amazed at the work and the personnel that we have, and, Doyle (Webster) is right. You guys are our future, and, I think we're in good hands as some of us old guys start winding down. But, I too, I'll take our Fire Department up against, I'll even take the State and the country. I think we've got a group that just cannot be topped and I appreciate your dedication and working with us and I hope you all have a long, safe career because that's what we love to see. So, thank you.

Mr. Jones: Mr. President.

President Vanover: Yes.

Mr. Jones: If we could just give them a moment to exit. I know you keep hearing that the announcement is the apparatus is available for anybody up here that wants to see it. That goes for the public too. So, you're welcome to go over to the Fire Department and take a look at the new fire engine.

Communications from the Audience - None

Ordinances and Resolutions

Ordinance No. 01-2022

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION/ESTIMATED RECEIPTS ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 01-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Mr. Anderson: Just one question. The \$2.4 million dollar transfer in and then the \$1.6 million dollar to General Fund advancing in. I believe those were related to the Sheraton Hotel that was expected to close at the end of last year. Did that close, or do we have a new closing date?

Mr. Williams: Good evening. Let me answer that by, what I wanted to do is go through; there are some changes. You have your budget books. There were some changes made to the budget book that are reflected in this ordinance and I just want to go through that. As I go through that, I think I can answer those questions. The first one is to General Fund transfers out. We've got transfers out to Residential Recycling Fund. That was changed from \$122,000 to \$125,000. In the Grants Fund for 2022, for the American Rescue Plan Grant, we didn't

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Mr. Williams (continued): have anything appropriated for that grant. We thought it was a good idea to put an amount in there. We put \$425,000 just in case we do use those funds that we have something appropriated for it.

Capital Improvement Fund; the advance out back out to the General Fund, the \$1.6 million dollars, that was supposed to be in this year because we were under the impression that the Sheraton closing would happen in 2021, and it did not close. So, we had to just move that out to 2022, so when that closes, that money will be paid back. Then, on the Revenues side, again, we have the \$1.6 million dollars coming into the General Fund, the advance repay. We had an advance repay from the Grants Fund that did not get put in the document that needed to be put in the document, and then, also the sale of the Sheraton property, the \$2.1 million dollars that was accounted for in 2021 just got moved over to 2022. So, if anybody needs me to, I'd be more than happy to send a communication, or write something up regarding the pages those are on, but, those changes will be made and what's put on the website will reflect that.

Mr. Anderson: So, do we have an updated expectation for the closing date? I know we had spoken at the end of last year what it would mean to the budget if it pushed by three months or six months.

Mr. Kuchta: There were some snafus with the drawing up of the plat for recording of the closing and the corrections that were made were done right before Christmas and the holidays just came in and kind of squashed the intended closing to happen before the end of the year. They're contractually obligated to close in early February; I want to say February 2nd or the 4th or something; it's the first week in February is the latest that they can close, and there was a update call for some sale of Port Authority bonds a couple of days ago, and they're still on track to sell those bonds probably the second or third week in February, but they have to close and acquire the property before the bonds are sold, so, there's no indication that it's not going to happen. It should happen before the end of this month.

Mr. Anderson: So, with understanding that, you don't expect any cash flow problems or issues. I know we talked before that if it was three months late, it would be fine. So, this is still within that? We don't expect any problems?

Mr. Kuchta: We do not expect any problems.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Mr. Kuchta: You're welcome.

Mr. Williams: Thank you.

President Vanover: Thank you.

Ordinance No. 01-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mrs. Ghantous was absent)

Ordinance No. 02-2022

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONE CHANGE FOR THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 55 PROGRESS PLACE IN THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE

President Vanover: This is a first reading. We have a public hearing scheduled for January 19th on this issue, so it will be back, but did you have any discussion this evening? (None)

President Vanover: This is the Tax Review Board. We did reach contact with Mr. Mitchell, and he is interested in continuing, so at this point, I'll open the floor for nominations.

Mr. Anderson: I'd like to nominate Roy Mitchell for the position.

Mr. Hawkins: Second.

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President Vanover: Any other nominees? (None) Then I'll close the nominations, and Mrs. McNear ask that you read Resolution R24-2021 with Roy Mitchell's name.

Resolution No. R24-2021

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROY MITCHELL TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF SPRINGDALE TAX REVIEW BOARD FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R24-2021; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Resolution No. R24-2021 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mrs. Ghantous was absent)

Resolution No. R01-2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INVESTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R01-2022; Mr. Ramirez seconded.

Mr. Anderson: I know this is an area that was adjusted with the charter change that's due after Mrs. McNear's term is up. Who would make these investment decisions after that? Where would this authority move to? Do we know yet? Would it be Mr. Williams? Or is it to be determined?

Mr. Uhl: You are correct. That will be Mr. Williams who would be in the Finance Director position when it's re-titled.

Mr. Anderson: So, we would still get a resolution like this, we would just be changing it to the Finance Director, Mr. Williams in the future?

Mr. Uhl: Correct.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Resolution No. R01-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mrs. Ghantous was absent)

Resolution No. R02-2022

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADVANCE PAYMENT FROM THE HAMILTON COUNTY AUDITOR

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup made a motion to adopt Resolution No. R02-2022; Mr. Hawkins seconded.

Resolution No. R02-2022 passes with six affirmative votes. (Mrs. Ghantous was absent)

Old Business

President Vanover: We have a couple of items on committees that we need to take care of. On the Civil Service Review Committee, currently, well, the expiring term was Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Hawkins, and we need to reappoint, well I guess we, let's see, wait a minute here, we have to reappoint those or other members thereto. So, I guess at this point we'll open the floor for nominations for the Civil Service Review Board.

Mr. Anderson: I'd like to nominate Mr. Lawrence Hawkins for the Civil Service Review Board, if he's willing.

Mr. Ramirez: Second.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to nominate Jeffrey Anderson to the Civil Service Review Board as well.

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Mr. Ramirez: Second.

President Vanover: Any other nominations? (None) Then Mrs. McNear will you poll Council on the appointment of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hawkins to the Civil Service Review Board.

Mrs. McNear: Okay, we're going to do something different since we have different people making nominations. I'm just going straight down the line here. I guess I should have asked Mr. Braun if that was okay. (Mr. Braun confirmed that was acceptable). Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hawkins were reappointed to the Civil Service Review Board with six affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Welcome back to the board gentlemen, and one other board. We have the Volunteer Firefighter Dependents Board. This is a Council appointment and currently, Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Anderson were on that board, so, I'll open up for nominations to that board.

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to nominate both Mr. Anderson and Mr. Ramirez to the Board if they would like to continue.

Mr. Jacobs: Second.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Ramirez were reappointed to the Volunteer Firefighter Dependents Board with six affirmative votes.

President Vanover: Welcome back to the board Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Anderson. That takes care of our housekeeping.

New Business

Mrs. McNear: Council, on the dais this evening when you got here you would have found a liquor license request from Taqueria El Monarca Corp & Patio at 11449 Princeton Pike to Lopez Rizo Group LLC DBA Taqueria Don Chago & Patio at the same address. It looks just like a transfer. This is D5 and D6. This is the former, or the original Chipotle location just to orient yourselves to where this one is. Do we have any issues or concerns with this particular item? (None) Alright, we'll go ahead and get the paperwork filed. Thank you.

Executive Session – Economic Development

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: I would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss economic development pursuant to our charter.

Mr. Ramirez: Second.

The motion to move to adjourn into an Executive Session to discuss economic development pursuant to the City of Springdale Charter passes with six affirmative votes. Council departed chambers at 7:44 p.m. Council returned at 7:57 p.m.

Meetings and Announcements

Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup: Our Planning Commission meeting that I had announced was schedule for next Tuesday has been cancelled due to nothing on the agenda, so we do not have a Planning Commission meeting this month.

Mr. Jacobs: Springdale Board of Health will meet on Thursday, January 13th adjacent to these chambers.

Mayor Webster: Is the BZA meeting for January also cancelled?

Mr. Anderson: That's right. It was cancelled, but we never announced it. But, yes, I was going to mention it at the next meeting. The BZA for January is not going to happen. Nothing on the agenda.

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Communications from the Audience - None

Mr. Hawkins: I have one quick question in terms of meetings and announcements. The time for the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is 6:30?

Mr. Uhl: Yes. 6:30.

Mr. Hawkins: 6:30 Friday at the Rec Center.

Update on legislation still in development

Mr. Hawkins: In terms of legislation, if you look at your Internal Memorandum, Item Number I was addressed with Ordinance No. 01-2022; An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Appropriations/Estimated Receipts for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number II was addressed with Resolution No. R01-2022; A Resolution authorizing the Investment of Municipal Funds. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number III was addressed with Resolution No. R02-2022; A Resolution Requesting Advance Payment from the County Auditor. That passed with a 6-0 vote. Item Number IV was addressed with Ordinance No. 02-2022; An Ordinance Approving a Zone Change for the Real Property Located at 55 Progress Place from General Industrial District (GI) to General Business district (GB). That was a first reading. We also had Resolution No. R24-2021; Appointing Roy Mitchell to the Springdale Tax Review Board. We also had appointed for the Civil Service Commission Review Board, Councilmembers Lawrence Hawkins and Mr. Anderson. And, we also had for the Volunteer Firefighters Dependents Board, Council appointments of Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Anderson. Thank you.

Recap of legislative items requested for next Council meeting

Mr. Hawkins: There's a second reading on Ordinance No. 02-2022; An Ordinance Approving a Zone Change for the Real Property Located at 55 Progress Place from General Industrial District (GI) to General Business district (GB).

President Vanover: That also has an attached Public Hearing with it.

Mr. Hawkins: Yes.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Sullivan-Wisecup seconded the motion and Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McNear
Clerk of Council/Finance Director

Minutes Approved:
Tom Vanover, President of Council

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